



The Civil Parish of

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2017

Wednesday, 17 May 2017 at 7:30pm

Leek Wootton Village Hall

Reports 2016/17

CONTENTS

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

Chairman's Report 2016/17	2
Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2017	4

REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council: Leek Wootton Ward	5
Warwick District Council: Arden Ward	6

REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS

1 st Leek Wootton (All Saints') Brownies	7
All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton	7
All Saints' Church of England (VA) Primary School	8
All Saints' Mothers' Union	9
Cancer Research UK, Leek Wootton Committee	9
Green Leek 10K Run	10
Guy's Cliffe Tours/Events	10
Leek Wootton Centenary Scout Group	10
Leek Wootton & District Horticultural Society	10
Leek Wootton History Group	11
Leek Wootton Sports Club	11
Leek Wootton Village Hall Ltd	12
Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground	13
Leek Wootton Women's Institute	13
Macmillan Cancer Support, Leek Wootton	13
Neighbourhood Watch	13
NSPCC, Leek Wootton	13
Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Warwick Rural West	13
Summer Fête Committee	13

Chairman's Report 2016/17

Councillor Colin Smith

This year we took the decision to separate the formal 'Annual Parish Council Meeting' from the 'Annual Parish Meeting' (to be known henceforth as the 'Annual Parish Assembly') by holding the two events on separate dates. Both meetings are legal procedural requirements, but whereas the Annual Parish Council Meeting is the equivalent of the Parish Council's AGM, the purpose of the Assembly is for the community to discuss "Parish Affairs" (issues or topics that specifically affect the parish) and is an effective forum for the Parish Council to engage with local residents, to answer questions and for community organisations to publicly report on their activities and set out their plans for the future.

2016/17 has been another very busy year for the Parish Council, as we have worked to keep abreast of developments at District Council level, particularly in respect of the evolving Local Plan, whilst at the same time bringing a greater degree of structure to what seems to be an ever-growing agenda at the parish level.

During the year we have made good progress in formalizing the policy and objectives, which guide the Parish Council work. Details on individual areas are documented separately. It is nonetheless important for me to report on a number of specific developments during the year.

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

We have introduced a formal logging system through which items requiring attention are recorded and monitored. Since in many cases we are dependent upon external agencies to perform maintenance work, this has proved an invaluable mechanism for following up on outstanding works. Councillor Kirkwood has taken on responsibility for keeping the log current and maintaining contact with WCC and WDC as well as other public bodies.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The PC policy on community engagement has been formalized in line with national guidelines, providing a clear statement of how the PC works to develop the parish for the benefit of the residents, fostering public engagement in community activities.

A good example of this is the Annual Parish Fête. Born out of the success of the "Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration" in June 2016, a mutual decision was taken by the PCC, Leek Wootton Sports Club and the Parish Council to establish the event as an annual Parish Summer Fête. This year's event will be held on 10th June on the Recreation Ground.

GRANT AWARDS

Parish Council resources are limited but the decision was taken in March to introduce a scheme for awarding small grants to parish organizations or groups to support projects which benefit the entire community. Initial grants will be small, but as the population of the parish grows, it is hoped that there will be greater scope for making such awards.

FINANCE AND INCREASE IN THE PRECEPT

In setting the budget for the 2017/18 financial year, the Parish Council decided to increase the precept to £20 for Band D properties. Although this represents an increase of 33% this is primarily to counteract the loss of half of the grant from WDC for 'Concurrent Services'. It also brings our parish precept more in line with those of neighbouring parishes, some of which generate far higher levels of annual funding to cover a smaller population.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING

As part of our ongoing effort to maintain the appearance of the parish, we have decided to replace all of the dog waste bins in Leek Wootton. Litter bins are now designated for combined general and dog waste and are emptied on a regular cycle by WDC. Many of the existing bins are old, in poor repair and often too small. New, larger, combined bins have been ordered and these will be installed during the coming summer.

The Parish Council is engaged with the Trustees of the War Memorial Recreation Ground and the Village Hall Committee to improve the access and car parking at the Village Hall. This project has been

complicated by the need to obtain approvals from WCC Highways, in respect of the access, and WDC Planning regarding the detailed planning consent required in the Conservation Area. This has unfortunately limited the way in which the project has and will be approached. We will nevertheless endeavour to provide a solution that meets the requirements of these planning bodies, whilst improving the existing arrangements.

