

ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

OPEN MEETING

14TH APRIL 2022

Report from Aston le Walls & Appletree Village Hall

Lettings and Use of the Hall

Use of the Hall continued to be adversely affected by COVID 19 regulations, particularly in the early part of the financial year. Once the Hall re-opened, regular use by the Pilates Group resumed. Other regular users continue to be the Parish Council and Film Club. Despite the closures, we successfully ran the Easter Egg Hunt, Scarecrow Trail, the Harvest Supper, and the Produce Show, all of which were well attended. Huge thanks to all who made these events a success, particularly to members of the Committee. We all know that it takes a lot of preparatory work, work on the day, and follow-up to make these events a success and all the effort is much appreciated. As has been the trend in recent years, there was an increasing number of entries in the Home Produce section of the Produce Show, and we will expand the relative space allocated to this next year. The Harvest Supper was a great success, and we are indebted to all those who bring along casseroles and puddings to share and to those who sell the tickets. The Scarecrow trail was again a massive success, bringing a host of visitors and it is great to see the variety and imagination that goes into the exhibits to entertain visitors. A whole team of people contribute to the success of this event under the guidance of Steve and Sue Neville and a massive thanks to them for their hard work and generosity.

Funds

Many thanks to Susan Fagg for continuing to act as Treasurer, particularly through difficult days of Covid and lockdown. We all appreciate the careful and efficient way in which the Treasurer manages our funds. A big thank you also to Steve Neville for overseeing the auditing of our accounts and initiating the use of Zettle for electronic point of sale. We were successful in our applications for grant support funding from West Northants Council to provide support during Covid. Once added to the income generated by events and existing balances, we ended the financial year with funds totalling £22,187.36.

Film Club

Film Club resumed when regulations allowed and has shown a number of films successfully so far. Sadly, the Christmas film was cancelled due to Covid. A full programme re-started for the season January to April 2022. There is a Ladies Night Film Club Special on 28th April at which the film 'Quant' will be shown and supper provided.

The Future

We are looking forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, for which the Parish Council and the Village Hall have jointly agreed to fund a party on Thursday 2nd June. Many thanks to the

school for allowing us to use their grounds and to Lizzie Barnes-Moss for arranging the Hog Roast and accompanying meal.

Other upcoming favourites are the Easter Bunny hunt this Easter Saturday, led by Pat Benton; the Summer Fete on 25th June; Scarecrow Weekend on 16th and 17th July; the Annual Produce Show on 3rd September; and the Harvest Supper on 8th October.

We have plans for a number of new developments over the coming year, which are the subject of a special newsletter to the village. Lizzie has already launched a monthly Crafts and Sewing Club. Debra is leading on the introduction of a Babies and Toddlers Group. We are considering launching a Reading Club in the Autumn and a Quarterly Evening Talk with wine and cheese.

Plans for an application to HS2 for funding for a new Hall continue. It is a slow process due to the number of hoops to jump through. We were informed that South Northants is not a priority, at the moment, due to the number of funding requests approved so far in the area. This is likely to change though, and we will be pushing our application forward during the year.

Thanks

Where to start with thanks? So many people have contributed to the smooth running of events throughout this difficult year.

I would like to thank the whole Committee for their work and support during the year.

I would like to thank Sue Kennedy for her hard work as secretary, and as a member of the VH committee and Film Club Committee and wish her well in her new home in Bodicote.

I have mentioned Susan Fagg and Steve for doing a great job managing the finances, but thanks must also go to them for their contributions to fundraising events.

Thanks again to Steve and Sue Neville, Mike and Pat Benton and all the others involved in the Scarecrow Trail. Thanks to Steve for keeping the 100 Club going and thriving.

Thanks to Pat Benton for organising the wonderful Easter Egg Hunt which was enjoyed by so many families and to Steve for donating all the eggs.

Thanks to Jo Wilson, Wilf Iliffe and Chris Freeman for all their great work on the Film Club, selecting the films, making puddings, and running events. Thanks also to Jo for looking after the lettings and keeping the hall spick and span.

We welcomed Debra Kirton and Lizzie Barnes-Moss on to the committee and thank them for their contributions to events.

If anyone has ideas for events or would like to contribute to Village Hall events, please contact us.