

Parish Council Annual Report March 2022

Contrary to many hopes and expectations the Pennoyer Centre, along with many other businesses and charities, continued to be affected throughout the year by Covid restrictions.

After opening on and off through the winter and spring of 2021, the café re-opened fully in May under Covid-secure guidelines. After a slow start, the café has been very busy with many new customers enjoying our new format - table service, new menu and daily specials. We were able to upgrade equipment and café furniture with Cultural Grant funding which was much needed after 10 years of operation.

We were also successful in securing funding to refit our new Airship Museum which re-opened fully in September 2021. There is still a lot of work to do recording and cataloguing our stock of archives and photographs to make them available online, but so far the new displays have attracted many visitors and positive feedback.

Throughout this turbulent year all of our staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to keep Pennoyers going. We were all pleased when restrictions eased even further over the summer, with the prospect of our regular programme of fundraising events getting back to pre-lockdown levels.

The AGM was held as usual in November 2021 and although there were fewer people attending than in normal times, it was an opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the year and acknowledge the grants received from South Norfolk Council and Pulham St Mary Parish Council, as well as the dedicated Covid support from the Heritage Lottery Funding.

As we started to emerge from restrictions, the arrival of the Omicron variant was very damaging and delayed our progress back to normality. Many of our fundraising events had to be deferred or cancelled over the Christmas period. Now that all restrictions have been lifted, we look forward to returning to a varied programme of fundraising and community events.

Like many other small businesses and charities, we are facing very challenging times with increased costs, rising inflation and continuing uncertainty. But everyone of us – Trustees, staff and volunteers - is determined to ensure that The Pennoyer Centre continues to work with and support its local community for the benefit of all.

Anne Cleveland
Chair of Trustees