

# ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

## OPEN MEETING

13th APRIL 2023

### Report from Aston le Walls & Appletree Village Hall

#### **Lettings and Use of the Hall**

The Village Hall has had a lively and successful year, with new members joining the Committee and a range of new activities offered.

Two different Pilates Groups now offer courses and there is a further exercise group. Other regular users continue to be the Parish Council and the Film Club, now renamed The Film and Arts Club, because of the plans to offer wider services.

We successfully ran the Easter Egg Hunt this Easter.

The Platinum Jubilee Celebration, held in conjunction with the Parish Council, was a major village event attracting some 220 people to enjoy the day, with many thanks to St Mary's School for the use of the school field.

The Scarecrow Trail and the Produce Show were again held, although attendance at the latter was down.

A new Pub Night was well attended. There was no Harvest Supper last year, but this year we will be running a Harvest Celebration.

A very successful Craft Fair and Children's Christmas Party were held at Christmas. Two quiz nights have been well attended. The new Tots and Toddlers Group has been a great success. The Craft Club has been revived and is 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.

Steve and Sue Neville have now stepped back from running the Scarecrow Trail and handed this over to the Committee. A huge thanks to both of them for their hard work and generosity over the years and to Steve for his excellent financial advice to the Committee and for running the 100 Club.

#### **Funds**

Many thanks to Susan Fagg for continuing to act as Treasurer, and for taking over the 100 Club. We all appreciate the careful and efficient way in which the Treasurer manages our funds. On account of our successful applications for grant support funding from West Northants Council to provide support during Covid, our financial situation remains relatively healthy. Once added to the income

generated by events and existing balances, we hold funds totalling £26,819.87 as at our most recent report dated 23rd March 2023.

### **The Future**

We are looking forward to the Coronation celebrations, for which the Parish Council and the Village Hall have jointly agreed to fund a tea party on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Many thanks to the school for allowing us to use their grounds.

Other upcoming favourites are the Scarecrow Weekend on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July; the Annual Produce Show on 9<sup>th</sup> September; the Harvest Celebration on 6<sup>th</sup> October; the Christmas Craft Fair on 28<sup>th</sup> November; the Children's Christmas Party on 1<sup>st</sup> December; and the Christmas Quiz on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

We continue to investigate sources of funding and options to undertake improvements to, or a complete replacement for, the Village Hall. We are progressing an application to HS2's Community and Environment Fund which could provide approximately £50,000 if successful. We are also in discussion with ACRE about their Village Hall support funds. We have had plans drawn up by architects and had costing discussions with a number of builders.

### **Thanks**

Many people have contributed to the smooth running of events throughout the year.

I would like to thank the whole Committee for their work and support during the year. Recent joiners Rhiannon Harris and Trevor Bradley are making a great impact.

I would like to thank Jo Wilson for her work over many years managing the diary bookings and cleaning of the hall. She has now handed over the bookings to Rhiannon and the cleaning to Debra. Jo remains on the Committee.

Thanks again to Steve and Sue Neville, Mike and Pat Benton and all the others involved in the Scarecrow Trail.

Thanks to Lizzie Barnes-Moss for arranging the Jubilee barbecue and Debra Kirton for project managing the event. Thanks to Pat Benton for organising the wonderful Easter Egg Hunt which was enjoyed by so many families.

Thanks to Jo Wilson and Wilf Iliffe for all their great work on the Film Club, selecting the films, making puddings, and hosting events.

Thanks to Martin Mason for putting on a very enjoyable quiz.

If anyone has ideas for events or would like to contribute to Village Hall events, please contact me on 660376.

Chris Wilson

Chair Aston le Walls Village Hall Committee