

Twynning Bulletin



*The Newsletter of Twynning Parish Council
No. 141, October 2020*



Front cover: Farmer Scarecrow. Well done to the Allard family, and especially Lewis for all that stuffing!

*Above: Morris Ainsbury, the Wilks family's home shopping scarecrow! (And friends...)
(Photos: Fiona Thornton)*

Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Twyning Bulletin. It's a little thinner than usual as many summer activities were curtailed, but there are still community groups managing to keep going, albeit in new and different ways, and the scarecrows were a delight as always!

After three years as Bulletin editor I've decided that it's time to step back from the role, so if you'd be interested in putting this publication together, three times a year, please get in touch and I can explain what's involved.

Fiona Thornton, editor
editor@twyningcouncil.co.uk

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Keeping in Touch with Your Village

Twyning Village Website

www.twyningvillage.co.uk

All sorts of useful information on the village and its amenities – everything from councillors to footpaths.

Facebook

Twyning Community on Facebook is a great way to keep in touch with up-to-date information on events, get advice or share any security concerns. There are other village pages for selling, for photos and for many of the village organisations.

Twyning Bulletin

Published three times a year by the Parish Council, and delivered to your door.

Village Noticeboards

The Parish Council has noticeboards outside the shop, at Lynworth Lane, TRAC, Hillend, Church End, Stratford Bridge and Shuthonger. The Village Hall and church have their own too. There's also a noticeboard on the side of the school, and one in the shop which will display adverts for a small fee. **Event organisers are encouraged to use the boards to reach village residents who aren't on Facebook!**

Parish Council

Twyning Parish Council meets on the second Monday of every month (excluding the August recess, and December when the meeting is on the second Wednesday) at Twyning Village Hall or occasionally at the Ann Townend Hall. Meetings commence at 7.30pm and members of the public are welcome to attend. Agendas are normally posted on Parish Council notice boards one week prior to the meeting. Minutes can be viewed on the village website and are also displayed at the Village Hall and on the notice board outside Twyning shop.

Quick Contacts

Parish Council Chairman: Jeremy Horsfall – 275059;

cllr.horsfall@twyningcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Vice-Chairman: Peter Hadley – 07950 046951

Tewkesbury Borough Councillors for Twyning: Mike Sztymiak 01684 299743,
Philip Workman 07885 931772

Gloucestershire County Councillor: Kevin Cromwell – 07860 230711

MP for Tewkesbury Constituency: Laurence Robertson – 291640

A full list of parish councillors, along with email contacts for local representatives, can be found on the Twyning Village website (see above).

Chairman's Report

I am delighted to be able to start with some good news. Twyning Junior Football (now known as Twyning Tigers) kicked off on Kilmore Field with an open meeting on 22nd August and has been a roaring success ever since. Following the launch event, up to 30 village girls and boys aged from 4 to 11 have been going along every Saturday morning to have a run around the field, practise their skills and play a friendly game.

The session is open to all abilities and is run by a group of volunteer local dads, following the latest Government/Football Association guidance, with the main emphasis on having fun on the new field. If your children are interested please contact Steve Wilcox (swilcox2039@gmail.com). Steve is also considering setting up a Veterans (over 35!) five-a-side session on the MUGA Court on Tuesday evenings.

Come on the Tigers!

The Parish Council have now had several meetings by Zoom and I think we have now begun to master the art.

Now some sad news. Gary and Sandra Lawson will shortly be leaving the Village Inn. I know we all wish to thank them for all the support they have given to the village in so many ways – to mention just one, The Sausage and Cider Festivals. A big thank you to you both, we wish you well.

The Parish Council has been working with all the stakeholders at TRAC and Kilmore Field and have started an initiative to increase the collaboration between users and increase accessibility for as many Parishioners as possible to take advantage of the amazing facilities.

We hope this exercise will provide a positive position for TRAC to work with the Parish Council to develop the site further and make it a true hub for recreation and leisure for the benefit of the Twyning community

Although on 'standby' at the moment, the Emergency Committee is ready, willing and able to spring into action should the need arise (see p17).

Finally I thank my colleagues on the Council, our Clerk, our Tree Warden and members of our Working Groups for their support.

Stay safe and weather the storm.

Jeremy Horsfall
Chairman, Twyning Parish Council
September 2020



Many in the village may have taken time to spring clean their garage or shed.

Question: What to do with surplus / rarely used tools that are taking up space but seem too good to skip?

Suggestion: Why not donate them to charity? Tools With A Mission (twam.uk) collects and refurbishes tools of all kinds, and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation schemes. See their website for full details.

Donated tools are collected by local volunteers.

