

# Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting  
Held Monday 15th May 2023 at The Playing Fields Pavilion, Fishtoft**

**PLEASE NOTE THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD**

**PRESENT:** Fishtoft Parish Councillor Helen Crawford residing as Chairperson  
14 members of the public  
The Clerk Fishtoft Parish Council, Mrs Sarah Knowles, was also in attendance to take notes of the meeting.

**The meeting was opened at: 6:00pm**

- 1. Notes from the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022:** *To resolve as a correct record by those that attended the meeting and for the Chairman of the meeting to sign the official minutes.*

All those attending the 2019 meeting resolved to accept the notes of 13 May 2019, as a correct record of the meeting and gave permission for the Chairperson to sign them.

- 2. Chairmans report:** *To receive a review for the past year and future plans*

The Chairperson welcomed all those attending

*See Appendix A*

- 3. Financial report:** *To receive the council's financial report for April 2022 to March 2023*

All those attending received a copy of the report

*See Appendix B*

- 4. Short overview of the past year and future plans from outside bodies:**

**Police:** No report or representation

**Wooded Area by Fishtoft Pumping Station** Former Parish Councillor Margaret

Ordway gave a report

*See Appendix C*

**Hawthorn Tree School:** A representative from the Board of Governors gave a report

*See Appendix D*

**St. Leonards Hospital Trust:** Fishtoft Parish Councillor Armstrong gave a report

*See Appendix E*

**Fishtoft400** Fishtoft Parish Councillor Armstrong gave a report

*See Appendix F*

**Fishtoft400 Community Group**

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Armstrong gave a report

*See Appendix G*

**Rochford Tower Hall:**

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Ashley gave a report

*See Appendix H*

**St Guthlac's Parochial Church Council:**

Apologies were received by Ruth Cooper, Secretary for St Guthlac's Parochial Church who forwarded a report which was read out by Fishtoft Parish Councillor Helen Crawford

*See Appendix I*

**Fishtoft Academy:**

Apologies were sent by Jo Bland, Headteacher for Fishtoft Primary School who forwarded a report which was read out by Fishtoft Parish Councillor Helen Crawford

*See Appendix J*

**5. Short comments and statements from Residents:**

Two of the newly elected Boston Borough Councillors introduced themselves to the residents of Fishtoft, Councillor David Scoot and Councillor Sarah Sharpe.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.55pm

## Appendix A

### Chairman's Report

I would like to welcome you all to Fishtoft Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting gives me the opportunity to provide residents of Fishtoft with some details of what your Parish Council has done for you during the past 12 months and to let you know some of the plans that we have for the next year. It also gives representatives of various organisations within the Parish to update us all on their activities.

**Speed Limits** – as an example of how limited the powers of a Parish Council are, we have recently been strongly reminded by LCC that any requests regarding speed reductions on our roads, additional crossing points, change of traffic flow etc must be made via our County Councillor. As he is also one of your Parish Councillors, I am including a couple of successes on this front and other requests which have been submitted. In the past year the speed limits on Horncastle and Sibsey Roads have been reduced from 50 to 40 mph. Cllr Paul Skinner is also pushing ahead on the request to reduce the speed limit outside the Pilgrim Hospital and on Wainfleet Road from 40 to 30 and to introduce a crossing point on Wainfleet Road near Burton House. Jointly with Sibsey Parish Council in March 2020 we asked for a speed reduction between Fishtoft and Sibsey, from 60 to 50. This was kicked back in November 2022 but we have put this forward again and Paul is working on that.

**Speeding** – the Parish Council has limited power to enforce speed limits but you will have seen additional 30mph speed restriction notices going up in the Parish. The Parish Council orders and pays for these notices but again it is Paul Skinner who actually goes out and puts them up.

**Potholes** – FixMyStreet is the place online to report any concerns you have about the state of the roads, pavements, street lighting, fly tipping etc. You may not always get the response you hope for but the more people who note their concerns the greater the chance of something happening. If you don't get a favourable response, have a word with your Parish Council and we shall see whether there is anything we can do.

**Rubbish bins** – the Parish Council reviews all requests for additional rubbish bins. Currently, we are investigating placing bins in **Blackthorn Lane, Woodthorpe Avenue** and **Alcorn Green**. At the request of residents, we previously placed a rubbish bin on an area on the Fishtoft Road that had become an unofficial lay-by. We are aware of lorries parking up there overnight and churning up the grassy area. Our investigations into what action can be taken to prevent this are ongoing.

