

## Appendix 3 - Reports from Parish Organisations

### Jubilee Hall: 2022 - Counting the cost of Covid

During this past year, exceptional circumstances have caused the Jubilee Hall Management Committee to take stock and take a broad view on what the future may hold in store for us.

The pandemic dominated 2020 and 2021. As 2022 progressed, contagion was still widespread and many people in the parish were infected, but most sufferers were only briefly indisposed, and village life began to return to normal.

The impact on the Jubilee Hall's finances was serious, so in October 2022 we held a committee meeting to *take stock of the impact of the Covid pandemic, its cost to the Jubilee Hall in financial terms, and the disruption of the social life in the parish, relating to use of the hall.*

To summarise the position, the hall needed to make up a shortfall of around 500 hiring hours a year in order to return to the level enjoyed in the year 2019/20 (pre-Covid). To ensure return to a positive cash flow, it would be necessary to increase hire charges for the first time since before the major renovation of the hall in 2006. Following the recommendation of the Treasurer, the decision was made to increase the basic hourly charge by 50% to £6 per hour. The Winter Heating surcharge would remain.

This was agreed with great reluctance, although our rates would still remain very reasonable compared with other village halls in Somerset. It was acknowledged that this increase might cause serious problems for some hirers. However, the committee had little choice; we could not continue to allow the hall to have an operating loss.

An increase in the hire tariff would help solve immediate problems, but only an increase in the number of hiring hours could supply a long-term solution. To achieve this the hall's management would need to take the initiative in developing ideas to encourage use of our spare capacity.

It was decided to start weekly table tennis sessions and to encourage increased attendance at Yoga and Pilates sessions. It was also agreed to start up Short Mat Bowling, if practical and financially viable. In the weeks that followed, all these activities were introduced. If successful on a medium to long term basis, we hope they will solve the current shortfall in hiring hours. These new projects involved minimal expenditure.

It was also agreed at the meeting that a major effort should be made to encourage parish residents to give more support to the Jubilee Hall Lottery, which runs throughout the year and makes a significant contribution to maintenance costs. To achieve this, a letter explaining the Jubilee Hall's problems was delivered to virtually every household in the parish. The response was gratifying, and well worth the considerable effort required. Lottery Tickets sales for 2023 were more than doubled!

Furthermore, as a postscript, the Short-mat bowling and Table Tennis initiatives are proving popular. Ki-Aikido has also added a Sunday morning session to its regular programme. These are very encouraging signs.

#### **The future**

#### ***Global warming and Zero Carbon emissions....***

Having addressed our immediate problems at the October 2022 meeting, at our first full meeting

in 2023 our attention was drawn to a longer-term issue, which if not confronted could threaten the future of the Jubilee Hall.

The government commitment to reduce UK's carbon emissions to zero by 2050, 75% of which to be achieved by 2035, will create serious financial problems for the Jubilee Hall's management team if and when the proposed legislation comes into effect.

At present the situation is far from clear; there is little reliable technical or financial guidance as to which source of energy should be used to replace, with confidence, our existing oil-fired boiler. One thing is certain; the thermal insulation of the hall's roof will need to be greatly improved. This can only be done at considerable cost, beyond the Jubilee Hall's current resources. Grant aid and specific fund raising is certain to be needed.

A sub-committee has been formed, tasked with watching the legislative situation as it develops and investigating the options for installing a new heating source and improving the hall's thermal efficiency. This group will report back to the main committee on a regular basis

### ***Changes to the Constitution....***

The decision to update the Jubilee Hall's Constitution referred to in our last report have now been implemented. They were needed to make recruitment of new committee members easier by widening the ability to recruit Village Representatives. The benefits of this are already being felt.

**To conclude,** I will simply say that there are some rough seas ahead of us, over the next twenty or so years, but the JHMC is confident that, with care, and the support of the parish, the Jubilee Hall, which is a vital resource for our community will survive, hopefully for another 140 years.

All these matters, and more will be covered in more detail in our Annual Report which will be published online at the time of our next Annual General Meeting to be held in June

Thank you.

John Sullivan

## **Winsham Recreational Trust Report for 2022-23**

Jonathan Harding reported that it has been a successful year, seeing the Community Club Membership increase to 76 family and single membership, and the clubhouse and playing fields used extensively for public, club events and private bookings. The number of events and bookings are up on previous years, as is attendance at events.

There have been a number of improvements to the clubhouse and changing rooms over the past year, improving their utility and creating a modern welcoming environment that further encourages use.

