

The 2016 Report by the Layham Local History Recorder

SIGNIFICANT HAPPENING



Far and away the most significant happening in the Parish during 2016 has been the completion of the restoration and extension of the Marquis of Cornwallis public house – now transformed into a luxury ten room ‘boutique hotel’, restaurant and bar named, simply, ‘Marquis’. The new owner has invested in a great deal of money into the project and has created a building and surrounding grounds of the highest quality.



The new business opened to the public on Monday 14 November after well over two years of work.

OTHER IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Parish Council has established and formally adopted a detailed Emergency Plan.
- After much campaigning by the Parish Council and considerable help from our County Councillor (Gordon Jones) two important changes are to be made in speed limit signing on the road through Upper Layham (B1070). The 30mph signs are to be moved past Windy Ridge and further down the hill so that traffic is warned to be travelling at 30mph well before it reaches the Marquis. The stretch of road between Benton Street, Hadleigh and Upper Layham is to be limited to 40mph (previously 60mph) following many accidents on that winding road. The new signage has been approved by SCC and will be installed shortly.
- The owner of the Marquis offered to provide a new oak sign board, with a name plaque funded by our County Councillor, to announce arrival in Upper Layham. This gift is of benefit to the business but also of benefit to the village as the 'feeling' as one approaches the village is much improved by the quality sign. It was erected in November. Featuring in the photograph are Michael Woods (Chairman Parish Council); Stephen Laing (Vice-Chairman Parish Council; Ron Gunn (Parish Councillor) and Gordon Jones (County Councillor).



- The Parish Council decided to increase the allowance paid to each of the three key institutions in the village from £600pa to £1000pa. This is in recognition of the work done by the small number of volunteers who maintain the church, the village hall and the playing field. By providing this support through the village precept everyone makes a contribution to these priceless assets.

- The Parish now has three defibrillators. In addition to the one in the refurbished telephone box outside the Queen’s Head public house in Lower Layham, there is a second on the outside wall of the Marquis and a third is just about to be mounted inside the refurbished telephone box on Upper Street. Attempts to deliver training on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the handling of a defibrillator have met with limited response so far. Members of the Parish Council will revive attempts to attract people to attend training sessions during 2017.
- Following his work in building a new Parish Council notice board last



year Bob Barbiaux has now refurbished two others. Thus there are now ‘official’ Parish Council boards outside the Queen’s Head in Lower Layham, at the top of Mill Lane in Upper Layham and on the fence surrounding the Recycling Site.



- All members of the Parish Council and the Clerk have attended four evening sessions of Parish Council training – thus updating their skills and knowledge. From left to right back: David Pratt, Michael Woods (Chairman), John Curran, Stephen Laing (Vice-Chairman). From left to right front: Jane Cryer (Clerk), Ron Gunn, Doreen Sillett, Sheila Roberts.

VOLUNTARY WORK AND SOCIAL GROUPS

Voluntary groups remain the same as 2015:

Parish Council

Parochial Church Council

Village Hall Management Committee

Playing Field Management Committee

Men's Club

Social Club

Community Lunch Group

The Old Queen's Social Club

Layham Local History Group

The Parish Council Green Team leaders (Sheila Roberts and Doreen Sillett) arranged two work sessions on the Conservation Area to clear a large area of undergrowth and nettles in an effort to promote a greater variety of plants next year. Ten volunteers took part over the two sessions. Pictured below are Michael Woods, Doreen Sillett, Elaine Pye, Sheila Roberts and Ron Gunn during the second session. The Green Team also led the annual Parish Spring Clean when 29 people turned out and gathered 21 bags of litter.



The PCC is always active in arranging social events and fund-raising activities. They provide an excellent hot Sunday lunch in the Village Hall three times a year; ran their Plant Sale in May; coffee mornings throughout the year; a tea-party in September and a Layham Bake-off in October. Below are the three

winners of the latter (from left) – Sorrel Jervois, Robert Webb and Sarah Clarke together with Anthony Foster (one of the judges).



The Village Hall Management Committee ran a family barbecue in July and hosted another much appreciated film show by Charles Partridge – using photographs from his grandfather’s collection of village life.

The Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC) continues to run a 100 Club which provides £600 each year towards the cost of maintaining the field and the equipment. The big project in 2016 has been the installation of artificial turf in the goalmouths. Section 106 money from the Parish Council covered the cost.



When a local resident died (Jim Cage) his son gave the PFMC his father’s book collection which was sold to raise money for a dozen bird boxes. Jim had spent

many hours bird-watching on the field – he would have been delighted to see the boxes in use. Colin Brown made the boxes voluntarily and they were installed in the early spring.



The Men's Club and the Social Club run regularly, but low key, bringing people together for social activity. The Community Lunch Group organises three lunches in the Queen's Head each year – always fully booked and great value for money (two courses and coffee for £5). The landlord of the pub asks no payment for the use of his kitchen where volunteers prepare and cook the food and wash-up.

Layham Local History Group is now well established. It held an inaugural General Meeting in May and immediately arranged an illustrated presentation of local items from the newspapers (1760-1922) at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was well received.

Negotiations with the PCC resulted in permission being obtained from the Diocese to place an archive cupboard in the church. Throughout the year members of the LLHG have been classifying and cataloguing the Parish collection of photographs and documents – a task completed as 2016 draws to a close.

More detail of the life in the village is available in 'Letter from Layham' in the monthly issues of 'The Hadleigh Community News', copies of which are stored in the Layham Archive.

Michael Woods
December 2016