In the longer term, grant funding will be sought for extension and full resurfacing of the car park.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Work on preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has necessarily followed the timetable for approval of the WDC Local Plan. The latter has been the subject of substantial modification, consultation and detailed hearings before a government inspector during 2016 but, at the time of writing, is drawing close to the point of acceptance.

Since the NDP must necessarily be "in conformity" with the WDC Local Plan, we have had to follow the same timetable as well as making adjustments to ensure that our own plan is sound and acceptable.

The final document is almost complete and this will be tabled for approval by the Parish Council in June. There then follows a further process of consultation and inspection before an eventual referendum. Once accepted, the NDP will sit alongside the Local Plan with the backing of legislation as a significant control over future development.

THANKS

My thanks in the first instance to my fellow parish councillors for their individual personal efforts and support.

We are also well supported by our representatives from the District and County Councils, but perhaps none more so than our recently retired County Councillor, Jose Compton, who has not only worked tirelessly on our behalf, but has also helped on many occasions to secure grant aid for the many and various projects undertaken within the parish over the years.

A particular thank you also to Helen Eldridge, our Parish Clerk, who has done much to bring a greater degree of order to the administration of the parish as we need to respond to the requirements for greater transparency and control.

Finally, it is important for me to note that in addition to the work of the Parish Council, there are those who contribute significantly through their efforts to the positive development of our community.

I wish to recognise two individuals in particular: Jean Singleton, whose charity work has earned her the much deserved honour of the British Empire Medal (BEM) and, Sue Patterson, retiring headmistress of Leek Wootton School, whose efforts have done much to boost the reputation of the parish as a desirable place to live.

Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2017

Helen Eldridge, Responsible Financial Officer

The Parish Council's income in 2016/17 (ignoring all grant income) was £10,813 and VAT was reclaimed for £713.76, bringing the total available income to £11,526.76.

There were no unexpected expenditures during 2016/17. Clerk and Councillors' Training expenses were higher than the previous year, with a new Clerk and Councillor requiring training. A contribution was made towards Leek Wootton History Group's purchase of Sir Wathen Waller's Photograph Album, as well as the usual grants made to All Saints' Churchyard, Leek Wootton Link and Leek Wootton Sports Club. It also undertook to make up the balance of the Layby Improvement project.

During 2016/17 there were three projects at various stages of development, which raised an additional income of **£9,520**, which breaks down as follows:

- Neighbourhood Plan: A new grant of **£3,150** was awarded by the Community Development Foundation (GroundworkUK) and **£670** was reclaimed in VAT. As reported in my 2015/16 report, £4,061.15 of GroundworkUK grants was brought forward into 2016/17. Following an extension to the grant period, £1,760 of unspent grant money was returned to the awarding body. However, we were successful in being awarded a new grant (see above), of which £32.86 remained in the account to be repaid to the awarding body at the end of the grant period and this amount is carried forward to 2017/18.
- Layby Improvement: **£3,000** was awarded from Warwickshire County Council's Designated Transport Budget towards the improvement works to the layby, which was supplemented by donations totalling **£1,700**. The final cost of the project was £4,872.99 and the balance of £172.99 was paid by the Parish Council.
- Bin Replacement: A grant of **£1,000** was awarded by Warwick Rural West Community Forum toward the replacement of dog waste bins around Leek Wootton. Due to issues surrounding the style of the new bins requiring approval by Warwick District Council and Veolia (WDC's contractors), the ordering of the new bins has been delayed until 2017/18, so this amount is being carried forward.

The apparent overspend of £3,288.22 due to GroundworkUK was anticipated and grant money was held over from 2015/16 to meet this anticipated expense. The Parish Council's sole business income over expenditure (discounting all projects) was £200.07.

