



# WELLS COMMUNITY TAPESTRY

**The Wells Community Tapestry tells a story of the heritage of our town in textile and reflects the vibrancy of the community groups that are active within it.**

The Wells Community Tapestry stitches together 75 panels measuring 50cm x 50cm created by 37 community groups. These highlight everything from the granary building along the quay to playful knitted shells, whelks and starfish.

The idea behind the tapestry began in March 2017 when a call was put out in the community to design a textile piece that would be created by community groups to hang in their new arts and heritage centre as part of Wells Maltings' Heritage Lottery Funded activity plan. Local school teacher Amanda Moffat was chosen to design the tapestry, the many community groups came up with and produced their squares over a 10-month period and the design has evolved over time into multiple pendants which are now hanging throughout the building. These can be seen in the café, under the grand staircase and at the top of the atrium, culminating with the water-inspired spirals in the upstairs Clore Community Studio.

The revamp of the original design was executed by master seamstress Hannah Wilde, and installation was by Kev Monk who engineered and installed the rigging.

Britain has a deep history of textile arts, from the fantastic work of the Bayeux Tapestry to lace-making, pattern-designing and the embroidery of William Morris fabrics to quilting and needlework. Until the 19th Century, all cloth was made by hand and it took a great deal of talent and time.

The Wells Community Tapestry represents countless hours of sewing, weaving and knitting by the various group members. It was created to highlight the many different activities run by groups in Wells-next-the-Sea and at the same time showcases their artistic and creative expertise. Consequently, the finished tapestry represents the heritage of this popular seaside town and its vibrant community spirit.

## The groups who participated in this tapestry are as follows:-

ALDERMAN PEEL HIGH SCHOOL  
DROP IN CLUB  
FRIENDS OF THE GRANARY  
HERITAGE HOUSE DAY CARE CENTRE  
HOMES FOR WELLS  
INFORMAL ART GROUP  
KNIT & NATTER  
LITTLE FISHES PARENT/TODDLER GROUP  
RNLI  
RUNNERS-NEXT-THE-SEA  
SCREEN-NEXT-THE-SEA  
THE GRANARY  
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
WELLS ACTION FOR FAIRTRADE  
WELLS ART GROUP  
WELLS BELLRINGERS  
2ND WELLS BROWNIES  
WELLS CARNIVAL  
WELLS COASTWATCH  
WELLS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL TRUST  
WELLS CRAB AND LOBSTER FISHERMEN  
WELLS GRANARY  
WELLS HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS  
WELLS HEALTH CENTRE  
WELLS IN BLOOM  
WELLS LIBRARY  
WELLS LIONS CLUB  
WELLS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP  
WELLS LOCAL QUAKER MEETING  
WELLS MALTINGS TRUST  
WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA  
WOMENS' INSTITUTE  
WELLS PENSIONERS  
WELLS PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL  
WELLS PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL PTA  
WELLS PROBUS CLUBS  
WELLS SAILING CLUB  
WELLS SEA CADET UNIT  
WELLS TOWN TENNIS CLUB  
WELLS TWINNING GROUP  
WELLS UNITED CHARITIES

and their tapestries can be seen in the following locations at Wells Maltings:-

### IN THE CAFÉ

Alderman Peel High School; Knit and Natter; Wells Primary and Nursery School

### UNDER THE STAIRS

Wells Coastwatch; Wells Harbour Commissioners; RNLI; Sea Cadet Unit

### ON THE LANDING

Wells Maltings Trust; Wells-Next-The-Sea Women's Institute; Wells Sailing Club; The British Legion

### IN THE CLORE COMMUNITY STUDIO (UPSTAIRS)

Drop In Club; Friends Of The Granary; Heritage House Day Care Centre; Homes For Wells; Little Fishes Parent/Toddler Group; Probus Clubs; Runners-Next-The-Sea; Screen-Next-The-Sea; The Granary; The Informal Art Group; Wells Action For Fairtrade; Wells Art Group; Wells Bellringers; 2nd Wells Brownies; Wells Carnival; Wells Community Hospital Trust; Wells Crab And Lobster Fishermen; Wells Health Centre; Wells In Bloom; Wells Library; Wells Lions Club; Wells Local History Group; Wells Local Quaker Meeting; Wells Pensioners; Wells Primary And Nursery School PTA; Wells Town Tennis Club; Wells Twinning Group; Wells United Charities



