



The Civil Parish of

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2019

Tuesday, 4 May 2021 at 7:00pm

Leek Wootton Village Hall

Reports 2020/21

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Chairman's Report 2020/21

Councillor Richard Coates

I never dreamt that I would be remotely reading out a second Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Assembly. I can remember last year's one at the start of the pandemic being quite matter of fact in that we would hopefully be out of it by the autumn... some hope that!

This past year has been a strange, weird time that's thrown all the ordinary norms of life out of the window and brought in a new pattern of masks, social distancing and remote meetings. But at last, we are beginning to see real hope ahead and that is thanks to the resilience and relentless stoicism of the majority of Britain's population coupled with the desire to do what's right for both self and community.

With this year's report I could just have said – 'Lockdown – nothing much happened – move on!' But that would be entirely wrong. If the pandemic did anything positive it was surely to witness the coming together of our community as a whole and I cannot thank you all enough for what you have done over the past year. To start with the idea of voluntary street champions was quickly embraced and any number of WhatsApp and informal email and phone contact groups were set up providing much needed information and support. Invaluable help and acts of kindness were given to our vulnerable residents with food and pharmacy pickups alongside gardening and maintenance tasks. Many more of us discovered the joys of online supermarket deliveries and we supported local businesses like Farmers Fayre in Stoneleigh, Chase Lane and Joe Richards in Kenilworth and our own Sean's takeaways at The Anchor.

With all gyms and organised sports closed for much of the past year we have all found the joys of walking and cycling to be the next best thing and the back lanes from Hill Wootton to Beausale and Honiley have never seen such activity. Walkers have roamed byways they never knew existed and farmers generally turned a blind eye to the ever-widening footpaths across their land. I want to thank The Warwickshire Golf & Country Club, which allowed so many to exercise on their fairways and I note that 'wild swimming' in the Avon near The Saxon Mill provided a bracing experience for many enthusiasts a lot harder than me!

Our organised communal events were obviously curtailed but that didn't stop informal get togethers. VE day at home day in our front gardens and on driveways was a huge success as was the impressive turnout in clapping for the NHS on Thursday evenings. Vicar Jim's remote services provided a strong message of faith and hope for all in these troubled times and residents lining our streets to pay their respects to a loved one's funeral showed the depth of our feeling and friendship. On a forward-looking note, it's the platinum anniversary of the Queen's reign next year and together with the rest of the country we will be organising a whole community event over that weekend 3rd, 4th and 5th June to make up for all we have had to cancel this year so please keep an eye open for details.

The Parish Council continued its work throughout the past year and were able to hold meetings remotely just as we are this evening. We mourned the deaths of our past Chairman Colin Smith and long-term councillor Alan Moore but welcomed two new Councillors Stephanie Allison and David Elsy who were co-opted to the team. The election process provided a fine selection of candidates and my thanks to all of them who showed a real interest in the Parish Council and what it does. In November 2020 Councillor interests were reviewed and sub groups established and it's hoped that some of these groups will encourage ordinary residents to join in with their contributions. The Environment sub group is already underway with events planned for 2021. The Playground remained closed for lockdown 1 but re-opened for lockdown 2 with COVID-safe rules in place. Following a user survey, a new trampoline was installed which has proved extremely popular and a new cradle seat has been attached to the infant swings. The Council has also made repairs to the bus shelter roof, erected new Parish Council noticeboards and together with the Trustees of the Recreation Ground, removed a number of dangerous trees overhanging the road below the Memorial Stone. After further flooding episodes we successfully engaged Severn Trent Water to survey and jet all their foul and fresh water sewers in Leek Wootton resulting in a much-improved situation. Highway and signage issues were generally quickly addressed and the Council hopes its mutually beneficial relationship with County Highways will continue. I have to commend the District Council too for its quick and efficient reaction in clearing up the mess left by fly-tippers.

As far as ongoing projects are concerned

- We now know there is a preferred bidder in place to develop housing in parts of Police Headquarters. The Police and the Planning Department at Warwick District Council are aware that there has to be

an agreed Masterplan in place for the whole site before any work can begin. We anticipate the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner will be pushing this forward.

