

2013 - 2014 Report to Shipdham Parish Council from
the Thomas Bullock Trust

This has been another successful year! Trustees have met formally five times, though additional communication and decision-making has also been made via e-mail. A total sum of £63,000 has been awarded in grants. £25,000 of this has been given to the village school, over £3000 to Shipdham Playgroup and £2,250 to local organisations. Well over £31,000 has gone directly to individual young people from the village of all ages for everything from school trips and sports training sessions to speech therapy and Guide Camp. Yet again, the most funding here has gone to assist individuals in Further or Higher education with the ever-increasing costs they face.

With the departure of our Chair, Rev. Louise, and her daughter, Ruth, from the village, the Trust has now lost two of its Trustees. Geoff Hinchliffe is now standing in as Acting Chairman. His previous post as Treasurer has been taken up by Dave Kent, who has also agreed to become the Trust's representative on the School's Board of Governors. We await the appointment of a replacement Church Warden, who will then become an ex-officio Trustee.

Trustees were informed very belatedly about the move by the village school to become an Academy within the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) and are currently in complex negotiations resulting from this decision which will probably involve the Secretary of State and the Charity Commission. Given the fact that the Trust owns the school's land, Trustees were astounded that they had not been consulted at a much earlier stage in proceedings.

Councillors do need to be aware that the 4-year term of office of one of their representatives on the Trust, Mr Dave Kent, ends on 5th May 2014.

Brian Hughes (Parish-Council nominated Trustee)
6/4/2014