## COMMUNITY BANNER SUBMISSIONS

The groups involved in the creation of the Wells Community Banner are as follows:-

### ALDERMAN PEEL HIGH SCHOOL

In July 2017, eight students from Alderman Peel High School were selected by Mrs Moffat to help make the first 30 panels of her design for the community tapestry. The students used machine embroidery and appliqué techniques to create the colourful bunting panels with their own coastal-themed embellishments and the lettering panels (which spell 'Wells-next-the-Sea') with additional expert help of Mrs Campling and volunteers Diane Pink and Abigail Street.



### DROP IN CLUB

The club was formed so that people could make friends in a welcoming atmosphere, meeting every other Monday at the Gordon Barrett Memorial Hall in Clubbs Lane. Activities include visiting speakers, singing, drumming and Bingo sessions. There are outings and a Christmas festival meal.

Made by Frances Graham.

### FRIENDS OF THE GRANARY

In 1994 Helen Flanagan suggested forming Friends of the Granary (FOG) to resurrect the Arts Centre and develop a theatre programme. For 24 years this aim was sustained by Pat Bannister. The Friends of the Granary is now incorporated into the new Maltings and has donated pianos in the Kiln Room and Auditorium.

Made by Dorothy Vick and Jean Davies.





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## HERITAGE HOUSE DAY CARE CENTRE

Heritage House Day Care Centre in Wells is for those who are frail or incapacitated. They receive a home-cooked meal, the option of a bath and hairdressing, access to chiropody, physiotherapy, dentistry, district nurses, the mobile library, seated exercise, musical entertainment and quizzes - and can socialise and enjoy companionship.

Made by Lesley Jarvis.



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## HOMES FOR WELLS

Steaming ahead, looking for new properties to provide secure homes for local families, Homes for Wells relies on generous donations to help someone local who needs a home.

Made by Katy Riches.

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## INFORMAL ART GROUP

This art group meets in the Peter Collingwood Hall on Tuesday mornings from 10 until noon. The friendly group, started by Tony and Sylvia Stubbs, pays a small fee to cover the cost of refreshments.

Made by Frances Graham.



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## KNIT AND NATTER

A very informal group, meeting in the library every three weeks, knitters of all abilities welcome all, sharing skills and knowledge while enjoying social time together – knitting for themselves, community projects and charities.

Made by the group.



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## LITTLE FISHES PARENT/TODDLER GROUP

This is an informal, friendly group meeting twice monthly at St Nicholas Church. Parents with pre-school children meet to play, sing and have fun. The group also helps children in Malawi.

Made by Rachel Bowles with ideas and suggestions by parents.

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## RNLI

Wells Lifeboat is at the heart of this community. Volunteer crew train and put to sea at any time of day and night. Employers and family support them. The Lifeboat Guild is dedicated to raising funds to help pay the costs. Together with RNLI Wells, they have been saving lives at sea for 150 years.

Made by Janet Angles.



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## RUNNERS-NEXT-THE-SEA

This is a small, friendly England Athletics-affiliated running club based in Wells. With training on Mondays and a social run on Thursdays, it caters for runners of all abilities.

Made by Ceri Howell.



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## SCREEN-NEXT-THE-SEA

Frustrated by the lack of cinema in Wells, a group of local film lovers set up Screen-next-the-Sea in 2008, initially screening monthly in the Granary Theatre. The group has grown, encompassing Live-via-Satellite productions, four film festivals, and, each year, the Manhattan Short Film Festival. Still going strong!