- The Recreation Ground car park project is also once again moving forward with Warwick District Council's capital grant RUCIS fund up and running again. The Council will be applying for the maximum £30,000 of matched-funding in due course.
- A Community Speed Watch Group which is resident-run, has been set up and should shortly be back in training with the police to try and reduce traffic speeds on our roads.
- The Council has resolved to engage the Community Payback Team to tackle the overgrown hedge alongside the school boundary. This is one of a number of sites in our area where no-one is claiming responsibility for maintenance.
- Our own LW&GC Community Grant Fund failed to attract any bidders last year. We are not sure if this was out of disinterest or simply not knowing it was there? We will try and publicise it better this year.

Finally, I wish to pass on my sincere thanks to the dedicated group of people who form our Parish Council. As Chairman I have enjoyed being both supported and led by these enthusiastic volunteers who have the interests and wellbeing of the community close to their hearts. I include in this gratitude our District and County Councillors who have shown by their timely actions, advice and support that Leek Wootton and Guy's Cliffe is important to them too. Last but not least singular praise must be directed to our Clerk, Helen Eldridge, who has been the rock around which so many extraordinary things have swirled this past year. When the pandemic lockdown struck she truly showed her mettle, quickly developing the idea of Street Champions and establishing lines of communication for residents. She was at the centre of our community-wide COVID planning, providing important information for residents whilst seamlessly managing to move us onto remote meetings to boot. All this on top of her usual Parish Council duties - astonishing - and I can't thank her enough.

So onwards and upwards as my wife likes to say and I sincerely thank you the residents of our parish who have put your trust in us. Here's hoping for a brighter future in every way as we emerge from this trouble and I can assure you we will continue to serve you in the best way we can.

Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Helen Eldridge, Responsible Financial Officer

The Parish Council's gross income in 2020/21 was £21,863 and expenditure was £22,106.

The Precept income, which is the core income of the Parish Council, was £18,331.

The Financial Year 2020/21 was dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic and planned expenditure was disrupted.

The COVID-19 response within the community was excellent, with volunteers taking on Street Champion roles, and coordination being organised via email, WhatsApp and a central team advertising telephone numbers in noticeboards and the *Leek Wootton Link*. There was little expenditure to facilitate these activities and we were able to respond and 'signpost' people to the help that they required. Thank you to all the volunteers and organisations that have assisted these efforts.

The Annual Parish Assembly and VE Day 75 celebrations were both cancelled.

The Council's major project, in its preparatory stages, was the Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground Car Park, which is in need of significant improvement. Planning permission was in place, but only a single funding source was available for car park projects, Warwick District Council's Rural & Urban Capital Improvements Scheme [RUCIS]. However, grants from this scheme are conditional on match-funding by the applicant, so the Council had agreed to apply for a Public Works Loans Board loan for the balance. This was to be repaid over future years and the Precept was increased sufficiently to facilitate repayments. The application was planned for 2020, but RUCIS was withdrawn in Spring 2020, with monies being redirected for vital COVID-19 response. The Council therefore postponed its plans to apply for the loan and the portion of the precept designated for repayments, £1,900, was ring-fenced, pending recommencement of the project.

A new company took on the grounds maintenance contract in March 2020, which has increased the expenditure in this area, but the contract includes several communal areas outside of the children's playground and the Council is pleased with the service that has been provided throughout the year.

In addition to regular general maintenance, the Council agreed to support the Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground and Leek Wootton Village Hall to have vital tree works carried out to the area above the

northbound bus stop and on the embankment to Warwick Road. After a number of years of little maintenance to these areas there were dead trees and large self-seeded trees causing concern for public safety. The Council paid £1,000 towards the costs and received donations of £1,360 in addition, from the other respective organisations.

The Council has in place a Community Grant Fund for organisations to apply to for small grants. It is in contact with a number of organisations about possible future applications, but none were made during 2020/21, due to most organisations being dormant or near-dormant for much of the year. As usual, a grant was made to the *Leek Wootton Link*, which the Council supports to ensure it is delivered to every household in the parish to regularly share PC information.

In the Financial Report of 2019/20 the Council reported an underspend of £2,702. This was combined with 2020/21 funding allocated to Assets and underspends on Events and Grants to invest in a new piece of play equipment for the children's playground. Following an online survey of users, it was decided to install an in-ground trampoline, which can be used by all ages and even wheelchair users and which is proving a popular new addition.

