

A history of
Welborne

ARTS FESTIVAL



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July 2020

1. Overview

Welborne is a tiny village in rural Norfolk and not the most obvious place to run an arts festival which, at the end, included circus, music, literature and more, as well as visual art.

Welborne Arts Festival ran for 15 years between 2001 and 2015. The festival was an event organised by volunteers from Welborne Village Hall (Charity number 1086084). The festival was originally intended only to showcase visual art but the scope and scale of the festival expanded over the years. Visitor numbers were regularly over 1000.

There was never any intention to make a surplus but, in practice, the festival generated quite significant income for Welborne Village Hall. This was mainly because of the need to ensure that the festival did not make a loss which would have had a major impact on the limited finances of Welborne Village Hall. The festival costs and income were significantly more than all the other activities of the village hall so the festival organisers always ensured that all festival costs were covered, in advance, by grants and donations.

Later, the Trustees of Welborne Village Hall established an 'Arts Festival Reserve', gradually increased to £5,000, which was available in case of a lack of sufficient funding in any year. Some years, a donation was made to the church in recognition of the use of the church for the festival. All other surpluses were income for Welborne Village Hall.

Although we never intended that the festival would make money, total net income generated over the years by Welborne Arts Festival for Welborne Village Hall was around £28,500 and donations of over £1,000 were made to All Saints Church, Welborne.

2. Welborne Arts Festival

The first Welborne 'Arts Weekend' was in 2001 and came about because Welborne was offered the Creative Arts East (CAE) 2001 touring art exhibition at short notice; another village had cancelled because of foot and mouth restrictions. The exhibition was brought on a lorry to Welborne for one day; to add to the event we put also on a flower festival in the church and provided refreshments.

Over subsequent years the Welborne Arts Festival grew in size and stature to become a successful and popular event on the Arts calendar. The festival initially used just the village hall, All Saints Church and the churchyard but expanded to include Rectory Meadow field, adjacent to the churchyard.

Funding was a perennial issue and as a result the festival has always been subject to financial pressure. In 2007 it went from being an annual to a bi-annual event in order to ensure that an on-going future, within funding constraints, could be achieved. However, with contributions from various quarters, the festival has always been a local event for which the organising committee and villagers could be proud.

Notable activities included:

- Regular Artists-in-residence;
- Evening Concerts and Ceilidhs;
- Exhibitions by local artists' groups and local residents;
- Demonstration events for Pottery, Sculptures, Painting, wood carving, print making etc.;
- Readings and book signing by various Norfolk-based authors;
- Major attractions including Circus Ferrel, Fiddlesticks North West Clog Dancers and Kensington Lodge equestrian team;
- School activities including artists working with the children from four schools. The work by the children was then displayed or performed at the festival.

Objectives of the Arts Festival

There were a number of long term objectives of Welborne Arts Festival including:

- to improve access to and experience of the arts and professional artists for people living in a remote rural area where access to the arts is limited
- to celebrate Welborne as a community and a place to live
- to increase the sense of inclusion for all residents of Welborne and surrounding villages
- to address the issues of community development, learning and skills, rural isolation, particularly for the young, the elderly and those with disabilities by linking culture and learning
- to develop new rural audiences for the arts
- to inspire villagers to be creative themselves to develop audiences for future activities in Welborne

We always had the serious intent of “bringing the arts to the people” but there was always a sense of fun in what we offered.

3. The festival year by year

[These are based on the reports produced by the organisers after each festival.]

Arts Weekend 2001

The first Welborne 'Arts Weekend' was in 2001. This came about because we were offered the Creative Arts East (CAE) 2001 touring art exhibition at short notice; another village had cancelled because of foot and mouth restrictions. The exhibition was brought on a lorry to Welborne for one day. To compliment the festival we also put on a flower festival in the church and provided refreshments in the village hall

We attracted over 130 visitors and made a small contribution towards village hall and church funds.

