

## **WHORLTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021/22**

I will begin, and end, this report with a big 'thank you' to the current Committee, to our team of volunteers and to the residents of Whorlton, Westwick and Sledwich, who have supported us over the last year.

The WVCA focus for the 2021/22 year has been recovery and re-organisation commensurate with the easing of restrictions through the COVID pandemic. The Village Hall was reopened to bookings last May and has seen a return of regular meetings and individual commercial and private events. However, the Hall remains under-used, more work is required on the Committee's part to see an increase in bookings, but I also call on you the residents to make more use of your Village Hall.

Large scale events continue to bring in numbers; the Open Gardens, Three Inch Fools theatre production and Bonfire Night were all well attended and brought significant income. As did the performance of Pygmalion in the Village Hall in February, despite a deliberate intent to reduce numbers and allow more widespread seating. A village Hog Roast, designed to bring residents together following Covid restrictions proved popular, however the introduction of monthly Coffee Mornings has perhaps been the most significant development in terms of meeting the objectives of the Charity. I should add that last weekend's coffee morning was dedicated as a fundraiser for the Ukrainian appeal and raised an incredible £466, together with generous donations by those unable to attend.

As to the future, we have much to look forward to this year. Open Gardens will soon be upon us, as will the Platinum Jubilee street party, Theatre on the Green with the excellent Three Inch Fools, an evening of Jazz in September and of course Bonfire Night. The Committee is constantly on the lookout for new events and welcomes any thoughts or ideas.

On the administrative side, a new Constitution was adopted on 23 August 2021, which replaced the original template constitution from 1986. It reinforces the objectives of WVCA, clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Trustees and permits the transfer to on-line banking, which is now complete. It also defines a funding reserve for lease and maintenance costs, clarifies membership of the Association and outlines the procedures for meetings. The new Constitution does, I hope, emphasise that the WVCA works not just for the people of Whorlton, but also the residents of Westwick and Sledwich. A Data Protection policy has also been introduced and I hope that the next year will see further developments on the administration and accreditation of the Charity.

As the Treasurer will shortly highlight, the charity was very grateful to receive further significant financial support from the Government's covid – related funds during 2021. This has enabled us to carry out much needed improvements to the Village Hall's facilities, including new toilets. The Committee will shortly be discussing the way ahead for the heating system and interior decoration.

So that completes my report as Chairman. I will once again thank all those who have provided their support this year. Without the support of the Committee, the volunteers, and those of you who attend the functions, this charity cannot survive.

Thank you for your attention. This report will be promulgated on the Village Website and I will be happy to take any questions.

**Chris Connolly, Chairman, WVCA**