

## **Parish Council Annual Report March 2021**

The Pennoyer Centre, like many other businesses and charities, has been severely affected this year by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In July 2019 we were looking forward to a very busy year and performance in the first 8 months was the best yet. The cafe was very busy and there were lots of special events as well as the regular monthly fundraising programme. However, as a result of the national lockdown in March 2020, the building was closed and all fundraising events were cancelled.

When restrictions allowed, the café was open later in the year but the building has remained largely closed throughout. In August 2020 we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Pennoyer Centre outside in the car park. It was a much smaller event than originally planned but everyone enjoyed the opportunity to mark the occasion.

The AGM was held as usual in November 2020 via Zoom. It was an opportunity to thank all staff and volunteers for their hard work and support during these difficult times and acknowledge the grants received from South Norfolk Council and Pulham St Mary Parish Council. Government and Local Authority financial support for small businesses during the Covid lockdown has been welcome and helped the business to preserve jobs.

Further grants awarded from the Covid Emergency Fund and Cultural Recovery Fund will help preserve and upgrade the heritage of the building as well as the historical displays and archives.

Even under Covid restrictions Pennoyers has been working hard to support the local community -the café has been open when permitted; volunteers have worked hard to keep the café Covid-secure; our new Take-out service was very popular when the café was closed. In December, the traditional Christmas tree and lights around the Centre were a poignant reminder of better times and very much appreciated by everyone in our community.

By working together the Parish Council and the Pennoyer Centre have been able to support the local community in these challenging times.

Anne Cleveland  
Chair of Trustees