On 1 April 2020 there was one active project fund:

LW&GC Parish Summer Fête:

The Parish Summer Fête 2020 was due to take place on 8 May as a VE75 celebration. This was cancelled, although many parts of the community came together to hold Stay at Home Street Parties. The Council supported these events, along with the Summer Fête Committee, with a community art competition and prizes at a cost of £46. Donations received totalled £41. The balance of the Fête Fund brought forward from 2019/20 was £25 and on 31 March 2021 the balance of the fund was £20.

The only other income to the Council was the recovery of VAT, to which the Council is entitled.

In conclusion the Parish Council's expenditure over income for 2020/21 stands at £243 and along with the Council's reserve funds, the balance at 31 March 2021 was £7,799.

Warwickshire County Council: Cubbington & Leek Wootton Division

Councillor Wallace Redford

County Council elections are due to take place on Thursday, 6 May 2021.

Warwick District Council: Cubbington & Leek Wootton Ward

District Councillors Pamela Redford and Trevor Wright

Once again presenting a report for WDC this year is of course overshadowed by COVID-19. During this unprecedented time WDC has continued to work alongside WCC in the response to the virus, some food deliveries continued for some but are now thankfully very much reduced. Medication to those shielding has reduced and will be discontinued very soon. WDC continues to oversee the distribution of Government Grants to local businesses and offering support is still ongoing.

Hundreds of volunteers have come forward during the past months to give their help wherever needed and particularly since the development of the vaccine, there may be some of you at this meeting who are indeed one of this number of volunteers, to those I would say on behalf of WDC and your fellow residents, a most sincere thank you. The vaccine rollout has thankfully gone extremely well and in Warwick District area we have a number of vaccination centres that have worked tirelessly over the last months to ensure a successful rollout locally.

Within WDC area over £24 million of Business Grant Support have been processed and allocated to local businesses. In addition to this £2.5 million of Discretionary grants were also made to businesses suffering hardship during the crisis.

The Community Economic Recovery Fund (CERF) was also launched, this gives Community Organisations grants of up to £3000 to organisations who are continuing to support the WDC Community through challenging times

The estimated total of grants to businesses in our area amounts to over £1.5million

In the past 12 months we have worked hard for our communities across the board to improve facilities within our communities and by taking advantage of local grants from HS2.

The Community Forum has been suspended over the COVID period, but it my sincere hope that we can continue toward the summer months. This is a useful mechanism for local communities and prior to COVID grants were awarded for induction loops AV equipment furniture for village halls to name but a few.

Despite COVID WDC has remained focused on reducing the level of homelessness on our streets both before and during the Pandemic lockdowns. We have increased the number of night beds available in the area for rough sleepers and introduced new policies to help and support this ongoing issue.

WDC has an objective to both increase and improve the levels of social housing. WDC continues to increase and improve their housing stock with the purchase of land in Cubbington to build WDC housing

As you can imagine staff and Councillors have been heavily involved with everything around the pandemic issue for the last year. However, notwithstanding this we are still committed to moving on with some of our Green Policies. Whilst the planting of 160,000 trees has necessarily slowed down due to lockdowns and social distancing, WDC remain committed to their target of planting the 160,000 trees in the WDC area

Revise building standards to incorporate Green Technologies

Revision to recycling opportunities through waste, including the use of Biomass facilities.

Encourage the improvement of cycle lanes.

Reduce vehicle emissions in "Hot Spots" around Warwick and Leamington.

Facilitating decarbonisation within Warwick District by local businesses, and residents so that carbon emissions within WDC area are as close to zero as possible by 2030.

The Local People's Forum set up by WDC has provided both ideas and information on key areas WDC should focus on in the next 5 years, plus climate-based activities

WDC have recently secure a high street development grant of over 2.5million from government which will help our local businesses recover.

As we hopefully move on to a more normal lifestyle, the easing of lockdown and better weather, WDC has experienced a serious increase in amounts of litter on our streets, in our parks and open spaces. Please be assured that we are doing as much as we can to keep the district clean and tidy and are constantly looking

at new and different ways of managing the issues being faced. Whilst the strategy is being formulated, we are continuing with our "Don't be a Tosser campaign", including a mini rebrand of the posters and social media messages.

You can be assured as your District Councillors we will continue to work on your behalf.