Financially the WRT is steady, although, as for everyone costs are rising and to, unfortunately are our prices. Although these are still a good deal to members and public alike.

The WRT are looking at extension plans to the clubhouse to improve the kitchen and toilet facilities and will look for grant support to do that.

We will also seek to renew and modernise the lease with Winsham Parish Council and update the constitution.

Activity wise, there have been a huge range of events over and above the normal Community Club opening hours, including music events, takeaway nights, bingo nights, children's parties, quizzes and charity fund raisers amongst many others. The Winsham Fun Day in August was a great success with hundreds of people attending.

Looking forward the Fun Day will run again on Sunday 27th August. There is a Family Games afternoon on Monday May 8th and an opportunity to watch King Charles' Coronation together on Saturday 6th May. We are hosting the Street Fair's Craft Fair and Dog Show on 9th July and there are a range of music events and other activities planned for the summer months.

Lastly my thanks to all the Community Club volunteers and WRT Trustees who continue to make this success possible.

## Winsham Community Shop and Post Office

Stephen Miller (Winsham Shop Chair) gave the following report. The shop is prospering, there was a small loss this year but it is not irretrievable. Next year's energy tariff is really frightening but despite that we feel they will be able to manage to get through. There is a possibility of alleviating the cost but we have to deal with our landlord on that. Otherwise, things are going well.

There are three points I would like to make, the first is that we have a fantastic lot of volunteers who come in during the middle of the day but we could still do with more. One of the volunteers recently remarked that volunteering in the shop is the highlight of her week, she has such fun during the two or three hours that she is there, meeting lots of people and wouldn't miss it for the world. We have three new volunteers this year but could do with more simply to have a larger pool of people to call upon. The good news is there is no longer an embargo on the over 75's since covid restrictions have relaxed.

We have recently done an exercise to look at the cost of going into Chard or Crewkerne in a normal car which was a frightening amount of money just to get your shopping at Tesco or Waitrose. There is a wide range of products in the shop so we want to get the message across that if you can use the shop more it would be a great help. Goods aren't particularly expensive as the buying is done in quite a selective way to try to keep prices as low as we can which we think we are achieving.

The shop is going from strength to strength and long may it last.

## Winsham & Cricket St Thomas Royal British Legion Women's Section

We have been meeting monthly. A group meeting for the Southwest branches was cancelled twice once due to a train strike the other due to holidays. Sandra Fishlock our MSO came to our December meeting at our vice chairs home. It was lovely to meet her as she has been a good help to me as treasurer. Our January meeting, we had lunch at the Bell Inn. We donated to our three charities thanks to the Bell Inn's generous donation and Margaret's Trip's raffle each trip. We organised the Remembrance Sunday service. Our membership is still nine members. It was nice to see the War Memorial names redone. Thank you to the Parish Council and my grateful thanks to Margaret Tett for doing the crosses with the names.

Margaret Long Hon sec

## St Stephens Church - Annual Report March 2023

Churchwarden Peter Saunders reported that despite many may think the are flourishing at St Stephens, numbers are buoyant and we are finding that quite a few people for the other benefices are joining them on a Sunday morning. We still pride ourselves that the church is open everyday of the year. This is achieved with thanks to Richard who unlocks every morning and locks up every evening day in and day out. They are also very grateful to their clock winder Keith Fowler and to the flag raiser who was at the meeting. Thanks also to the Parish Council for making the churchyard such a tidy place as it is at the moment. Winsham School is Church of England accredited and St Stephens continue to do their bit by welcoming the pupils and staff of a regular basis were the introduce the children to bible stories and making good use of the dressing up box with biblical kit. To end of a sad note, they lost one of the regulars, a real St Stephens stalwart, Tony Meech put his faith at the heart of everything he did and over his long-life time he held just about every appointment within the church. Most noticeably he sang in the choir from the age of nine right up until he was ninety.

We look forward to your next visit to the church, some of you haven't been for a while. It is a wonderful building, at the moment you have the added bonus of the wildflower spring garden which is just perfect now. Along with the rest of you we will be celebrating the Coronation by having a special service on the Sunday evening with a drink to toast his majesty.

## Winsham United Charities - Annual Report March 2023

First of all, a few background details: in 1680, Sir Matthew Holworthy gave a 3-acre field, which is now part of Magdalen Farm, for the benefit of the people of Winsham. The income from this land was used to help boys starting an apprenticeship to buy their tools, clothing etc.

