

Waveney Heritage has a life-line!

Yesterday I returned from checking on the Old School building and grounds, feeling very sad that the garden was already getting overgrown, work needed doing on the window frames upstairs, inside needed regular cleaning, the windows were increasingly dirty, the playground was a mess and I had no idea how we were going to keep going or even pay the rent and the rest of the bills.

BUT!

I went home, turned on my computer whilst I had a cup of tea to cheer me up and there was a message telling me that we had been awarded a large grant! It was such a relief! I phoned Jill to tell her and thank her for all her support, not least by giving me a shoulder to lean on but also of course for her input during the months we have spent finding speakers, looking for grants and thinking of ways to make use of such a large building. Jill knows so many people (and is frequently distantly related to them!) and has been highly instrumental in attracting the string of knowledgeable and interesting speakers we have enjoyed over the last year, many of whom waived their fees.

We had already organised all our summer and Autumn talks and were well advanced with our preparations for the VE day celebrations in May and of course our Christmas event, but that won't go to waste because everyone involved has offered to simply wait until we get back to normal. Even the VE day celebration events can be saved up for a great weekend when we can finally open again.

In the meantime, we can now start talking to those people who can deal with all the outstanding jobs, secure in the knowledge that we can pay them. We intend to make use of local businesses, situated as close to the Waveney Valley as possible and I hope to start a photographic record of it all to put in our archive, starting with pictures of the garden and woodwork as it is at the moment and, if I can find time, writing an account of the entire Covid crisis, how we were affected and coped and what life was like as we returned to a more normal life.

In the meantime, as always, thank you all for your support, keep well and we look forward to meeting you again soon!

Very best wishes,
Mary Thompson
Jill Edwards
Margaret Griffiths and Robin Twigge