

# Oulton Broad parishPRESS

Welcome to the Parish Press October issue. Delivering the latest news, updates and announcements from within the Oulton Broad Parish.

Nicholas Everitt Park

## Anti-Social Behaviour Brought Under Control With Security Guards



**At the start of the Covid-19 lock-down period it was very sad to see problems develop in Nicholas Everitt Park with a sharp rise in anti-social behaviour, the use of drink and drugs, vandalism to property and verbal and physical attacks on people.**

The Nicholas Everitt Park Trust and Oulton Broad Parish Council worked hard to try and combat these problems but ultimately it was necessary to recruit security guards to bring this under control.

The guards started on Thursday 25th June and patrol every night, covering the park and surrounding area.

Immediately they were handling numerous incidents each night, engaging with, and disbursing, those causing problems, aiming to defuse situations before they could escalate.

Working with the Police larger incidents were also dealt with on many occasions. One evening saw over 100 people on the main green in the early hours of the

morning. Our guards were able to react to this, and a large Police response helped break up the gathering, with a few individuals arrested.

By collaborating with those who operate existing security systems that cover the wider Lowestoft area, we have been able to provide our guards with equipment to share information with the Lowestoft CCTV control and Police, supplying and receiving important information across the wider area.

This daily presence in the park has helped to bring the situation under control, and whilst some smaller incidents persist, and the same small group of offenders continue to bring trouble, we are pleased the park environment has returned to a more peaceful and friendly area.

We have received many positive comments about the guards, both directly and via our email and social media, thank you for these.

A security presence will continue in the park, and we continue to work with the Police to ensure an increased Police presence alongside our guards. We hope this will continue to reassure everyone visiting the park, and make you feel safer and more comfortable in the area.

The on site guards offer additional security alongside the existing CCTV, which covers various areas of the Nicholas Everitt Park land. The CCTV has also recently been extended to ensure a better coverage of key areas.



+323

878

So far!

Keep updated and follow us



Oulton Broad Parish Council



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# A message from Councillor Sandra Keller

Chair of Oulton Broad  
Parish Council

**Welcome to this latest edition of our newsletter!**  
As chairman of OBPC I should like to thank all of the OBPC councillors, our clerk, and the many others who have helped in keeping the council, its assets and the park running through this difficult time.

Unfortunately this has been a very difficult year with Covid-19. We have had to postpone most of the events we had planned, but it is hoped that many of these will return next year.

We also had many projects prepared that have had to be put on hold - but they will now hopefully appear next year.

You probably noticed the Spring edition of this newsletter you received was, firstly, slightly late, and also a bit out of date - as it detailed the many events that were planned for this Summer. The newsletter actually went to print in February, before lock-down. Our distributor was then unable to deliver these on time as planned, due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, I hope you found the other articles in that edition informative, and with this issue we can bring you up to date once again.

We hope you all remain safe, and should you need any assistance with issues in the parish please do let us know.

Sandra Keller, Councillor.



## Support Your Local Park



You can support your local park with donations in our new NEP Trust collection boxes. Find them in local shops and cafes in the coming weeks.

**Advertise in next issue**  
Contact Parish Clerk for details.

## Oulton Broad VE/VJ Event Moved To 2021



**Our VE and VJ Day celebrations have been rescheduled to 10th July 2021.**

Come and join us for a fun day of food, music and dance. More details will be announced in the Spring newsletter and on our website and Facebook.

**Thank you to everyone who coloured in pictures for our VE and VJ Day displays on the park gates.**



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# A message from Councillor Andrew Page

## Chair of Finance Committee

**It is certain that 2020 has placed many financial pressures on us all, and Oulton Broad Parish Council and the Nicholas Everitt Park Trust are no exception to this.**

It was with much sadness that most of the events planned for this Summer were cancelled. This meant not only did so many people miss out on the various entertainment they were looking forward to, but we also lost most of the money from one of our income streams.

To support our business tenants during Covid19 we gave a rent reduction for the period during the lock-down. This was unanimously agreed by the finance committee as the right thing to do and we are pleased to have been able to assist our tenants in this way. This has of course resulted in a further reduction to our income.

The security for Nicholas Everitt Park has also come at a cost, which the park's charitable trust has had to fund. We are seeking to recover at least some of this cost through finding grants from external bodies. This is a work in progress, but we remain hopeful on this.

Ultimately the pandemic is going to have had an impact on our finances, and shortfalls will have to come from our small reserves.

As I write this we have begun the process of planning our budget for 2021/22 and the precept which, in part, funds that. We are carefully looking at what projects take priority for the coming year and which may have to be reassessed. All our costs will be studied to make sure we work as efficiently as we can, and any change to the precept will be very carefully considered by the finance committee over several meetings, before taking it to full council to be approved towards the end of the year.

