

Brackenfield Village Association
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 14 January 2019 at 10am at The Old House

Present: Linda Walker, Catherine Tomlinson, Stefan Priest, Cath Pilsbury, Martin Philips, Lynn Keeton, Mike Edwards, Christine Edwards

Minutes of the meeting on 19 November 2018: Read and agreed.

Matters arising: None

Christmas Tree Switch On Feedback:

- Positive feedback received.
- Santa went down well with the children. **Agreed to book again for this year.**
- There were quite a few visitors from outside Brackenfield.
- If we have a large tree again, it was suggested that there should be more decorations. The ones used this year were hand made and donated decorations from the past two years. The donation of the tree by the Knights and the assistance with installing it provided by the Pearsons and Fred Wragg were greatly appreciated.
- Takings were similar to last year, though sales of wine and mince pies were slightly down. The sale of bears and decorations (courtesy of Anne Edgar) made this up.
- It was noted that quite a few local families with children did not attend though reasons are unknown - perhaps because they were busy with other things. **It was agreed to check with neighbours to find out if a change of date (e.g. to Friday 6 December) would suit them better or if other changes would enable them to take part. Feedback at next meeting.**
- Some discussion took place about ways of making the raffle more distinctive – maybe Christmas themed. **It was agreed to ask around if local businesses and artisans might be willing to donate prizes** (e.g. home baked chocolate log; Christmas wreath; meal voucher)
- Advertising using boards round the Green and at local road junctions might attract more visitors. **Martin offered to make some signs.**
- Overall it was a successful event enjoyed by those who attended. It would be satisfying to have more local people taking part.

Heritage Cafe update:

Mike gave a resume of activities to date. Attendance has been 16 – 18 at each session so far. Leaflets have been circulated to all homes in Brackenfield, public venues in Wessington and local GP surgery. They have also been given to attendees to share with friends and neighbours. It would be good to increase the pool of people who sometimes attend.

Mike summarised the budget position. There is scope for funding some projects such as creation of interpretive information for key local sites of interest linked to QR codes; development of heritage walks; archaeology; some of which could be developed in conjunction with the PC and local Museums/Universities.

There was some discussion of sustainability however, it is early days and important to establish the group and take account of their interests in developing a way forward.

There could be additional activities (e.g. afternoon tea and talk or walks) which are offshoots of the core Heritage Cafe offering.

Publicity:

There was brief discussion about widening publicity by delivering the Bulletin to adjoining homes in Woolley Moor, Higham and Wessington; PEAK FM Radio.

Neighbourhood Watch:

There has been a good response so far and forms are being collected. The meeting on 22 February will go ahead. Martin offered to organise nibbles/canapes and drinks will be served.

Future events:

Friday 22 February at 6.30pm: Get-together with Neighbourhood Plan presentation (to encourage people to comment and to vote) and Neighbourhood Watch presentation. Free admission.

Saturday 6 April at 10am: "Spring Watch Family Walk" A short walk led by Peter Pilsbury round local footpaths, followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. Possible link with Heritage Cafe – taking in some local historic sites.

Tuesday 14 May at 6.30pm: AGM

Sunday 14 July: Picnic on the Green

Further ideas:

- Laura is open to the idea of another meal later in the year (to be discussed)
- Barn dance? Linda will follow up local contacts
- Afternoon Tea and Talk (local speaker)
- A second walk
- Live and Local event (Hall or Church) – Christine is following up to see if it would be feasible.
- 50th anniversary of moon landing in July?

Open Air Cinema ruled out for now due to prohibitive cost.

It is important to focus on building what we do well and not spread ourselves too thinly. Additional help with planning some events would be appreciated.

AOB:

Mike is following up possible Fuel Card for BVA members.

Dates of next meeting: Mondays at 10am at Holly Cottage

11 February; 11 March; 8 April