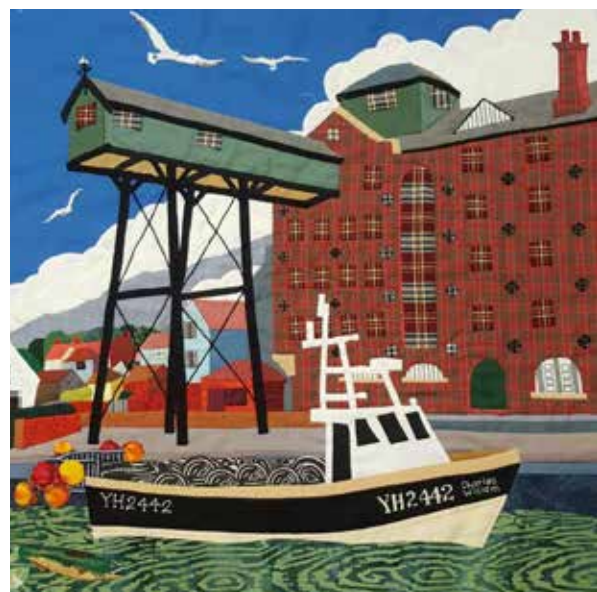
Made by Charlotte Ebrill.

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## THE GRANARY

The Granary is in Croft Yard and is one of Wells' most-known landmarks. Up until the late 1980s, it was still working, unloading fertilisers and chickpeas for animal feed from channel coasters.

Made by Deirdre Amsden who said: "In the past I have made many appliqué pictures so it was a joy to contribute a square."



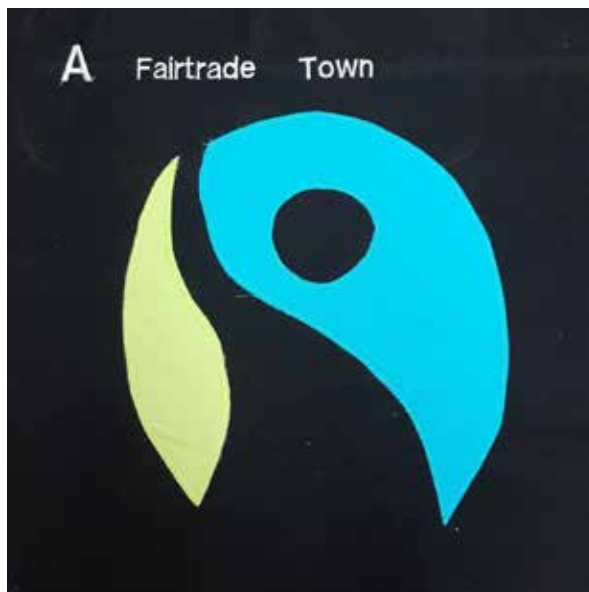


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## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The British Legion is strong in Wells and is there to help those in need.

Made by Lesley Jarvis.



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## WELLS ACTION FOR FAIRTRADE

Wells has been a Fairtrade town since 2007. Individuals and organisations use everyday choices to bring about positive changes for farmers and other workers by increasing sales in Fairtrade products. This guarantees stable prices, decent working conditions and high environmental standards for small-scale producers worldwide.

Made by members of Wells Action for Fair Trade (WAFT).

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## WELLS ART GROUP

W.A.G. meets every Wednesday afternoon at the Quaker Meeting House during winter and spring, painting outdoors during the summer. It was founded in 1976, charges a modest annual subscription and holds an exhibition of members' work in August.

Made by Alison Cracknell.