**The Parish Council owns a bus shelter** – on Wainfleet Road at the corner with Wythes Lane. Cllrs Ordway, Ashley and myself and a member of the public spent a few hours last summer clearing out the debris and pulling down ivy around it. It still has a topknot of ivy but I hope it is now a better place to wait in for a bus.

Our biggest event of the year was undoubtedly the **Fun Day** celebrations last June for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Armstrong was the driving force behind this event and the subsequent Fishtoft400 Community Group. It was an excellent day and was mainly financed by grants received from outside organisations.

**The Parish Council has also received grants** from **Boston Borough Council** to set up 2 Warm Spaces during the winter and for funding to assist with the **maintenance of a wooded area near Hobhole Pumping Station**. We are grateful to Jonathan Noble as a Boston Borough Cllr for his assistance in arranging these grants. I would also like to thank him for the work he put in to the Fun Day and his advice as a Boston Borough Council representative at the Parish Council monthly meetings.

**Continuing the Royal theme**, to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III the Parish Council gave each child at Fishtoft Academy and Hawthorn Tree school either a mug or a medal. Each are inscribed with 'Fishtoft Parish Council' so they can't forget us! Each child was also given a copy of our Fishtoft400 walking map designed by Cllr Ordway. If you don't yet have a copy of this map there are some available this evening.

### **What do we have planned for the forthcoming 12 months?**

The first 2 topics sound like a rerun of last year's Parish Council report – namely

**Scalp Road** is still in a very poor state and not conducive to visits from tourists. The Parish Council continues to push for the road to be repaired so cars can actually drive down it safely.

**And Pilgrim Fathers Memorial Area** – despite our attempts to discourage offroad vehicles gouging out the grass we hear this is still a problem. The police are aware and the Parish Council are in discussion with them on the best way to resolve this.

**Street lighting** – the Parish Council is responsible for 87 street lights throughout the Parish. They are all on all night and 77 are old style bulbs. For electricity costs alone our bill last October was £3407. If the lights were all LEDs on part-night controls that would have been £612.48. We therefore plan to replace all the old-style bulbs with LEDs and to install part-night controls.

**Parish Council noticeboards** - towards the end of 2019, 3 of the Parish Council notice boards were refurbished professionally. Unfortunately, they need doing again and Cllrs Williams and Ashley are organising this. The Parish Council has purchased a replacement board for the one at the front of Rochford Tower Hall and this will be installed as soon as possible.

### **Personnel**

At the end of May last year our clerk resigned. Cllr Ashley stepped into the breach to ensure that the handover to Sarah Knowles went as smoothly as possible. Sarah has done a sterling job at sorting out the Parish Council finances and ensuring our paperwork is up to date and I would like to thank her for her support.

In the middle of last year Cllr Lenton was taken seriously ill. It was fine for him in hospital not knowing what was going on but the rest of us, particularly Cllr Armstrong, were worried sick. We are very pleased that he has made a full recovery and is back with us.

I am sorry to report that Cllr Margaret Ordway has decided that after 28 years it is time for her to retire as a Parish Councillor. Her wealth of knowledge is invaluable and she will be much missed.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my fellow Parish Councillors for their continuing support during the past 12 months. All of our decisions are taken as a group – no-one has a greater say than any other. And although we don't always agree with each other we all support the final decision. We get no financial remuneration for our work and little thanks and from the simple fact that our elections recently were uncontested goes to show that few people want our job. We have vacancies in all 3 of our wards and are interested in co-opting suitable candidates. If you think that might be you, please have a word with Sarah.

Helen Crawford  
Chair  
Fishtoft Parish Council  
15 May 2023

## Appendix B Financial Report

### Fishtoft Parish Council

### Accounts for the period 1st April 2022 to March 2023

Financial Report from Responsible Financial Officer

#### INCOME

Balance brought forward from 2021/2022	57885.00
Precept	31249.00
Grants	500.00
Allotment Rent	755.50
VAT Rebate	5285.96
Other	419.73
	<u>96095.19</u>

