

Chairman's Report 2021

We started 2020 with a very successful Italian Night, as our New Year event, on 22 February 2020. However by 16 March 2020, we had to cancel our AGM, as the first lockdown of the Covid 19 pandemic started. John Bridle's Hall was closed and life as we knew it changed for us all. John Bridle's Hall is still closed to the general public but Hardwick pre- school reopened last year, initially on a part time basis for the children of key workers and latterly back to full time before Lockdown 3. Our AGM was finally held in the playground at JB hall on 3rd August 2020 in between Lockdowns 1 and 2.

As you will see from the financial statement our income from the usual sources was reduced by more than 50% while our outgoings were only reduced by about 30%. Our utilities are billed on a daily basis and heating and cleaning were still required for the pre-school despite reduced numbers. In June 2020 HVCA were awarded a £10,000 grant from the Government Fund for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund. This has meant we ended the financial year at January 2021 with a surplus of £11,040.14.

The grant enabled us to continue with the planned work to strip and re-seal the parquet floor in the main hall at a cost of £3857. Due to the age of the building, the lack of a damp course combined with the high level of rainfall this year, means this work is ongoing.

Although John Bridle's Hall has been closed for nearly a year HVCA has still managed to deliver a programme of events for the community using social media and door to door deliveries.

At Easter a chocolate egg was delivered to every Hardwick household. Amanda devised a quiz which was sent out by email. In May, we had a wonderful VE Day Event with many houses creatively decorated. Prizes were awarded for the best decorations by adults and children. Hardwick Open Gardens in June was converted into a virtual event with pictures posted on the website and a Grow a Sunflower for Florence competition raised £1485 for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, more than double the amounts raised in previous years. The usual door to door collection for the Poppy Appeal was replaced with a delivery of a poppy and a raffle ticket for a (home made by Sue) Xmas Cake. Donations were collected and £700 was raised for the RBL, exceeding the usual total. Fiona Blacklock and her team created a beautiful Poppy Field on the large green. Finally Hardwick joined the Light Up Lockdown in December with the biggest display of outside lights I can remember. These were enhanced by the lighting up of St Mary's Church and a lit Xmas tree at John Bridle's Hall both of which were sponsored by HVCA and Hardwick Parish. Sue Hoskinson also created a beautiful nativity crib scene at St Mary's Church.

The Hardwick Village Website has been revamped by Graham Lee and has played a major part in making these events accessible to those residents who have been shielding or reluctant to venture out.

All of this could not have been achieved without the hard work of committee members with particular thanks to Amanda for organising the door to door deliveries with the help of Louisa, Rachel and Jessica Murray. Once again special thanks to Linda for the brilliant job she does as Treasurer, the mainstay of the whole committee. And to our Auditor Garth Bickerton.

Thanks to Graham who develops and runs the website and makes my ideas happen!

Finally a thank you to the rest of the committee, the volunteers who have helped with events and those Hardwick residents who have supported our efforts over the last year. Lets hope we can get together safely in 2021 and make it year to remember in a good way – after all it is John Bridle's Hall's 150th anniversary!

Gill Hogarth Chair