Arts Weekend 2002

For 2002, we decided to expand the Arts Weekend. We successfully applied for an 'Awards for All' grant of £2,608 which covered the costs of hiring a marquee, transport, printing and security costs. As well as the CAE touring exhibition, we invited a group of local professional artists to put on a separate exhibition. On the Saturday evening, a concert was held in the church, performed by a local choir.

We attracted over 400 visitors over two days and made a surplus, which was shared with the church.

Arts Weekend 2003

2003 was a difficult year. Funding bids went in late and we did not attract all the grants that we had hoped. However, in a very positive display of community spirit and lots of self-help, the festival was even bigger and better than before. We had two marquees and added poetry readings. Some of the planned elements of the festival had to be cancelled because of the lack of funding.

In spite of the difficulties we attracted a lot of people, continued the tradition and even made a very small surplus.

Welborne Arts Festival 2004

The 2004 Festival was bigger and better than ever before. The total number of visitors to all the events was over 700 (70 at the opening event, 240 on Saturday 12 June, 260 on Sunday 13 June and around 130 in total at the 2 concerts). This was nearly double our highest attendance in previous years and reflected the wider scope of the festival and the number of events on offer.

Over 60 villagers contributed to the festival in some way; more than ever before. This was particularly encouraging as it suggested we were achieving our underlying objective of building and enhancing the community.

The Arts Festival made a significant surplus from advertising, sale of the programmes, commission on sales of art, catering and sales of concert tickets.

The surplus was split as follows: £500 to Welborne Village Hall, a welcome £500 contribution to the Church and £1000, put into a reserve fund to build flexibility for funding future Welborne Arts Festivals.

Welborne Arts Festival 2005

About 80 villagers contributed to the festival. Some people contributed in more than one way, so there is some double-counting, but 48 people helped during the festival with

organising, catering, stewarding or greeting guests. Over 20 took part in the villagers visual art exhibition and there were 19 flower arrangers. This is particularly encouraging as it suggests we are achieving our underlying objective of community-building. In addition, 140 children from Mattishall and Garvestone schools took part in the workshops run for the festival by Liz McGowan.

The major costs of the festival were met by generous funding and sponsorship from local and national charities, local councils, the lottery and local businesses. The festival raised income from advertising in the programme, sales of the programme, commission on sales of art, catering, sales of concert tickets.

The total number of visitors to all the events of Welborne Arts Festival 2005 was around 800, more than ever before.

Welborne Arts Festival 2006

The total number of people at all the events of Welborne Arts Festival 2006 was around 900, more than ever before, and in spite of a clash with England's first game in the World Cup.

Generous funding and sponsorship from local and national charities, local councils, the lottery and local businesses met the major costs of the festival. The festival raised income from advertising in the programme, sales of the programme, commission on sales of art and books, catering, sales of concert tickets.

As always, we asked for lessons learnt for the future and will use them in planning future festivals.

Attendance at the festival

The preview evening was very well attended by around 100 people. We were honoured that the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk formally opened the festival. This was followed by a short concert by choral group, Songbyrd.

[The Lord Lieutenant has now kindly agreed to be Patron of Welborne Arts Festival.]

Saturday daytime attendance was affected by the World Cup, at around 200 people, but Sunday daytime attendance was the highest ever, at over 360. Attendance at the two evening concerts was 54 at each.

Over 100 villagers were involved in some way, including organising, catering, stewarding, greeting, transport, flower arranging, car parking and over 30 people took part in the villagers visual art exhibition.

In addition, 140 children from four local schools (Barnham Broom, Garvestone, Mattishall and Yaxham) took part in the visual art project run for the festival by the Sainsbury Centre. Chet Valley.

Welborne Arts Festival 2007

Our seventh festival, with the theme of 'skies above and earth below', included top quality visual art, music, literature, performance, archive film, flowers in the church, lunches, teas and ice creams.