#### EXPENDITURE

Footway Lighting Costs	4973.00
Staff Costs inc. HMRC	5400.48
PC Dispersements inc. Room Hire for meetings	1877.62
Insurance, Audit and Subscriptions	2846.83
Ground Maintenance inc. War Memorial & Drainage Fees	12768.41
New Noticeboard (Rochford Tower Lane)	1031.40
Donations/Grants	1700.00
Fishtoft 400 - Buoy	597.35
Fishtoft 400 - Community Group	491.43
Jubilee Fun Day	1687.77
Wooded Area	394.83
Other (S147 and Emergency Plan)	49.98
	<u>33819.10</u>
	<hr/>
Balance to carry forward to 2023/2024	<u><u>62276.09</u></u>

## **Appendix C**

### **Wooded Area by Fishtoft Pumping Station**

#### Report given by Former Parish Councillor Margaret Ordway

The wooded area continues to flourish for nature and at this time it is a bridal joy of white hawthorn and pink horst chestnut blossom. It would however, benefit from a scheme of maintenance and enhancement to bring it to its full potential for the greater benefit of our community.

Thanks to Councillor Jonathan Noble we obtained a Boston Borough Council Community Grant this year which enabled us to purchase a range of maintenance tools. This included assorted spades, forks, loppers, shears, saws and a Petrol Multi Tool. We have entrusted these to the North Sea Camp Community Engagement Team with whom we had previously liaised to undertake groundworks on our behalf. Hopefully to stem the tides of brambles, remake a pathway through from the surrounding public footpaths and begin regular maintenance. Due to Covid, plus priority and procedural changes at North Sea Camp, works has been rather delayed but I am advised we are at the top of their Community Engagement list. An onsite meeting between myself, Councillor Ashley and Alan Mills of North Sea Camp last Friday was very positive and groundworks should shortly move forward again.

Approaches to the Boston Caring Group and Fishtoft400 have seen both show interest in potentially providing art works, if appropriate and suitable other suggestions from locals have been to include natural play features of interest to children.

I thank Councillor Ashley for taking on the future overseeing of this conservation project of trees, originally provided free from Lincolnshire County Council, and with the kind permission of Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board, planted on what was a triangle of unuseful, rough bleak land by the Haven Country Park.

## Appendix D

### Hawthorn Tree Primary School

Hawthorn Tree Primary is a two-form entry primary school located 1½ miles from the centre of Boston. The school sits within a geographical area ranked within the 20% most deprived areas of the UK (quintile 5 most deprived of all schools). Hawthorn has a higher-than-average percentage of Pupil Premium children as this has grown in recent years. This led to the provision of an onsite breakfast club provision from September 2022 for Pupil Premium / vulnerable children. There is a higher-than-average percentage of SEND pupils (19.7%) and pupils with SEND EHCPs (3.2%). Over a third of our pupils are EAL which is above average nationally and locally. FSM % is higher than National.

The school works effectively with Lincolnshire local authority, LEAD teaching hub and Kyra Collaborative to provide effective CPD and to quality assure teaching, learning and assessment. This has also helped to grow and support middle leaders in the school to continually drive standards further.

I am so pleased to inform you that following an ungraded Ofsted inspection in November 2022 the outcome is that **Hawthorn Tree continues to be a good school.**

“There is a clear sense that staff and pupils live by the school motto: “where everybody is somebody”.

The report praises teachers for their “high expectations” and also the opportunities that the school provides its pupils to demonstrate leadership. The report states that parents speak very highly of the school; “Fantastic school, going from strength to strength. An amazingly dedicated group of teachers who work hard for all the children”

The report identifies that leaders have constructed an ambitious curriculum which encompasses all the subjects and aims of the national curriculum. It also notes that teachers understand how to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/ or disabilities, skilfully supporting them to access the same learning as other pupils.

Pupils develop a love for reading. Books read are well matched to the sounds that the children know, with texts are chosen well to inspire and motivate our children to read.

Children in Early Years get off to a good start- “Teachers ensure that all activities support children’s development and prepare them well for the next stage of their education.”

Teachers encourage pupils’ broader development through assemblies and relationships education.

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The curriculum teaches our pupils how to stay safe and pupils are confident in reporting their own concerns and worries and know how to do this.

We now need to continue to embed our curriculum so that subjects that have been recently re-designed ensure that all children have the depth of knowledge in these areas. We also need to continue to update our training for all reading interventions so that it is the best that it can be.