2020 has been a very difficult year for everyone and like all of us we have had to review and adjust the way we work and interact with all of the organisations we need to, the Council officers, our constituents and the Parish Councils as almost all of our meetings have had to be virtual.

The pandemic and lock down have increased our involvement in many areas and we have some of the most significant major developments in the area we represent.

We have also seen our work load and case activities increase substantially during the lock down in the following areas.

- Planning
- Waste Management
- Grant Support
- COVID testing/planning and support
- General issues around HS2, New Build developments, A45/A46 plans, Coventry Gateway and the recently proposed Gigafactory at Coventry Airport.

As many of you know we have 5 Parish Councils which meet on average every 6 weeks.

In addition to this we both serve on 3 Committees each and as with PC meetings they meet every 6 weeks.

On Average we spend 25 hours a week of District Council Activities for our Constituents.

Hs2 Activity

As you know Hs2 has increased its activity in the area as the programme gathers more pace, in the past year we have continued to work with all of the local organisations involved including Jeremy Wright MP and the Hs2 Commissioner to minimise the impact in our area and where possible secure funding for specific areas affected by the disruption.

This has been both challenging and painful and we expect this to continue, however we can positively report that we have secured significant grants for various community improvements including new playground equipment.

Coventry Gateway South

Like Hs2 the activity has increased in the past year and whilst there have been issues, we have continued to work and liaise between the community and contractors to minimise any issues raised.

Kings Hill Development

There have been ongoing concerns about the ONS population numbers which drive the housing requirement for the area along with that of the published traffic data. Both Cllr Pam Redford and Cllr Trevor Wright have continued to challenge the plans for the number of houses identified in the local plan and working with others including Jeremy Wright MP to have these numbers reviewed. It has been acknowledged by the ONS that the data provided may not be robust as a consequence they are now under review.

Gigafactory (at Coventry Airport)

Cllr Pam Redford and Cllr Trevor Wright have been very active since this project broke and will continue to work with all the developers and the local community to minimise any local impact

We are also opposing any move to remove Coventry Airport from the Green Belt.

Council Activities

Within the council we have continued to ensure that the rural areas have not been ignored and left behind, we know there has been frustrations with certain services and we have worked on individual cases to resolve these issues many of which were as a result of lock down and necessary working restrictions.

We have worked and campaigned hard in terms of controlling any council tax increases and the introduction of any unfair policies that may be discriminatory to our rural community.

In 2020 The Climate Emergency Policy was adopted which has resulted in the development of a number of policies and activities part of which was provided via a "Peoples Forum" more details are available at:

https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20468/sustainability_and_climate_change



















You may also be aware that there is ongoing work with Stratford Town Council focusing on looking at any clear benefits in terms of shared services etc to maintain quality whilst controlling costs for the residents of the WDC Area.

Grant and support have been a major and key element this year and at WDC we took the view to encourage people to apply for all of the grants becoming available, this included setting up a team to contact local businesses in order to help them apply for anything they were eligible for rather than just waiting for them to apply.

We have recently secured a high street development grant of over £2.5M from the government which will help our local businesses recovery.

More information on WDC activities in the past year is below.

Finally, it's been a tough year for everyone and hopefully we are through the worst, Cllr Pam Redford & Cllr Trevor Wright have continued to support the residents often in very difficult and frustrating times, we know the next year will be just a challenging particularly in terms of finance and major developments locally and you can be assured our activities will continue to remain focused on getting the best outcomes for our residents.

<h3>Shielding Hub</h3>			<h3>Finance & Customer Services</h3>		
<p>HUBS OPERATED FOR 15 WEEKS</p> 	<p>2204 FOOD BOXES DELIVERED</p> 	<p>3377 PRESCRIPTIONS AND DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS</p> 	<p>OVER £48m IN GRANTS PAID OUT TO BUSINESSES</p> 	<p>£832k PAID TO COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION CLAIMANTS TO PROVIDE FURTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT</p> 	
<p>2040 RECEIVED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT</p> 	<p>1,000s OF CALLS MADE TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE BY STAFF ACROSS CUSTOMER SERVICES, HCP AND OTHER AREAS</p> 		<p>£110,500 PAID IN TEST & TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENTS</p> 		
<h3>Culture</h3>			<h3>Health & Community Protection</h3>		
<p>7 TENNIS COURTS RESURFACED IN LEAMINGTON</p> 	<p>550 ATTENDEES AT SPARK: IGNITE 2021</p> 	<p>192,152 ATTENDED LEISURE CENTRES SAFELY BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND LOCKDOWN</p> 	<p>1316 BUSINESSES SUPPORTED WITH CORONAVIRUS SAFETY ADVICE</p> 	<p>£6.2m PAID TO COMMUNITY GROUPS UNDER THE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND (CERF)</p> 	
<p>WE MADE THE TOWN HALL AVAILABLE FOR THE POST OFFICE - AN IMPORTANT PROVISION FOR THE TOWN</p> 		<p>INTRODUCED A NEW APP TO HELP RESIDENTS MONITOR NOISE NUISANCE COMPLAINTS</p> 	<p>338 338 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND INVESTIGATED REGARDING NON-COMPLIANT BUSINESSES & LACK OF SOCIAL DISTANCING</p> 		