Readings and book signings

Beth Webb (Saturday and Sunday)

Beth is a children's writer and storyteller from Somerset. 'Junkyard Dragon', for younger children, was published early in 2007. 'Star Dancer', the first of a quartet, is published in paperback May 2007.

Tessa West (Saturday and Sunday)

Tessa is a novelist who lives in Harleston. Her next book will be 'Companion to Owls'.

Simon Scarrow (Saturday)

Simon is the author of many books about the Romans His new book 'The Generals' is published in May 2007.

Sarah Bower (Sunday)

Sarah teaches at UEA and is Literature Development Officer at Creative Arts East. Her new book 'The Needle in the Blood' is published on 2 May 2007.

Daljit Nagra (Sunday) as part of Norfolk Reads & Writes.

www.norfolkreadsandwrites.blogspot.com This link is devoted to Norfolk Reads & Writes.

Writing workshops

Beth Webb and Tessa West will be running workshops both days.

Dereham Library and the Dereham Times are encouraging individuals and local reading groups to read their work before the festival.

Music

Live music of all sorts during Saturday 16 June, included performances by local schools as part of our 2007 schools project under conductor Sian Croose.

The Dereham Band performed at our Saturday evening concert in All Saints Church at 7.30 pm.

The East Anglian Traditional Music Trust provided all the music, gave talks and demonstrations throughout Sunday 17 June.

Performance

We were delighted to present our first ever puppet show called 'My Tree', a contemporary fairy story (for children and families, performed by Sussex-based, TheatreRotto productions.

Foolhardy Folk Clowns (from 11.30 a.m. both days; workshop 2.30 p.m. Sunday 17 June)

Town Crier: We welcome back Sheringham Town Crier, Tony Nelson, who will make sure you know what is going on.

In the church

Archive film from the East Anglian Film Archive.

Flower Festival

Welborne Arts Festival 2009

The World Around Us

Our eighth festival, with the theme of 'the world around us', included top quality visual art, music, literature, performance and children's activities.

Keith Skipper, a Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, opened the Welborne Arts Festival 2009

Festival Highlights:

Exhibitions

We were delighted to welcome the long established artists' group, the Norwich Twenty Group. We also welcomed back the Norwich Print Fair as well as our regular high quality villagers' exhibition.

Demonstrations

- Kerry Buck – Collograph
- Gary Martin – Etching (intaglio printing)
- Sally Hirst – Photopolymer (relief printing)
- Walk and Talk – Tracy Myers

Be Creative

- The usual marquee was full of things to make and do, including throwing pots with internationally renowned Welborne potter Ruthanne Tudball

In the Church

- Worstead Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Readings and Booking Signings

- Absolute Fiction
- Mark Cocker
- Dean Parking
- Andrea Porter
- Giles Foden

Evening Concerts

- Nappertandy and Friends – Irish Songs and Stories
- Destination Swing – Cool Jazz with guitarist Jasper Smith

Welborne Arts Festival 2011

In the Heart of Norfolk

Welborne Arts Festival, running for over 10 years, uses performance and exhibition to bring quality art to the heart of rural Norfolk. The Festival takes art out into the community and brings the community to art.

In 2011 the Welborne Art Festival featured the Big Top of Circus Ferrel as the centrepiece for dance, music and performance in a wider programme of exhibited art, literature and sport. The festival also welcomed personalities from the worlds of broadcasting (Helen McDermott) and sport (Mathew Roberts) as celebrity contributors.