Beekeeping in Twynning

This year started out so well, with bees developing well and hives filling up with brood. The summer weather was great for a while, then the cold and wet spells meant much of the honey collected was eaten by the bees – as that is what it is for! We are likely to only get 1/3 of the honey we thought and that's disappointing for us, but at least the bees had a good year!

Training this year had to be put on hold for obvious reasons, and all those folk who signed up will be given a free course next year – subject to being able to run them. So for 2021 we are not able to offer new places, but instead we are planning on running a series of Taster Days. These will incorporate a morning session with theory and practical demonstrations on different hives and equipment, a picnic lunch, and in the afternoon a hands-on session with live bees so you get a chance to handle them and see how you like the craft. From here, if there is enough interest, we could start a limited weekly project to get you up and running with your own bees.

If anyone is interested in doing this, please make contact with Bill O'Dell at Green Farm, wro@idspartners.co.uk, 07879 256016

Acorns Children's Hospice

Well, as you will know, 2020 has been a difficult and somewhat traumatic year.

At the beginning of the year Sam and myself took the difficult decision that this would be the last year we would raise funds for Acorns by selling the knitted animals complete with creme eggs, he being in his 93rd year and me in my 82nd. We have competed 22 years selling Easter animals, first at the old Tewkesbury Hospital and then, when this was closed and knocked down, for Acorns.

Our team of knitters, stitchers and sellers has also gradually become depleted, due to age, infirmity and sadly death in some cases.

We thought – one last year, and let's make it a good one! Then Covid 19 struck – disaster! All our outlets in lockdown. Eventually, after many months, we managed to collect in the money and leftover animals with eggs. We were able to distribute some to Chance Street School (despite Easter having come and gone, we are sure the children appreciated them!) and also a huge number went to Acorns to be distributed to the families via food parcels.

At long last we have been able to collect all the tins and count the money. Many thanks to Louise at Tewkesbury Cards and Gifts, who was very grateful to take all the coins in exchange for notes, and we were then able to bank the money.

We now have a cheque for £1400 to be handed over to Acorns Children's Hospice, Worcester.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has helped in their own way to raise funds, first for Tewkesbury Hospital and then for Acorns. We shall miss you all, but hopefully we shall still see you around the village and also in and around Tewkesbury. Keep well and KEEP SAFE!

Anita and Sam Haycock, 15 Paxhill Lane, tel. 293890

Twynning Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to be used by Playgroup under the government exception rulings.

All other activities are regrettably not able to be accommodated until such time as the regulations are changed.

The recent change to advice in relation to the Rule of 6 further underlines our inability to host clubs and societies.

Dave Lockett

Chairman

Twyning Tennis Club

Come and play!

Well it's been an interesting summer on the courts. After a late start with Covid 19 making a presence we were allowed to play singles and then moved to doubles, as some restrictions were lifted. Members were keen to start playing again, and observing all the safety guidelines, thoroughly enjoyed their tennis.

The Gloucestershire League matches didn't go ahead but the Club Tournament did. The Finals Day for this took place on August 30 and it was exciting for some socially distanced spectators to see some superb tennis being played.

Peter Gold has been Chair of the Tennis Club for many years and has selflessly contributed massively to some of the developments that have taken place in the Club. Peter has now stepped down from the position and from the committee. The committee thanked Peter with a presentation at the Finals Day and wished him happy tennis playing.

One of the good things to happen with the advent of Covid 19 has been that we have seen a membership growth. With our super-organised booking system, members can now book a court for themselves and organise games more easily, also with the help of WhatsApp. We have our own coach, Sarah Bennison, who is offering coaching to small groups of children and adults, as well as to individuals. There is also a cardio session to improve fitness.

If you've been hesitating about joining the Club, thinking it's going into the winter, don't wait! We play all year round in the daytime and the evening. We have membership packages for all: adults, children, family, and a temporary membership for one month for just £10. Don't delay, find out more!

For further details email twyningtennis@gmail.com

Twyning Over-60s Lunch Club

Unfortunately, due the continued restrictions with COVID-19, we have not been able hold our weekly lunches. However, plans are being put in place to enable us to do so when safe and we will let members know as soon as it is possible.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support. We will still be in need of people (male or female!) to help when we return. If anyone has time free on a Friday between 10am and 2pm (not necessarily for the whole four hours), please let us know, either Sam Haycock on 293890 or Judith Allen on 292123.

In the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe!

Twyning WI

Just like many other reports you will read in this edition of the Twyning Bulletin, WI do not have much to report.

Throughout lockdown we kept ourselves busy with craft, tending our gardens and growing our own fruit and veg. Our County Chairperson sent out regular emails keeping us apprised of how other WIs had managed to meet on Zoom, or in the park or by WhatsApp groups. We've done the same, but it really is not as good as getting together in person.