In 1866, John Wheadon gave a sum of money to be invested, the income from which was to be used for the relief of the poor. The field was eventually sold and the two charities combined in 1912. The capital is invested with the Charities Commission Official Investment Fund and the interest is distributed in the form of grants.

In 1866, some people lived in extreme poverty: there were large families; poor housing; little work; and no help from the state. Grants from the charities really helped people to survive. In the 2020s, lives are very different. The need for equipment for further education and help with fees has largely replaced the needs of those undertaking apprenticeships. John Wheadon could never have imagined the lives of today's schoolchildren, especially the home schooling necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

Winsham United Charities is managed by the incumbent of St Stephen's Church and two parishioners appointed as trustees by the Parish Council.

Applications for funding from people in the parish of Winsham are considered in confidence and grants made according to the guidelines laid down by the Charity Commissioners and the intentions of the founders of the charities. During 2021 the trustees not only unveiled a new logo for the Winsham United Charities, but also created a web page— most easily accessed via John Sullivan's weekly newsletter, or the Winsham Web. Via this web page and the newly established WUC email address - [winshamunitedcharities@gmail.com](mailto:winshamunitedcharities@gmail.com) - parishioners are now able to make on-line grant applications.

The Trustees of WUC will be approaching the Headteacher of Winsham Primary School to make

the school aware of the support the charity may be able to offer to their students.

The income from the investments held during the financial year ending 31st March 2022 amounted to £803 and grants totalling £200 were allocated.

Winsham United Charities will consider requests, from young people living in the Parish of Winsham, for help with the costs of: equipment; tuition; events; activities; and travel expenses. WUC cannot provide retrospective grants. Funding is for families and individuals in need. The trustees do not want any young person to be negatively disadvantaged through hardship. Most requests for funding are dealt with within 4 weeks and are for sums varying between £20 and £200. The decision of the WUC Trustees is final and no correspondence concerning grants will be entered into.

Application forms, available on the web page, should be emailed to:  
winshamunitedcharities@gmail.com

Or sent to: The Trustees WUC, c/o The Clerk to the Parish Council, Jubilee Hall, Church Street, Winsham, Chard, Somerset, TA20 4HU.

## Winsham School and Pre-School

It's been a busy year so far in school. The children have remained at the centre of all we do, the decisions we make and the changes we have undertaken in order to ensure that they have the best and the widest possible opportunities.

We started the year thinking about the community and the part we play within it.

We showed our appreciation to the village shop as well as the ice cream man who kindly gave each child a free ice cream.

The children performed beautifully at the various Christmas events – those members of the community who attended the Easter service will, we are sure, agree that their singing is amazing.

Curious learners. The children are engaged and participate well in all things and are all making pleasing progress.

We have sung at the Brewhouse in front of a big audience, taken part in Trust wide debates and we have truly grown in confidence to be happy learners.

- We are currently planning fundraising events to twin our toilets!
- We are also looking forward to the forthcoming coronation event.
- We are grateful to our PFA, who have supported us in a school trip to the pantomime and in buying resources – as well as Christmas treats, film nights, Easter bonnet parades and cake sales!
- Our pre school continues to impress all those who visit and we have been working on bridging the Curiosity approach seen within that setting, into the foundation stage within the school.
- Our children love visiting the church and taking part in Open the Book sessions – we are grateful to the community for giving us their time for these.
- At lunchtimes, the children now have a dinner party topic of conversation each day and

listen to music as they enjoy their meal and each other's company. Two recent visitors commented on the lovely atmosphere the school has.

- We are grateful to the community – especially The Bell – for helping us to grow our school library

Please do come and visit

- We welcome any member of our village community that would like to come and visit us to look around and see the wonderful work taking place.
- We also welcome anyone who would like to volunteer their time to hear readers or to support in class alongside the children.

Report provided by Head of School Emma Johns

## Winsham Street Fair

The Street Fair formed a new committee in September, we did our fund raising for the calendar and are very grateful to all their sponsors and because of the sponsorship they were able to offer the calendar at £5 per time. They sold out in the shop, with a larger print run than usual at 100. This year we added to the calendar all the community events, so if people in the community told us their events they went on the calendar. We are looking forward to receiving photographs for next year so do start sending those in now as obviously we would like to pictures match the month. We had the Christmas lighting up with over 100 people attending and we are grateful to the Parish Council for their grant. Chard Brass Band were delighted as there is usual no food left when they finish but this year they were fed before they performed and had supper waiting after they finished. Everyone was really generous and they raised £156 which will go towards their instrument rental and repairing and buying new equipment so they were delighted. Those were the two main events for last year, this year we have got a barn dance on the first Saturday in June in the Jubilee Hall so do come along. There will be wine and beer and there will be a very experienced caller. In July we will have the Dog Show and Craft Stalls on the Upper Rec both events all money raised will go towards next year's Street Fair and there will be a Race Night in November followed by the regular Christmas Tree event in December. If anyone has suggestions for a theme for the Street Fair to let them know and we are looking for volunteers to help out on the day.