Activities for 2011 included:

Visual Arts

- Unlaced – clothing and the female form (Curated by Krys Leach)
- Woven willow figures at Welborne Church (In partnership with 'Art Alive in Churches')
- Breckland Artists at Welborne
- The Norwich Print Fair Exhibition at Welborne
- Villagers Marquee
- Katherine Hamilton – Exhibiting in the Village Hall
- Art Activity Marquee

Music & Entertainment

- Fred's House
- The Minister's Vision
- Andy Kirkham
- Howard Burton & Joe Tozer
- John Ward & Mario Price
- Mathew Williams & Hurdy Gurdy
- Ceilidh in the Big Top with Pendragon
- Clog dancing with 'Fiddlesticks'
- Time Travel Team present Station X – Music, Mystery and Mirth

Circus Ferrell at Welborne

During the festival, Circus Ferrel ran workshops for local schools and groups both in their colourful Big Top and in local care facilities. In addition to the workshops and impromptu entertainment during daylight hours, shows were also staged each evening.

Welborne Sport

In the year leading up to the 2012 Olympics sport was celebrated in different ways with:

- Mathew Roberts (High jumper and one of Aviva's development athletes)
- Kensington Lodge Farm Equestrian Display Team#

Dance

- Dance Workshops run by Norfolk Dance
- Ceilidh in the Big Top with Pendragon
- Clog dancing with 'Fiddlesticks'

Welborne Literature

- Rachel Hore
- Elspeth Barker
- Helen McDermott

Welborne Arts Festival 2013

"Inspired by the Welborne Area"

Another first for the Welborne Arts Festival

For 2013, Welborne Arts Festival commissioned 7 short films from the School of Film, Television and Media Studies at the University of East Anglia. The remit was to produce films that would engage with Welborne, or the rural Norfolk community. Students spent the spring period in and around the environs of Welborne and Mattishall to produce films shown at the festival. Themes were diverse, including some fictional and non-fictional films, plus documentaries giving an insight into the lives and possessions of local residents.

One film, “The Mattishall Alien” was made by children from Mattishall primary school, another “NR20 by NR20” by local residents during a weekend workshop, both were edited by the students. The making of both of these films was documented by the UEA students running the workshops – we defy you not to smile at our antics, and to recognise the problems of frozen fingers during the coldest weather imaginable. The remaining five films were made entirely by the students.

Thanks go to the students who produced the films as part of their final year projects for the Professional Video Production module, their tutor, Roger Hewins, and the residents of NR20 for their enthusiasm and giving their time so generously.

Festival Highlights:

Literature and Drama

- Louis de Bernières
- Rapid Gambit
- Lucilla Reeve
- Four by Four
- Schools performances directed by UEA drama students

Music and Dance

- Jaya Dance and Haarrpal Panesar
- Britten Sinfonia
- Ouse Washes Molly Dances
- Music Programme compiled by Rod Crockford
- Pendragon

Visual Art

- Norfolk Contemporary Craft Society
- North Norfolk Organisation for the Visual Arts
- Neal French
- Katarzyna Coleman
- Julia Sorrell
- Ian Sanders
- Villagers Marquee

Demonstrations and Workshops

- Jaya Dance and Haarrpal Panesar
- Neal French
- Ian Sanders
- Activities & Art

Meadow Performers

- Be Prepared
- The Whale
- Ouse Washes Molly Dancers
- Lucilla Reeve
- Foolhardy Circus Acts
- Vadimas (Close Up Magician)

Welborne Arts Festival 2015

“Art Meets Science”

Welborne Arts Festival 2015 in Numbers

We continued with our tradition of providing an ambitious programme with a wide range of activities and events to suit all tastes and to maintain an affordable entry price.

- Around 1,000 people attended the festival despite poor weather
- In total 162 children took part in schools workshops and performances
- Approximately 92 artists actively took part in the festival including visual artists, musicians, performers
- Over 100 people aged from 15 - 82 volunteered to help with the festival in some way, including organising, catering, car parking, sales, etc.
- over 600 adults and children attended over 30 workshops and demonstrations
- about £800 worth of artwork was sold during the festival
- 130 tickets for the ceilidh were sold, generating £1050

Welborne Arts Festival 2015 cost £21,415, funded by:

- £2,240 entrance charges
- £15,895 in grants, donations and sponsorship (details on the last page of this report)
- £1,930 of our own fundraising for the festival
- £5,450 other income generated by the festival (catering, sales, commission etc.)

