

Polstead Village Shelter



More than a hundred years since this concept was first mooted, the fat lady has sung and we have a shelter. At 7.20pm on Tuesday 5th April 2011 Michael Hackford, vice chairman of Polstead Parish Council, performed the opening ceremony since when there has been barely a drop of rain.

In my view at least, it is an elegant building constructed of lined weatherboarding with a cedar tile roof. It is bonded with a brick plinth supported on a concrete base. It fits unobtrusively into its surroundings.

It cost in round terms £2,000. £50 for the Burma Teak wood stain on the inside came from the Parish Precept with the balance being paid out of the locality budget provided by Suffolk County Council.

So and in no particular order my thanks to:

Sue Wigglesworth and the **Village Hall Committee** who allowed it to be built on part of the land leased from the Women's Institute.

David Yorke-Edwards our county Councillor who steered the locality budget in this direction.

Alan and Avril Humphries against whose hedge the shelter is built and who conspicuously refrained from raising objection.

Michael Collins Babergh's Conservation Officer who gave invaluable help with location, materials and method of construction.

Homefield Sheds and Shelters of Newton who built it at a very reasonable cost.

Finally **Michael Hackford** without whose dogged determination and persistence it would never have happened.

In six months time the dust will all have settled and it will seem as though the shelter has always been here. The topic has over the years generated as much acrimonious division, both within the council and the village at large, as any I can recall. It is done. In my view it is well done and if it never again features on an agenda it will be marginally too soon.

Nicholas Brandt

Chairman, Polstead Parish Council

April 2011