



LINGFIELD
Parish Council

LINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

***TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL PARISH
ASSEMBLY***

***WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2025 6:30pm
JENNINGS HALL, OLD SCHOOL PLACE,
LINGFIELD***

A G E N D A

1. Introduction and Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council –
Cllr Cath Hearnden
2. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council –
Cllr Cath Hearnden
3. Presentations
 - ❖ William Stevenson – RH7 History Group
 - ❖ Richard Young and Gill Williams – Lingfield United Trust
 - ❖ John Madden – Lingfield Nature Reserve
4. Reports from any other community groups
5. Public Questions and Discussion

Cath Hearnden
Chair – Lingfield Parish Council



Chairman's Report

Since the last Annual Parish Assembly, we have regrettably bid farewell to our Clerk, Lee Dunkley. Consequently, we experienced limited Clerk coverage for several months. However, we are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Parish Clerk, Catherine Fitzgerald. Catherine is new to this role and has been actively acquiring knowledge about various procedures and the operational dynamics of local councils. We look forward to working with her.

The Neighbourhood Plan is currently under review by the Tandridge Strategy Specialist, and we will keep you informed as we receive updates. The Conservation Area Appeal is expected to be finalised in the coming months.

At Pollards Allotment site, tree works have been conducted to enhance sunlight exposure to the plots over the past year. Additionally, the gatepost at the entrance to Centenary Fields Allotments has been replaced.

The pond is thriving, complete with a family of ducks. We have successfully installed CCTV around the pond and extend our gratitude to the volunteers who facilitated this initiative. Furthermore, we have installed a new memorial bench, which we hope you are enjoying, and have replaced open bins with more modern, rodent-resistant alternatives. A new handrail is to be installed shortly on the steps down from the CO-OP side of the pond.

We are currently organising the installation of Christmas lights for the village and would like to express our appreciation to Clive Jecks, Stuart Hellier, and the previous Chamber of Commerce for their longstanding contributions to this effort.

Jennings Hall has recently undergone renovations, including the installation of new flooring and carpeting.

The Spring Clean-up was a great success, thank you to the Residents and team of the

Lingfield Racecourse Marriot Hotel for their wonderful commitment on the day.

Plans are in progress for Lingfest 2026, an event that many in the community eagerly anticipate, and we hope it will be a resounding success. This cannot happen without volunteers, however, so please contact Catherine if you can offer help prior to 21st May 2025.

- We are pleased to report that we have awarded our regular grants, along with some additional grants, to several deserving causes and charities this year, including St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church, Lingfield Meals on Wheels, Community News, Lingfield Nature Reserve, and KSS Air Ambulance Charity and Blooming Arts Group.

Finally, we would like to remind you that you are welcome to attend parish council meetings and meetings of the planning committee. Meeting dates are posted on the notice boards, and agendas are published on both the notice boards and the website www.lingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk one week prior to the meetings. Please note that planning and parish council meetings now commence at 7 PM.

Cath Hearnden, Chair, Lingfield Parish Council

Your councillors are:-
Cath Hearnden – Chairman
Jason Fudge
Liz Lockwood
Camilla Downing
Julie Duggan – Chairman of Planning
Graham Marks
Lesley Steeds

Clerk: Catherine Fitzgerald
clerk@lingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk





Community Centre Annual Report 2024/25

This year has seen the successful conclusion of a number of projects: a new website, new IT equipment and an upgrade to the Jennings Hall. The new website makes it easy for people to see the wide range of activities at the Centre and to book tickets online for many of them. We believe this has already had a beneficial impact on bookings and use of the Centre overall. Our IT equipment had become outdated and not able to support fully modern web-based services. We have replaced several of our computers and have significantly improved access to high-speed services at the Centre – this also has the capacity to help people in the local community to access modern services. A project to improve our financial reporting software was quietly and efficiently completed. In making these improvements we have been supported by Sensible PC Solutions, who have occupied a room at the Centre. We are grateful to them for their help in installing the equipment, designing the website and training our staff. They have also run a well received a session for local people about online security. The Jennings Hall has benefitted from new audio-visual equipment that allows users to show films, play music and display presentations. This was made possible with the help of funding from Surrey County Council's Rural Prosperity Fund, whose grant also contributed to the replacement of our old and outdated IT equipment and the purchase of new chairs. We are grateful for their support. The Jennings Hall has been recarpeted – this was forced upon us by flooding following extraordinary rainfall in August. As usual, there was some turnover in our directors. Lisa Carey moved from the area, taking with her David Layzelle. They had both been enthusiastic supporters of the Centre. Lisa started the Wednesday cooking and talking sessions; David helped us