But it is not a wholly negative outlook as some very exciting projects are under way currently, and some of these can lead to providing additional income. The project to renovate the space above the museum (known as 'the old flat') is progressing well and the business case to support the funding for this is nearing completion.

I wish also to take this opportunity to tell you about the OBPC Grants Fund. We have a small pot reserved for grants to the community to support community based activity and groups within the parish area. In the

past we have been pleased to offer small grants to help community groups such as Friends of Nicholas Everitt Park and also the Bonds Meadow Association, who used the money to purchase a new chainsaw. See the article later in this newsletter for more details.

Overall the finance committee has a positive view on our financial position and the new financial year ahead. We approach 2021 with optimism, paired with a sensible level of caution, to ensure we can operate the Council and Trust in a financially sound manner, and continue to offer the on-the-ground improvements to the parish area.

Andrew Page, Councillor.



## Want To Join Our Team ?



### Parish Council Seats Available

**We currently have vacant seats on the Parish Council and are looking for people who love Oulton Broad to join us by process of "co-option" (meaning no election is needed).**

Becoming a Parish Councillor, you would be helping to look after our wonderful area and be involved with the various projects and running of OBPC and the NEP charitable trust. All Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers, but full training is provided.

**If you think you might like to see what its all about, please speak to Tina, our Clerk, and she will be able to give more details and answer your questions.**



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## Events

# No Outdoor Carol Concert This Year



**With the continuing disruption caused by Covid19 we have taken the hard decision not to hold the outdoor carol concert on The Boulevard this year. Together with FONEP, who organise the event, we feel this is the only sensible decision.**

The event takes a lot of co-ordinating – that would have had to start during the summer – which combined with the uncertainty around Covid19 restrictions regarding large gatherings and singing, makes it too difficult to plan for this event. We do however very much look forward to the event returning in 2021!

**The Christmas tree and lights will still adorn The Boulevard as usual.**

Churches within the parish are continuing to adapt what services they can host. Updates on these can be found from the churches directly via their social media, websites and telephone.

## Nicholas Everitt Park New Outdoor Table Tennis



**In association with Table Tennis England and Suffolk County Council we have installed an external table tennis table in Nicholas Everitt Park - next to the Park Café and mini golf.**

**Bring along your own bat and ball and you can use the table for free.**

It has been great to see many people enjoying a game with friends since it was installed in late Summer.



## Nicholas Everitt Park

# New Disabled Swing Planned for NEP



Whilst the Covid19 pandemic has delayed this project, we are pressing ahead with plans to install a disabled swing in the Nicholas Everitt Park play area. This type of swing allows a wheelchair user to ride up on the swing platform and enjoy the experience they often would not be able to.

**This project is almost fully funded and we hope to see this being installed during 2021.**

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## Oulton Broad Parish Council Grants Fund

Each year we have a small grants fund available, through which we can give small amounts to help support local community groups and community projects.

There are a few rules about what we can support and how much we can give to any one application, but we are keen to offer financial help to groups which provide a service to people or areas with in the parish of Oulton Broad.

Full details can be found by contacting the parish clerk or downloading a copy of our grants policy from our website.



## Next Issue

Spring Edition, March 2021

## North Oulton Broad

# An Update From Bonds Meadow



It is pleasing that something positive may have come from the lockdown. Despite recreational areas and play areas having to close, the government advice was for households to exercise every day. With the above average warm sunny spring days, families were looking for a safe, secure place to exercise and Bonds Meadow, bursting with freshness and colour, has seen a significant increase in visitor numbers and new faces exploring the meandering footpaths throughout the woodland.

This season, spring and wildflowers have been in abundance, and it's become a common sight to discover muntjac deer wandering across the footpaths, a new family of foxes appears to have taken residence and, as the summer has progressed, we are seeing a greater population of several species of butterfly. The work of the Bonds Meadow Association to make the meadow into a vibrant and successful wildflower meadow is starting to pay off with noticeably increased numbers of wildflowers.

Sadly, more visitors did result in increased litter that thankfully was cleared by vigilant volunteers who, during their dog walking, managed to keep it to a minimum. The dedicated team of volunteers were eagerly anticipating a return to weekly work sessions and the June relaxation in lockdown guidelines allowed a tentative reopening of Tuesday morning sessions where regular and new faces were welcomed.

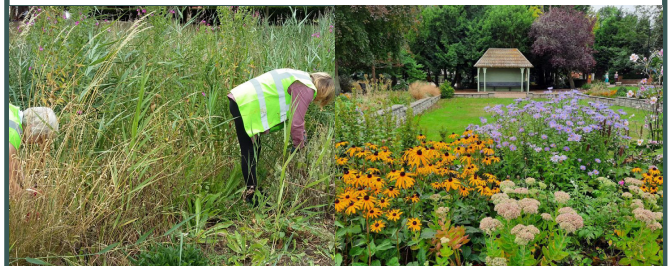
Probably another first was the Bonds Meadow Community Association committee holding a socially distanced meeting outdoors on the meadow during a warm July evening to resolve the many issues that had arisen since the last meeting in February.

