

## **BAACA Chairman's message for year ending 31st March 2023**

Welcome to the Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Association AGM – I hope you have enjoyed using these fantastic community facilities once again during the year.

As you may know, the annual village fête is one of our major fundraising events and enables us to maintain the hall and recreation ground for community use. This year we held our second fête after lockdown and we raised £4294 out of which £500 is being donated to local charities, which was a great achievement- thank you to all who supported the fete, but particularly to the organising committee.

People often ask where the money we raise goes. In short, we use this money to maintain, improve and update the hall facilities and grounds. For example, this year - in addition to regular safety updates and maintenance works - we have installed additional routers to improve the Wi-Fi signal, The interior of the hall was redecorated with new curtains and blinds installed in the hall, and the floor was cleaned and re-sealed. Next year we are also planning to install an audiovisual system in response to requests from the community and hirers for films and presentation capability.

Next year we will also focus on the exterior checking the roof, repairing the entrance to the car park along with hopefully extending tarmac to the whole area, marking it out to ensure maximum capacity as the hall gets busier. We have added a new fridge and installed some additional sockets. The external water supply has been upgraded to the hall and pavilion.

Again, this year we also held our Christmas party for the children and the Seniors Christmas Lunch both of which were well attended. We have also held pub nights and afternoon teas along with our 75th Platinum Jubilee tea in honour of Late Queen Elizabeth II. Hopefully these events demonstrate that we aim to cater for all so there should be something for the whole community to enjoy.

In the playground we have added picnic benches and spent money on general maintenance and repair. This is ongoing to ensure we meet the safety requirements. Next year we are hoping to add some additional playground equipment to make it more inclusive for all.

Thanks also to our Bookings Secretary Jo Richardson, who does a fantastic job of making sure the hall is booked out to a huge array of groups, families, and festivals. Bookings remain healthy and our facilities are still recognised as one of the best locally.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity also to thank all the committee members (Helen Harding, Gary Woodley, Hugh Griffiths, Kirsty Fiddes, and Emma Eckersley) and Don Baker as Honorary Treasurer, who throughout the year have donated their time and energy, to work with me in order to maintain and manage these facilities and achieve all the above.

As you can see, we are a small team but without the support and teamwork none of this would have been achievable. I look forward to continuing to work with you and any new members during the forthcoming year.