

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2015-2016

I have just finished my thirteenth year as Chairman, and the next Fete will be my fifteenth. I came here 23 years ago with a holiday cottage, and subsequently moved here full time. We got involved with village life because we were offered such a warm welcome by Doreen and dear Edd. Feeling welcome is all that most people require to get involved in village life. The fete was already a successful event, and since then we have gone strength to strength. It is successful because a large amount of people, inside and outside the village, along with friends and family are prepared to put time and money in to make it so, any contribution large or small made to the village is always appreciated. Without money from the fete we would not meet our annual outgoings. The BVH&RGC are just one organisation which makes up the village; there is also the PC, the church lots of different clubs and activities which make up the whole. Our charity was set up for the whole village community, ensuring what we are responsible for is available to the whole village.

I have seen in recent years the move to a lot more bureaucracy, risk assessments, the dotting the I's and ticking of boxes. Although often frustrating and time consuming, we have to ensure that we have considered all our legal duties, and we have a duty under charity law to have effective insurance in place.

By far our largest yearly expenditure of £1437 is for the insurance and our contract for the last 3 years and has just come to an end. We have been looking for over a year at the detail of the policy in preparation to negotiating a new 5 year contract. We have spent some considerable time looking at our cover and the cost. It became increasingly clear through talking with a rival insurance company, that there were inadequacies, with our cover as it stood. Inadequacies which would not have been obvious until we had to make a claim for something. We also looked at recouping some of the cost where we could. Multi-sports was an area where we could perhaps get back some of the insurance cost.

Jane Osmanski should be congratulated in setting up in 2000, with help from others, a superb multisport area. Jane has also been able to put an incredible £16000 aside from the takings for the refurbishment and renovation in 2018 and 2025 of the courts. Jane has now had to give up running the MS through family commitments. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication. We have already had offers from people in the village. Dianne Rouse has agreed to handle the tennis club member details with help from others. We will combine MS with all the other activities we offer so that we can get as many people as possible to use it. The committee will undertake to pay regular amounts into the MS savings account to achieve the targets of refurbishment, which will be reviewed annually. Any remaining money will be put back into the VH&RGC funds to help pay for upkeep

and to cover the £242. which is the MS part of the insurance cost.

Another area which needed to be brought up to date to be covered appropriately by the insurance was the allotment at the back of the village hall. The Fosters have had used the allotment since the 1970's at a cost of £10 a year. However there was no formal agreement which effectively made it an unsecured tenancy. To have it properly covered by our insurance we were told we had to have a written agreement in place. Through consultations with Caroline and Matt, Sue agreed a contract which has now been signed. This gives the village an increased rent at £50 per annum, which goes towards paying for the relevant insurance (approx. £130 this year for the allotment), and to help pay for the cutting of the hedge abutting the allotment which is the responsibility of the VH&RGC. Sue has also released an area of the allotment which someone else can take advantage of. This at present is being used to plant some trees which will be used in the visitor centre and the memorial ground.

The memorial ground has for some time given us some concern, but again the insurance stipulated that a professional inspection had to take place and remedial action taken. This has now been done at a cost of £1360.

The play area due to its age is beginning to deteriorate. We will have to get an annual professional inspection done for

the insurance, as well as carry out period inspections ourselves and remedial work.

We now have negotiated our insurance for the next 5 years at £1045 a year a saving of nearly £400, but with an increased legal cover, covering all parts of our responsibilities,

The Committee together with the PC have successfully undertaken to make the village hall an emergency rest centre. With help from grants we have installed a gas commercial cooker and a heater which are used with great affect during other activities in the hall. Emergency lighting will complete the facilities.

We are also very thankful that Rod Webb our HABBS representative has obtained a defibrillator which has been put on the front of the village hall, with improved exterior lighting for the entrance to the hall. I believe about 30 people have attended the training classes he laid on.

Although we have a close relationship with the PC, I am also the PC representative for the BVH&RGC, our relationship was never clearly defined. It has now been established, perhaps to many a surprise, that the Pc hold the title deeds only of the properties at the request of the VH&RGC, the Charity Commission could also hold the deeds instead if the committee so requested it.

Any requests for information in future about the VH&RGC made to the PC will now be redirected straight to us.

We have changed some anomalies with our trust documents. We have taken out the 2 representatives of the cricket club which has now closed, but increased our trustee membership to 10 to allow more people to come and help us. We can also have more trustees than is stated because it is allowed under our trust agreement. We have also put in a clause that we can pay up to a £1000 in total to trustees. The Charity Commission does not want information about any amount under £1000. We have ensured that this is included and allowed solely to cover a payment of £282 last year to Brenda so that she can continue the cleaning of the village hall, something she has done for many years at a great benefit to everyone.

Last but definitely not least I would like to thank the whole committee for all their hard work, their time and money during the year, for the time and money they have put in, and also with whole fete event without which it would not and could not take place.

I apologise if I have left out tasks which have been done by someone, or if I have left anyone out.

I would like to thank Jo for seeing us through a difficult year and especially for all her hard work on the insurance and the fete. Our thanks also to Rob helping to lay the gas cables,

painting the tennis hut and sorting out the BBQ and generally helping Jo.

To Caroline for not only for all the treasurer duties, but taking on the booking arrangements for the hall after Judy retired from doing this. Also organising the letting out of a room in the pavilion, for taking on receiving of money from the MS whilst Dianne is away, and most especially for the many hours she spent on the allotment agreement.

For Brenda for organising the Firework Night, for doing many odd jobs that come up regularly like cleaning the gutters also for taking on tasks like organising the electricity circuit testing and helping Richard with the Playground inspections.

For Matt who also spent considerable time over the allotment agreement, plus odd jobs like helping to fix the RG gate post, fixing the pavilion ramp, getting the emergency lighting, and helping bury the gas pipe. His strong arms were put to great use.

To Felicity whose talent is the written word and for helping us with letters, the hall letting agreement and risk assessments.

To Jane Tricker for all the help on all our events, collecting money for the fireworks and for taking over and progressing the draw over last few years.

To Richard for all his repair work around the play area, and with the inspection regime, for work in the memorial ground and for a willing hand for jobs to be done.

To Doreen again for organising the jumble sale and all her help with other things and with her extended family for help with the fete.

To Shelia, who although planning to move away, would be greatly missed if she did as the hall garden would not be so beautifully tended to. As well as all her help at the events we hold throughout the year. She will be coming off of the committee but will continue doing the garden and helping us.

Thanks Shelia for all her work over the past years.

To all the rest of the good folk in the village who support us selflessly and give time to help the village to make Bawdsey such a success and wonderful place to live.