start the website change – and both appeared in the plays performed at the Centre. We wish them well. We have been pleased to welcome onto the board Brittany Wheeler and hope to make further appointments shortly. We have run numbers of events ourselves, in addition to those provided by our loyal hirers. The year saw a range of musical offerings: opera highlights, a blues/folk/rock mixture and a wonderful evening from our local Rock Choir. At Christmas there was a performance of *Wind in the Willows*. It is disappointing that we find ourselves no longer able to offer plays by local performers as we have in the past, from a combination of cost and limited public support. Our monthly Flix in the Stix commenced again in September with matinee performances, and this appears to attract a steady audience. We have a committed team of volunteers who work hard in choosing the films, preparing and serving refreshments and running the films. Feedback from our audience is very positive and it is encouraging to see new people joining us. On the staff front, we were pleased to welcome Mick Stein as our new maintenance man. Joanna Brown has left us after doing sterling work looking after our finances. Financially we remain in a sound position with adequate reserves to cover contingencies. We have seen very substantial increases in some of our costs – notably energy and insurance – which we have had to pass on in part to our hirers and other users. There is a constant judgement required to balance the need to cover our costs whilst not imposing too much on our users – running successful events at the Centre helps us to minimise the need for cost increases. The projects and activities I have described in this report have only been possible by the willing support of my fellow directors of Terri, our manager, and other colleagues. And there is, of course, a wider team behind the scenes who help us to run Flix in the Stix, put out chairs, prepare food and run the bar at events – my thanks to one and all.

Ian Jones Chairman March 2025



RH7 History Group was formed in 1999 to encourage the growing interest in local history. Our main area of interest is that encompassed by the RH7 postcode which centres on Lingfield and takes in the villages of Blindley Heath, Crowhurst, Dormansland and Newchapel as well as adjoining areas such as Baldwins Hill and South Godstone.

We meet on the second Monday of alternate months — January, March etc. — in the Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre for group discussions and lectures, generally having speakers on local and/or topical subjects.

The Group holds an exhibition every two years. Our most recent exhibition in May/June 2024 was titled “Let’s Join Together” and was about the history of social groups and associations in our area. We reached out to those clubs and associations currently operating in our area and obtained their assistance in preparing the exhibition displays. The exhibition had the double benefit of not only telling the history of these organisations but also allowing them to advertise themselves. We were also able to use the archives of the Hayward History Centre and memories of local people to tell the history of those organisations that no longer exist. The exhibition displays have been archived at the Hayward History Centre to allow future reference to the information collected for the exhibition.

Further information, including future events, can be found at our website “rh7.org”. Our website also contains 135 factsheets on local history, which have been written by our members since the Group’s inception in 1999. Please feel free to read them.

Obviously, holding our exhibitions costs money. As a small organisation it is important for us to ensure that we have sufficient financial support in place before we make costly commitments. We are therefore extremely grateful to the Lingfield Parish Council for the grant they provided, which gave us the confidence to proceed with our plans.

The Hayward History Centre was also founded in 1999. The Centre, which is based in Lingfield Library, collects and maintains archival material of the RH7 postal area. Members of the RH7 History Group act as archivists for the Centre. Archiving sessions take place in the Library on the morning of the first Thursday of each month. If you have any historical queries about our area the please either come to one of our archiving sessions or contact by email at rh7histsoc@gmail.com.



Lingfield Nature Reserves

2025 Annual Report for Lingfield Parish Council

The reserves continue to develop and have been well supported by the volunteers. We would like to thank LPC for their encouragement and support and, particularly their continuing contribution to the cost of the hay cut which is probably the single most important management activity we undertake and is the reason why our meadows are now species rich such that they are considered High Priority Grassland by Natural England.

