BAWDSEY VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

Annual Report Bawdsey Parish Meeting 11th May

First of all, my apologies for not being here, but I had a prior engagement arranged.

A very busy year as we came out of lock down. I do not believe we are quite back to where we were before the pandemic, with lower attendance figures for village events.

We had several Pop-Up-Pubs including Halloween, Christmas-and most successful-the one following the Fete where we had live music. We will be arranging more through the summer on the Recreation Ground.

The tennis courts have been professionally cleaned and painted, and new recycled plastic seats installed.

The old score hut has been taken down and disposed of. Unfortunately, a bit of history gone, but it was unusable as it was completely rotten in one corner section, and it had been vandalised.

We will be putting up a replacement to house the tents.

Quite by accident, while dismantling the score hut, I ran into a man called Wayne who had been travelling the country for four years cleaning up war graves at no charge. He lives in a van with a dog called Rosco. He had just finished also cleaning the War Memorial. As we about to have a workday on Recreation Ground, which was badly attended (it was raining), I decided to employ him, and pay him, to clean the car park around the memorial.

I had been able to contact a play area company, the manager of it had worked for the company who originally installed the play equipment over 20 years ago. Along with a professional play area inspection report we had had done; we identified the equipment which needed attention. The main concern is the zip wire slide, where several items need to be replaced, along with a child’s swing seat. The cost of just this will be £2.700. The fence surrounding the area will have to be painted along with treating some rust on the equipment. It was he who suggested power spraying the carpet on the play area. We had always been advised not to do this as it may damage the carpet, however it was in an awful state despite us power brushing and treating it regularly with moss killer. We did not have much to lose to try the power spray as we had quotes of around £52,000 to replace the carpet.

So, we employed Wayne, our travelling war grave cleaner, to power wash the carpet. It took him some 120 hours, sometimes him working 13-hour days to complete it and moving several tons of muck off the surface. The result is it looks like a brand-new carpet. He also replaced the guttering on the pavilion which was broken. Well done Wayne. A big thanks to the villagers who gave him a meal and a bath to use.

Vandalism has again started on the Recreation ground. The fence around the play area has been broken, The glass in the dismantled score hut was broken, and two dummy CCTV cameras have been ripped off. They were put there as a deterrent when someone super glued the locks on the tennis courts at the start of the pandemic. I think, despite some reservations, we might have to put up a workable CCTV. Regular policing of the Recreation Ground is not viable option for anyone.

A big thanks to James Mallinder, our District Councillor, who organised some money to buy some seats for the late Queens jubilee celebrations. We bought a picnic table and a seat and table which are on the extended grass area behind the village Hall and have already been put to good use during events at the Hall. A fence also has been put up around and hiding the gas tank.

Other events that we have been involved in are the Easter Egg hunt organised by Brenda & Sue, a wedding on the Recreation Ground, and a jumble Sale, (profits from this were shared with the church), and the annual village garage sale.

Lastly, we had another record Fete, takings were £5700. We are totally committed to having one, as we do not raise enough revenue from our other activities to pay our bills. There is a Fete meeting on Monday 15th May 7.30pm, or if people can let me know if they can help please ring me on 411459.

We took the decision during the pandemic not to charge clubs rental, except the electricity they use, so that they can continue with maybe reduced numbers. This will continue this year, and it is hoped that the people who are benefitting from this will fully support us especially with the Fete.

I would like to thank the whole committee and our Treasurer Caroline, and Secretary Rob for all their hard work during the year.

We have lost several Committee members, so anyone who would be interested in joining us would be very welcome. We are looking also for a new Secretary as Rob has carried on during the year despite extra pressure with his business. He would be staying on afterwards as a committee member.

A big thanks to the village people who support us, along with friends and relations.

Rawdon Saunders

Chairman Bawdsey Village Hall & Recreation Ground Committee