

BVA Chairperson's Annual Report February 2025

The BVA has again had a very successful year organising events for the local community and raising money for charity. The year started with the annual Beyton Quiz held in the hall at the 6th form campus and a record 21 teams took part with the winners being the Beyton Bad Baristas who now have the honour of setting the questions for the event this year.

In May we held the first Open Gardens for many years and combined it with a new Supercar event organised by The Green Wheels Car Collective. Twelve gardens were opened and a total of 129 people went to look around them. The car show raised £460 towards Ellie Walters' World Challenge trip to Tanzania and the BVA donated £500 from the profit of the Open Gardens to the Beyton Environmental Group to support the improvement of the natural environment in and around the village.

The Beyton Fayre was once again held on the August bank holiday and despite steady rain all morning when the rain stopped at 2.30pm The Green suddenly filled with people. We had a few new attractions this year such as the police car and the Name the Bear along with old favourites such as the coconut shy and the bottle tombola. Unfortunately the grass was too slippery to hold the children's races or the tug of war, but the dog show was a great success and we still managed to finish the day with the traditional Beyton water bomb throwing.

The profits from the Fayre have been reinvested into purchasing new gazebos to replace some of the older ones which were at the end of their life, so that we can continue running events like this in future and we have also brought our reserves back up to pre-covid levels to cover the possibility of a major event having to be cancelled or a major piece of equipment, such as the marquee, needing to be replaced.

The Safari Supper took place in November for the first time since Covid. A total of 41 people participated starting at The White Horse for canapes, and then going to different houses for main course and dessert before returning to the White Horse for coffee and mince pies. Everyone seemed to have a great time meeting old friends and making new ones.

The traditional Carol Singing on the Green in December was supported by more than 50 people and £160 was raised in donations for the local food bank: Still Good Food. After the singing everyone went to the White Horse to warm up in front of the fire with complimentary mulled wine and mince pies.

Throughout the year we continued to organise village walks approx. every 3 months. We have developed these to include evening walks with a pub stop part way round and most recently by starting for the first time from a location outside the village E.G. Blackthorpe Barns. This was very popular with 19 people taking part so we will be planning further walks starting from venues outside the village in future.

We have also completed the task of revising our constitution this year as it has been decades since this was last updated, so the document now reflects what we are currently doing.

Thanks so much to all the members of the committee who have done so much to organise these activities and also to the many other volunteers who have assisted with running the events on the day. I am very lucky to have such an enthusiastic and energetic committee, and it is their hard work which makes events like these happen.