

3/11/2025 300 Working Group Meeting Minutes and Action Plan.

Date: Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2025

**Rivers 300 Working Group Meeting Minutes and Action Plan.**

**Present:** Adrienne, Colin, Eugene, Elizabeth, Lanier, Hazel

*Celebration of the Rivers 300 Working Group member’s work with wine and cheese and group photo. All agreed it had been a great year and we had worked well as a group.*

*Lanier thanked all the members and Adrienne thanked Elizabeth for her vision of what could be achieved in the year and her writing. Elizabeth’s future plans include work on a book. She is collating the work that has been done over the year and this includes archiving the website which Rob and she are working on. The group thanked Lanier for her work as chairperson.*

**Apologies:**

Timeline	What	Who	Cost	Update	Actions Agreed/Plan on
Jan-December 2025 and beyond?	<b>1 x Council Display Boards outside Town Council from January 2025 to December 2025 –</b>			Ongoing or not?	To be handed over to Rob for the website and archive for Elizabeth, by Eugene
Jan-December 2025 and beyond?	<b>PUBLICITY for the rest of 2025 and then what?</b>				To be discussed at the next main Committee Meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Website plans</b></li> </ul>	Rob with Elizabeth		A link to the 300 <sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations will remain on the website	Elizabeth and Colin – to follow up re insecure website message issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eugene and Colin report that the website – is not secure.....</li> <li>- Room on the website for Eugene’s boards</li> <li>- Rob will change the website to put everything in chronological order</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Make a booklet – capturing history that has just happened</b></li> </ul>				Elizabeth will discuss her plans for the pamphlet and costs to be agreed at the next main committee. Plan to do next year.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sawbo Town Flyer</b></li> </ul>				Elizabeth to write the final Rivers 300 article for the Flyer in relation to the 2026 Wassail  Then To be handed back to the main Committee Meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Wych Link</li> </ul>				To be handed back to the main Committee Meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook Pages</li> </ul>				“
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bishops Stortford Independent</li> </ul>				“
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters in shops and walking areas etc</li> </ul>				“
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BS Independent</li> </ul>				“
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archive</li> </ul>				Elizabeth will remain the Rivers Archivist and manage the archive
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North End of Orchard Board</li> </ul>				To be handed back to the main Committee Meeting
July	<b>Karin Keddy's embroideries (to a Kaffe Fassett design) made earlier in the year and mounted on the Town Chamber wall</b>			Put up in the Town Chamber	completed
10 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Adults Art Competition finished with the Prize Giving Event</b> and Elizabeth Waugh gave a talk about the two women Rivers artists that was appreciated	Lanier / Elizabeth		See website for articles about the event Lanier to give the receipt for drinks/nibbles to Hazel	“
Ongoing until 20 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Children's Art Competition</b>	Lanier	Appro x £35	:	“
12 July	<b>12 July East of England Apples and Orchards AGM</b>	Hazel	£0	Cancelled	“
22 July	<b>22 July Hertfordshire Garden Trust AGM</b>	Elizabeth	£0	Went so well — re plums — RHSO saying one of the most enjoyable AGMs!	“
July	<b>ARTICLE IDEA: FAVOURTIE FRUIT AND WHY</b>	Elizabeth		See publication in August website	“
Friday, 29, 30, Sunday 31 August	<b>Audley End Gardeners World Show</b>	Colin to lead		Decided not able to attend for 3 days	“
September	<b>SCARECROW AT NEURO-CENTRE</b>			Adrienne to check if we can do something — for Rivers Neuro Centre — Janet Bellingham	“

