

North Mundham Parish Council

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I hope a really good number of you have been able to respond to the parish-wide survey, which will help inform the development of our Neighbourhood Plan. We have not yet finished analysing the results of the survey, so there is nothing I can tell you at the moment. But we plan on being able to share our thoughts with you in a few weeks' time, probably some time in November, so watch out for further announcements.

Following a lot of work by David Coward, the Parish Council agreed last March that we should commemorate some additional names on the war memorial. These are names additional to those that were inscribed on the memorial when it was erected, which David's research has identified and which are recorded in the Memorial Book kept in the church. We agreed that these names should appear on a separate tablet on the memorial, so as to respect the integrity of the original structure. The plan is that this additional tablet will be in place by Remembrance Sunday, to be dedicated after the service.

By the time you read this we should have made a start on the work to improve the state of the old canal at the eastern end, where it runs next to the footpath to Canal Mead. Working with the FLOW (Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands) project and the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group, it will improve the water quality and the biodiversity of this part of the canal. It will involve digging out some deeper pools and letting more light into the canal. The canal itself will be protected by a 'dead hedge' made from wood cleared from the site to form an attractive fence, and a range of wetland plants can be introduced to provide more colour and interest.

Finally, I mentioned last August that we were arranging to look at the way we manage the Village Hall, and how we co-operate with the Playing Fields Trust to market their pavilion facilities with the Hall as the Village Centre. It may be that there is a more efficient way of doing this, and we have secured some professional advice to explore the options. I suspect it will take us some time to establish whether there is anything to be gained, so please do not expect to see anything different in the short term, and we will certainly not make any changes unless we are certain there is a better way forward.

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