Neighbourhood

<p>OVER 50 ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS INSTALLED IN CAR PARKS ACROSS THE DISTRICT</p> 	<p>WORKED WITH HCP TO PROVIDE A TESTING CENTRE ON COURT STREET IN LEAMINGTON SPA</p> 	
<p>6,000 VIEWS OF OUR "DON'T BE A TOSSER" ANTI-LITTER VISUAL POEM</p> 	<p>WORK CONTINUES ON PROCURING A JOINT WASTE CONTRACT WITH SDC</p> 	

Development

<p>SAFE RETURN OF WARWICK DISTRICT MARKETS</p> 	<p>WELCOME BACK TO THE TOWN CENTRES – BUSINESS SUPPORT AND PUBLIC ENCOURAGEMENT, WORKING CLOSELY WITH HEALTH & COMMUNITY PROTECTION</p> 	<p>82 USERS OF THE BETTERPOINTS CHOOSE HOW YOU MOVE APP, CLOCKING UP 3,256 miles OF SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL SO FAR</p>
<p>DEVELOPING SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN WITH STRATFORD DC</p> 	<p>£10M FUNDING SECURED FROM THE FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND FOR LEAMINGTON TOWN CENTRE</p> 	

People & Communications

<p>58 NUMBER OF STAFF JOINED US VIRTUALLY SINCE LOCKDOWN BEGAN</p> 	<p>6 NEW APPRENTICESHIPS</p> 	<p>GREW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAIL MARKETING AUDIENCE BY OVER 5,300 PEOPLE</p> 
<p>82 REMOTE VIRTUAL TRAINING COURSES ATTENDED BY 992 PEOPLE</p> 	<p>52 WEEKLY UPDATES TO OVER 300 PARTNERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND COUNCILS</p> 	<p>NEW PAYROLL AND ANNUAL LEAVE SYSTEM INTRODUCED</p> 

Assets

<p>DELIVERED PLANNED PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE (PPM) PROGRAMME TO OUR CORPORATE BUILDINGS</p> 	<p>IMPROVEMENTS TO VICTORIA PARK AHEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES</p> 	<p>£744k GRANT TO RETROFIT COUNCIL BUILDINGS TO REDUCE CARBON</p> 
<p>VITAL SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY FROM OUR BEREAVEMENT SERVICES TEAM AT OAKLEY WOOD</p> 		

Housing

<p>150 HOMELESS PEOPLE REHOUSED IN SOCIAL, PRIVATE AND SUPPORTED HOUSING</p> 	<p>3620 LIFELINE CUSTOMERS SUPPORTED</p> 	
<p>OVER £2m IN GRANTS FOR 40 SOCIAL HOMES AND 25 PRIVATE HOMES TO REDUCE CLIMATE IMPACT</p> 	<p>3250 FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT</p> 	

ICT

<p>LAUNCHED MS TEAMS TO OVER 600 STAFF & COUNCILLORS</p> 	<p>NAMED 15 NEW STREETS</p> 	<p>LAUNCHED VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMITTEE SERVICES</p> 
<p>WE AVERAGE 7,500 HOURS OF VIDEO FROM 2,500 MEETINGS EVERY MONTH!</p> 	<p>PRODUCED A NEW "CHECK-IN" APP TO SUPPORT TEST AND TRACE FROM SCRATCH</p> 	

Thank you to those parish organisations that have taken the time to write and submit their reports. The Council understands that many organisations are either extremely busy or dormant during this pandemic, hence the limited number of reports submitted in the short notice period given.