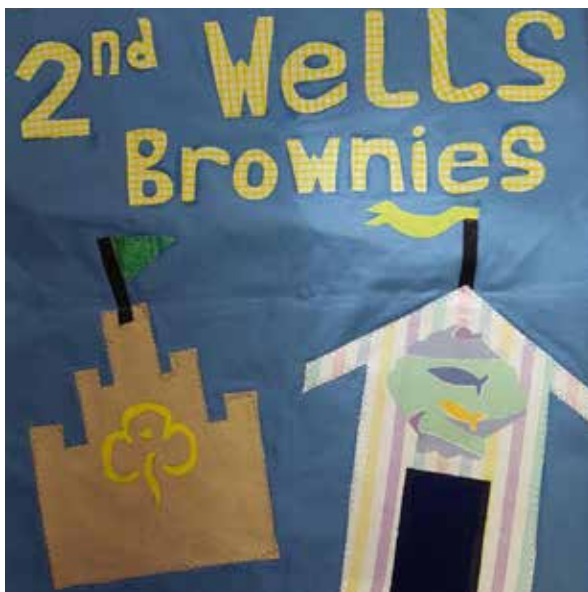
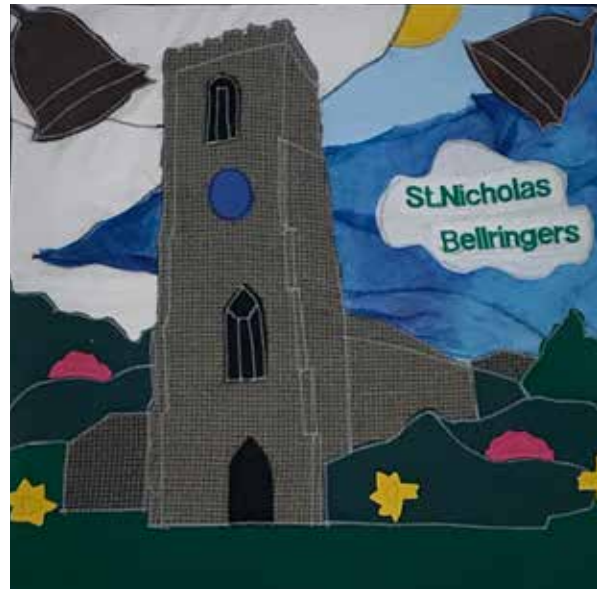


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## WELLS BELLRINGERS

Wells Bellringers are a thriving, friendly group practising on evenings at St Nicholas Church at 7.30pm. They ring for Sunday service at Wells and for special services and weddings at Wighton, Holkham and any local or national event. New and learner ringers are always welcome.

Made by Linda Patrick.



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## 2nd WELLS BROWNIES

The 2nd Wells Brownies is part of the Girl Guide movement and is a thriving unit, enjoying weekly meetings, outings, sleepovers and Brownie holidays. Very active in the community, they enjoy helping others.

Made by Cat Cameron, Brown Owl.

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## WELLS CARNIVAL

The annual Wells Carnival lasts for 10 days. It's run by a voluntary group for the community, with the community, in the community, providing affordable events and family fun, supporting local charitable groups and continuing a tradition that goes from strength to strength.

Made by Marilyn Jefferies.

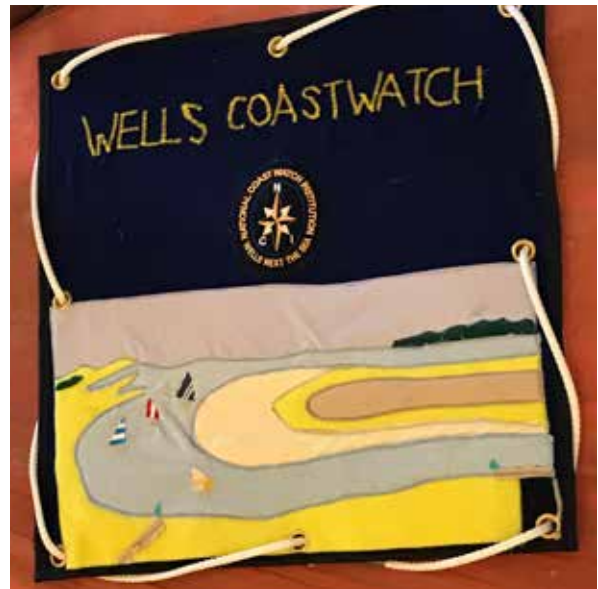




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## WELLS COASTWATCH

Wells Coastwatch is a team of over 50 volunteers who keep watch over the beach and outer harbour seven days a week, 365 days a year. They are the eyes and ears along the coast keeping a visual watch, monitoring radio channels, using radar and reporting to HM Humber Coastguard. Made by Ceri Howell.