In August 2016 we were notified that Warwick District Council was reviewing its support to Parish and Town Councils and a consultation was carried out over the summer break. The proposal was approved by WDC and it will cut its Concurrent Services Grant by 50% for 2017/18 and remove it completely in 2018/19. The Concurrent Services Grant has traditionally covered the various costs for parish maintenance and removal of this grant would reduce the Parish Council's income significantly and mean that it could not maintain its current level of services. It was therefore decided that the Parish Council would increase the Precept by 33% to cover this loss, as mentioned in the Chairman's Report.

Warwickshire County Council: Leek Wootton Ward

Councillor Mrs Jose Compton

Warwickshire County Council, in common with most councils, find themselves in financial difficulties, especially with the budget for Adult Social Care. Hence the council tax for 2017/18 will incorporate 2% extra for this service plus 1.99% general increase. The Police Budget will not increase as improvements to the service will be taken from Reserves.

Notwithstanding this, WCC envisages employing an extra 40 Social Workers to cope with the assessment of the 750 looked after children. No reduction in the services for gritting routes, Fire & Rescue Service, Highway Budget, the Delegated Transport Budget for Councillors or Safer Routes to School.

Several Capital Schemes locally are proceeding – Kenilworth Railway Station and Stanks Island. Warwick Museum has re-opened after a refit funded by the Heritage Lottery along with WCC funding. £1 million will be used for LED lighting across the County. Broadband coverage will improve as we strive to reach the rural areas in 95% of the County. More funding has been announced for Rural Industries which includes farming. The programme for Extra Care Housing to enable people to live independently, but with help on hand will continue to strive to support our most vulnerable residents and people with Learning Difficulties.

We are working with the Health Service to address the issues raised under the Sustainability & Transformation Plans which are causing so much concern as the provision of specialist services and remodelling of other services has not as yet gone out for public consultation.

On the plus side, Warwickshire County Council has received an award for being in the top 100 in England for employing Apprentices. On the down side, we envisage losing a further 300 staff to cope with the Budget cuts from the Government of £67 million on top of the £95 million cut from the previous four years.

Warwick Rural West Community Forum has met three times during the past year and has allocated all its' grant funding to parish schemes. We are not sure about the format of the next Forum as with Boundary Changes to WCC funding rules may change. However as we look back, the Forum has provided a very useful way of Parishes coming together with members of the public to hear reports from the Police, Warwick District Council, Warwickshire County Council and the setting of Police priorities.

I have always attended Parish Council meetings during my time as your County Councillor and thank the Councillors and Clerks for their help and co-operation in dealing with parish concerns.

Warwick District Council: Arden Ward

Councillors Mrs Susan Gallagher and Mr Peter Whiting

Following the elections to the newly-formed Arden Ward in June 2015, we are now roughly half-way through our term - perhaps not surprisingly, therefore, much of our report concerns work in progress.

The Local Plan is almost certainly the most significant single item with which we have been grappling as a Council. Last year we reported the concerns of the Inspector primarily concerning the treatment of Coventry's unmet need in our initial submission. These led to a period of suspension, followed by a revised plan being submitted. Current indications are that the modifications that we have made have satisfied the vast majority of the Inspector's reservations, with any remaining changes capable of being handled through the final consultation process. We are therefore hopeful of having an approved Plan in place (with all the associated benefits, in terms of planning certainty and availability of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds) later this year.

The second ongoing challenge, of particular relevance to Peter given his Finance portfolio, is the management of the District's finances against a background of sharply reduced Government funding. Our Revenue Support Grant (the amount received from Central government) has fallen from c£4 million to less than £1 million over the past 5 years, and we expect it to be eliminated in the 2019/20 fiscal year. Despite this, we have maintained (and in many instances improved) the vast majority of the services that are provided by WDC. This is becoming ever more challenging, with any clear efficiency savings having long since been made.

One example of the type of approach that we are adopting is provided by our Leisure Services. Sue played a major role in instigating the proposed outsourcing of the management of our leisure facilities in Kenilworth, Leamington Spa and Warwick. While the contract has yet to be signed, early indications are good that the move will not only cover the interest cost of the ongoing significant investments (some £15 million) that we are making in improving our facilities, but also deliver more than the hoped-for level of savings to Council taxpayers.