There is a range of extra-curricular provision for our children is inclusive for all children, a particular emphasis is put on the creative, expressive arts, sport, and the environment. We have increased participation rates of pupils in extra curriculum activities with 81% taking part in one or more extra-curriculum event. 80% of Pupil Premium children have taken part in at least one after school club. The school's staff team enjoys a range and depth of expertise, with many contributing to the work of the National College for Schools. The school has been awarded the 'Investors in People' status three times. The school has also achieved several other awards, such as Artsmark (Silver) and School Games (Gold), which demonstrates their commitment to a broad and focused curriculum.

The children achieved higher than National and Local expected attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths in the end of Key Stage 1 results 2022. Year 1 phonic results in June 2022 were disappointing at 55% but evidence suggests this to be cohort specific.

KS2 results in Maths and Writing were above National and Local expected attainment. However, our Reading at end of Key Stage 2 was slightly below national which impacted on our combined result. Throughout this academic year the school has invested highly in reading by updating our RWI training and improving our reading resources. The school is now in its second year of Pixl, which has impacted positively on enabling teachers to identify gaps in learning to be addressed through quality first teaching. Gaps are closing for disadvantaged children as evidenced by internal school data. Whilst SEND pupils in many areas are also making good progress, there is a focused staff CPD programme to further improve staff's knowledge and expertise so that we can ensure that all children have their needs met in order to make the best possible progress.

The school has re-introduced many initiatives which were suspended during COVID such as pupil roles and responsibilities (Prefects, JRSOs, School Councillors, Mini Police and Play leaders). The strong focus on staff and pupil well-being and developing resilience ensures that our pupils are happy, engaged learners who want to do the very best that they can. Children talk well about their learning and can re-call prior knowledge.

Our curriculum reflects our curriculum drivers (respect, resilience, innovation, compassion and diversity) and is innovative and inspiring. There is a wealth of visits, visitors and residentials (including Rand Farm, PGL Claythorpe and London) linked to our curriculum to provide our children with valuable life experiences which they might otherwise not experience. Our children become resilient and confident individuals who believe that they can achieve whatever they put their mind to. Our inclusive, personalised curriculum is lived through our school motto, "Where everybody is somebody" and permeates through our school.

Hawthorn wants to thank Fishtoft Council for its generous gift of providing coronation medals to every child in the school following our coronation event. Despite poor weather and having to scale down our proposed activities the children had a day to remember and they were thrilled with their medals which I am sure will be a treasured memento of the historical event.

Michelle Palmer  
Headteacher  
Hawthorn Tree Primary

## **Appendix E**

### **St Leonards Hospital Trust**

St Leonards Hospital Trust was established over 800 years ago and is probably the oldest institution in Boston and fifth oldest almhouse charity in the country.

Today the Trust owns and maintains 10 almhouse properties in Willoughby Road, Boston whose purpose is to provide accommodation for single male residents from the Borough of Boston who are in need, aged 60 and over or disabled. Preferences are given to residents of Skirbeck as that is where the Charity was first established, the Trustees also endeavour to have at least one resident from a seafaring background.

Prospective residents are interviewed to establish their suitability as it is important that they understand the terms and conditions relating to the accommodation, that they are able to look after themselves and will fit in with the other residents.

The Trustees usually meet three times a year in March, July and November and whenever there is a need to call an extra meeting to appoint a new beneficiary if a property becomes vacant.

The July meeting is an opportunity for the Trustees to meet all the residents, discuss any issues they may have and for the residents to put their suggestions to the Board of Trustees. It is also a time for the Trustee members to inspect each property inside and out for the purpose of maintenance.

Last year the Charity was awarded a Blue Plaque and an official ceremony was held at the Almhouses in July which I was unable to attend, unfortunately.

2022 was also the Quinquennial inspection of the properties, the aim of which is to provide the Trustees with a detailed report on the condition of the properties and recommended remedial work.

Occasionally a resident may cause a problem for other residents. With this in mind, and in order to pre-empt possible future problems, each resident was provided a copy of the Charity's current policy on Anti-Social Behaviour, Safeguarding and Complaints Procedure.

Elizabeth Armstrong  
Trustee

## **Appendix F**

### **Fishtoft400**

It all started in 2019 with the National celebration for the commemoration of the Pilgrim Fathers departing the UK for new lands across the sea in America.

A group of Fishtoft Parish Councillors decided to fund raise in order to do our own thing in the Parish. So, with £1000 from the Waynflete Trust and £9000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund we set out about our various ventures.

