

Brackenfield Village Association
Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 21 March 2018 at 10am at Holly Cottage

Present: Stefan Priest, Cath Pilsbury, Martin Philips, Rev'd Ralph Lawrence, Mike Edwards, Christine Edwards, Katherine Brown (Beauty and Utility Arts)

Apologies: Lynn Keeton

Minutes of the meeting on 21 February 2018: Read and agreed

Correspondence: Insurance: A renewal quote, received from Ladbroke's for the Market Charities and Community Groups Insurance has been circulated. Same cover as last year for a renewal premium of £193.08. Renewal agreed and cheque signed.

- Mike to post.

Matters arising: Church Hall: There was some discussion concerning ways in which the Village Association might work alongside the PCC to help sustain the Church Hall for the benefit of the whole community.

- Ralph summarised a few points for further discussion/clarification with the PCC.

History Cafe Project:

Mike introduced Katherine explaining that he had heard about the History Cafe project from contacts in Appleby Magna, who spoke enthusiastically about the history cafe in their village. Mike invited Katherine to this meeting to explain more about the project as it seemed that it might answer wishes expressed by Brackenfield residents for coffee/social meetings, as noted in the Neighbourhood Plan Community Survey and a growing interest in local history.

Beauty and Utility Arts is an arts, heritage and health social enterprise with a focus on people over 50 years and also inter-generational work involving children. The first project to be set up has become self-sustaining and Museum Development East Midlands is rolling out at least six more groups. History Cafe is a membership project, so participating heritage sites can learn from each other. The project is being evaluated by the Centre for Ageing at De Montfort University.

The structure is to have 10 monthly meetings (usually mornings from 10am to 12.30pm) in 5 month blocks with a break in July and August. The format is to have a speaker (chosen on the basis of the group's interests) followed by refreshments (and cake!) and a catch-up and finally an activity linked to the speaker e.g. objects to generate discussion. Groups of 10 are a good size and it is desirable if people who sign up for the group attend regularly, though it is OK to drop in and leave early. Participants are asked to pay £3 per session towards refreshments and costs. A coordinator from BUA assists with Induction, setting up and training and attends the first and last session of each block. A volunteer coordinator is required to assist with admin, to attend all the sessions and write brief notes.

The History Cafe website has photos, accounts and information about speakers. Many speakers are highly knowledgeable and more than happy to participate on a voluntary basis. Once set up, the project can grow organically and link with other local initiatives. (e.g. Digital Culture Programme; Field Trips and visits; links with local schools and neighbouring villages; promoting a venue).

Katherine gave a brief illustration of costs, which can include training and support, venue hire, transport, marketing materials and evaluation kit. Funding is available e.g. from Tesco "Bags of Health" and Co-op Community Fund.

- It was unanimously agreed that this was something BVA would like to take up, possibly linking with Wessington.
- Katherine agreed to send further information including support re funding applications.

Pudding Evening Review:

Thirty people attended and it was a good evening, enjoyed by all. The stove contributed to the atmosphere though it was also necessary to use the wall heaters (electricity cost £15). The oven did not heat up properly and needs replacing. It was suggested that we ask Rosalyn Rogers about advertising for one in the Bulletin. The presentation was engaging – if repeated maybe a themed evening with a related demonstration? Possibly Italian Evening on Fri 5 October? Entertainment?

- Christine will discuss with Laura and request Church Hall booking.
- All to think about possible entertainment e.g. table magic? Quiz?

Picnic on the Green: Sunday 15 July from 11am to 5pm

Discussion regarding stalls etc. was deferred to the next meeting. Stefan is seeking details and prices from an events company who may be able to provide some activities.

Bex has agreed to provide an activity for children.

Following the meeting Christine spoke with Lynn who confirmed that Sand Art and Fudge stalls (making and selling) are booked.

AGM:

Tea, coffee and wine to be provided. Stefan will present an overview of the year and possible future directions. Mike will present the accounts.

April Bulletin:

Advertise committee vacancies and events; aim to distribute by 17 April. (Cath, Stefan, Martin, Mike and Christine); request prizes for raffle and bottle tombola (Cath and Lynn will store them.)

Any other business:

Father Christmas: Martin has details. Ask him about attending the Christmas Tree Switch On.

Derbyshire Open Arts: More information is needed to see if this is something we could tap into for late May Bank holiday 2019.

- Mike will contact them.

Litter Pick: Agreed this would be a good community activity. Provisional date Sat 9 June 10am to 11.30am. Drinks and cake to be provided.

- Christine will request the Church Hall and book equipment from NEDDC.

Transport: The idea was raised of trying to improve transport links for villagers (as identified in Neighbourhood Plan Survey). Initial ideas include minibus hopper service; minibus trips out; ride sharing. Would require more research within the community to identify needs. For further discussion.

For discussion at next meeting:

Finalise list of stalls and activities for the Picnic and make a “to do” list.

AGM – detailed planning

Dates of next meetings: All at Holly Cottage at 10am, except for the AGM

18 April; 3 May at 6.30pm at the Church Hall (AGM); 30 May; 27 June; 11 July