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## WELLS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL TRUST

The Wells Community Hospital Trust is a local charity providing a wide range of flexible and integrated health and well-being services for the community. They aim to keep local people independent longer with the provision of high quality clinical services and non-clinical therapeutic support within a safe environment.

Made by Lesley Jarvis.

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## WELLS CRAB AND LOBSTER FISHERMEN

Wells is famous for its shellfish. Generations of local fishermen work the boats, come ashore in the harbour, clean and prepare their catch, then sell them. Made by Carla Phillips.



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## WELLS HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

The Commissioners were formed by an Act of Parliament in 1663, for repairing and preserving the Port of Wells. Commissioners are unpaid volunteers serving for up to six years. They decide on the strategic direction of the Port, balancing the needs of commercial and leisure users.

Made by Joan Price and Paula Baldry.



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## WELLS HEALTH CENTRE

This panel depicts the wide variety of services on offer, from health checks and chronic disease management to routine appointments. It was designed and made by one of the Health Centre's receptionists as a fun interpretation of the service offered to patients.

Made by Sarah Bishop.

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## WELLS IN BLOOM

Started in 2007, to provide colour throughout Wells, in spring and autumn seven people plant out the pots and containers around the town. They also look after the beds near the Health Centre and at the turning circle near the Primary School. Plants are paid for by local donations.

Made by Kate Leesmith (in consultation with colleagues).



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## WELLS LIBRARY

Wells Library is housed in a former Wesleyan Chapel on Station Road. Free to join, with a card you can borrow up to 15 books. The Library also loans out ebooks, audio books and emagazines and has free WiFi and computers for public use. Regular events include seated exercise, yoga, 'just a cuppa' and book clubs.

Made by Rosemary Brown.



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## WELLS LIONS CLUB

Founded over 30 years ago, the local branch of Lions International, this is a non-religious, non-political service association. Locally, the club recycles spectacles, loans wheelchairs, sponsors schools, young people, blood banks and ICE containers. Internationally: medic alert, water wells, right first, equipment for major disasters. The club's motto is: "We Serve".

Made by Janet Kellett.

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## WELLS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Started in 1996, with around 120 members, the group has a winter programme of talks, three newsletters a year and publishes books and DVDs about Wells' history. An archive room in Wells Maltings is planned for people to carry out local history research.

Made by Lesley Jarvis.



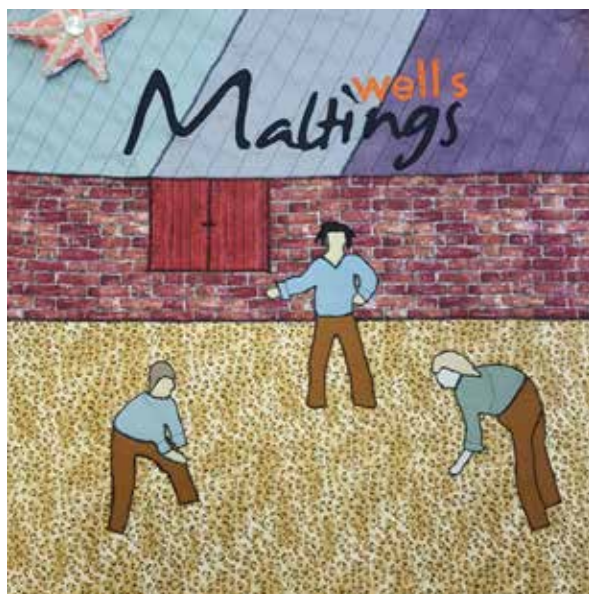


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## WELLS LOCAL QUAKER MEETING

There have been Quakers in Wells since 1687. They believe there is something of God in everyone. They worship in silence, try to live simply and remain true to Quaker values and spirituality. Their concerns are peace and reconciliation, social and economic justice, integrity in public life and care of the environment.