The proposed relocation of the Council's offices from Riverside House to the Covent Garden site in Leamington is another example of a major investment designed to save money (at least £300,000 per annum) over the long term. Considerable amounts of preparation work have already been undertaken, with planning applications likely to be the next public step in this major development.

While many of the projects in which we are engaged have little direct impact on Arden Ward, the problem of fly tipping, recently the subject of much press comment, does sadly feature from time to time. A complex problem, Sue and I have seen it presented as a purely urban phenomenon, frequently arising from badly-managed student accommodation. We will ensure that WDC's proposals to tackle the issue address the rural, as well as the urban perspective.

Finally, despite the financial challenges faced by the Council, we are delighted to announce that the RUCIS (Rural and Urban Capital Improvement Scheme) grants will remain in place in the new fiscal year. Many of our parishes have benefited from this scheme, and we would continue to urge you to look for suitable beneficiaries.

As ever, thanks to all of our Parish Councils for their help and support - we both look forward to further progress in the coming year.

1st Leek Wootton (All Saints') Brownies

Dawn Johnson, Brown Owl

Over the year the Brownies have been swimming, cooking, walking, held a birthday party for the Queen's birthday and had a 'bring a friend' night. This was particularly successful as 15 girls joined us for the night and 7 joined the unit. It has been decided that we will do this on a regular basis.

Thanks to Hazel Turner doing her Staying Away badge, we are planning our first Pack Holiday. This will be from 9 to 11 June and we have been planning exciting things to do. All the Brownies will be attending, so this will be a great experience for all the girls.

Hazel is also attending the World Scout Moot 2017 in Iceland, which involves young people from Guiding and Scouting. We have been helping Hazel raise the funds necessary to go, with a sponsored silence. Our whole meeting was run in silence.

We also took part in Church Parades including St George's Day Parade, Mothering Sunday, Uniformed Parade, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Parade. We also had a stall at the Queen's 90th Birthday Fête.

Badges our Brownies have achieved over the year include, Geocaching, Queen's Birthday Party, Tesco Farm to Fork challenge, Circus Skills, Brownie Traditions, Artist and Australia badges.

We have lots more planned for the coming year.

All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton

Rev Jim Perryman, Priest-in-Charge

The full Annual Report as presented at the recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting is available for download from the church website www.leekwoottonchurch.co.uk

Below are some extracts from this report. Part 1 is from the PCC Secretary (Eileen Clayton) and Part 2 is from the Vicar (Jim Perryman)

In addition, we can report that, at the Vestry Meeting and APCM held on Sunday 30 April, the following appointments were made:

Churchwardens: Jonathan Kingston and Nigel Stallard

Deanery Synod Representatives: Nicola Perryman, Audrey Rowberry and Mark Sayers

Parochial Church Council (PCC) members: Jonathan Cox, Michael Cox, Victoria Lowe – these three joining the Vicar, the ex-officio members (Churchwardens and Deanery Synod Reps as above) and the continuing members: David Allison, Deborah Chapman, Ivan Chapman, Eileen Clayton, Nigel Hill and Rognvald Linklater.

PART 1: PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The decision to open the church on a daily basis has proved extremely successful with many complimentary comments in the visitor's book, further endeavours are being planned to enhance visitor's experiences of our beautiful church, which, together with planned social events will enable us to welcome all.

Safeguarding procedures and training have been finalised. Work parties to keep the churchyard neat and tidy are being arranged, more volunteers are always welcome.

Lesley Eldridge has retired as the Treasurer to the PCC after 10 years and can now have a well-earned rest from this post. Financial matters are in the capable hands of Mark Sayers. We thank Lesley for all her work on behalf of All Saints'.

Events during the year included monthly church teas, with the Teddy Bear's parachuting from the bell tower proving a great success. The 2016 annual church fête was combined with a parish fête on the Recreation Ground, to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, and proved so successful it will be happening again this year. Included in the Queen's birthday celebration was a display in church of the life of the parish over the past 90 years, and we are grateful to everybody who contributed to this interesting presentation. We thank

everyone for their input, providing cakes and other help at all these functions. New ideas on an interesting social calendar for all age groups, is always a problem and suggestions would be gratefully received.

