

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR HACHESTON – 2022

**All Saints Church** remains open. We have seven parishes within the Benefice. We still have no priest-in-charge and only one possible candidate has offered. Time will dictate if the position is filled this year. The church is clean and the churchyard cut – a few services are held.

**The two new housing estates on the Street** are nearly finished and are occupied save for one property at Riverside. Riverside and Street Fields estates are made up of modern houses and have concrete and tarmac driveways. In heavy rain, they will be liable to flood onto the road, the B1116, or into the properties. Since the economic crisis and rise in interest rates, fewer houses are being sold and it is far harder to find tenants for rented properties.

**David Clough's bungalow on the Street (Highfields)** has been on the market for some time. Fenn Wrights are the agents and there are seemingly no offers.

**Mr. Peter Sampson, a long time resident at the Queen**, died early in 2022. His family seem to be holding onto the property and not putting it onto the market immediately. The Queen was a former public house and has notably fine plaster ceilings of the Queens Head Queen Elizabeth.

**At the Framlingham end of the Street**, the --- former home of Miss Elizabeth Wilson did eventually sell. It is now being renovated by a family who are living in a tent and caravan in the garden.

**The road through the village (the B1116)** is an awesome concern to all the villagers. The volume of traffic is increasing, mostly commuter traffic. This is much greater at weekends. Also the state of the surface, there are numerous potholes and bumps which can damage cars and bicycles alike. It is also subject to flooding after heavy rainfall. This is largely due to bad drainage and water coming off the fields. Several houses have been flooded in recent years. The Parish Council is complaining to Highways in the hope that something positive can be done. The B1116 has also been subject to closure due to repairs to the water main. A closure of 12 days is planned soon to put in a new water main. The B1116 is a main artery for transport and this will cause considerable disruption. A similar closure is planned for June 2023 in order to renew old telegraph poles.

**The long hot summer** was noteworthy in 2022, causing concerns about the water supply. Water leaks were appearing everywhere and supplies running short. There was also a considerable fire risk with grassland and arable fields being set alight by the heat. Straw still alight was seen flying through the air down the village street. Where was it going to land and what was it going to set alight?

**The general rise in food and energy prices** has been, and still is, a source of great concern to all. Everyone is hard up and trying to make food go further, turn the heating off and use less electricity.

**March 2022 saw the planting of an oak tree** to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Everyone rejoiced in the June 2022 celebrations but was aware that H.M. The Queen was growing frail. The Queen's death in September was a once in a lifetime event – so many of us had not seen another monarch. Sad, grim faces to be seen everywhere in the village. We had lost the Mother of the Nation. We must not mourn forever and are ready to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with a lunch on 7<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall.

Rosemary Bowden-Smith

Hacheston Recorder