

Worth Matravers Village Hall
Chair's Report
1.4.19 - 31.3.20

I'm writing this on July 21 after 4 months of Covid Lockdown and 2019/20 seems a distant memory but here goes. As I did last year, I'm dividing the VH year into Events, Jobs, People, Problems and Ideas.

Events

The two biggest events of the year were the Fête and the Feast on the Green. The Fête was a good combination of Fun and Fundraising with a lot of the first being combined with about £5k of the second. The funds were given to a range of local charities and some was kept for new tables. The Feast replaced the Barbecue on the Green because Head Chef Dominic preferred to cook at home and bring the food to the event. It was delicious, and everyone brought their own wine, beer etc. A small profit was made and given to another local charity but the main aim was to bring the village together.

There were several other events in the VH through the year. Purbeck Arts Weeks (PAWS) had a long weekend rather than two weeks. Purbeck Artists and Stallholders (PASH) took up residence for about 6 weeks in two separate visits. PASH deserves particular praise for being brilliantly organised almost completely without help from our trustees and paying a commission to us on everything they sell. Thank you Di and friends.

The Film Club went from strength to strength showing a range of films which I have never heard of but always enjoy! Well done to Claude and Peter. The Games Club continued on Wednesday evenings. New members very welcome to contact Tim Hoad (439380). And the Afternoon Club also thrived with a range of interesting speakers. Contact Jenny Hynan (jennyhynan@gmail.com)

Carols on the Green reverted to its traditional format this year except that Father Christmas turned up with his reindeer. He was very pleased to see the children.

Sorry there was no farm tour this year. The Chair will try to do better this Autumn but with Covid restrictions it might be tricky. Watch your VH News

Jobs

A quiet year. The fire alarm system has been replaced.

People

Trustees. We were sad to say goodbye to Helen Stewart, as she and Chris have moved away. But we have welcomed Claire Barnes and Rick Gould, both of whom have been extremely helpful already. Special thanks to Dawn Cosh who has taken on Minutes Secretary, Rob Lobley who is Bookings Officer, John Hynan our Treasurer and Jack Ross who manages the Website and keeps those who are in the Village Directory up to date with upcoming Village Events and other relevant news, eg on Covid recently. Our other trustees are Charles O'Reilly, Claude Bonfanti and Maggie Hardy, with Ceri Vosper providing a very valuable link to the Parish Council. And not forgetting Mark Hill who still sends us reactions from wherever he happens to be in the world.

You are a great set of trustees. Many thanks for all your support. Anyone who is interested in joining us would be very welcome. We have two vacancies – a Communications Understudy and a PCC (Parochial Church Council) Representative.

There are a number of other folk in the village who are always prepared to help if needed. The Rapid Response Team for example. But special mention must be made of Peter Handy who helped again to organise the Fête with Jack and myself. I think both Peter and I have to stand back and admire Jack who continues to do 80% of the hard work, but Peter's role is vital too, isn't it Jack?

Special mention must also be made of Shiela and David Johnson who have left the village after many years during which David has often quietly got on with essential admin behind the scenes, while Shiela's gardening skills have become legendary, both at the incredible Plant Stall at many Fêtes and in the Withy Bed which has become such an attractive part of the village and has been maintained single handed by Shiela. You are both much appreciated by us all and we hope you will be very happy in your new home.

Problems

The School House which is owned by the VH trust and tenanted by Kerry is in need of considerable repair. Many thanks to Rick who has surveyed the damage and is organising the two main tasks which concern the bathroom plumbing and the roof.

The VH garden wall has been overgrown with ivy. This has been partially cleared but there is more to do.

Jack needs help with the technical administration of the Website and the Directory which naturally leads in to VH Communication and Publicity.

And there is the Post Covid world and how this will impact on our events and clubs in the future. It won't be easy but I am glad to have such positive and creative trustees to work out the best ways through.

Ideas

The Centenary was to have happened during the last weekend of June 2020 and I hope that we can build on all our preparation of last winter during this coming winter so that we can hold it two years rather than one year late on the same weekend next summer, ie Friday 25 June – Sunday 27 June 2021. In the meantime lots of information about our history including a fascinating Picture Archive, has been posted on our website – www.worthmatraversvillagehall.org

The Village Directory is a great resource for keeping in touch with everybody in the village and we are constantly looking to enroll more people to join it and with their email addresses. This has been especially significant during these difficult times, with our traditional publications, notably the Dubber and the Purbeck Gazette only being available on-line. We invite everybody in the village to help spread the word about joining the list to support our perennial efforts in expanding it and keeping it up to date. Jack and I have written two letters, one for those who are just arriving in the village, and the other for those who have been here for a while but whose details have never been properly collected. We hope that armed with these letters and more people keeping ears to the ground, we will be able to encourage all who have the capability to be part of the Directory. Everybody can be assured that it is a secure list, only used for Village Hall business, Village Events and important non-controversial communication such as the recent arrangements to support vulnerable people during the Covid crisis.

Nick Viney