

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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I can happily report that it has been another year chock full of great village events. We remain the envy of other villages holding so many good social gatherings. I'd firstly like to thank the committee for their tireless efforts to make these things happen.

We have gathered for village walks, always enjoying good weather and we have eaten at the White Horse, Bear and Ravenwood Hall

The Fayre in the summer was once again a great success. At 6pm on the Friday the marquees arrived in their trailer but the Green was empty ... for a second I worried that we would not managed to get them up .. then suddenly I found myself surrounded by folk, and teams formed and the marquees were up in minutes as if by magic!

We enjoyed a wonderful Open mic, which included the joys of a full drum kit, and one performer playing for the first time in 25 years! A professional saxophonist arrived and jammed with us, lighting the evening up. Two sets of Fathers and daughters duetted.

The Men of Beyton gave a rousing 'American Pie' and the ladies of Beyton responded with 'I will Survive'

Saturday dawned fine, and we made the most of good weather until mid-afternoon when the clouds dared to drop water on us ... but the British spirit remained fully intact and few left the green, making the most of a post-fayre free curry and drinking up at the Bar.

Rounders were played in June and July but lack of players in August forced Pimms-drinking as a welcome diversion. The training culminated in a wonderful match against Tostock in September What a cracking evening! An excellent match of over 20-a-side saw a close match finish with Tostock the victors - rematch will be required next year! Following this hungry players and spectators enjoyed BBQ and drinks around bright braziers, as darkness fell and 'Paddington' was shown on the big cinema screen. Around 10 tents were pitched and families thoroughly enjoyed their campout. This will be repeated next year!

The September Sale Trail drew buyers into the village and good business was done in the tea tent.

In November the Bonfire and Fireworks again attracted a huge crowd, who loved the atmosphere and excellent bonfire and firework display. November also saw us saying goodbye to Johnny and Juliette in the Bear and welcoming Hannah and her team.

October's Safari Supper was well supported and delicious meals and warm hosts made a memorable evening.

A large and rather tuneful group went Carol singing in December (see youtube clip!) raising over £100 for Gatehouse, which supplies hampers and Christmas meals to the needy..

The BVA Christmas meal was hosted by the Bear and we found that Hannah is continuing the great quality food to be found there.

In March the village quiz rounded up our events, with a hall full to bursting!

Let's raise a glass to another excellent year and continue to strive to find more ways of bringing villagers together.