Designed and made by Quakers at Wells Meeting.



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## WELLS MALTINGS TRUST

The Wells Maltings Trust was formed in 2010, built upon the work of its predecessors - The Wells Centre and Wells Community Association - in providing community and arts facilities in the Maltings. Culminating in the £5m redevelopment, completed in 2018, today Wells Maltings is an arts, heritage and community centre.

Made by Gill Lupin.

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## WELLS NEXT THE SEA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Started in 1919, The Wells W.I. has held meetings, clubs and events. Through war, peace, floods, it has been a source of friendship, support, enlightenment and entertainment. The purpose of the W.I. is to educate and inspire women so that they may take an effective role in the community.

Made by Ann Forrest, Linda Holt, Pamela Underwood, Gill Lupin, Ann Chester and Carol Green.



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## WELLS PENSIONERS

This is a group of over-60s formed more than 20 years ago to help, inform and entertain local pensioners. The group meets monthly, has a speaker or entertainer, socialises, has tea, biscuits and a raffle. There is also a summer outing and a Christmas party. Wells Pensioners is affiliated to the Norfolk Pensioners Association which keeps the group up-to-date with any issues affecting pensioners. Made by Lesley Jarvis.



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## WELLS PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

The children from Wells Primary and Nursery School are aged from three to 11. Children from every age group helped to create the school's part of the banner.

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## WELLS PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL PTA

This is the Parents' and Friends' Association at the school, raising much-needed funds to provide extras and enhance the curriculum and school environment.

Made by Wendy Smith.



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## WELLS PROBUS CLUBS

Probus Clubs are for retired or semi-retired people from all walks of life and may include business or professional people. The movement operates worldwide. The men's group meets in the W.I. Hall and the Bowling Green and the ladies meet at the Globe. Both groups have speakers followed by lunch.

Made by Pat Bannister.



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## WELLS SAILING CLUB

Wells working harbour spawned a venue for individuals who took to the water for pleasure and competition. As the carnival included rowing and sailing races, this inspired the formation of Wells Sailing Club in 1931. Local clubs joined Wells in adopting the International Sharpie racing class. Boats and crews compete on the continent, nevertheless still enjoying Wells Harbour sailing.

Designed by Richard and Ben Cracknell and made by Alison Cracknell.

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## WELLS SEA CADET UNIT

T.S. Eliza Adams opened in September 2017 and provides Sea Cadet experience through nautical fun and adventure based on the customs and traditions of the Royal Navy. Sea Cadets is open to young people from the age of 10 to 18.

Made by PO (SCC) Maria Somerton.





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## WELLS TOWN TENNIS CLUB

The tennis club has been in the town since the 1940s. Thanks to the diligence of its members, it has recently undergone a transformation with newly-resurfaced courts and a new clubhouse. The club is lively and enthusiastic, hosting a wide range of social and competitive events throughout the year for all ages and abilities.

Made by Lynn Pigney.



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## WELLS TWINNING GROUP

Every year, a friendly group from a small French town near Orleans, La Ferte St Aubin, exchanges visits with an equally friendly group from Wells. One year here, next year there. Each year the Wells Twinning Group raises funds to entertain their guests in the elegant style with which they welcome them, holding many popular fundraising events. All are welcome!

Made by Jean Davies.

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## WELLS UNITED CHARITIES

Wells United Charities consists of six charities, some originating as far back as the 17th Century. All these charities were established to relieve poverty. Trustees continue to work to support local people, welcoming donations and bequests, as well as assisting with fundraising.

Made by Jean Davies.



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## WITH GRATEFUL THANKS

This extraordinary effort to create a unified tapestry reflecting the vibrant community here in Wells has taken the time and energy of many individuals, multiple groups and the vision of the entire community, coming together to create a whole.

Wells Maltings would like to thank all those who contributed their time and talent to this project. As we look to the future, our task is to seek common ground, find opportunities for shared experiences, bring families and friends together, create amazing partnerships and foster friendships that will last for years.



**Maltings**<sup>wells</sup>

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