PART 2: VICAR'S REPORT

The last twelve months have seen our "Eight Essential Qualities" focus switch to the quality of Passionate Spirituality. We adopted three 'action points': one focussed on the Bible, two on prayer – personal and in community. Throughout September, our service themes were ways of understanding the value of the Bible – as treasure, food, life and light. As part of this, we had a Bible-themed exhibition in the church through September and October, encouraging congregation and the wider community to interact with the scriptures. Action two began on Advent Sunday, when we introduced the first of our "Fellowship Prayers" sessions which now take place on five '4th Sunday' mornings through the year, from 8:30 to 9:15 (January, March, June, September and November). Though these have not yet been well attended, they have introduced the concept of corporate prayer for the life of the fellowship. We hope that more people will join in these sessions as they begin to embed into our programme. The third action was holding an Away Day on the theme of prayer, which was held at Berkswell Church in March 2017. Bishop John (Bishop of Warwick) guided our thoughts in the morning, and there was a varied choice of prayer and fellowship related activities available in the afternoon. This was a very powerful and moving day, appreciated by all who attended, both adults and children.

Also in March 2017, and returning to our focus on the Bible, we had a very special event one afternoon where around 20 people took part in the dramatic reading of the whole of the Gospel according to Mark. This took approximately 2 hours to complete, but all involved and others who attended found it a very interesting and moving event as we got a much bigger picture of the life of Jesus and his disciples, putting familiar stories into their Gospel context and introducing us to the less well known sections which rarely, if ever, are read in services. We plan to hold our next NCD Survey in the autumn.

During the year, five young children were baptised at All Saints, and four of our members were confirmed at Coventry Cathedral. There was just one marriage. Four funerals took place in church, including those of our dear friends Peter Robins and John Sykes, and three at the crematorium.

As was previewed in last year's report, I was away on sabbatical for three months, from late-May to late-August. Thanks to the excellent support of local parishes and retired clergy, and the great work within the fellowship of Audrey Rowberry, the churchwardens and others, as well as my wife Nicola, my absence hardly seems to have been noticed. It was, however, a very refreshing time for me, both spiritually and physically, which I hope has been of benefit to the parish since my return.

I am also very grateful to those who have served on the PCC this year, who have shown great dedication in faithful attendance at meetings, coupled with a willingness to get involved in a variety of teams to facilitate plans for events that are planned for the coming year. Thanks also to those on the Ministry Support Team who were very involved in the planning and facilitating of the Parish Away Day.

In addition to my part-time parish duties (40% stipend), I continue to serve as a member of the Diocesan Synod and as vice-chair of Churches Together in Kenilworth & District. I also work part-time as Seasonal Mission Manager for the Intercontinental Church Society, based in Coventry and am grateful for the understanding shown where my responsibilities for guiding mission in other parts of Europe may lead to my absence from the parish for short periods.

All Saints' Church of England (VA) Primary School

No report received

All Saints' Mothers' Union

Janet Jackson, Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, at a recent Commissioning Service in Lambeth Palace, reaffirmed the MU Worldwide President and Trustees. During the service he said that, "he praises God for the Mothers' Union" and that it is an extraordinary movement to support the family.

Reflecting on UN research he said the MU holds in its hands two aspects of "the most extraordinary treasure that God has brought together." "You are one of the greatest of women's groups in the world, and you have the treasure of the gospel of reconciliation. What more could be needed to be transforming of the world in which we live?" "So, nine-tenths of your work is hidden in the parishes and the dioceses, in the hills and the villages – doing the work of bringing hope and strengthening families, of supporting churches, of transforming communities."

We are pleased to have a branch in our village and in 2015 we:

- Specially prayed for families, relationships, our church and school and needs shown in our 'families worldwide' prayer diary and provided prayers for the Link magazine.
- Expressed our faith through commitment to church activities and events, Stay & Play at the village hall for families, school events, distributing 'families first magazine' and donating items to the 'Coffee Tots' Drop in Centre in Coventry and Women's Refuges in nearby towns. We raised £700 for 'Away From It All holidays' organised by MU for needy families in Coventry and Warwickshire, through donations, Jan's Open Studio Event, garden parties and handmade Christmas decorations.
- Talks included: 'The story of our new Banner', 'Working in South Sudan', 'Bible distribution through Gideons International' and 'My Continuing Ministry' by Mary Lodge who did some training at All Saints'.