This is a clear demonstration of the value and relevance of Bonds Meadow as a cherished Parish amenity and highlights the commitment of the community to ensure this County Wildlife Site is maintained and accessible for everyone.

## Friends of Nicholas Everitt Park Update from FONEP

Work was progressing as usual, then unfortunately, along with most other groups, our activities were curtailed during lockdown and subsequent weeks.

We restarted volunteering sessions on 30th July and we are now working in the park every Thursday morning 9.30am-12.00noon carrying out routine gardening tasks, some general maintenance, as well as maintaining the boat planters on the Boulevard - which will be replanted and repainted in the coming weeks. Jobs also include washing benches, litter bins and fences plus litter picks. Regrettably some other tasks have had to be put on hold due to social distancing rules. Also, tools are now being wiped down after use with Antiseptic wipes to make sure they are clean for their next use.



Marie has done a great job keeping the park looking good but there are always tasks to help her with. No Green Flags were awarded this year because parks could not be judged, so we await flag number 10 with anticipation next year.

**We are a friendly group and if you are interested in joining us please make contact via our Facebook page or email [geoffpipe@aol.com](mailto:geoffpipe@aol.com) or turn up on a Thursday morning to find out more or join in. Please wear stout footwear. Basic gardening skills would be useful but any help would be appreciated.**



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## Nicholas Everitt Park Museum Volunteers



The new heating system had a very welcome effect on the both the fabric of the building and the exhibits, many thanks to OBPC for installing this, but then the Coronavirus arrived...

The beginning of 'lockdown' came just as Museum volunteers had been preparing to re-open for the new

season. A large percentage of the volunteer stewards were then 'shielding' and the museum was not able to reopen, having insufficient staff and not being Covid ready.

The difficulties encountered in trying to make the building 'Covid secure' led to ideas about putting on open air events. During two weekends in August families were able to see interesting fossils, chat to an expert and get printed information sheets from a table at the front of the building, and on September 19th another 'pop-up' fossil display called 'Hidden by History' formed part of the Lowestoft Heritage Open Days.

Although the museum has been closed to the public, some volunteers working in different parts of the building were able to refresh displays and improve the storage areas, in readiness for what is hoped will be a full season next year - with all this seasons events hopefully postponed to 2021 rather than being cancelled altogether.

We are always looking out for new volunteers so if anyone reading this is interested, please get in touch by emailing: [info@lowestoftmuseum.org](mailto:info@lowestoftmuseum.org).

## Oulton Broad Neighbourhood Plan Update



A Neighbourhood Plan allows us to have a greater control of what happens in our Parish in the future. It also enables us to access a higher level of grant funding through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.

We have two areas within the Oulton Broad Neighbourhood Plan: the "green plan" covers the land we occupy, and the "blue plan" looks at the water areas that surrounds us.

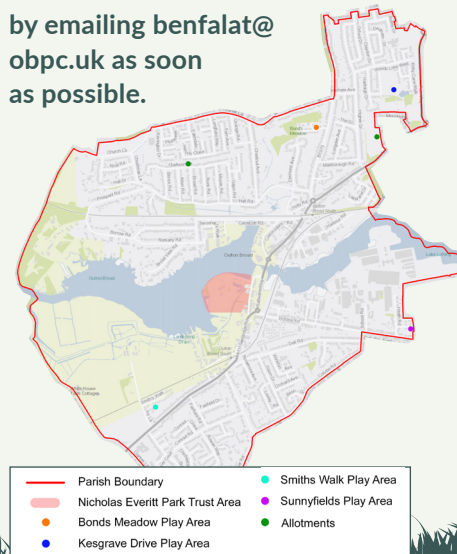
Creating a Neighbourhood Plan is a big task, but we have achieved a great start, with the relevant forms being filled in and submitted to East Suffolk Council and the Broads Authority. These have now been accepted by both. This now allows us to progress to a public consultation to all of our parishioners.

A 'Steering Group' has now to be formed, consisting of parishioners, on a voluntary basis, who can guide how the plan is formed and its contents - Parish Councillors will be able to assist with this.

We are now looking for people to get involved with this important project and help guide the future developments in our parish.

**Do you have a deep interest in your neighbourhood? Do you have professional experience or interest in the areas covered?**

**Please register your interest with Councillor Falat by emailing [benfalat@obpc.uk](mailto:benfalat@obpc.uk) as soon as possible.**



Design & print: Martin Hailes Design



**Get in touch with Tina, your Clerk.**

**Tel:** 01502 564289 | **Email:** [clerk@obpc.uk](mailto:clerk@obpc.uk) | **Office Hours:** Mon-Thurs 11am-4pm

**Post:** Clerk's Office, The Pavilion, Nicholas Everitt Park, Oulton Broad, NR33 9JR

