

**VILLAGE RECORDER
REPORT TO COCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
16 MAY 2024**

There has been another year of notable activities and events in the village – too many to mention them all but some are highlighted below.

The Cockfield Art Show was held on 27 May 2023 and brought in artists and their work from a wide area of East Anglia. It was again, very well supported.

Cockfield Primary School became part of an Academy Trust and gained a new head teacher, Marc Gilbert, who took up his position at the autumn 2023.

There were two notable publications during the year. Cockfield Memories II covering 1960 to 2000, a sequel to Cockfield Memories 1920 to 1960. It was the culmination of much hard work gathering together photographs and scripts covering these forty years. The other publication, A Countryman's Musings by Rod Williams, is a collection of articles he wrote over the years, published in Green Links. He died in March this year and is very much missed.

Cockfield acquired another Green this year – Jeffreys Green has been adopted by the Parish Council.

In 2023, a planning application for a factory at the junction of the A134 and A1141 manufacturing equipment for recycling plants was turned down on Appeal.

In the autumn 2023, it was announced that Cockfield had won Small Village of the Year (for villages under 1,000 residents). This was a tremendous achievement and to celebrate, the Parish Council laid on a showcase event in January to which all organisations and groups were invited. It was a joyous affair and a fitting celebration of our vibrant and social village.

At the end of October 2023, Barbara and Ralph Turner 'retired' from Cockfield Post Office and Shop having given long and dedicated service to the village. A group was formed to take on this enterprise for the community and the village was asked for their support. Now six months on, the Community Shop is being managed by Sarah Fletcher with a growing group of volunteers and the Post Office is running under the continued supervision of Barbara who has trained a group of volunteers. It is hoped a permanent Postmaster/Mistress will eventually take charge.

A Litter Pick took place again around the village in March and the Historic Churches Trust had their annual sponsored bike ride around the churches in Suffolk. A further bike ride took place in memory of Norman Gregory.

For several years now there has been considerable house building in the village. Many developments are nearing completion and new residents in the village are settling in. They are very welcome.

Many activities follow a regular monthly pattern in the village – the cinema (run by the Community Council), a community coffee morning (run by the WI) and a visit to Great Green by the Rural Coffee Caravan.

Whilst I understand that Green Links is lodged with the Records Office regularly, I again make my annual plea for residents to let me have any press cuttings or anything else relating to Cockfield which may be of interest to historians of the future.

Brenda Dyer

16.5.24