Wildlife on the reserves

The last year has been remarkable for wildlife on the reserves and has proven the reserves’ value and the success of the management work that has been undertaken in recent years.

In 2024 Butterfly Conservation, the national wildlife charity, declared a butterfly

emergency in response to the worrying decline in butterflies being seen in their national monitoring scheme.

Against this depressing background our butterfly data for the reserves showed the best ever annual count of butterflies. Of course, not every species did well but many did and some were counted in exceptional numbers. On occasions, for the first time ever, the surveyor found himself walking through clouds of butterflies which made them difficult to count. How can this be against awful numbers nationally? This amazing result appears to be down to the floral richness we have created on the reserves and we can be fairly confident this is the case as one area which was particularly productive for butterflies was the new hedge in Bloomers Field which was only created three years ago. The front slope of the ditch in front of the hedge is now wildflower rich and was a magnet for nectarine meadow browns and gate keepers. This was not the case before this new habitat was created.

Another occurrence in 2024 which confirms our success in creating exceptionally rich wildflower meadows is the sighting of long horned bees on several occasions and in at least three different locations on the reserves. This insect is now rare and has declined as a result of the loss of 97% of our wildflower meadows since the 1930s. They are an insect which needs extensive areas of wildflowers in order to forage. The fact that we have these bees shows we have created high quality habitat.

We will see what surprises and discoveries 2025 will bring but amphibian surveys by Finella Gray of Amphibian & Reptile Conservation have already shown good populations of common frog, common toad, smooth newt and the internationally important great crested newt present this Spring. More common frog spawn has been recorded in our various scrapes and ditches than we have ever seen before.

Management

We continue to pursue our aims of keeping the habitats on the reserve structurally complex,

diverse and dynamic. This can be seen in the following activities undertaken over the last year.

The Triangle Meadow.

This is a relatively new meadow projects began in 2023. The last year has been an establishment year and management has mainly comprised of occasional mowing to encourage root growth over flowering. Some additional plugs were planted of particularly attractive native varieties as we aim to make the little meadow a spectacle for children and families using the safe route to school running alongside it. In 2025 the meadow will be left unmowed during the Spring and Summer to allow it to flower and seed freely.

The area around the allotments

The focus here has been coppicing the dominating and shading holly and removing invasive exotics like laurel to allow more light into this area. The aim is to create a bluebell wood using locally collected seed with an understorey of hazel probably being planted in Winter 2025 subject to funds being available.

We no longer burn arisings so brash is being used to create habitat piles and dead hedges. Tree work necessary for safety reasons continues to create piles of timber which are used similarly. Dead wood is now recognised as extremely important for biodiversity so we are pleased to retain logs and small wood onsite. Two examples of trying to do this creatively are the monolith outside the allotment left where the wych elm which died from Dutch elm disease has been made safe rather than felled. By the Butterfly Garden the volunteers worked hard to build a stumpery of vertical logs. These activities should benefit a wide range of organisms from woodpeckers and beetles to solitary bees and fungi.

The glade in Coldharbour Copse

Since CHC was planted in the corner of an ex-horse paddock thirty years ago it has developed into a mature woodland. As a result, the glade running through it has become increasingly shaded. We have decided to build on our experience and success of creating

wildflower rich areas by repeating the approach in CHC. The aim is to improve the habitat for butterflies and other invertebrates and we will be able to measure the success of the project as our butterfly transect runs North South through the glade and means any increases in insects will be identified in future transect counts. The tree work has already been completed with the canopy of trees along the glade having been raised and some coppicing undertaken. Brash has been used to create dead hedges providing areas in sunny spots which are sheltered from the prevailing winds and therefore more attractive to insects. In late Summer, the turf will be removed from the grassy areas which will then be seeded and planted with wildflowers to produce a richer sward. This work is specifically intended to increase wildflower species such as betony, devils' bit scabious and common spotted orchid and to encourage butterflies which like woodland edge such as speckled wood, large skipper, brimstone and orange tip.

The Eden for Nature Farm Cluster

We are the lead organisation in the Eden for Nature Farm Cluster which was set up to attempt nature recovery in this part of Surrey and neighbouring Kent by creating and connecting corridors of high-quality wildlife habitat. It is now entering its third year and momentum is beginning to build. The benefit to the reserves is hoped to be to keep them connected to the wider countryside and protect them from becoming a genetically isolated island though preventing encirclement by development. This would effectively turn the reserves into a park.