The value of the time spent by volunteers on organising the festival is calculated at £43,000 (using rates suggested by the European Social Fund several years ago and also Basic Minimum Wage). In-kind support from individuals, businesses, and organisations gives a total value of community volunteers over £48,000. This includes:

- Two main festival organisers (1.5 full time equivalents for a year), of over 2000 hours, valued at £33,500.
- Over 1000 hours of time spent by around 100 volunteers, valued at £9,500
- Website development, in-kind support from individuals, businesses and organisations to the value of, say, £5,000.

The website attracted 4352 visits.

The festival made a surplus of £4,100, after repaying a loan of £3,500 from Welborne Village Hall.

Festival content

The theme this year was Art Meets Science and many of our events reflected this theme.

Continuing our tradition of accessibility, participation and engagement, all daytime festival events, performances, exhibitions etc. were included in the low entrance price of £8 for adults (£6 in advance), £2 for 5-16 years and no charge for under 5s.

The programme included:

- 3 visual art exhibitions (one “Inspired by Science” curated by a NUA graduate)
- 9 Arts activities workshops and 3 artist demonstrations open to all
- Circus skills workshops specifically for young people
- A performance(The Sci-Art Laboratory) led by local primary school children, teachers and artist in residence
- 8 drama and comedy theatre performances, many with a science link
- Celebrity author, Louis de Bernières
- Varied music programme with professional musicians (9 sets)
- Dance and music performances and workshops
- A varied programme of meadow/street performers including Clog dancers, Sid Bowfin, Circus Ferrel, Mistress of Ceremonies and storyteller Rebecca Mordan
- The West Runton Mammoth walked the meadow 6 times (+ geology exhibition with geologist)
- 2 performances from Circus Ferrel + workshops
- 2 performances from Norwich Puppet Theatre + workshops
- We commissioned the SAW Trust to provide outreach projects in 3 local schools - with input from 3 UEA lecturers, 3 professional writers and a professional artist, resulting in art and written work and the Sci-Art presentation at the festival
- We continued our outreach activities with residents of The Nightingale Nursing home (music with The Broken Maps)
- A ceilidh (paid for event, Saturday evening)
- A church service with the theme of Science and Christianity

Media and Marketing

This year the committee and organisers handled all our promotion and publicity through the local and social media.

We used a mix of traditional and digital marketing:

- 6,000 four page A5 flyers (of these, 2,000 were distributed by Creative Arts East to their display stands) and 150 posters, to libraries in central and southern Norfolk, to noticeboards, village halls etc. locally

- 2 large banners, one in front of Welborne Village Hall and one by Mattishall Church
- 12 roadside advance notice signs
- AA signs to the festival
- Redesigned website at www.welborne.org.uk containing background info, artist info, chronological listings of events and all exhibitions - built by Carl Boast working with Margaret Boulton
- New Facebook page [facebook.com/Welborne Arts Festival](https://facebook.com/WelborneArtsFestival) with 122 'likes'
- e-newsletters to mailing list of previous visitors
- Welborne Arts Fest@sally_arts Twitter account with 185 followers and 54 likes (635 Tweets)
- Welborne Arts Festival Page on "Streetlife"

Festival feedback

An informal survey of organisers, participants and helpers highlighted the following main points (which are not in order of priority and, inevitably, reflect differences of opinion):

What went well?

