

Parish Council AGM

Report on behalf of the Brandeston Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee

Mary Ketley - Chair

This is my first report to the Parish Council as chair of BVH committee.

At the AGM of the Village Hall Committee, Sue Thurlow stepped down as chair after 25 years or so, and the village owes her a great debt for her tireless work. I was appointed chair, and, for the first time, we appointed a vice chair, Michael Cousens, so we will be working together on the chair's tasks.

Covid has meant a strange couple of years. Restrictions meant that we had a 'covid sub group' advising on when and how we could re open. Outside facilities re opened on 29th March last year, and the first event was a litter pick and brunch. Then we had a barbecue to celebrate the re opening. First bookings at the hall started on 7th May when the hall was used for a polling station.

Getting back to some form of normality meant the coffee mornings re opening, the traditional Horkey and coach trip to Bury St Edmunds, and of course the village fete, held jointly with the church, slightly differently, being smaller and more spaced out and in September rather than June.

During lockdown we took the opportunity to refurbish the hall. We were lucky enough to obtain a fairly substantial grant and were able to refurbish the kitchen with new equipment as well, painting, sanding the floors and generally upgrading.

We are determined to have a good year, with lots of events for the village, together with the church and others - there is the plant and cake sale coming up, the jubilee in June, the fee in September, coffee morning are back (thanks also to the sterling efforts of Sue Etheridge working tirelessly every week for years running it, and now she has stepped down, Eve Crane and a rota system taking over), there are the village lunches and film club, and regular bookings building up.

We have a strong committee, and remain financially stable, despite little income over the last two years. We have been fortunate in being awarded grants, including two new ones for some refurbishment of the playground (which is inspected every year and repaired/renewed as required).