ALL ARE INVITED to take part in any MU activities. If you would like to find out more about MU in Leek Wootton or to become a member do contact Lyndsay 07983 865754 or Janet 258264 or find out about Mothers' Union in our area and around the world by visiting www.mothersunioncoventry.org.uk and www.mothersunion.org

Cancer Research UK, Leek Wootton Committee

Shirley Calvert, Secretary

We have had another successful year of fundraising from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. During this period we raised **£6,340.26**, which has been sent to Cancer Research UK.

The year began in June with the Church/Village Fête to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, when we ran a book stall, a children's bran tub and a name the doll competition.

This was followed by our Summer Supper in July, when we returned to having a Hog Roast as we had not done this for a while and which was most enjoyable.

In November we held a Wine and Cheese tasting evening, something we had not tried before and thankfully it proved a great success. Chris Wildt guided us all through the tasting of a selection of wines, whilst we nibbled on a variety of cheeses with French bread and homemade fruit cake.

In February we held our annual Skittles Challenge, with a fish and chip supper during the interval. The teams soon got into a competitive spirit and we all had a fun evening.

At the beginning of March our year ended with the ever popular Jean and Jim's Big Breakfast, which this year broke our previous record. More people came than ever before and without the help of many friends, our Committee would not have been able to cope. Preparing the breakfasts began at 7:00am, with the ladies in the kitchen working flat out with the cooking and plating up until about 1:45pm, when the number of customers had dwindled, with the last breakfast being served just before 2:00pm. There was an army of volunteers who took turns to keep up with the constant battle of washing up, which at one stage was endless. Other friends served tea and coffee and cleared tables, not forgetting the ladies who battled to keep up with the constant demands of more toast! However, as the Committee has become experienced over the years in holding the breakfast and together with the extra help, it all ran like clockwork. Our thanks must go to Jean and Jim for their generosity in providing all the food, plus the large number of people who

came along for breakfast, which we think was around 250, it enabled us to raise the wonderful sum of £2,600.

We have a fantastic group of loyal supporters from the village and surrounding areas who continue to attend our functions. Without them we would not be able to raise this money for research into the treatment of cancer, and I cannot stress how grateful we are to everyone.

Green Leek 10K Run

No report received

Guy's Cliffe Tours/Events

No report received

Leek Wootton Centenary Scout Group

No report received

Leek Wootton & District Horticultural Society

Brian Melling, Chairman

Our programme of events again proved popular with yet another successful year and the splendid support from the local community continues.

The Annual Outing, on 5 June to Hampton Court Castle and Stockton Bury Gardens, organized as usual by Tom and Margaret Powell, encouraged another full coach of keen participants. We were even treated to a trip through the Herefordshire and Worcestershire countryside.

I found it necessary to express my thanks to the whole committee, and to the indefatigable helpers, for their excellent teamwork in ensuring the Annual Show on 20 August went ahead in difficult conditions. The Show got off to a slow start in the morning but picked up in the afternoon. The Bouncy Castle had to be cancelled due to the strong winds but again help was on hand to organize games for the children. The Banksian medal and the Jim Perkins Salver, along with a number of other awards went to Tony Price. Income was up from 2015 with all the stalls providing good contributions, enhancing an already strong financial position. Strong support continues from local businesses in the form of prizes for the raffle and we are grateful for that support.

Although we scaled down the content, to reduce waste, the Christmas buffet which took place on 10 December in the Village Hall was again successful and confirms its place in our calendar of events.

In financial terms our strong position provides opportunities to provide support to our community, including a contribution to the refurbishment of the area at the bottom of the village hall drive.

So, looking forward with notes for the 2017 diary:

The Outing this year will be at on Sunday, 4 June taking in Ashwood Nurseries nr Kidderminster. The outing is again being organized by our resident travel agents Tom and Margaret Powell, but for the final time, with Steph and Rob Jones taking on the mantle for future years. Secretary Mary Murdoch is managing the bookings.