1st Leek Wootton (All Saints') Brownies & Guides

Hazel Turner, Brownie & Guide Leader

During the past year (April 2020 – April 2021), Girlguiding in Leek Wootton has provided both the girls and leaders with a sense of routine and 'normality' during a year full of changes. Parents have been very grateful for the opportunities we have continued to provide and we've loved seeing parents, grandparents and siblings joining in with our meetings.

Brownies

Having had our Spring Term 2020 cut short, Leek Wootton Brownie leaders created YouTube videos for the girls to complete activities at home before we launched our Zoom meetings on 5th May 2020. We have continued our weekly meetings on Zoom ever since. As well as the usual video call activities of quizzes, games, taskmaster challenges and scavenger hunts, our programme has also included:

- campfire songs
- talent shows
- dance classes
- launching rockets
- obstacle courses
- cooking
- origami to celebrate Chinese New Year
- building with Lego
- sewing
- a visit from Cats Protection
- and the usual badge work, which we would usually complete face to face.

Brownies have taken part in 2 virtual camps this year. The first was in June 2020 and we completed the Girlguiding Midlands Challenge – Celebrate at Home. As well completing activities from around our region, we joined together with thousands of other members to renew our promise. In March 2021, we held an 'I'm a Brownie Get Me Out of Here' camp which included bush tucker trials (rocky road with jelly worms!), Dingo Dollar Challenges (scavenger hunt) and survival skills (den building).

During the past year, the Brownies have amazed us with their commitment and we have awarded around 150 badges! Several have earned their Bronze and Silver awards and three girls have completed their Brownie Gold Awards – quite an achievement during lockdown!

Guides

During the course of the year, we had several Brownies turning 10. At this age, girls would usually move up to Guides. With so many 10-year-olds still in our Brownie unit, and keen to keep the girls in Girlguiding, we decided to explore the idea of re-opening the Guide unit. We managed to recruit two leaders, both members of the Guide unit when they were young, to join Hazel and the unit re-opened in October. We are currently 13 Guides and we're really pleased to have a unit for the Brownies to naturally progress into.

Like the Brownies, the Guides have taken part in various activities during their weekly Zoom meetings, including:

- a Harry Potter escape room
- learning some sign language
- salt dough Christmas decorations
- making tin can lanterns
- cooking
- campfire songs
- designing community spaces

- and various bits of badge work

One very special moment for the Guides was seeing 12 young members and 2 leaders making their promise – the first promises in Leek Wootton to be made virtually!

Both units took part in the World Association of Girl Guide and Girl Scouts' Thinking Day activities and some of the girls took part in an online Division event called Castle-opoly, which saw them complete tasks alongside other members across Kenilworth, Warwick, Hampton Magna and Hatton.

Although the past year has been different to any other year, with members taking part in activities in their own homes and gardens, we've continued to have fun, learn new skills and make new friends. The coming term will see us continue with a blend of outdoor and Zoom meetings and, at the time of writing, we're looking forward to our first outdoor meeting on 27th April - the first time that many of the girls and leaders will have met each other in 'real life'. We're all looking forward to continuing our adventures together in person, albeit socially distanced for now.

1st Leek Wootton Scout Group

Douglas Faulconbridge, Group Chairman

www.leekwoottonscoutgroup.co.uk

Leek Wootton Scout Group is part of Kenilworth Scout District who, in turn, are part of Warwickshire Scout County.

It will not be a surprise to learn that the Scouting year, like others, has been dominated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The National Youth Agency, as the Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body for youth work in England, in consultation with Public Health England and the Health and Safety Executive has developed youth sector specific advice. It is this specific advice that has steered the Scout Association throughout this very unusual year.

Jo Elsy is the Group Scout Leader of Leek Wootton Scout Group and with her team have continued to provide Scouting for our young people aged 6 – 10 ½ in the form of Beavers and Cubs.

The Scouting offered and available this year has been unrecognisable to what traditional Scouting looks like and has been a challenge for the Leadership team in learning new skills to keep the young people engaged in activities.

Zoom has been the saviour of Scouting the length and breadth of the country, so it is to this platform that Leek Wootton looked to deliver its "lockdown" Scouting.

