



COGGESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk's Report – May 2024

- **A Celebration of Coggeshall's Community** was the theme of this year's Parish Assembly and we had around 15 voluntary community groups attend to showcase their activities. We have heard back that this had been a successful opportunity to network and gain new interest for their groups, including some new volunteers. PC James Draper attended to talk about community policing and the downtrend in reported crimes compared to the previous year, with the Braintree District and Coggeshall remaining comparatively safe places to live.
- **Our Art Competitions** have gifted us 10 pictures from the children's categories to adorn the walls of the Keys Room, which we are really looking forward to arranging in the next few weeks. The overall winner was Willow Webster, age 11, and her picture of Dick Nunn's Bridge will also be featured on the cover of the June issue of the Parish Magazine. All the winners and runners-up also received a small prize.
The adult category of the competition included photos, and the overall winner, Paul Adams, entered a stunning photo of Markshall, and also one of Dick Nunn's Bridge. Our runner-up, Diane Peake entered a beautiful painting of Bridge Street at sunrise. Thank you to all our entrants and winners for taking part – we really enjoyed seeing all the beautiful art from the community.
- **The Market** has been missing a fruit and veg stall for a while now, but in the background we are actively searching for a new one. Most market traders are booked up at a different location each week, so it is proving difficult for us to find someone who is free on Thursday mornings, but we still have one or two leads to follow up. In the meantime, it is up to all of us to support the market as it is to help attract more traders.
- **The Recreation Ground playground** has needed some large repairs recently, but these have now been completed. Over recent months there have been problems with adults using the play equipment. This has been by adults who are at the playground with their children, and usually involves two adults using the sweeping see-saw and spinning it round and up and down aggressively. We are sure that it is great fun to use, but it is not built for adults to use and this shortens the life of the mechanism. We are looking at a second repair of this mechanism, which is costly, and if reports of this misuse continue, with further repair bills, Council will have to look at whether the equipment has to be removed. This would be a great shame, as the children who it was put in for, also really enjoy using it.
- Finally, it is **Scarecrow Trail** time again, and we are busy working away on this year's entry, which is based on the theme of 'children's books'. The trail is running from Saturday 25 May until Sunday 2 June. Keep an eye out for ours in the flower bed on Market Hill!

Philippa Potter
Parish Clerk