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday, 19 August. There will as usual be entertainment for the children and 'young at heart'. Photographic categories will be 'The Sky' and 'My Favourite Flower'. Angela Guest will be orchestrating the event, as she has successfully achieved over many years.

I must congratulate Steph and Rob Jones for their research and subsequently setting up the Society website. This has been very successful with people as far away as the USA having a peak at its content. The web site can be accessed at www.leekwoottonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk. You can also contact the Society via lwhsociety@gmail.com. It is worth having a look at all the information, including photographs that make up the content.

My thanks to all who have supported the Society over the past 12 months especially the members of the

Committee who have given unstinting support. Special thanks are due to our Secretary Mary Murdoch for her boundless energy, Christine Hurcomb as Treasurer, Angela Guest as reported above, Tom and Margaret as our very able tour guides and to Steph Jones who has been responsible for the website and assisted with meeting minute taking and production.

It is sad, but inevitable, that committee members reach the point where they feel it necessary to retire from their roles. Audrey Jones has stepped down from the Committee, after more years than I am sure she would wish me to reveal. As previously mentioned Margaret and Tom Powell will be retiring from their roles organizing the annual outing, and Tom Powell has stepped aside as Vice Chairman but will remain on Committee. My special thanks go to them for their many years of unstinting support. Jim Barr was elected to the role of Vice Chairman. Jan Legg and Geoff Smith were elected to The Committee.

Our constitution provides for a committee of 16 members, including the Officers, and we are currently at 14 members. Anyone interested in joining our Committee should contact Mary Murdoch or me and we will be pleased to talk them.

Leek Wootton History Group

Lesley Eldridge, Secretary/Treasurer

The History Group continues to work with the Friends of the Ack-Ack Battery at Goodrest (FAAB@GRF) and supported an Open Gate at the site in November, just before Remembrance Sunday. Enquiries have been made via WCC Archaeological Information and Advice to try and establish whether the site at Goodrest can be 'scheduled' to protect it into the future, when perhaps ownership will change.

The Battery is listed on the Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Records, numbers MWA8292 and MWA8293 and the artefacts and paperwork related to the research undertaken by local historian, Cyril Hobbins have now been lodged with the History Group, in joint care with the Parish Council.

As a part of raising the profile of the site, the Chairman and Cyril Hobbins gave a talk to the Kenilworth Conservative Supper Club.

The History Group also had a presence at the fête held to celebrate the 90th birthday of HM Queen.

The Waller photograph album was purchased (2016 report) and professionally photographed by Sally Evans Photography before being accessioned to Warwickshire County Record Office. A facsimile of the album has now been ordered so that anyone who may wish to see the photographs of some members of the family, the house and grounds of Woodcote as they were in the mid-1890s can do so.

In March 2017, the Group organised a coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum and, whilst the weather was not as kind as it might have been, after a guided introduction to the site from the land train, those who wished to were able to explore the site with audio guides, whilst those who were less able visited the exhibitions and the Chapel of Remembrance.

The History Group continues to receive and respond to family history and local history enquiries and has achieved contact this year with either descendants of, or those studying, the Riley family (Vicar 1905-26); the Burbury family (Wootton Grange) and the Cattell family (Elms Farm) with a touch of Wise and Waller!

Leek Wootton Sports Club

Paul Baigent, Secretary

SPORTS CLUBS

All of our sports Clubs have had a degree of success over the past year, continue to grow and are in a healthy state. The Cricket Club had a very successful season which resulted in the 1st XI winning Div 1 and gaining promotion to the Premier Division of the Cotswold League; the highest level in the club's history and their second successive promotion. The 2nd XI gained promotion to Div 5 and the Sunday XIs also had a good season of friendly fixtures. For the first time ever, last year saw the creation of a new youth section, where a number of Junior teams took part in local matches.

The Football Club continues to grow and this season has 14 teams, playing across all age groups, with some having a successful season. The playing highlight for the Club was the Under 17s, who became the

first team in the Club's history to win the Coventry League. The younger age groups are doing very well with cup success, particularly at under 9s and 10s level. For the first time the Club entered a team into the Midland Junior Premier League this season and so far, we have hosted some prestigious clubs, including Aston Villa and Leicester City.