Colette Annesley-Gamester

## The Bell Public House – Yearly Report to the Parish Council April 2023

Well, this year has been both a financial and emotional roller coaster for the pub and staff. There has been some financial support from local and governmental departments, but not a great deal as we seem to fall between the layers of "doesn't qualify", so therefore as a pub we have felt emotionally "alone" in the post covid struggles and the general hike in cost of living prices especially gas and electric along with all the other requirements and costs of running the pub ie the public health aspect, due care and diligence required, financial obligations to staff, licences for the pub, tv & music, vat & taxes have all been met by ourselves along with the cost of living rises.

But we are very happy that we have a core support from some village residents and others in that skittles through the Autumn and winter months has been well supported, the weekly quiz, organised by local residents, is well attended, a cribbage league is gaining support, whilst Sunday lunches, pensioners lunches are well supported, a monthly morning breakfast is held the first Saturday, a beer festival is organised in the summer months especially when the street fair is on.

As a pub we have in turn supported the local RBL, school and pre-school, horticultural society, street Fair, Thorncombe first responders, with our weekly lottery draw which is supported by the locals, therefore the money is returned to the village.

Charity coffee mornings have been organised to support these invaluable people, we now look forward to the return of the summer visitors and the hopes of a good summer both financially and weather. The pub is generally available to the village community for parties, skittle games, family meals or just a drink, we keep a good range of local real ales and all other drinks.

I would like to remind the Parish Council of the fragility of many local businesses, and that it is easy to forget that if these businesses are not used and helped that there will be a limit to their sustainability.

Some may go and be lost forever and some may stay the course looking for better times, but, maybe with a little help!

Yours sincerely

Jane Down. Bell Public House.

## Winsham Horticultural Society

After two years without much opportunity to stage events, a promising calendar of talks was planned for 2022. We began in May with Tryphena Huntingdon at the Jubilee to talking about growing medicinal plants. She brought samples of some of the blends of herbs prepared for various ills and ailments for sale and gave everyone the opportunity to taste a few interestingly flavoured infusions before buying.

Sally Morgan, well know author and TV personality, gave a very informative workshop in May on how to make our gardens climate change ready. We spent the morning in Sandy & Julia Crowle's garden at Lime Kiln House learning about using and conserving water in our gardens on different types of soil. Sally also gave us many ideas on controlling pests and diseases on vegetables in environmentally friendly ways. It was a well-attended and popular event with plenty of take-home ideas to help cope with future changes in our climate.

Our Plant Sale in the Jubilee on 30<sup>th</sup> April was busy from the start with everything selling fast. Claire from Coombe Dingle Plants brought a range of interesting perennials to add to the Society's home-grown flower and vegetable plants and all sold out quickly.

The Society had a well-stocked plant sales stand at the Winsham Street Fair, with a demo on 'no-dig' vegetable gardening.

The Annual Flower Show was very successful in spite of the entry numbers being slightly down. This was mainly due to the difficult spring weather. Our committee were disappointed with so few entries in the children's classes and have resolved to give them a little encouragement this year to contribute a painting of 'something in a garden' for their entry!



Sally Wyndham Lewis gave an illuminating talk in September on the present state of many species of bees in this country. Surprisingly some, notably honeybees, are better off than is generally believed. Sally gave us some fresh ideas of how we can help to encourage the less resilient species by growing the most suitable pollinating plants in our gardens, specifically for them.

Those people who attended the AGM in the Community Club in November were treated to another excellent talk, this time by Carla Sheils. She gave us a wonderful colour slide display of some of the amazing South African plants that are being exploited by plant poachers in the area. A great finale for us all.

## Joint Parish Magazine

The Joint Parish Magazine is a non-profit publication that covers Winsham, Thorncombe, and Cricket St Thomas. Like many other organisations and publications, the Joint Parish Magazine is no different in these challenging times from having a print run of 600 when I first started editing 10 years ago, we are just over half that number now.

