

The Gunton Residents Association

2021 for the Gunton Residents Association was a particularly sad / hard year. We lost a very dear friend, Local Councillor and member of our Committee Sue Barnard. Also 5 of the remaining Committee: The Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer were standing down. It looked very much like the Gunton Residents Association would also disappear. Fortunately, at the virtual AGM 5 new members were enrolled onto the committee filling the vacant posts. Plus 4 existing Committee members. So Gunton Residents Association could carry on.

We have a total of 249 households covering the whole of the Gunton Parish Council. We have new members that have joined this year plus quite a lot of enquiries.

It soon became very clear that what a lot of our residents (especially the older generation and those who do not drive for various reasons) were desperate to have the local bus back. Which ceased to run in 2020. Because it wasn't profitable. After contacting First Bus Company we were told that they are looking at all their existing routes to possibly incorporate the Gunton Estate, when the new Gull Wing bridge is finished also the houses that are being built North of Lowestoft. (which is going to be a few years yet). When we contacted East Suffolk Council, we were told that they are awaiting funding from the Government and hopefully they will be able to do something at the end of April. We are determined more than ever to get this resolved for not only members of the Gunton Residents Association but for all the residents on the Gunton Estate. This has been the biggest challenge so far.

Since the lifting of Covid restrictions the activities that members suggested to us they would like to see / continue were:

The weekly online quiz that one of our members compiles. This was so important for members during Covid. Also during the winter months.

Queens Jubilee Tea & Scone Drop in. Which we are holding our first one in June. Where we will also be asking for any other activities, our members would like us to facilitate.

Street Sale This was such a success last year that people complained that the distance between the Painters Hill estate and the Clover Way estate was too far to walk so we are trialling over 2 Sundays this year. Hopefully it will be even more enjoyable.

To reach our membership and beyond we have:

Newsletter to members of the Gunton Residents Association. In the past the newsletter was sent out to just the members every quarter. At the same time as The Gunton Community News booklets were hand delivered to every house in the Parish.

This year we are trialling in conjunction with the Gunton Community News, paying for a couple of pages in their booklet to include our news. Anything that only concerns our members is then either emailed to our members or if they have no internet then they are hand delivered by our committee members.

Facebook page this is an open group page and is moderated by our Secretary and another Committee member.

Email we have a personalised email address for anyone who can access the internet and have any queries or need information about anything.

Telephone conversations. For those who have no internet connection or just prefer a chat.

Gainsborough /Vermeer Ponds. Some of our Committee members also volunteer in the upkeep of these two wonderful local ponds. So we have updates during our monthly committee meetings, we were able, during the winter months to help with accessing some spring bulbs for planting around Gainsborough pond.

We hope this short report has given you a small insight into what we are doing now also what we are doing in the very near future.

Marion Trowbridge
Secretary/ Membership Sec.
Gunton Residents Association.