



Chairperson's Report for Calendar year 2023

Dave Mullender - 7th Feb 2024

Deborah sadly stepped down as Committee chair in May 2023 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 for the rest of the calendar year.

I've attempted to align this report to Calendar years to make it easier to understand and also to align with the Treasurers reports and accounts. To this end, apologies for a little Deja-vu, this report will repeat Jan-May 2023 which was also in the last report. I'm unsure whether that makes this report an interim one or a bumper edition but hopefully going forward it will make our annual reports easier to understand

Good news! Unlike the year before, in 2023 we managed to keep the same Prime Minister and Monarch for the entire of the year, although I suspect next year might not bring the same stability.

Throughout this period I have been supported by the committee Officers: Jo Monk as Vice Chair, Sarah Cornish as Secretary and Claire Bushell as Treasurer and of course the broader committee members being; Gill Palmer, Sam Meredith, Deborah Brady, Louise Weston, Mark Woodage, Emily Dubell, Helen Sharpe, Bernie Davis, Sam Tillotson, Nicola Walters and a welcomed newcomer to the team Sue Verinder. Having such a large team of individuals has provided significant impetus to the committee as well as a wealth of different ideas and opinions which helps give us direction and purpose.

Throughout the year we have run a number of successful events which have been well supported and appreciated by the people who attended. Sadly we've also had a few events which we've had to cancel for various reasons (including being too wet for one and too hot for another, sadly as Goldilocks will tell you, it's not always just right!) but thank you for the team for the efforts they put into events even if in the final analysis they didn't work out.

As a committee we agreed to focus on bringing the village together this year, events were run to try and be inclusive and encourage peoples involvement rather than driving to raise large amounts of funds.

Firstly I'm proud of the fantastic work done across the whole committee and outside for the Coronation weekend celebrations but I feel I should specifically call out 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.

It may be hard to remember today when we have a forecast of Snow but in June the weather was blisteringly hot and we took full advantage of the amazing weather and ran a village Midsummer BBQ and Dog Show. Sadly it was just too hot to run the Dog Show but we continued with the event anyway. There was a fully stocked bar, BBQ, tea and cakes, live music from the PUGs and some beautiful classic cars to look at and a highlight for me was to see half the village at ends of a rope dragging each other around for the tug of war as well as various other games.

Step aside Frank Muir and Robert Morley and bring in Rex Walters, Sarah Cornish and Jim Reed. Wine Call my Bluff made a return to the calendar with a bang. A sellout event with 9 teams competing to correctly guess various wines from the bluffs and truths eloquently provided by the three "Wine Connoisseurs". Wine, comedy and various food courses of cheeses, pate combined to provide for what was a brilliant night orchestrated and planned to perfection by Nicola Walters and executed superbly by the rest of the team. The biggest complement to all those who worked behind the scenes on the event was passed to me by a friend of a villager who attended who told me how amazed they were and that they couldn't believe how professional the event was. You can get too much of a good thing and we have lots of other ideas for 2024 so I suspect we'll rest this event for a year but be assured WCMB will be back at a future point.

One of the annual events the committee now holds is to host the Friends of Peasemore Christmas meal, this was originally a Christmas party for people "of a certain age" living in the village but has over more recent years been extended to also include the people on the various committees in the village as a small thankyou for their efforts throughout the year. The event put on a well received Christmas supper and bar service for over 80 villagers which I think is a record, it was so pleasing to see that the last shackles of Lockdown seemed finally to be shed off. The numbers were somewhat bolstered by also providing delivery food for those people unable to attend in person which I know was gratefully received. Although, like all committee events the event was supported by efforts from so many, a specific callout has to go to Deborah Brady for fronting all the planning and leading the cooking and delivery team. To produce food to such a standard with the limitations of facilities available in the village hall and also to manage to deliver is a superb feat of organisation and teamwork.

In addition to village events we continued to run the much supported Peasemore Talks series throughout 2023 and plan more this year. This year we have had talks on Jewellery, the History of the Coronation, sustainable and scalability in the food chain with How do we feed 10 Billion people, Ceramics and Pottery identification, Medical Detection Dogs and even a talk on Christmas Birds. 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 with the donations generally covering the costs of the events. A specific callout to local speakers Rex Walters, Rev Douglas Dales and Tim Palmer for giving up their time for various talks.

We will also be continuing "Talks" series with talks on varied subjects such as Marine biology and Life in Ukraine. Anyone who has any ideas or knows someone who knows something that might make a Talk please let me know.

The committee continues to decorate the village at Christmas time, again this year we erected trees both internally and externally at the village hall and lit up a number of areas around the village including the hall, D and the lytch gate. As part of constantly reviewing our activities we're looking at sustainability around Christmas trees and will likely also purchase some additional lighting for the next Christmas period.

Also, another regular event now at Christmas but not run by the committee is the Christmas Lighting event when candles are lit, father Christmas tours through the village and this year also linked in with the carol service at the church. A callout to Sam Seater-Tillotson for once again championing and leading the team to deliver what has become a cherished by many Peasemore tradition

On the financial side the committee accounts are provided in detail but the overall summary is that we started 2023 with £2,483 in the bank and ended the year with £2,751. This leaves the Committee's coffers healthy but not excessive given the needs to "fund" events which generally requires a cash reserve.

Finally I'd like to end with a few general "thankyou"s

Phil Meredith – for the loan of his Marquee for various events

Mark Woodage – for building a bar (and I believe for his next trick.... a BBQ)

Lou Weston – for producing pretty much all the advertising collateral and artwork we use for events and notices throughout the year

To the committee officers: Jo, Sarah and Claire, whatever your other commitments the Committee relies on you heavily to crank the wheel and keep the governance of the team in place so we all know where we are.

To the committee this year: Gill, Deborah, Sam, Louise, Mark, Emily, Helen, Bernie, Sam, Nicola and Sue you have been amazing, your input and enthusiasm has been very much appreciated

To all those who've supported our events this year, it's been great to see people getting together again

it's never said enough but Thankyou for what you do for the village. It's said so often that it seems to have less meaning but I firmly believe that Peasemore punches way above it's weight and continues to deliver a brilliant community for us all to live in. The efforts of those on the committee are not an insignificant contributor to that and you should be proud of what you have achieved.

Roll on more in 2024!

Dave Mullender

7/2/2024

Addendum:-

On behalf of the committee, and indeed the whole village, we would like to extend a massive thanks to Dave Mullender for stepping up as Chairman of the Peasemore committee in 2023. Dave was a driving force behind the many events that were successfully run by the committee last year. He was often the first and last person at every event, making sure everything ran smoothly. On top of this Dave worked hard to improve email communications and consolidate websites in conjunction with the Parish Council and Church. Dave is a great organiser, motivator and leader. Peasemore are lucky to have someone who dedicates so much of his spare time for the good of the village. We are pleased Dave has agreed to continue to offer his leadership as chair of the Peasemore committee in 2024