The cluster is being supported and advised by Surrey Wildlife Trust who are helping to make the cluster "investment ready" so green investors and funders can be found to fund the creation of the corridors and habitat improvements. SWT have recently been busy undertaking mapping and habitat assessments including biodiversity net gain calculations and will soon begin a connectivity analysis. In such depressing times generally for biodiversity this project is a reason for hope and it would be wonderful if it attracts wider

community awareness, support and help in the future.

Surrey Wildlife Trust

Following the LNR winning their community awards in 2023, SWT have taken an increasing interest in the reserves as they recognise the hard work of its volunteers and its importance to the local area. This has increased since a presentation on Lingfield Nature Reserves was given to the Trusts 2024 AGM. Their Wilder Schools education team have visited and have offered to organise a family day on the reserves in July. It is also very likely the reserves will host some community sharing events where we showcase our management of the reserves to help encourage groups from other parts of Surrey. These are exciting developments and particularly support our aspirations around engagement and education.

Surrey County Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

We have made significant effort in 2024 to engage with the SCC's consultation over their, soon to be published, Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Our aim was to ensure our corner of Surrey was not overlooked as it usually is and to keep open opportunities for the enhanced support and resources for future nature projects in this area that the LNRS promises. We feel we have had some success in that. Adam Brown, who is leading the preparation of the Strategy, has asked that a case study for the reserves is prepared as an example of best practice for nature recovery. That speaks for itself.

Concluding remarks

The last 12 months have seen some fantastic developments for the reserves. We had our best ever year for butterflies. We discovered the rare long horn bee. Our reputation and achievements are now known and spreading across Surrey and beyond. People are coming to see the reserves from far and wide and Surrey Wildlife are showing every sign of taking us to another level in terms of community engagement and using the reserves as an educational resource. Through the Eden

for Nature project, we could become the heart of a corridor of wildlife rich habitat which, one day, might stretch from Blindley Heath to Edenbridge. Meanwhile we continue our management ethos of complexity and dynamism in our habitats and continue to create new ones and reinvigorate older ones. 2025 promises to be a very exciting year.



Lingfield United Trust

**Chairpersons' Report on the Financial Year
1^o December 2023 to 30th November 2024**

Background

The Objects of the charity remain:

- The provision and maintenance of Almshouse Accommodation
- The provision of grants for assistance to those meeting the charity's criteria and resident within the ancient parish of Lingfield; this includes Lingfield, Dormansland, Felcourt and part of Baldwins Hill

We set out below the work that Lingfield United Trust has carried out in these respects over the financial year.

The Provision and Maintenance of Almshouse Accommodation

We continue to maintain our two Almshouses known as HoChee Cottages, Plough Road, Dormansland. A resident who had been in occupation since 2009 was admitted to a Care Home in the summer of 2024. We placed advertisements for the

vacancy and received a dozen completed applications. We followed the guidance of the Almshouse Association to select our new resident. She moved into 1 HoChee Cottages in October 2024. The couple at number 2 have lived there since 2013.

The Quinquennial Inspection Report and a Fire Safety Check led to the installation of new Fire Doors for both cottages. These lead into the communal front porch. Fire retardant material has been placed to ensure a complete separation of the dwellings in the loft. Both cottages have been repainted inside and out. Remedial work to correct damp affecting a chimney and wall at number 2 has recently been completed as well as roof repairs. Work to clear the garden of number 1 was undertaken in advance of the new resident occupying the cottage. Trustees use a contractor to maintain the boundary hedges and to mow the lawns. We arranged for the removal of some ash trees near the boundary fence. The residents are responsible for maintaining their own gardens.

The Provision of Grants

The Henry Smith Charity continued to make grants available for Lingfield United Trust to distribute. Small sums of money from ancient investments were also available for charitable purposes.

At Christmas 2023 the Trustees issued cheques to 123 households. The amount for a single applicant was £80 and couples received £100. A total of £10,560 was paid to the beneficiaries.