Pool has done well this year with one of our teams currently challenging for a league and cup double and Crib and Dominoes have also had a successful year. Finally, on the sporting front the Club has held two successful golf days at the Stoneleigh Golf Club and entered the Warwick Dragon Boat race for the second year, gaining a creditable 6th place finish.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Committee has continued to introduce some new social events at the Club, as well as some of the old favourites. The highlight of the year was the second Christmas Casino Night, but other activities were also well attended including the Halloween Party, which this year was extended for an adult evening party. Other activities over the past year included the regular quizzes, BBQ's and a Race Night, amongst others. We also held regular bingo sessions.

These events all had a positive impact on the bar takings. However, on non-event days, bar takings remained low and consequently the Committee undertook a review of takings against each opening hour. Regrettably, this has resulted in changes to the opening hours to try to maximise takings and minimise costs.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership for the past year was slightly up at 680 and the Committee has continued to try and increase membership via various promotional means.

Sadly, over the last year, two of our Life Members (Tony Farndon and R Grout) passed away. The Club currently has 26 Life Members and 14 Vice-Presidents.

BUILDINGS & EQUIPMENT

One of the targets for the last year was to increase investment in our buildings, fittings and equipment. Sizeable funds were spent on the tractor and mowing equipment, a new pool table and a refurbishment of the changing rooms. We also purchased a new cooker and have spent various sums on infrastructure maintenance. The Cricket & Football Clubs have made significant contributions to these investment projects and, in addition, the Football Club has invested over £3,000 in new goal posts and £800 on grounds maintenance. Likewise, the Cricket Club has invested £1,400 in new nets. All of this investment adds to the sporting infrastructure of the Club.

Further investment will be required in the coming year, including replacement of the heaters and significant expenditure on the electrics, to bring the building in line with current safety standards.

The Club has launched a campaign to purchase a defibrillator for the village. This will cost more than £2,000, but we believe the whole community will benefit from this piece of life-saving equipment. Funds have, so far, just about reached half way, but we are looking forward to further fundraising activities and, hopefully, donations.

CLUB FINANCES

The Club's finances remain a concern, although a series of cost-cutting exercises have taken place over the past year, which should reap dividends during the coming year. However, we did make an operating loss of just over £6,000, partly because of declining sales on non-event days at the Club and partly as a result of the increased maintenance costs incurred. We have increased membership fees for the second year running and continue to try and promote the Club and its benefits, both within the village and its surrounding areas.

Leek Wootton Village Hall Ltd

No report received

Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground

No report received

Leek Wootton Women's Institute

Tricia Reeve, President

As the Warwickshire Federation celebrates its centenary in 2018, Leek Wootton WI was been invited to write a report reflecting on the WI within its community. So we thought part of this contribution should be used for the Annual Parish Assembly.

In 1978 the WI was placed at the heart of the community when members created a garden on a plot of waste ground, opposite the Anchor Inn. Sadly the membership slowly fell and by 1993 Leek Wootton WI officially closed.

However, we are happy the report that the WI was reborn in 2001 and continues to thrive with over 50 members. We meet in the Village Hall on the third Tuesday of each month and many visitors admire its facilities and setting. A far cry from the WI hut of the 1920s. Each summer the Fête is held on the Recreation Ground and the WI are in charge of refreshments – an opportunity to prove that we can bake!

The WI garden is still maintained by a band of dedicated members. It is a sight to behold with shrubs and flowers. Walkers and cyclists can take a pause on the bench and watch the world pass by. In 2012 all members helped to create a bowl that takes pride of place at the centre of a floral display. It is hoped that the garden will still be evident in ten years so it can celebrate half a century.

We feel fortunate to be part of such a friendly community. When we were unable to use the Village Hall for our meetings, on two occasions, both the School and the Church have been happy to help. The only venue as yet to be used is the pub! A WI team takes part in the village quiz held each year in the Sports Club. We are pleased to report that we have won the shield twice.

We hope we have raised the profile of the WI as a positive part of the local community.

Macmillan Cancer Support, Leek Wootton

No report received

Neighbourhood Watch

No report received

NSPCC, Leek Wootton

No report received

Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Warwick Rural West

No report received

Summer Fête Committee

No report received