Former Parish Councillor Ordway produced a beautifully illustrated walking map, the Boston & South Holland Woodcarvers produced a lovely plaque to be mounted at the Pilgrim Memorial Car Park and Former Parish Councillor Helen Staples is creating a fabric collage which we hope will be on show in Boston (possibly the Pilgrim Hospital).

The biggest and most time-consuming venture has been making the mosaic panels to cover the decommissioned buoy donated by Boston Borough Council and which is sited on the corner of the Fishtoft Playing Fields.

Members of the Fishtoft Community have spent a whole year creating 12 beautiful mosaic panels showing scenes and landmarks around the Fishtoft Parish.

Currently talks are ongoing between Fishtoft Parish Council and Transported with a view to raising further funding and assisting with the massive task of placing the panels around the actual buoy and landscaping the area around the base.

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Elizabeth Armstrong  
Fishtoft400

## **Appendix G**

### **Fishtoft400 Community Group**

It took approximately a year for members of the Fishtoft Community to complete 12 beautiful mosaic panels to go around the buoy on the Fishtoft Playing Field. Right from the start we had a nucleus group which came together every Tuesday to spend three/four hours every week working on the panels. Most had never met before but as time progressed the whole group developed a close friendship and when the time came to disband, because the panels were complete, it was decided to continue as a “friendship” group.

We have kept the name Fishtoft400, because that is how it all started, kept to the same day (Tuesday morning) and have hired Rochford Tower hall as the new venue.

From conversations that took place over the year and during the mosaics it was clear that there was a need for a place where people of all ages could come together for company, a chat or to carry on doing mosaics. We advertised our vision on Facebook and on Boston Bulletin, and although it was a slow start we now have almost 40 members who come along every Tuesday and make new friends.

We secured funding from Warm Spaces initiative and from the Co-op (Eastwood Road) which has enabled us to provide the event free of charge. We are supported by the Local Hope Charity who frequently provide cake for our event. We continue to look for funding in order to continue offer free membership.

The Group is open to everyone and has provided the opportunity for lots of people to demonstrate their hobbies and skills enabling other members to learn a new craft at the same as making new friends and having somewhere warm and welcoming to come every week.

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Elizabeth Armstrong  
Fishtoft400 Community Group

## **Appendix H**

### **Rochford Tower Hall Committee**

Rochford Tower Hall have managed to have a successful year bouncing back after the pandemic.

Our bookings are food and we are being used by several different organisations which includes welcoming the new Fishtoft400 Community Group offering warm spaces for their activities which seems a huge success.

A new gas boiler was installed in the tennis pavilion in February and during the next few months we will be looking at decorating and replacing the fire doors.

Fishtoft Parish Councillor Roly Ashley  
Rochford Tower Hall Committee

## **Appendix I**

### **St Guthlac's Parochial Church Council**

First of all, our apologies for not attending in person to deliver this report.

(The Revd Marc Cooper is currently on sabbatical and undertaking a period of extended study leave until July.)

Despite many challenges faced over the last few years, not least the pandemic, we are pleased that St Guthlac's is still "open for business" with a faithful, if small, congregation and Revd Marc Cooper remaining in post as Rector enabling us to continue to offer regular Sunday services, online services, wedding, baptisms and funerals as well as special services for the major festivals of the church year.

As reported previously, we are currently in a period of significant change in the Diocese in order to get the church as a whole in Lincolnshire to a place where it is financially sustainable and flourishing. As well as our running costs of around £25k a year we are also therefore being asked to raise enough money to cover the cost of having a priest – an additional £55k (made up of stipend, housing, training and various other central costs). All of this comes from members of our own congregation, a few other regular supporters of the church, grants and our fundraising events.

As a result of this period of consultation and change, the number of clergies in the Diocese has already been reduced from 134 to 100. Churches have been encouraged to give us much as they possibly can to raise enough money to fund these posts and lay ministers and church volunteers will cover some of the gaps left. Fishtoft Church is now part of a Local Mission Partnership consisting of the Coastal Cluster of parishes from here to Friskney, Holy Trinity Church and the Sibsey and Brothertoft Group. This whole area of 17 churches will be covered by 3 full-time ordained priests (currently Revd Marc, Revd Lis Ward and Revd Andrew Higginson) together with various non-stipendiary, retired and lay ministers.

Over the last few years, we have also been encouraging the whole community to make use of the church by opening the building during the week for private reflection and as a place of peace and pilgrimage. This is something we hope to be able to build on in the future.

