

REPORT OF THE STUBTON SOCIAL CLUB CHAIR 2019 AND 2020

What a difference a year makes! After the grand re-opening of the Village Hall in autumn 2018 following its refurbishment, 2019 was a year of much social activity.

The Social Club was responsible for organising events as diverse as "Rugby and a Breakfast Butty" a "Not a Burns Night" Scottish night, and a Gin Tasting Evening. First Friday bar openings became increasingly popular in the new surroundings and were extended as the year progressed.

The Social Club continued to provide support for the long-established Village Summer Barbeque and Christmas Buffet which they have now been asked to take future responsibility for. The Social Club, through provision of the bar, was happy to again support the Vinyl Intro and General Knowledge quizzes which are traditionally organised each year with proceeds to the St Martins Church fabric fund.

Various Clubs and activities were also seen coming and going in the Village Hall throughout 2019. The Art Club with Penny continued, Pilates ceased, and Yoga started as did the new village Book Club. Spring and Summer saw "Debbie's World" encouraging us to lose weight and exercise more with proceeds being donated for the upkeep of the defibrillator.

Little did we know that the bar opening on the first Friday in March 2020 was going to be the last social activity the Village Hall was going to see for nearly 15 months due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

At the end of July, as the first lockdown eased, the Social Club Committee with the VHM committee agreed and put in place the necessary requirements to Covid proof the Hall ready for re-opening. It was also agreed to explore improving the outside space. However, number restrictions continued to make it difficult to use the hall. With enormous thanks to ace organisers Paul & Penny Snook, they hosted both the Potato in a Bucket prize giving and the Car Rally finish in August in their gardens. The Social Club was delighted to support both events with the provision of suitable liquid refreshments. Both were well attended and much appreciated by villagers at a time when social functions were few and far between.

But as we know it all ended in tiers"!

Christmas of any kind hung in the balance at the end of 2020. There was little chance of organising the traditional buffet and even the planned Mulled Wine and Mince pies walk about to view the Christmas lights had to be rapidly cancelled. The Social Club came upon the idea of funding lights for trees all around the village for everyone to enjoy instead of the usual central Christmas Tree. A huge thank you to villagers for the way in which they embraced the Christmas Lights competition; there is no doubt the village looked wonderful and cheered residents' spirits at a very difficult time as we faced the almost certain prospect of another lockdown.

My past 3 years Chairing the Stubton Social Club Committee has flown by but what has been achieved has been a team effort. Enormous thanks go to all the Committee members past and present. In particular a personal thanks to Kate our Treasurer for putting us on a firm, auditable financial footing for the future and to Joe our bar steward for giving up so much of his valuable time.

To the future I believe the decision to create one Management Committee for the Village Hall and its social activity will allow for more effective use of resources, both human and financial and enhanced communication. The Village Hall is first and foremost a resource for Stubton Resident to be run by them and for them. The role of the new committee is as much about reaching out to and involving villagers as it is taking the lead in organising and supporting the village's social activities.