Throughout the year we received requests to help individuals and families with the purchase of items needed in the home. This included a washing machine for someone struggling with taking their washing to the launderette on the bus. We helped with the cost of warm boots and paid for a family to attend a family member's graduation. We assisted with some essential bills where arrears had arisen due to external circumstances.

The Henry Smith Charity had awarded us a 3-year grant to support the provision of Warm Spaces in Lingfield and Dormansland. The grant of £4,000 per annum was distributed based on winter opening hours (1ST November 2023 to the end of February 2024) when attendees could be sure of access to a warm space, a friendly welcome and a free hot drink. We advertised the times and locations in the local free press. Six venues received support through this initiative. The third year of the grant is enabling LUT to provide similar assistance through the winter of 2024 to 2025.

Lingfield United Trust made grants of £1,000 to Lingfield Primary School and £500 to Dormansland Primary School based on the number of pupils they serve and the number of children receiving free school meals. The grants were used to support children to access educational opportunities, such as class outings, whose parents could not afford to fund these activities

We gave further support for children with grants of £500 each to the Youth Hub in Lingfield and the one proposed for Dormansland.

We responded to a request from St Catherine's Hospice and awarded a grant of £1,000.

Volunteers at Dormansland War Memorial Hall have been working hard to make it a welcoming venue for all. We awarded them a second grant of £2,000

In November 2024 we received 126 applications for a Christmas grant from 93 single households and 33 couples. They fulfilled the criteria of being over 60, living in our catchment area and confirming that they were in financial need. The grant was held at £80 per individual and £1 00 for a couple. LUT issued the Christmas cheques by the end of November.

Trustees

At the start of the Financial Year Marion Wardell was our Chairperson. Other Trustees were Enid Marten, Sally Martin, Susan Calamassi, Richard Young, Reverend

Ian Whitley and Gill Williams.

Marion Wardell and Enid Marten gave ample notice of their intention to resign at our June 2024 AGM. This gave us the chance to advertise and interview people who had indicated their willingness to become Trustees.

We wanted to express our very sincere thanks to Marion and Enid for their excellent service. Enid had been a Trustee for 35 years and had also **served as** Chairperson. She was a valued and respected member of the Board. Marion was a Trustee for 16 years, mostly as our Chairperson. She steered us through the process of choosing the architects, selecting a Project Manager and working closely with builders. The resulting extensions to HoChee Cottages opened in 2013. Residents are very satisfied with their excellent accommodation. Marion led us through the legal complexities involved in becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee. She continued to give her careful attention to the needs of our service users and to the professional running of the charity even after her move from the area. A former Trustee, residents, a former clerk and others joined us for a Farewell Lunch and presentation to Marion and Enid on 19th June 2024.

On that date we held our AGM. We were pleased to welcome Ruth Hackett and Paul Wilkin to the Board of Trustees. The other Trustees remained in post. Giff Williams and Richard Young were elected as Joint Chairpersons.

Clerk

Anna Baker was Clerk to the Trust throughout the Financial Year 1st December 2023 to November 2024, having joined the Trust part-way through 2023. The previous clerk died in post, meaning that Marion Wardell had to assume the tasks normally performed by a clerk. Anna set about understanding the role with energy and skill, working closely with Marion and the Trustees.

Anna wished to relinquish the role by the spring of 2025, so we set about advertising the post and updating the Job Description

and Person Specification. We received applications from excellent candidates. Jacqui O'Sullivan started on 2nd January 2025. Our thanks go to Anna for her excellent handover, as well as her hard work in what was a very busy year for the Trust.

Policies and Procedures

All our policies can be viewed on the website. The following policies were adopted:

Independent Living Policy and Conflicts of Interest Policy

We issued revised handbooks to residents of the cottages and updated their letters of appointment. We devised a new form for the use of organisations seeking grants from LUT.

Change of Bank.

Dissatisfaction with the service we received from our Bank led to the decision to move our everyday banking to the Co-op. Long-term savings are with M&G and CCLA.

Website www.lingfiedunitedtrust.org

Thanks are due to Joe Wardell who set up and managed the website. Robin Williams accepted Marion's request to take over from Joe.

Visit by descendants of John and Charlotte HoChee

Mrs Nico[Fabricant and her family visited HoChee Cottages in June. They met residents and we arranged for them to view Lingfield Church and churchyard and the History Centre in Lingfield Library.