We had very positive feedback about **all** aspects of the festival (except the weather)

- The Mammoth was praised by all ages
- The schools projects - universally acclaimed (SAW, teachers, artist, writers, pupils, festival visitors). Art work and poems requested for exhibition in March 2016 as part of Norwich Cathedral's Science and Faith fortnight.
- Schools set-up and activity day
- Helpful, friendly and enthusiastic helpers
- Good organisation
- "Great atmosphere, and new friends made"
- Well laid out site and festival infrastructure (e.g. signage, one way traffic system, festival 'village', providing shelter from the weather)
- The dedicated drinks provision on set-up days
- Wide diversity of events "Excellent programme of good stuff and lots going on"
- "Will come again next year, we didn't realise there was so much to do"
- "The art exhibitions were fantastic"
- "One to one chats with David Ord Kerr, especially for the youngsters"
- "All the entertainers were excellent, particularly Sid Bowfin, Tangram Theatre ("I'd have paid the entrance fee just to see that performance"), The Mammoth, Circus Ferrel, Dr. Ken"
- Nightingale Care Home enjoyed the music session
- Rolling programme of events
- Quality of performances
- £8 entrance "good value"
- Shop & Tea rooms well organised. "Shop is good for community involvement"
- Music programme worked well in the bigger bar and music marquee. "The choir (Scunsulata) was superb" in the church.
- Additional marquees - 2 x Performance marquees simplified the programming/noise pollution and provided extra cover from the rain

- Church full for Louis de Bernières and Scunsulata
- Church's science themed flower displays were admired
- The food choices this year were much better than last time - great pizza!!
- New helpers for setting up the festival
- Community response to site clearing was fantastic
- Better publicity cover and a clear website
- Shorter day on Saturday

What did not go so well?

- The weather again caused problems with last minute preparations, despite additional infrastructure
- Numbers slightly down - undoubtedly influenced by the poor weather on both days, could also reflect the economic climate, the programme, scheduling, insufficient publicity, clashes with other events
- Schools presentation clashed with Brownie's anniversary day,
- Festival dates may be too soon after Open Studios and N & N festival (festival dates determined by schools commitments)
- Too many free entrances requested e.g. by arts groups
- Ceilidh sales down (weather or ceilidh fatigue?), but much higher than a routine Welborne village event
- Less welcoming ice cream seller
- No space for actors to change on the meadow
- Marquees had windows which had to be covered in arts exhibition marquees
- Online booking confusing for some - suggest telephone option, too.
- Having booking fee shown on website caused discontent
- Entrance fees: £8 is the maximum we can charge. A few visitors thought under 16s should be free.
- Counting of numbers using wristbands
- Disappointing congregation for church service
- "Mistress of ceremonies was really funny but needs a stronger megaphone"
- Inspired by Science exhibition curation too last minute
- "WNAA exhibition was disappointing"
- "Live looping not to my taste"
- "Friday evening music poor"
- Inability to find a general volunteers co-ordinator meant that the general volunteers were not well supported during the festival
- Too little formal visitor feedback from distributed feedback forms
- "Plants in the shop are good, not sure about knick-knacks"
- Car park attendants didn't get tea on Sunday
- The grass was too long in the car park
- Big increases in costs of St Johns ambulance and AA signs

Lessons for the future

- Identify “something large” for the meadow (ref success of the mammoth)
- A smaller, less ambitious festival?
- Start funding applications earlier
- Set up advance ticket sales earlier, select wording carefully, booking fee to be included in price
- Improve website design and construction
- Suggest include church service in festival programme and hold on festival site – not church
- No Saturday night ceilidh? Alternative?
- Try to expand our visitor base through more targeted advertising in e.g. Norwich
- Require a dedicated volunteer organiser/overview, to clarify volunteers’ roles and responsibilities, collate rotas
- More volunteers for early Saturday morning - advertise on media sites a year in advance
- Look after helpers better (e.g. make sure they have breaks and cups of tea)
- Ensure exhibitors and caterers provide details of electricity requirements at least 2 months before the festival
- Review electrical provision - all power on the meadow from the generator?
Investigate weather proofing of connections
- Investigate overnight lighting options
- Clarify rules of free entry and invites to opening event when inviting exhibitors and performers
- Determine budget for infrastructure early, to ensure everything is covered in funding applications.
- Ensure marquee supplier is clear about the type of marquees required
- The perception by some that it is a ‘small village fete’ and needs to be overcome
- More accurate head counting
- Must improve structured visitor feedback
- ‘if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it’
- Drinking water supply and electricity on the meadow, if possible
- Litter bins on car park (dog poo bags left in grass).
- Allocate specific time for final review of safety issues
- Meet with curators of art exhibitions at Welborne to ensure that all requirements are clear
- Delegate responsibility for grass cutting well in advance of festival