The cost of printing has risen considerably, and so this year, we have had to raise the price to 60 pence per month. We have 84 advertisers who cover a wide and varied selection of services from Pubs and clubs to both local schools and preschools.

We are very fortunate to have an amazing group of volunteers who support the JPM every month from collating, proof reading, collecting and delivering without whom we wouldn't be able to continue plus our article writers who supply sometimes amusing but always informative articles for us to print.

To place an article in the JPM please send your piece in no more than 500 words in a word document to [parishmagazine2011@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parishmagazine2011@hotmail.co.uk)<mailto:[parishmagazine2011@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parishmagazine2011@hotmail.co.uk)>

## Toilet Twinning

A stall at last year's street Fair raised enough funds to twin a loo after which I got the bug. The people at Toilet Twinning were really nice and told me that if you get five toilets twinned you get a Village Twinning Certificate. So, I started telling people about it and we are now up to 19 toilets twinned. The Parish Council, as a requirement, had to twin in order to get the Village Twinning status so they very kindly twinned a toilet.

What happens is that £60 gives you a certificate for your own loo and the whole of the £60 goes to a country where they don't have toilets at all. Instead of sending someone over from the UK and flying them over to build the toilet for the community they get someone on the ground to go to the village and establish what materials to use so it might be made of brick and the type of latrine depending on the local area. Once someone in the village builds a toilet everyone else wants one. Some of the residents have twinned their toilets as have the village shop and the school want to twin all ten of their toilets so they are raising money by various means. With their ten loos twinned we would get to City status. A lovely evening in the Community Club resulted in all three toilets being twinned. If anyone would like to twin their toilet please let me know.

Colette Annesley-Gamester



## Winsham Poetry Reading Group

Brian Turner reported the group was formed in January 2014

- It meets on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month
- At 10-30 in the morning
- In the homes of members or at The Bell Inn
- Each month there is a topic (so far over 120)

Topics chosen so far this year have included:

Beginnings

Valentines

Horses

Choices

### Highlights of 2022

The highlight of the past year was the assembling and production of the book  
WINSHAM POEMS 2022

Which consisted of poems written by local people under the headings of:

- Village life
- Out & About
- Poems from Winsham School
- Royal Matters
- Modern Technology

**The book cost £5 only and all proceeds from the sale of the book will go to  
THE BRITISH RED CROSS UKRAINE APPEAL**

Thanks to sponsorship by:

- Chalmers & Co – chartered accountants
- B. Gibbs – funeral services
- Stuart's Property Services
- The Bell Inn
- Winsham Village Shop

all costs were covered & we were able to donate £500 to the Ukrainian Appeal

The book had a Foreword, as well as several poems, by local poet and cider expert James Crowden. The Poetry Reading Group was pleased to invite James to one of its autumn meetings.

The book was designed by Bethany Fowler

If you like reading, or just listening to, poetry

THEN PLEASE JOIN US YOU WILL BE MOST WELCOME

Our next meeting is at 10-30 on Wednesday 3 May

Topic: EMPTY

## Winsham Music Group

The group was set up in 2016

- It meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month
- At 10-30 in the morning
- In the homes of members

- Each month there is a topic and a composer
- Recently, we have worked through an alphabetical list of composers / performers
- We listen to music of all kinds
- We do not perform
  - We listen to Classical Music
  - We listen to Jazz Music
  - We listen to soloists
  - We listen to Folk Music
  - We listen to instrumentalists
  - We listen to Choral Music

If you like listening to music, please join us our next meeting is on Wednesday 17th May at 10-30  
Topic: CORONATION, ROYAL CELEBRATIONS

For further details please contact

BRIAN TURNER Telephone: 432060 Or Email: [bjturner40@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bjturner40@hotmail.co.uk)

## Winsham Players PC Report 2023

Winsham has had a long involvement in amateur dramatics over the years, but regrettably these are hard times. "Suspended animation" is probably the best way to describe things at the moment – so there we have it – a wonderful opportunity for someone to step forward and produce and direct the next show. When you get to a certain age it is difficult to remember the lines, so we very much look forward to supporting the next generation as much as we can.

On a positive note, however, we continue to organise monthly play readings in member's homes. We make full use of the Performing Arts Library in Yeovil. Just occasionally we have more parts than readers which can be challenging. Again, we welcome anyone new to the village who would like to join us.

## Winsham Walkers

Winsham Walkers meet on the 1st Thursday of every month. New members always welcome, Dave Lester is the point of contact. Details in the JPM and on Winsham Parish website.