

Chairman of the Trustees AGM 2021 Report

You will all know that COVID has taken quite a toll on the activities of the Association, and although the Trustees continued to operate via ZOOM meetings, we were unable to hold an AGM in 2020 and thus this report is covering the two years ending March 2021.

You will be able to see from the report of the Trustees located in the Accounts that there was a significant difference in both our activities and income between the two years, and at the moment we are still to recover. Our projected loss of income for the current year, despite the opening of a new Pre-School following the withdrawal of services by the Connect Schools Academy Trust (Crofton Academy), is around 30% in comparison to our last full year of operating the Greenwood centre.

With the concern amongst the local population of the pandemic, our Road Contact scheme was almost impossible to operate leading to both loss of income where subscriptions could not be collected in addition to our increased costs where newsletters had to be sent by Royal Mail. We were unable to continue with events and the consequence of this was to lose most of the Village Society Committee, with the current situation being that we need to start again from almost square one. We have, however, made a start. A free walk-in service for Digital Inclusion has been introduced from October on a Sunday afternoon once a month, and a free Line Dance beginners' class once a week also began. Details of these are on our web site where a Christmas Concert is also mentioned.

Regrettably, we have had a number of resignations over the last two years from amongst the Officers and Trustees leading to both unsettling and complicated situations for all those remaining in post and making it difficult for those we have managed to recruit as replacements. This continues into 2022 and also on a personal basis as I have moved away from the Village as well as continuing with ill health that awaits a heart operation.

On a high point I am able to point to the almost complete refurbishment work on this hall, that has allowed some changes and the installation of facilities for wheelchair users courtesy of a grant from the City Bridge Trust that along with our own finances allowed an expenditure of some £85000. There are still some items to be added and we plan to undertake these when our finances get back to some sort of normality, whilst some others you may spot incomplete will be finished during the next half term holiday as part of the original contract.

There is still a question of completing the Land Registry transfer of a couple of parcels of land offered to us by Woolwich Homes that we always thought we actually owned – but didn't! We have signed the relevant forms but await the actual Deeds, although we are now secure in the ability to use the emergency exit from the Hall round the back of the building and old toilet block/new office next door so as to emerge on to the pavement well away from our premises.

We have concerns over access to our property because of the work undertaken by our neighbour as part of the toilet conversion, but hope we are able to resolve this once the Council decide on any action to be taken on what we believe is their land. However, we do have the option to go to court under the legislation available so as to make repairs on our property - but invariably this would make another unwelcome dent in our finances.

In conclusion then, we need volunteers in all parts of the Association not least to encourage an increase in both membership and income so as to develop and implement the plans we see as appropriate to the circumstances.

R M Trott
Chairman of Trustees
Green Street Green Association