We continue to be involved with Fishtoft Academy with a team of volunteers going in regularly to present dramatized bible stories for the children. The school also comes into church several times during the year for major festivals and end of term celebrations. The RoadHoG youth bus continues to visit Fishtoft Playing Field on alternate Wednesdays, offering young people a safe space to come and socialise. We also run a children's group called Messy Church once a month for younger children.

We are very grateful for all who support the church in any way -whether it's by coming to fundraising events or by donations. We hope and pray that with the support of the whole community the doors of St Guthlac's will be able to remain open for many more years to come, to offer support and a place of God's peace where all are welcome.

Ruth Cooper  
Secretary to St Guthlac's Parochial Church Council

## **Appendix J**

### **Fishtoft Academy**

I am pleased to writing this report about another busy year at Fishtoft Academy. The school continues to grow with 61 pupils now on roll and places for September 2023 entry being over-subscribed! This places the school in a far more secure position than previously when it experienced a falling roll. I know there has been much discussion over the potential impact of the proposed local housing developments and how this may affect the school yet is likely that such developments will only further ensure the provision of primary education within the village for many years to come.

Over the past year there have been some significant improvements made to the actual school building including a new fire alarm detection system. Further work to replace some of the facias to the main building are scheduled to be completed during the summer break. The new hall, opened last academic year, continues to provide learners with access to a communal dining space, as well as an indoor PE space and large-scale teaching space. The hall has seen a variety of external providers deliver workshops to pupils, from first aid lessons on CPR to multicultural dance workshops such as that held for Chinese New Year; not to mention our recent Coronation 'High Tea'. The hall has also been the base for the delivery of community healthy-lifestyle classes kindly funded via our local councillor. The old dining room has been re-developed into an Art and Design room, complete with its own 3-d printer! All pupils at the school enjoy subject-specialist teaching in art over the course of the year and having a dedicated art space is wonderful as it allows us to showcase the creativity of our learners!

To reflect the growing number of pupils at the academy, a number of new appointments to the staff team have been made this academic year, the most recent being the appointment of Miss Parker to our EYFS, Y1/2 Class after the departure of Mrs Church in February. I am also delighted to be able to share with you the exciting news that Mrs Harrison, Base Leader, has been shortlisted for a highly prestigious National Teaching Award – that of Primary School Teacher of the Year. Mrs Harrison who is in essence the 'Face of Fishtoft Academy', started at the school ten years ago when she was asked to step in to cover one morning during a school inspection when a member of staff was absent. She loved the school so much she was rapidly appointed to join the staff team permanently and has worked tirelessly to ensure the very best outcomes for the learners therein ever since. We await news of the outcome of the judges on National Thank a Teacher Day which takes place this year on 21st June.

This year also sees the return of the first officially published SATs assessments for pupils in Year 6 and Year 2 following COVID lockdown. Staff and pupils have worked especially hard over the last 18 months to close the gaps created by enforced school closures. All staff in school play their part in contributing to the children's education and we are proud that we work together as a team. Our successes are borne from an unwavering dedication to support pupils to be the best that they can be. We achieve this by working together and supporting each other – celebrating our success and problem solving where we can make changes and improvements.

This year, our learners have also experienced a wide range of different activities to enrich their learning following the launch of the 'Fishtoft Passport of Experiences'. This was developed in association with a group of stakeholders and sets out a range of educational experiences which we are committed to delivering to our learners should they choose to undertake their primary education with us. The most exciting of these opportunities this year being a trip to Wembley Arena to perform as part of a massed choir at the Young Voices Festival. The

children were amazed by the sheer scale of London, not to mention performing alongside Heather Small of M People fame and taking part in the recording of a charity CD. What is more, Y6 pupils will shortly be enjoying their annual residential visit, which this year will see them visiting the Hill Top Outdoor pursuits centre in Sheringham, Norfolk.

However, at the heart of any school are the pupils – that is what we are there for. I am so very fortunate to have a school of such talented pupils, supported by not only a dedicated staff, but supportive parents and enthusiastic Academy Councillors (Governors) & community members. By working together, we are able to provide opportunities for pupils to motivate, encourage, support, challenge and nurture them. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to say a very large thank you to everyone who supports and contributes to our school. It matters – and it makes a difference.

Jo Bland  
Head Teacher  
Fishtoft Academy