

Worth Matravers Village Hall Chair's Report Year ended 31 December 2020.

Introduction

I suppose that in partnership with the Parish Council and the Church, we in the Village Hall try to make this village a better place to live in and visit. And even a relatively small charity such as ours has been challenged like never before during this Covid Year. In one sense we have had an easy year: no Fete, no other major summer/winter events, etc etc but throughout the year I have felt the urgent need to do whatever we could to fill the void. And I've been incredibly grateful for having a group of positive cheerful trustees who were always prepared to deal with the latest new situation we were facing. If I had to think of a motto for this year for WMVH it would be "We can do this!"

Events

- Plant Sales and Bric a Brac

Last spring and now again at the end of May 2021, a splendid band of plant and bric a brac enthusiasts are selling their wares and raising funds for charity, particularly for our most local one, My Time. Last year they raised £1,400, but not only that, they raised flagging spirits and morale.

- PASH (Purbeck Artists & Stallholders)

Once again, Di Quinn and her wonderful group of artists and crafts people put on two great displays of local work and made their many visitors feel welcome despite all the restrictions. They actually sold more than in 2019, despite being unable to provide refreshments.

- The Village Takeaway

I want to mention this, though it didn't involve any of us in the Village Hall. Thank you, Diana and Dave, for keeping this going throughout the year. It was a vital focus for getting together outside to keep our villagers and visitors cheerful.

- The Village Whatsapp Group

I was impressed that right at the beginning of the first lock down, Amanda Bursey launched this group offering help to anyone in the village who needed it. This attitude

was infectious, and throughout the year, I heard many lovely stories of exceptional kindness. It is one of my aims for the coming year to keep this care going for those who need it most. Much of it happens naturally, but I am interested in a scheme which has been launched recently which formalises this care. It may be more suited to towns and cities, but I want to at least explore whether a version of it could work in a small village like ours.

The Village Hall Trustees

I want to thank you all, but special mention must be made of

Rick Gould who has spent many hours deciding what building work is needed in the School House and the Village Hall itself. Covid has made this job twice as time consuming but Rick has quietly and determinedly persisted, and we are now nearly at the point of choosing a builder and starting the work. Rick has been assisted by several other trustees but special thanks must go to Dawn Cosh.

John Hynan, our treasurer, who has quietly applied for and received three Covid related grants for the Hall. Nothing phases him and he is calmness personified. The perfect treasurer!

Jack Ross, our communications tsar (!), has kept up our vital Village Directory and Website and sent round news at regular intervals both about the few events we have put on but also other Covid related information (including a great Christmas newsletter put together by Claire Barnes). We know that Jack wants to be relieved of this commitment and it is a priority for us to find another way of doing this vital job. Jack, you have been magnificent in serving this village in so many ways. We can't thank you enough.

Rob Lobley, our Hall bookings officer, who has had a quiet year but again is always ready to help. Special thanks to Claude Bonfanti who carefully went through all the new Covid rules for Village Halls when they first came out and became our unofficial Covid officer for the year.

Claire Barnes and Dawn Cosh have been excellent minute takers. Thank you both.

Ceri Vosper has been our link person to the Parish Council, and she's been really good at it. When there was no-one performing this role, it led to some painful misunderstandings but Ceri has eliminated all that. Thanks Ceri.

Special thanks too to Charles O'Reilly and Maggie Hardy who have both been wise counsellors during their time as trustees but have decided to stand down.

We are now looking for some new trustees. All you need is a love of the village, enthusiasm, and an ability to drink a glass of wine with us when we meet.

The Future

This coming year, we have deliberately not planned much because the pain and trauma of recent months is still with us. We need a gentle recovery plan.

At our recent meeting, we decided the emphasis this summer should be on a couple of low key events. We are planning a Bring Your Own Picnic on the Green in July, and maybe a community lunch up at the pub in September/October. PASH will be here again in the summer and at Christmas and hopefully there will be some Film Club showings throughout the winter. Watch this space!

Let's hope (and I personally think there is good reason to hope) that by this time next year, we will be planning a Fete, a Feast on the Green, and, who knows, a Centenary two years late!

Very best wishes

Nick Viney

Chair

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