The Trustees have identified the following priorities:

- Review of current policies and procedures.

- Finalise Budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026
- Put in place training by Almshouse Association for the Clerk and Trustees

We should like to thank our fellow Trustees for their support and companionship. We are particularly grateful for the superb contribution made by Anna as Clerk.

This Annual Report and Financial Statement will be audited and sent to Companies House and the Charity Commissioners in due course.



Lingfield Community Library

Annual Report 2024/25

Lingfield Community Library was launched on 25 June 2016 and is now run by about 40 volunteers with support from the Surrey County Library Service.

Lingfield Library offers a traditional range of services, including:

- Loan of books and other materials eg Audio CDs
- A children's library
- Reference material
- Reservations for individual readers and book clubs
- Access to computers
- Rhymetime for toddlers and Story Time for 4-7 year olds
- Summer Reading Challenge for under 11s

Since the launch, we have introduced new activities. We have been heartened by the

interest in and support shown to the Community Library by local residents.

The Library also houses the Hayward History Centre.

Management of the Library

Following the successful establishment of the Library, we examined the role of the Steering Committee and decided that it should be responsible for strategic oversight. We have established a Library Operations Group, which deals with the day to day running of the Library, including the book stock, volunteer affairs, publicity and events. These remits complement each other and are operating successfully.

IT

In August 2021, Surrey Libraries introduced a new Library Management System, Symphony, and joined a consortium of libraries using the same software. This gives library users access to a much wider range of stock from any libraries who are part of the consortium with the capacity to return items to these libraries as well. Following additional training, volunteers now have access to a wider range of functions so that, inter alia, we can join new members as well as deal with payments and fines.

Volunteers

The number of volunteers has remained constant. We have a small turnover and have recruited new volunteers over the past twelve months.

Website and Social Media

The Library has revamped its website and raised its profile on local social media to publicise its activities.

Children's Events

The Summer Reading Challenge ran during summer holidays and attracted participants from local schools. The library ran a poetry competition for primary school users during the Autumn Term. We have also facilitated regular visits from local nurseries in addition to Rhymetime and Storytime every week. Local pre-school groups have also used the facilities in the Children's Library regularly. In addition, we have offered craft sessions at Christmas and will do so again at Easter. These have proved very popular with children and their families.

Adult Events

We have reintroduced 'Author of the Month', which highlights the work of one author or literature from a particular country, for example. This has proved popular with readers who appreciate the introduction to a wide range of authors.

We ran a local author event in the autumn and hope to support other writers who live locally in the next few months.

Other community libraries in Surrey have introduced Adult Storytime, which has proved popular. We ran our first session at Lingfield in 2024 and have attracted a loyal following. During clement weather, this has taken place in the garden, which added to its charm.

Christmas

We decorated the Library at Christmas and Father Christmas visited the Library in December with gifts for children from local pre-schools and junior members of the Library. In all, more than 70 children met Father Christmas.

Fundraising

We have worked to become more financially sustainable over the last year. The following activities have generated

income which allows us to improve our facilities and maintain our financial resilience:

- Our book donation and sales scheme where local people can give us books to add to our stock or sell both through the library and other organisations
- Friends of Lingfield Library – for local people who wish to make a small regular donation to support our activities.

With the funds generated, we have purchased a new printer, a filing cabinet and a more modern phone, all of which have contributed to the more efficient running of the Library.

Proposals for 2024/25

We hope to continue to offer our existing facilities and to introduce some new activities, to include:

- Improvements to the website and increased use of social media to promote our activities.
- Visits to and from local schools and pre-schools
- Monthly exhibitions and features on chosen authors
- Visits by authors to showcase their work
- A more extensive programme of events for both adults and children.
- Activities to ensure the Library's financial viability.

The Guest House Trustees

Surrey County Council rent space for the Library from the Trustees. One of the Trustees is a member of the Steering Committee which facilitates cooperation. The Library has participated in the Open Garden events organised by the Trustees,

which have introduced our services to a wider audience. I am grateful to the Trustees for their support and effective assistance throughout the year.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the members of the Lingfield Library Steering Committee, the Library Operations Group and all our volunteers for their assistance and support over the past year. These have been demanding times and everyone has shown flexibility and commitment throughout. I am also grateful to our colleagues at Surrey Library Service for their advice and support, notably the CPL team, managers and staff at Redhill, Reigate and Oxted Libraries.

