

STANTON MILLENNIUM CLOCKTOWER.

In June 1997 the first meeting was held to consider ideas for a Millennium project. Some ideas which came forward at that meeting included:- a stage for the village hall but this already had been purchased, a quiet area with seats on the recreation ground and a new tower with clock on All Saints Church to replace the one that collapsed in the early 1900's. It did not take long to realise that the new tower would be beyond any funding that could be raised so an alternative site for a village clock was considered, the old pumping station was the obvious choice being clearly visible from three directions and being at one of the busiest junctions in the Village.

The old pumping station, which had been leased from the Borough Council was duly purchased and planning permission for the alterations was granted. The original offer of assistance with the funding disappeared when, two months after a favourable site inspection, the leisure services department of the borough council decided that this building was not part of the village hall and therefore did not fit in with their criteria for a grant. Other funding was investigated and eventually two grants obtained, the most notable under the guise of a rural initiative scheme.

The responsibility for the design of the weather vane was passed to the children at Stanton Community Primary School. The design by Sophie Ashford was chosen, and Howard Robbins, a village resident, constructed the weather vane to this pattern.

The building work including a new roof and clock tower was carried out by Aves, the electrical work carried out by Adrian Webb and the three clocks duly installed by Smiths of Derby. The clocks are computer controlled to correct for summer time changes for the next hundred years and to automatically restart at the correct time in the event of power failure, the clock lights are also programmed to adjust to the changing hours of darkness.

When it came to installing the weather vane there was a problem with access, however, Tripp Batt came to our aid with the loan, free of charge, of a hydraulic platform and operator to enable Howard to align and secure the weather vane.

The paving works associated with this project have been carried out by Suffolk County Council in association with the safely to school scheme, unfortunately some of the paving has been laid above the buildings damp course and negotiations are still ongoing to correct this problem.



To the one or two people who think this scheme was a waste of money I would just remind them of the approximately 8 minutes of laser lights display enjoyed by some people in Haverhill to celebrate the arrival of year 2000 cost well over £20,000. We have something here which will last for many years as a useful asset to the village.

The clock tower was 'unveiled' by Mr Peter Rudge who spent many years supporting Stanton on St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

Jim Thorndyke, 2000.

