

Recorders Report 2021

Once again our village life was curtailed by the COVID outbreak and many activities and events had to be cancelled, but as we head into 2022, there is now hope on the horizon as more and more people have received the necessary number of injections we perhaps can see light at the end of the tunnel. However it would appear that the virus could be with us for the foreseeable future so the jabs, like the flu jabs, could become a regular annual event.

In July, during which appeared to be a break in the virus, a Parish Council meeting took place. Faye Ellis from Witnesham was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Planning: A proposal was put forward for 32 new dwellings be built on the land east of Mow Hill. This however was for information only and not a planning application. The expected timescale if successful would be to start construction in autumn 2022 and finish in early 2025.

Highways: Speed reduction on the main road crossing at the Gibraltar Crossroads. This will result in an on going request which is still pending at the time of writing this report (March 2022). Also, discussed was the number of road closures and in particular the late notices given for road closures. (Again this is still a problem at the time of writing this report (March 2022)).

Upgrade of the surface to the Village Hall car park was discussed. Water supply to the allotments in Witnesham was discussed. This is now going ahead (March 2022).

In the September meeting it was announced that the current bank holdings stand at £ 24,970.00 An application for a school crossing patrol was discussed with the support of the Headteacher.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee (QPJ)

In June a village celebration of the Queen's Jubilee was discussed and a meeting held on the 28th July. The meeting was attended by 10 people and the items agreed were a church flower festival over the 4 days, A street fair possibly on the school playing fields, a 7 village baton relay starting and finishing at Helmingham Hall, a Red Arrows fly over, a scarecrow competition. Plus possibly an inter school sports competition. It was agreed that Steve Henley would chair the committee but appoint various people to help on the suggested events.

QPJ

Two agreements were also obtained. 1. The school agreed that we could use their field for the street fair and 2. Helimnham Hall agreed that the run could end at the Hall and the Tollemache family would present the medals.

The Baptist church also agreed to host a display of village memorabilia.

The Queen's Canopy: Part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations was the opportunity for villagers to plant trees. We were able to order in the region of 240 trees, however they have to be planted on public land. Chris Collins and Chris Templeman are looking into this.

Manor Farm: During September there were various outdoor events at Manor farm including games for children and an outdoor church service.

The main event was organised by the WTW Church Benefice and was aimed at the villages of Westerfield, Witnesham and Tuddenham under the banner of a Community Harvest Fun Afternoon and took place on the 11th September from 2 pm till 4 pm.

The Open air Service took place on the 1st August from 11 am Hosted by the Reverend Charlotte. Both events were well received and well attended

Local

In October Quiz nights began again at the pubs and Karaoke at the Barley Mow. This particular event caused a bit of a furore but nothing that couldn't be discussed and hopefully brought to a conclusion that everyone was OK with. (maybe) The village Hall was once again open for use.

ZOOM Meetings: These became regular events during COVID and used by all the organisations during lockdown. Parish Council meetings, discussions with Dan Poulter and even the WI when they had Kate Osborn from Beach Bonkers in May talking on Zoom.

The WI had to remove a tree they had planted on the grass by the Swilland turn off as you leave Witnesham. Apparently a licence is required. I wonder if they will relax that rule when the 200 odd trees arrive for the Queen's Jubilee.

Swilland Recorder: I'm pleased to report that Sam Salter has agreed to take on the role of village recorder for Swilland, I have always believed that Swilland should have their own recorder and now they have.

Baptist Church: They decided to start their Sunday services again on the 26th September but in the field opposite to celebrate the Harvest Festival. A tractor passes through the village and people are asked to donate gifts of tinned and packet food plus fresh food or money in the trailer. The gifts will then be passed on to food banks and local homeless charities. What a great idea by Pastor Andrew and the event turned out to be a major success. The Church itself was given a deep clean before opening its doors also in September.

The Boxing Day walk was from the recreation site at 11 am with a circular walk ending at the Barley Mow. Unfortunately, Boxing day was the one day over Christmas when the weather turned and it rained for most of the morning, so thumbs up to all those who soldiered on.

Witnesham St. Marys Church: Held a Christmas Day family Service at 10:00 am. as well as a midnight communion service on Christmas Eve. There was also a Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday the 22nd December. Another highlight was the Open Air service at Weyland Road on Thursday the 16th December.

Witnesham Community Page:

The community page continues to report and advertise potential events and although, as said previously, there was not much to report it is still a useful tool for the village and, everyone in the village is encouraged to use the page to hear and learn what is going on, The page also endeavours to support local businesses especially during the last 24 months of difficult circumstances,

Christenings/Marriages/Deaths:

Christenings: Imogen Hannah Iris Scarlett Leather 12th September 2021
Samantha Williams 19th September
Ann Smith 19th September 2021
Annabelle Olivia Jane parents Anna and Oliver Hall 18th December 2021

Deaths: Basil John Southgate buried 13th April age 91

Hopefully next year's recorder's report will have more to report.

Steve Henley Signing out and handing over to Erica Burrows.