

Chairperson's Report – Deborah Brady/Dave Mullender
Parish Council
11th May 2023

I am pleased to provide this report for last 12 months although in reality the vast proportion of the past year the Peasemore Committee has been led by Deborah Brady as Chairperson who has guided and led the team fantastically well as we have all been emerging from Lockdown, celebrating the platinum jubilee of our Queen and subsequently mourning her death, gaining a King and collecting a seemingly never ending list of prime ministers.

Throughout this period, Deborah has been very well supported by Sarah Cornish as secretary and Claire Bushell as treasurer and of course the broader committee members being; Gill Palmer, Sam Meredith, Louise Weston, Jo Monk, Mark Woodage, Emily Dubell, Helen Sharpe, Bernie Davis and 2 people who have been able to re- join the committee part way through the year being Paloma Beattie and Sam Tillotson.

I can report that having had events halted or restricted during the previous year due to the pandemic, the committee was able to host a number of well attended events once again.

On the 17th April 22, which was the Sunday of the Easter weekend, Phil and Lauren kindly allowed the committee to exclusively take over the pub for a curry evening. Cooked mainly by the committee members this time, with the vegetarian main courses coming from John Sturt they served up another great supper of delicious Indian food.

We did offer once again the Easter egg hunt which unfortunately was only attended by 3 families – however those families very much appreciated the event. We have decided to give this event a rest for a year or two, the number of children in the village of an age to get value from it is limited currently and this is reflected in the attendance

This was followed the following week by the first of the village talks from Simon Claybourne on rewilding. At that meeting the team handed out packets of wild flower and wild grass seed mixes to experiment their success in various test areas in the village. We have Simon coming back soon to inspect germination and advise us on next steps.

Whilst discussing flowers we should also mention the great work from the previous autumn that the committee funded and organised that we saw come to fruition firstly in Spring of 2022, that is the planting of thousands of daffodil bulbs around the village by a great team of helpers under the direction of Mark Woodage. They did indeed look stunning both last year and again recently. To add to that Mark has also subsequently planted bluebells funded by the committee on the Hill green Lane on the verge in front of the village green and the verge opposite that that, which borders John Duffield's field. You can see these in bloom now, they really add colour to the spring.

Coming back to the village talks, we continued to offer these throughout 2022 and into this year. We have had talks on Climate change, regenerative agriculture, Magical moths, Peasemore's history, the Coronation ceremony, Dementia and Climate Change all of which have been very well attended and received. These have been offered free of charge but do come with some cost to the committee, so we have started offering people the opportunity to make donations to cover the cost if they wish which has been well received, the last talk bringing in £50 in donations which covered the costs of the event.

We had significant events in the village during the Platinum jubilee weekend and whilst the committee helped with these both financially and with man power, the event was led by Sam Tillotson and her Jubilee team – who we would like to take this opportunity to thank. The village looked amazing and Peasemore punched way above our weight compared to surrounding villages.

In October we hosted a quiz and supper evening, with our compere Phil Meredith doing a great job as question master and the committee and helpers providing the food and bar service. Unfortunately following that event and the coffee

morning hosted by the Parish council on the same day we did experience an high incidence of covid in the village. I'm pleased to report that nobody became seriously ill and hopefully we had some Peasemore herd immunity thereafter.

As you will have noticed we have made a much greater effort in the last couple of years in decorate the village in the Christmas spirit. This has required us to purchase additional high quality fairy lights, which should last for many years and I hope you agree looked lovely.

We were delighted to be able to host the Friends of Peasemore Christmas meal again this year, putting on a well appreciated Christmas supper and bar service for over 60 villagers.

On the financial side the committee accounts are provided in detail but the overall summary is that we started 2022 with £2,102 in the bank and ended the year with £2,483. There were a small number of expenses in the year, namely the running of the Friends of Peasemore Christmas party, replacement of the Christmas lights and subsidising the talks series but as can be seen by the overall cash balance these were paid by profits from other events leaving the Committee's coffers healthy but not excessive given the needs to "fund" events which generally requires a cash reserve.

One big win this year was the move to electronic banking and improving our ability to take card payments at events, this has considerably simplified the committee taking and making payments without creating any reduction governance. Thanks again to Claire Bushell and the team for taking us through this transition which I know wasn't without challenges!

Moving on into 2023 and Deborah sadly stepped down as Committee chair but continues to be an active member of the overall committee. Dave Mullender picked up the Chairmans role most ably supported by Jo Monk who agreed to take on the role of Vice Chair.

The committee has recovered from the restrictions of lockdown under Deborahs guidance and has a large, active and supportive team full of so many ideas and also with a mixture of "fresh blood" and experience which I'm confident will allow us to continue to deliver some great events this year and beyond.

As a committee we've agreed to focus on bringing the village together this year, events will be run to try and be inclusive and encourage peoples involvement rather than driving to raise large amounts of funds. We do however plan to raise some money and are aware of needs from the Parish Council around modifications to the Village Hall and also have supported with some of the improvements/remediation work to the Pavillion which I know is underway

I'm proud of the fantastic work done across the whole committee and outside for the recent Coronation weekend but specifically to Sam Meredith, Sam Tillotson and Phil&Lauren from The Fox in the work and planning that went on to bring it all together. It was humbling to see so many people on the cricket pitch on Sunday enjoying each others company and great to see some new faces of people who've arrived in the village during lockdown and were attending their first "village event". Combining events with the pub and the church allowed us to be more inclusive and spread the logistical loads of running the event which seemed to work well and is a format we will continue to develop. Callouts are due to the Pugs for their performance on the Sunday, the amazing cake making skills of many (I suspect there was a number of diets kicked off on Monday), the bell ringers, all those that turned up at the Church on Monday to help with the Community Big Help-Out (maybe in an attempt to work off the cake) and lastly the Reverend Douglas for his talk on the Coronation Ceremony which set the scene for the whole weekend.

As a committee we are planing to run an event most months through to the end of the year, these include a Safari Supper, Village Not-Fete, Wine Call my Bluff, Two horse racing events (one real one virtual), litter picks, village parties and others. In addition to the events we will also be continuing the very well received "Talks" series with talks on varied subjects such as Feeding the world, Marine biology and Pottery. Anyone who has any ideas or knows someone who knows something that might make a Talk please let me know.

Personally, I must take this opportunity to thank Deborah once again for her tenure as Peasemore Committee Chairperson and the way she led the team and delivered so much over the past year.

I will consider it a win if I can achieve half of what she has over the past 12 months but having been working with the team for a short while now I'm thoroughly excited with the plans for this year, the people we have on the team and what's to come. Peasemore is a brilliant place to live and what makes it so brilliant is the people in it.

Dave Mullender