Lingfield Community Library is grateful to Lingfield and Dormansland Parish Councils for their financial and other support.

Selina Springbett

Chair

Lingfield Community Library Steering Committee

March 2025

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON
23RD APRIL 2024 AT LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE STARTING AT 6:30PM**

Present:

Speakers: William Stevenson – Richard Young-Gill Williams and John Madden

Parish Clerk: Catherine Fitzgerald

Chair of the Parish Council: Cath Hearnden

6 members of the Parish Council and 14 members of the Public

1. Welcome from Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced Parish Councillors.

2. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council –

Cllr Cath Hearnden referred people to the Annual Report for details of the Council's activities during the past year.

3. RH7 History Group presentation

William Stevenson gave a presentation on the origins of Lingfield and the history of the area was truly engaging and fascinating. It delved into the rich tapestry of Lingfield's past, exploring its roots. The speaker captivated the audience with intriguing anecdotes about the village's development through the centuries, highlighting key events and figures that shaped its identity. The audience was not only informed but also inspired by the deep connection between the community and its historical heritage

Lingfield United Trust

Gill Williams opened the presentation with a comprehensive overview of the formation of Lingfield United Trust, detailing the vision and dedication that brought this community-focused organisation to life. It highlighted the remarkable services they offer, which play a vital role in supporting the local community. Among these services are assistance with transport, ensuring accessibility for all, and the funding of 'warm hubs' that provide safe and welcoming spaces for individuals in need. The presentation continued to showcase various initiatives and programs that exemplify the Trust's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents, demonstrating their unwavering dedication to community welfare. To learn more about how you can help donate or join our trustees, please visit our website at www.lingfieldunitedtrust.org. There, you will find detailed information on their donation process, the impact of your contributions, and the benefits of becoming a trustee. Richard Young closed the presentation with an overview of their provision and maintenance of Almshouse Accommodation, they would like to take on and manage similar properties in the area so please do get in touch if you know of any properties that may be suitable.

Lingfield Nature Reserve

John Madden's presentation explored the work of the organisation over the years, dedicated efforts in preserving the Nature Reserve and the surrounding areas of Lingfield have culminated in a wonderful presentation that highlights achievements and ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship. This presentation showcases the diverse ecosystems we have protected, the species that thrive within our reserves, and the collaborative initiatives that engage the community in conservation efforts. Through innovative programs and sustainable practices, we have not only safeguarded the natural beauty of Lingfield but also enhanced the quality of life for its residents. The Lingfield Nature Reserves Committee are the lead organisation in a farm cluster with the aim of restoring and creating connected wildlife rich habitats locally. They are called **An Eden for Nature**. John highlighted there is some Nightingales in the wider area, they can be heard in various places around Lingfield, do listen out for them. In collaboration with Surrey Wildlife Trust, they are

holding an Open Day on the **20th July 2025**, join them as they will celebrate their journey, share successes, and inspire future generations to continue this vital work.

4. Reports from any other community groups

No representatives from any other community groups were present.

5. Public Questions and Discussion

A member of the public asked – Is there a way of encouraging people to come forward and volunteer for different groups that support the community?

Various suggestions were put forward as follows:

- Word of mouth – someone suggesting a volunteer role in conversation
- Posting on social media
- Placing an article in Community News with detailed information on when the meetings would be and what commitment was required, one organisation at a time so the general public will not overlook an organisation if too many publish volunteer vacancies.
- A member of the public shared how she got into volunteering as follows:
 - The timing was right for her in her life, she had just retired, she was fully aware from the organisation of what commitment she would need to give and she met with the organisation on a casual basis to ensure the role was the correct fit for her.
- Community/Social events – these attract the general public and they learn more about the organisations and the work they do.
- Engaging with the local schools

A member of the public questioned why there was no Police presence at this meeting with the recent incidents that have occurred. Chair advised we would give feedback to the Police.

Meeting closed at: 20.20