

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

Hello to All Residents

Another year on and still not back to normal – if you can remember what that was like. It has been a turbulent year to say the least, with lockdowns, partial lockdowns, vaccinations, tiers and traffic lights – and still the Pubs aren't fully open! However, I hope that you will agree that as a community I think we have come through fairly unscathed.

We are pleased to announce that we have seen quite a number of new residents move in over the last few months, and we welcome you all to our 'unique' estate. We hope that you will all join in with the activities that are arranged by the Committee, and play an active part in providing us with new ideas and potential events etc. Sadly though, once again, three more of our long-standing residents have passed away – Caroline Rogers, Mary Paddon and Margaret Akbar. Our thoughts go out to their families.

Pete Edwards continues to send out the Newsletter regularly, which includes newsworthy items about Covid 19, together with interesting wildlife news and local items of interest. The Volunteer Support Group is still active, although fortunately this has not actually been utilized much as everyone has been very vigilant and have stuck to the rules of social distancing and not going out etc. The estate has a fairly high proportion of older residents and most of them will now have had both of their vaccinations, making it less likely for the disease to take hold in our area, but the infrastructure of the Support group is still an important community asset.

With events on hold, social distancing and the tier system being introduced, it has been a challenge to keep up morale and provide residents with interesting leisure activities. But, we did set up a couple of groups which were well received. A Gardening Club was introduced by Stuart Jones who set up and co-ordinated a WhatsApp group. This group has thrived, and offers an exchange of plants between members, and provides valuable knowledge about how to grow things etc.

The Bridge Club, which was set up and managed by Graham Keens, was paused until we can meet up again in groups of over 6 people.

At Halloween, the children on the estate dressed up to scare the living daylights out of the residents, but this was a slightly different arrangement compared to normal. Residents were asked to take part by putting a picture of a Pumpkin (or an actual carved one) in their window, and the children – in family groups only – then had to find the pumpkins and were rewarded with sweets from their parents when they did.

Towards the end of 2020, the rules were relaxed slightly, and with the run up to Christmas we became more positive that we would be able to spend the Festive season with our loved ones. Unfortunately, a couple of days before Christmas, this was not to be, and a full lockdown was introduced once again. Our regular Carol Singing event and our New Year's Eve event both had to be cancelled. However, we decided to have an online Carol Singing Collection in aid of the Wycombe Food Hub, and we raised the grand total of £215. Thank you everyone.

We identified one of the trees on the Green to become our 'Christmas Tree' and invited everyone to decorate it with baubles and lights etc. This will now become an annual tradition.

We did, also, manage a Christmas virtual afternoon tea – for the Coffee Morning Group - which included a delivery of a small hamper of home-made goodies - sandwiches, scones, cakes etc. - which we all ate together on Zoom wearing our Christmas jumpers and hats.

The snowfall in late January this year brought some light relief, and children on the estate gathered on the Green (socially distanced, of course), and made an enormous snowman and an igloo, and careered down the slope on sledges. Great fun.

We have had a couple of Zoom Quizzes which were reasonably well attended, and we even had a type of Progressive Supper – ‘Dine in For Two’ – whereby those participating had to cook a main course for two. They were informed as to whether their ‘Guests’ had any allergies, intolerances, Vegan, Vegetarian etc., but they did not know who they were actually cooking for until the day of delivery. At a given time on the designated evening, after everyone had eaten their culinary delights, all the participants logged on to Zoom and shared their experiences over a nightcap. A total of 12 households took part, and it was deemed a real success. The recipes from the evening have been distributed by email so that they can be tried by others.

We have still managed to get together on our Zoom Coffee mornings, although only a limited number of residents participate in this – but it’s not too late to join in, and the main time for this is Monday to Friday from 10.30am to 11.30am. It would be really good to see a few more new faces.

The Litter picking group of volunteers have been out a few times under the supervision of Pete Edwards, and have collected many bags of rubbish from around the area of the woods and river. Well done to those who played a part in this venture - excellent work

With the rules relaxing further, we even planned our first event this year – the monthly Friday night BYO BBQ. Sadly, the weather did not play ball at first, and had to be postponed twice – however, on the third attempt (which was also touch & go with the weather) we finally succeeded, and it was a great success with around 30 people, including several new families. We are still hoping to have our annual event in July/August on the Green which will hopefully mark the end of the interminable lockdowns, and will enable us to get everyone together again. Something to celebrate!

We still have various issues which we are dealing with – parking, noise pollution etc. – and we will keep you posted on their progress, but on a more positive note, the ultra-fast broadband deal is progressing nicely and we have been informed that it should be in place before Christmas this year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Committee for enduring another year under my Chairmanship and for their loyal commitment. I would also like to extend my thanks to all the volunteers who have stayed on call, and I hope that in the very near future they will no longer be required.

Once again we cannot ask for a show of hands to confirm that you are all happy with the present Committee members, so, we would just like to say that we have no plans to change the Committee at the moment, and unless anyone has any objections, or indeed would like to nominate somebody to join us, we hereby declare that the current situation will remain for another year.

If anybody has any queries they would like to put forward, or has any ideas for possible future events etc., please contact any one of us via email.

Thank you all for listening, keep safe everyone, and I hope that soon we will be able to get together face to face at one of our future events.

Celia Darrington
Chairman WWRA