

Report to the Cockfield Annual Parish Meeting, 25TH MAY 2023

I was elected Chairman of Cockfield Community Council at the November 2022 AGM. I took over from Neil Ashton who served as Chairman for 1 year. Neil is no longer a trustee but is very happy to continue to help and support the Community Council wherever he can.

We lost a few and gained a few Trustees, so it's welcome to the new Trustees and thank you for your service to those who stepped down.

The Community Council events have slowly increased over the past year as we recover from the effects of the Covid Restrictions. Participant numbers were very slow to restore & in some cases are still unpredictable.

We start with May 2022 and the ever-popular Art Show led by Janne Cutting-Keyton & her team of helpers. Previously a 3-day event over the late May bank holiday became a 6-day event taking place on the lead up to the late Queen Elizabeth's platinum Jubilee. Works from over 85 local artists plus hand crafted items were on display in the Village Hall. Very successful, enjoyable event as always.

June brought us the Jubilee Party in the Marquee on the green lead by Neil Ashton and a team of helpers. We were entertained by the band 'Turntable' who played a variety of music genres. Over 200 adults and children danced the night away, a thoroughly enjoyable evening had by all. On the Sunday we had the village Jubilee lunch, we donated £2000 towards this event and many trustees helped on the day.

Unfortunately, our planned 'Sale Trail' in July had to be cancelled due to lack of participants, we feel this was largely due to being on the same day as the Church's Summer Lunch.

October brought us our first Bingo night lead by Trudy Mann & Pauline Smalinsky along with helpers. We enlisted a professional Bingo Caller assisted by Trudy, a very successful, enjoyable evening to become part of our event calendar in future.

November saw the return of the Quiz Night lead by Neil Ashton, due to feedback from the previous speed quiz we decided to return to the traditional pen & paper. This is always a great evening which includes a Fish & Chip supper.

With Christmas approaching knowing the school had some exciting activities planned for the children, we made a donation of £500.

In December, for many years we have had 'Carols on the Green'. After a succession of soggy, wet festive seasons resulting in either diverting to the Village Hall or cancelling the event at the last minute we decided to change the venue to St Peter's church, and it became 'Carols by Candlelight'. Led by myself, Trudy Mann & Pauline Smalinsky with the invaluable support of Reverend Sharon Potter & Norman Kelly. The church was beautifully decorated by Sue Cole with festive foliage and candles along with Angels made by the children of Cockfield. We met in the Village Hall carpark and led by Norman Kelly embarked on a candlelit precession to the church, singing all the way. Once inside Reverend Sharon conducted the singing of our favourite carols and Christmas songs followed by Mince Pies & a festive drink. There was snow on the ground and temperatures were below freezing yet 70 people came along. A magical evening to be repeated for sure.

2023 began with our Hangover Hike led by Rodney Williams, refreshments served by me, Matt Green and Nikki Meekings. Over 60 people turned out for the walk along with many pooches then back to the Village Hall for bacon rolls, a warm drink & cake. What better way to start the year!

February saw the return of our Bingo Night led by Trudy Mann & helpers. The same format as our first bingo night, very well attended and enjoyed by all.

March brought us another Quiz Night, unfortunately Neil Ashton was taken poorly so the evening was led by Ivan Green who did a grand job especially at such short notice. A Fish & Chip supper served halfway through as always.

April always brings the Duck Race led up by Rodney Williams and his helpers. It was a fine day; the sun was shining, and the ducks were racing. It's a firm favourite with the children, a truly great Easter event.

In May the Parish Council arranged the King Charles III Coronation celebrations on Great Green. We donated £750 towards the event and many trustees helped on the day.

The Parish Council recently purchased a new ride on Lawn Mower for Earls Meadow, to which we contributed £2000.

We continue to run monthly cinema screenings led by me and my team of committed helpers who I could not do without. Our numbers have not yet returned to pre-covid levels but are increasing gradually, our last film brought in 53 people so very encouraging for the future.

We have the Art Show planned for the 27th-29th May.

June sees the introduction of a Summer Solstice walk, a gentle evening walk around the fields then back to the Village Hall for a BBQ & social.

July we see the return of the Village Fair, led by Pauline Smalinsky and her team of helpers. Having previously been held at Clipt Bushes we now see it return to its former hosting site on Great Green. A lot of work is going into arranging a super afternoon of activities & entertainment for all the family along with various stalls, BBQ & refreshments but to name a few.

We are planning an evening of entertainment in the Autumn but are yet to finalise details.

We will be having another Bingo Night & Quiz night in the months of October & November followed by Carols by Candlelight in December.

We continue to work with the Parish Council and other village organisations raising money towards projects and social activities for the good of the community.

Julie Goodsman

Chairman Cockfield Community Council