

Annual Report of the Council
Chairmans Report

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING APRIL 2024

I hope you will take the time to read the following reports on our new website. We are very proud of how well the new site works.

These reports highlight some of the fantastic work being done in Mistley by local organisations. We are rightly proud of all of them and their contribution to our village. I hope we will all continue to work closely together. The PC is committed to help wherever possible.

- [Mistley Cricket Club Annual Report](#)
- [Mistley Kids Club Annual Report](#)
- [Mistley Rugby Club](#)
- [Parish Footpath Spring Report](#)
- [Rotary Club Annual Report](#)
- [Manningtree Mermaids](#)
- [Mistley Village Hall](#)

Manningtree Rotary deserve special mention for rejuvenating a rather rotten bathing hut, a big piece of work that we thank them very much for. It is not the only thing they have done for Mistley this year; you will probably have seen them out clearing paths and cutting back overgrowth too.

Our Cricket and Rugby Clubs provide first class sports facilities, results have been fantastic and a credit to all, not just the senior teams but developing sporting prowess in our youngsters too.

Mistley Kids Club continue to provide excellent services to children who really appreciate the help they get. Every week they seem to have something new happening and typically they look after up to 60 children per day.

Keith Garwood's footpath report I will mention later.

Manningtree Mermaids have managed to get national coverage for their campaign to improve the water quality in the Stour. Well done to them all.

Last but not least the Village Hall has continued to improve its facilities, has a new floor in the main hall and hosts many local groups and events throughout the week.

Your Parish Council is proud of you all and will provide whatever support we can.

What has the Parish done this year: A few highlights.

The four Mistley Parish notice boards have been replaced, I hope you all agree they look very smart; the old ones were getting very tired and in danger of falling apart.

Thanks to Susan's persistence we are now much better at doing risk assessments. These are conducted on all play areas, the three allotment sites and our churchyard's. These have highlighted issues for attention for as diverse as worn hinges on swings, unstable gravestones, to falling tree branches. Hopefully we are keeping Mistley safe for everyone to enjoy.

At the start of the year a survey of all the trees along The Walls was undertaken. As a signature feature of Mistley, a health check was long overdue. You can see the results of that survey currently underway as deadwood is cut out to make the trees healthier and the trees safer for pedestrians. 14 of our trees have needed attention to keep them healthy and safe.

With the help of Tom Wood from ECC who provided the funding and expertise, we planted two Community Orchards, one by the allotments at River Reach the other larger one on the new field adjacent to the Rugby Club. In a few years there will be free apples, pears and cherries for all. Around 50 fruit trees in total.

A big thank you to our grounds maintenance contractor, Great Oaktree for giving us 70 open woodland trees which you can see growing behind the Furze Hill Community Orchard.

We refurbished some of the play area matting at Furze Hill and have installed new seating in the orchard and on the Welcome Home Field. The existing seating around Mistley is being refurbished, the latest being the seat opposite Mistley Manor, next are four along The Walls that need help.

Try our new website. We are very proud of how well the new website works, much better than the clunky one we had before. Please have a look if you haven't already and thanks to Susan for getting it up and running so quickly.

People

Susan Clements. Our clerk does a huge amount of work for Mistley, much of it behind the scenes. Writing minutes to managing our allotment holders, she gets everything done in meticulous detail. A big thanks from us all.

Sam Forrester. Our warden keeps us free of litter and does countless small jobs around Mistley every week. He always responds immediately and gets the job done whether it be replacing the posts on The Green or clearing a culvert to help alleviate flooding. A true asset to Mistley. Thanks Sam.

Keith Garwood. Our Footpath warden, probably the only person in Mistley who knows where all the foot paths are, he alerts us to any problems such as fallen trees or waterlogged pathways. Thanks Keith as always for your dedication to keeping them open.

Councillors. We have seen a few changes in councillors this year, its not always easy for everyone to get along but I think we are now lucky to have a team that get along well, work well and support each other.

Finances. Our balance sheet is healthy, our budgeting is good and our reserves are robust. As Mistley has grown we have a little more money to improve the Parish looking forward but have kept the increase in the precept to below inflation.

Future Projects

Furze Hill. A big project has been finalising the lease for the new field, I am pleased to say we are very close to signing that off. Furze Hill should be a multi-sports centre; we are pleased the RC agree and support the long-term development of the site. We have hopes to introduce Basketball in the medium term and have space for other things too.

Tree maintenance. This is ongoing as they keep growing! We also need to take some measures to protect Old Knobbly. Its roots are suffering as the ground above is compacted, we are taking advice on how to protect it, but retain as much access as possible.

The bus shelter along Harwich Road is a bit of an eyesore, hopefully we can improve/replace that soon.

Events. The last year or two has shown Mistley enjoys public events. The Pram Race enjoyed a bright sunny afternoon and was well attended and the feedback was good.

The PC now has an events sub-group and they will be coming up with some ideas for all to enjoy and hopefully raise some money for good causes and the Welcome Home Field which is short of funding.

Mistley Parish Council is happy to take feedback and listen to your ideas all through the year.

Cllr Paul Nutter
Chairman, Mistley Parish Council