Conclusions

In spite of (yet again!) appalling weather for most of the Saturday and Sunday morning, the festival attracted just over 1000 very appreciative visitors, with a wide range of events and activities across many art forms. Our additional marquees provided essential cover and will be retained in future years.

We should be very proud of ourselves for putting on such a stunning and complex event in our very small village in a rural location. Our 100 volunteers make this a real community event, welcoming “outsiders” to the village to access quality art and entertainment.

Visitor numbers were slightly down, likely to have been due to mix of the weather and the economic climate (perhaps 1300 is our maximum unless we can attract the Norwich city audience). New visitors were surprised at the breadth and quality of the events with enthusiastic promises to return “next time”.

This year we received much positive feedback from the artists and exhibitors.

As the average age of the organising committee increases, we need to continually review the ‘management’ structure, how the festival is organised, the scale, scope and timing of the festival. The new “social media” volunteer enhanced our public profile.

Grants, Donations and Sponsorship

Our sincere thanks go to all our sponsors, our partners and our volunteers, without whom this event could not take place

Sponsors

Breckland Council
Norfolk Community Foundation
Norfolk County Council
Norwich Town Close Estate Charity
South Norfolk Council
Steelmasters Ltd., Dereham
The D’Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
The Fitzmaurice Trust
The Geoffrey Watling Charity
The Paul Bassham Charitable Trust

Individual donors (through the Big Give website)

Partners

Creative Arts East - LIVE (part funding of the Meadow performers)
Hughes Electrical, East Dereham
South Green Park, Mattishall
The Ernest Cook Trust (generous part funding of the SAW workshops)
The SAW Trust

Volunteers

We are very grateful to the Festival Organising Committee for their support and their help in organising the festival, and to local volunteers who have been involved with fundraising events, the setting up and running of the festival itself.

Patrons

Author Louis de Bernières
The Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, Richard Jewson

4. How it ended

After 15 years and 11 festivals, Mike Webb had run out of energy and enthusiasm. After much soul searching, he told Margaret Boulton of his decision. Margaret decided not to continue on her own. There were no other volunteers to take on responsibility for organising future festivals. So that was that.

I was relieved to have given up when I did. I had loved the festival and I had put a great deal of time and effort into organising it over many years. It had become far more in scope and scale than I had ever thought it would. If I may say so, I think it was a wonderful achievement to have put on such an event, and for so many years, in such a small village in rural Norfolk. I am confident that many visitors to the festival will remember the festival with affection. Hopefully, the many children involved will have been inspired in some way. Those involved in organising the festival will always be proud to have been part of it.

During the same years, Welborne Village Hall was active in promoting many other events in the village, generally with 'cultural' as well as community objectives. However, there is a natural life cycle with organisations and events. With the ending of the festival and the sad death of some key people in the village (particularly Fred Elson and Trevor Curson) there became less of a commitment to organising adventurous events and activities in the village. Although the decline was sad, it was inevitable at some point.

Future villagers in future generations will no doubt do something different. There will be new people with their own personal interests and with ambitions for the community of Welborne.

We did what we did for our little village and we are pleased to have done so. This record and the other resources (as follows) show what we achieved.

Mike Webb

27 July 2020

5. Documents and other resources available

This history (mostly based on our regular post festival reviews of 'what went well, what did not go so well and lessons for the future').

Festival flyers, posters and brochures

Organiser's files

Photographs

Videos