Great Easton Village Hall Chairman's Report - March 2022

The Covid19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the operation of the hall last year. The hall re-opened for bookings from 17th May, but didn't see a great deal of use until the middle of summer.

We have lost a couple of our long standing groups due to changing personal circumstances, exacerbated by the pandemic; most notably Line Dancing and the Women's Institute, however we have been fortunate to welcome some new groups into the hall.

Whilst our bookings have been down this year, the government grants have left us in a comfortable financial position although the need to get the crumbling stone work repaired on the front of the hall has led us to be cautious about any spending until we have a final price for this work.

This year we have welcomed the Walk on the Wild Side platinum jubilee initiative who have run several successful workshops and also installed a large "bug hotel" in the corner of the garden.

Thanks to the regular Garden Task Force who kept the garden in good order throughout the year, either individually or as a team when permitted. We hope to be able to make some significant alterations to the garden this year, depending on the work to the front wall.

The archive room now has storage in place and is becoming home to the various documents and items that have been held in people's homes around the village. The History Society are cataloguing the archive and this will undoubtedly be a valuable resource for future generations. Many thanks to Alice for leading this project.

As always, I would like to thank the committee for their ongoing help and support through this year. We have not had any fundraising events to organise again this year, but have had to continually review our processes to ensure we are able to offer a Covid safe environment.

Finally, I would like to thank the Crafternoon group who kindly donated the hanging baskets and also the following for their kind donations:

- Margaret Stamp from the sale of the Great Easton Calendars
- Lorna Bryant (100 Club winnings)
- Rev. Steven Bishop

Subject: Re: Rec Field Ctee
From: Charlie Jefferson <charliejefferson57@gmail.com>
Date: 26/04/2022, 20:30
To: David Gibley Clerk <admin@greateaston.org>

Hello David,
Please see below.

Another successful year from the merry band of mowers. Reserves are still healthy standing around 22.5k.
The only negative has been Great Easton's owner Banksys who have been decorating the container. They were spotted but were faster than their pursuer so we have no way of asking them to help in the repainting of the container this summer.
We gratefully received a new bench from the WI ladies and David Gibb kindly restored the top bench to it's former glory.
Finally the seats for the swings in the fenced area have been replaced and look suitably new and smart.
I am sure you are aware of all the new equipment that will be arriving at some stage this year which can be expanded upon by others.

Hope that is what you are looking for.

Regards,
Charlie

On Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 5:14 PM David Gibley Clerk <admin@greateaston.org> wrote:

> HI Charlie,
>
> May I have a BRIEF report on the Rec Ctee which I can circulate prior to the Annual meeting on 9 May -thanks in advance!
>
> David

Valentine Goodman Charity – Annual Report 2021-22

With the relaxation of Covid restrictions the Trustees of the Valentine Goodman Charity have once again been able to meet in person. In September a tour of land assets was undertaken, conducted by Lennox Thomson, Land Agent for Berry's, and proved an informative and enjoyable evening, followed by the AGM in Drayton Village Hall.

This meeting saw the resignation of 2 stalwart members: John Stones, who has served the Charity since the mid-1980s but has now moved away from the area, and Carolyn Frostwick who has been valuable in the role of Clerk for several years. John's replacement is Linda Jones who has been a Trustee of the Hallaton share for many years and who brings a wealth of experience to the role, and the new Secretary introduced at the November meeting is Jules Whittome who has previously been Secretary of Hallaton Museum for 9 years.

Land rents were largely unchanged; one area vacated by death has been let until 2024 to a tenant who currently rents other land from the Charity.

The sale of the Wilbarston property in June last year means the Charity now holds a considerable capital reserve and discussions on how best to proceed with this are ongoing, with the purchase of another property proving to be a strong contender due to offering reliable rental income along with a potential increase in value.

After discussion, the Trustees felt that, in line with Valentine Goodman's vision of relief of poverty, the Annual Distributions ought to be paid where they will have most effect rather than the current system of referral. Distributions for 2021 have yet to be made.

Linked to the previous item, it has been agreed by all Trustees that the Charity does not have a high enough profile in the villages it is there to support. Suggestions to address this include flyers, adverts in the monthly Parish magazine and on village websites in order to encourage applications.

Having not met since January, the Trustees' next meeting is 18th May when topics for discussion will include the Distributions, raising awareness of the Charity and potential property acquisition, amongst other matters.

Overall, another successful year, and we look forward to this year's events.