

# FRAMSDEN FUNDRAISERS REPORT 2026

With the increase in village organisations, like most, FF has faced a reduction in the number of trustees and has had to 'cut its cloth' accordingly. This has meant putting on as many different events and activities as we have in the past has not been viable. However, this is not all bad! As there are many other activities /events being held, and no specific fundraising cause, there is more going on in the village than ever and the need for FF events has reduced.

With fewer trustees, FF does not currently have a permanent chairperson, and has changed the way of working accordingly. This was discussed at the FF AGM last August. It is critical that we maintain FF in the village to provide the support and benefits of a formal registered charity (e.g. holding the lease for the woodland, owning the 'telephone box'/defib, ability to apply for grants, event insurance etc).

We will run a few fundraising events to raise the money necessary for ongoing activities. We will put on as many 'free'/non-fundraising events as possible for bringing the community together, and we will provide support to others with their own initiatives.

It is important that everyone in the village is all working together with the common aim of continuing to ensure the village is a fantastic place to live and community to be part of.

Where anyone wants to progress a particular event or fundraising activity, FF can help and provide a formal charitable organisation framework to support them, working with others to achieve the best outcome. A great example of this over the past year has been a Tech drop-in event organised by a local teenager, Alex. As part of his Duke of Edinburgh Silver award volunteering, under the FF charity umbrella and with fantastic support from all at the Greyhound pub, he has run a weekly free drop-in session at the pub to help the local community with any problems or advice regarding 'technology' (phones, laptops, tablets, internet security etc). This started weekly last September, and has more recently, with GCSEs looming, moved to a monthly session at the pub.

For ongoing activities, with the amazing support of Nicola, who has carried out weekly checks for many years, we have maintained the availability of the defibrillator in the old telephone kiosk. There is now a national register for all defibrillators, maintained by the British Heart Foundation, that is used by the emergency services. We have registered ours with this service and provide routine status updates to ensure it can be used in a 999 emergency. The annual support for the defib, along with the village emergency telephone service (VETS) is purchased from the Community Heartbeat Trust charity, and is part of the ongoing costs that FF pay for.

The projector purchased some years ago for general use in the Village Hall suddenly went faulty beyond repair. FF plan and budget for ongoing maintenance of such village equipment, so an immediate replacement was purchased, which is actually better than the previous one.

The funding for the ongoing annual costs is largely raised through the 'Yes Yes No!' quiz that we have been running for a number of years. Two such quizzes have been held in April and December last year, for which we are very grateful to Mark and Erin for their incredible hard work in making these such a success. Each quiz has been to a packed village hall, continuing to be very well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, with many lovely comments from people afterwards.

FF continue to manage the "What's on in & around Framsdén" village email distribution, sending out messages to the 140+ people registered, on behalf of all groups/organisations in the village. There

have been multiple messages sent out every week over the past year, reflecting the amazing amount that is going on in our little village.

Even with reduced numbers, we have managed to put on a number of other events over the last year.

- In June we had a talk by a Solicitor “What You Need to Arrange Before You Die”. A very information and important discussion about Wills, Power of Attorney etc. This was a free community event.
- In October we held the second annual Apple Celebration Day coffee morning which celebrated the rich variety of apples we have in Suffolk. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to taste local apples and catch up with friends and neighbours over homemade cake and other delicious apple based treats.
- Helmingham Hall Estate kindly supplied the village with a beautiful Christmas Tree once again which was put up and decorated by FF with the help of Richard, Julia, Louise and Ian.
- A Sunday afternoon in January saw our second family games afternoon which was well received once again. Board and card games were played alongside darts, table football and giant Jenga.
- Our most recent event was an informative talk about ‘Digital Voice’ by Andy which explained the upcoming changes in the landline telephone system moving from analogue to digital and how this would affect everyone. Again, this was a well-attended evening with lots of positive feedback.
- Recently we have distributed a list of contact details for Framsdens Groups.

Our annual income is currently about £2500 per annum, and expenditure- including fundraising costs is about £2300 pa. We currently have about £3500 reserves to cover costs of asset replacement, and possibility of events such as Covid preventing us from fundraising for a period of time.

In conclusion, Framsdens Fundraisers, with the sterling efforts of its reduced set of trustees, remains a stable charitable organisation and a great asset for the village.