

Bawdsey Radar Trust

I am sorry that the Trust has been unable to send a representative to speak to you tonight

As many of you know an exhibition about the origins of radar has been housed in the Transmitter Block since 2003. In the past 23 years there have been many changes and improvements helped by a National Lottery Heritage Lottery grant.

Grant aid is, of course, much welcomed but today's success is as a result of the hard work of a body of enthusiastic volunteers. It is a place where a warm welcome is guaranteed and there is a informative, well presented exhibition that explains why Bawdsey became so important and the RAF station became the first fully operational radar station in the world.

The result has been that the Trust attracts very many visitors every year and is financially sound.

There are problems however one of which is coastal erosion. The erosion of the cliff in the vicinity of the Transmitter Block has been frighteningly rapid over the last two years. Today the edge of the cliff is now only 47 metres from out boundary fence.

Our other problem is a falling number of volunteers caused mainly as a result of retirements. We are fortunate that we have a number of volunteers from the village but if there are any other villagers who would consider volunteering, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The essence of volunteering is that it has to be fun. We can guarantee that. In addition, there is no fixed amount of time you have to give. You can volunteer for as much or as little as you want.

An example is Vic Clouting, who you all know. Vic was a volunteer and his role was that he used to put the bins out. That was all. But it was so important because it meant that other volunteers did not have to travel to Bawdsey to do this simple but important job.

If you are interested in being one of our volunteers, give me a ring.

Peter Wain

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