

AGM 20 May 2019

Chairs Report

I am pleased to present my third annual report as Chair of the VH Committee. Unfortunately Jean Clark resigned last autumn. Jean had been a committee member several times over the years and is still making a valuable contribution as a friend of the village hall. Thank you Jean. More recently Gayle Williams has also resigned. Gayle has been a member for a number of years and was instrumental in getting the playground established and which is now a popular feature of the village. She has also agreed to maintain contact through becoming a friend of the village hall. Thank you Gayle. We were pleased to welcome Helen Young and she is already an invaluable and hard working member. Members have a range of expertise and interest and this makes for a productive committee. During the past year the committee met seven times and we've had another busy year with a range of activities.

Repairs and Maintenance

As usual with our delightful old building we've needed to carry out some repairs. This has been a major activity a year in the planning and was project managed by Pete Renshaw. Thanks to him there was minimal disruption to those using the VH.

- We tidied and repointed the perimeter wall and then resurfaced the car park.
- We had brick pillars erected to hide the scaffold poles holding up the front porch
- We replaced two damaged lintels.
- We replaced the plastic chairs with upholstered ones.

When I say we I mean the royal we. Peter Renshaw was the only one to actually get his hands dirty! We used local firms to undertake the work, and won grants totalling £4500 from the Jack Brunton Trust, Persimmon Homes and Ryedale Community Grant. Some of the grant income was reported at last years AGM. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of villagers and the committee, the Village Hall bank account was healthy enough for us to fund the remainder We've had a number of compliments on the improvements. In this coming year we will be attending to the damp in the entrance and redecorating the hallway and downstairs room.

As in previous years we had a tidy up day in October, partly to clean and do a bit of ongoing maintenance and partly to eat up the leftovers from Harvest Supper. It has to be said that this time due to the foul weather, there was rather more eating up than tidying up. But we will be finishing off the work in June. Thanks as usual to the thirty or so villagers who came to help.

Events

We've had a number of social events during the year which have been good fun, bringing the village together. Jeanette will fill in the amounts raised in her treasurers report. Thanks must go to her for managing the accounts and bookings and where her figures and mine are slightly different, either I'm wrong or some income was included in last year's accounts or will appear next year, depending upon the dates the money was received.

- Stalls on the Green on Spring Bank Holiday Monday was a resounding success. The sun shone and we raised a record amount.
- In June we welcomed Dominic Goodwin back for his play The Kaiser and I. A full house and the glorious weather was lovely for us, but Dominic just about managed to remain conscious in his ww1 great coat! The success of the evening has spurred the committee to try to offer more live entertainment events. This should be possible now we have wifi and with the money left from the grant we are looking to buy some equipment. Thanks to Kathy and Tony for their technical expertise.
- September saw us singing along to what will likely become our resident house band, if they can decide on a name. We knew them as Chilli Jam but they are now Monkeystick! Great fun and we raised money for both the VH and defibrillator.
- We also held a coffee morning as part of the Macmillan biggest coffee morning in the world fundraising event and raised £300. Thanks to Chris Bakes and Jeanette Miller for organising this.
- Harvest supper was again a sell out. Delicious food as usual, comfy chairs (!) and we were entertained by Charity Brass who generously donated their fee to the defibrillator fund.
- The Buck Inn kindly held a raffle during War Weekend and also a quiz night in April both of which raised funds for the defibrillator.
- The Christmas gathering was a lovely start to the festive season. Villagers entertained us, we sang some carols and enjoyed some food and drinks. Helen and Richard Young ran a couple of excellent quizzes. A

collection for Ryedale Special Families raised £100 and a car boot full of donations for the Pickering Food Bank

- Ruth, Keith and Peter Simpson held another successful Christmas Craft Fayre raising over £1000.
- Post winter we went trekking with Bathsheba and Peter Hartrey to the Kuari Pass and the Valley of the Flowers in India. This now regular and well attended event raised £100 for the African Cyclone Idai appeal, which the government matched.

I must make a special mention about the defibrillator for Wrelton. In July we launched an appeal for a defibrillator for the village. Kirsty and Graham Kirk at Beech Farm Cottages have kindly offered for the unit to be sited on their wall next to the village notice board. We have identified a suitable defibrillator which meets the needs of the community and we are in the process of ordering it. Through fundraising and donations we have just over £2000 to date so hopefully will have raised the money within the year – not bad going I'm sure you'll agree.

Regular bookings

We've also had plenty of bookings, some one-offs such as children's parties but mostly regular bookings. The Hall is used about 23 days of the month and totals over 60 hours of use. This includes local groups and Ryedale wide groups. The hall is used for a range of activities which is good news for the village. We could do with more outside organisations hiring the hall and to this end we now have a presence on the Community First website. We are hoping the children's play park, which Gayle has managed over the years is a pull for parties. We do however need to find a way to increase donations to the play park. It costs around £700 a year to maintain the equipment, cut the grass etc but donations are little more than £100 so we do need to find a way to increase this. The village website on which the Village Hall has a presence is developing all the time thanks to Tony Miller and is well worth a look.

So, a year full of fun and plenty of funds raised and we're all ready to do it again! Thanks go to all Committee members and friends of the village hall for their enthusiasm and hard work in keeping Wrelton such a lovely place to live.

Thank you

Jan Firth