However, notable highlights of the year carried out on Zoom were going on safari in Africa, winter camping in Canada and cooking in your own kitchen. More traditional activities such as scavenger hunts, craft sessions and indoor camping also took place. All activities were supervised and carried out in line with normal Safety and Safeguarding procedures in accordance with The Scout Association Guidelines. In carrying out these activities it has added a different dimension in that the young people have met others from around the world. This is a positive outcome as this is something that would not have happened prior to COVID-19 and Zoom Scouting. We even had an online visit from the Deputy UK Commissioner, Graeme Hamilton, to virtually invest one of our new Beavers who had never attended a face-to-face Scouting session.

Attendance throughout the year has been less than usual but has been consistent with between 8 and 12 Beavers and Cubs attending the weekly sessions. As a result of having fewer members attending and paying the usual annual subscription, the Group has maintained its financial commitments to the District, County and The Scout Association by utilising its reserves.

Scouting is now moving forward towards a complete return to face-to-face scouting, both indoors and outdoors and I feel that Leek Wootton Scout Group is in a strong position to continue to provide Scouting to the young people of the village.

Finally, some great news for the younger age group within our community – Squirrel Scouting is on its way!! Squirrels will be providing Scouting for the 4–6-year-old age group. It has been tested over several years and is now about to be rolled out to all Districts in the UK. Watch this space!

All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton

No report received

All Saints' Church of England Academy Leek Wootton

No report received

Bring Back Guy's Cliffe

No report received

Cancer Research UK, Leek Wootton Committee

No report received

Kenilworth District Committee of the NSPCC

No report received

Leek Wootton & District Horticultural Society

No report received

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe, Haseley & Wroxall and Old Milverton Conservative Association

No report received

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Summer Fête Committee

No report received

Leek Wootton History Group

Lesley Eldridge, Secretary/Treasurer

No report was submitted in the spring of 2020 since the Annual Parish Assembly was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plans to mount an exhibition at the community VEDay75 Party & Fête on 8 May 2020 had to be abandoned and the Group revamped and reissued the VEDay50 reminiscences for distribution to every household with the May 2020 edition of The Link.

The Group continues to contribute articles and photographs to The Link for most editions and throughout the ups and downs of the pandemic has responded to a variety of enquiries, sometimes being able to liaise between a person with some answers and the enquirer.

For example, this year we have corresponded with a Postgraduate Student who is working on a Colvile manuscript found in the Teesside Archive; and have been able to assist with information and a photograph of two girls who were fostered in Leek Wootton in the early days of the 20th Century.

Leek Wootton Link

Lesley Eldridge, Co-Editor

In the unprecedented times experienced because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the *Link* has been able to provide a consistent source of news and information right across the community. Contributions to the magazine have also been received from different sources and more people have generously donated to the 2021 *Link* Appeal, which goes towards providing a copy to every household in the Civil Parish and the Ecclesiastical Parish where the boundaries differ.

Leek Wootton Sports Club

No report received

Leek Wootton Village Hall Ltd

No report received

Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground

No report received

Leek Wootton Women's Institute

Genevieve Wilson, Temporary President

www.leekwoottonwi.co.uk

During the last twelve months Leek Wootton WI has been suspended following the announcement by Boris Johnson on the 23rd March 2020 that everyone must 'Stay at home'. Although during this time most members have remained in regular contact via communal walks – when permissible, Zoom calls and general comradery.

All national WI activity has been via Zoom, so LWWI are trialling a talk about 'Travel' by Lucy Morgan via Zoom on Tuesday 18th May 2021 for members.

The WI Federation extended the 2020 membership period for an additional three months, so current members looking to continue being an active LWWI member are renewing during the month of April. To date there are 49 members.

As the WI is an important campaigning body, last year there were 66,312 individual selections cast by WI members and the most popular resolution, which received 30,240 selections, was '*A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer*'.

It will be lovely to see monthly meetings reactivated in the village hall on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August, although this decision will be wholly dependent on the Roadmap announced by Boris Johnson, achieving its key milestones.

The Leigh Educational Foundation

No report received

Macmillan Cancer Support, Leek Wootton

No report received

Mothers' Union, All Saints' Branch

No report received

Neighbourhood Watch

No report received

Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Warwick Rural West

No report received

Toddlers / Stay & Play at Leek Wootton Village Hall

No report received

Tower Bellringers

No report received