6 and 7 September	<b>PRESENCE AT SCARECROW EVENT DAYS</b>			Decided not able to attend	“
13 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Allotment Show and Recipe Competition</b>	Hazel	Prize of £25	Recipe winners	Hazel to send to photos of cakes and the winners to Elizabeth for pamphlet
20 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>History Day in Bishops Stortford</b>	Elizabeth			Talk given by Elizabeth
4 October	<b>Apple Day</b>	Eugene			Match the apple
October, 2025	<b>Thomas Rivers ORCHARD HOUSE Visit –</b>	Colin/Elizabeth		12 <sup>th</sup> October	Elizabeth writing up the visit
Autumn/ Winter	<b>County Archive – Display at County Hall</b>	Elizabeth			Ongoing
October	<b>Fruit Kneeler for Great St Mary’s</b>	Hazel		Hazel getting planning this – price of £234 – Hazel to check funds.	Presented to Great St Mary’s Church by Hazel
4 October	<b>The ‘Scaled Up’ Apple Day</b>	Adrienne and all with tasks		A successful day  Talk? Tour? Decided not to... Eugene with Peter – display on a table with named list of all the apples - additional gazebo Tasting with Rob Favourite fruit Charmaine’s article – summarise - Eugene Scouts – Hazel to contact – something with kids - quiz Honey stall – Hazel to contact Promotion of Children’s Art Event - Lanier	Ongoing
8 November	<b>Nostalgia Day. 10.30 to 2.30</b>	Hazel		Boards - and help required – Adrienne agreed to help, Elizabeth will attend	Not happened yet
20 November –	<b>Schools/Children (18 years old) Art Competition</b> open visit will be on APPLE DAY have the competition entries in by mid-October and the display in November in the Town Council.	Lanier	Payment for judge £50 And prize £30	Prepared a brief for the competition with the judge Actions so far. July – Lanier sent out details to schools August - Posters and website with competition details September – liaison with schools October – Promotion of the event at the Open Day at Apple Day Submission of work: 1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> November. Eugene suggested Lanier to consider the books donated by Michael Clark as prizes for some of the entries.	Not happened yet

6 & 7 December, 2025	<b>Xmas Tree Festival</b>	Adrienne and Hazel		Ideas for decoration re 300th anniversary -	Plan: images/300 logo of the year... Adrienne and Hazel. All to send photos to Adrienne and Hazel
November/ December/ January	<b>PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE YEAR</b> – all agreed a fantastic idea 😊  <b>Not formal – not in the Town Chamber</b>  <b>To invite the committee Volunteers</b> <b>Key people who have participated along the way</b>	Elizabeth's idea and all want to do it		Bring and share food 😊  Further thought and date to be set. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PUBS –</li> </ul> ? side room of the The Bell? Drinks and food somewhere? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance Day ?– Fire - pruning</li> </ul>	Discuss at next main Committee Meeting
	<b>What next?</b>				<b>No further meetings but the legacy of the Rivers 300 group will be addressed by those people from this Rivers 300 working group who are on the main committee in the future.</b>
January 2026 -	<b>Wassail – confirmation of date required 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> tbc at the next main Committee Meeting</b>	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elizabeth linked in with Zoe re young people</li> <li>Adrienne re Val and ukelele – alternative music?</li> <li>Need to look for Mummers</li> <li>Need to look</li> </ul>	Elizabeth to bring ideas to the committee meeting....  For pre-music - For Wassail -  Lanier to book the loud speaker – battery powered
2026	<b>Publication about the 300<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	Elizabeth		Elizabeth to write. Book/Collection about the year?	-
2026	<b>Website and other publicity re Rivers 200</b>			See Rob and Elizabeth	-
	<b>Legacy ideas</b>			-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elizabeth is collating the work that has been done over the year.</li> <li>Eugene- Rivers names for Kecksy's new developed to be pursued</li> <li>Eugene – suggested some Michael Clark books be considered by the main committee.... to decide how to use whether to give to volunteers</li> <li>Eugene – Suggested Rivers roses for the Jubilee Gardens Many options but or sure plant the Thomas Rivers Variety</li> </ul>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Eugene – concern about the future of the site after planning applications have been made to build on some of the land behind the Rivers Hospital – Eugene suggested that the idea of a Nature Conservation Area be pursued</li><li>-</li><li>-</li></ul>

**Agreed next date for a Rivers 300 Working Group Meeting is: no further meetings but the legacy of the Rivers 300 group will be addressed by those people from this Rivers 300 working group who are on the main committee in the future.**

**Next main committee meeting:** Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2025