We had hoped to resume meetings in a socially responsible way, starting with a car park picnic at our Chairperson's house but the new Rule of Six put that on the back burner. So now we are back to meeting on Zoom, sending emails, crafting, tending our gardens and harvesting our fruit and veg!

Twyning Tigers

At the start of this year we had around 8 children running around the Village Green for a very informal football game. The question was asked if there could be a wider interest in our village to do something a little more structured but nevertheless informal.

Over the last few weeks, we got to the dizzy heights of 34 children in attendance so that question has certainly been answered!

We are blessed with great facilities here in Twyning and I think we can all agree that seeing them being used in this manner is most enjoyable.

Steven Wilcox



Twyning Parish Church & Twyning Chapel

The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene

Message from Ron Hesketh, Associate Priest*

The 'Rule of Six', which comes into force on the day I write this article, sounds like a Sherlock Holmes mystery but sadly it's not. Fortunately it does not apply to places of worship so Twyning Parish Church will continue to offer a Sunday service, if not quite as we have known it! The organ is being heard again but sadly not accompanying voices. I often wonder what it must have been like to stand in the same building during the great plagues of the past. Much more terrifying, I imagine, as at least we have the insights of modern medicine and the hope of a vaccine.

The continuity of history through our parish churches gives us, I hope, a much-needed perspective. Bombarded daily by pandemic statistics and by the fear of consequences for ourselves and our family, we can with some justification become depressed. Churches, whether you have a faith or not, have always acted in dark days as a beacon of hope. Somewhere to retreat to for recharging or just to be..... Please feel free to go into Twyning Parish Church. It is not just for those who go on Sunday, who incidentally look like a bunch of bandits in their masks! But you don't need to wear a mask for private prayers or reflection.

The Church is open daily for you and I trust we will never have to lock it again. I and many others never agreed with that policy!!

Another unfortunate consequence of the current Covid restrictions is that I cannot visit people, but my use of the telephone and email is unfettered. If you have concerns and need a confidential chat do not hesitate to call. I won't force you into a confession!

Looking ahead is quite difficult. Normally I would now be planning beyond Harvest to Remembrance and Christmas but at present it is just not possible. Of course these times will come but we may have to be creative in observing and celebrating these milestones of the year.

Take care and God bless

Ron Hesketh

*Associate Priest means I am part of the Tewkesbury Abbey community

Regular services in Church are: Each Sunday **Parish Communion** is at 9.30am

Dates to note are:

Oct 4th Sunday 9.30am **HARVEST FESTIVAL EUCHARIST**

Dec 25th Friday 9.30am **CHRISTMAS FAMILY COMMUNION**

Decisions on whether other services will take place will be made nearer the date. Up-to-date information can be found on the Church website and the Twyning Village website. For more information on any of these or other events, please give Ron or the Churchwardens a ring or look at:

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/twyning-st-mary-magdalene>

Everyone is always welcome at all our services.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Ven. Ron Hesketh | 01684 299773 | mobile 07745 758 899 |
| Parish Lay Minister | Angela Cole | 01684 294 325 |
| Churchwarden | Chris Cole | 01684 294 325 |
| Churchwarden Emeritus | Margaret Bailey | 01684 298 268 |

Twyning Chapel

Not much to report this time. During the last few months, we have met a couple of times on a Sunday morning via Zoom with services led by Steve Hutchinson from the Scripture Union which have been inspiring and lively (as usual!). As reported last time, many of us have continued watching services from other churches via Youtube, which we have enjoyed and found helpful.

However, we are really pleased to say that we have had a couple of outdoor services over recent weeks, in the garden at Croft Farm at Defford (thanks to Clive and Margaret Porter). We have been fortunate that the weather has been kind and we have not needed our umbrellas! It has been lovely to see and catch up face to face with each other – we even brought our own coffee/tea to share afterwards. We have also started having fortnightly Zoom prayer meetings as a way to meet and share together.

The chapel is ready to open safely for small numbers on a Sunday morning and we had hoped that this could have started in October, but will await further government guidance in light of the recent changes.

We continue to be thankful for our health and for living in a location which allows us to enjoy the lovely countryside and where numbers appear to have been relatively low. We hope and pray that we will soon be meeting up again and that some of our usual activities can re-start, but only when we can facilitate these safely and if these are allowed.

Twyning School

We should have a banner up that says 'Under New Management' but as most of you know, Lucy Halling has been Acting Headteacher since earlier in the year when Richard Vaughan left his post for medical reasons. It is good to report that Richard is now much better and looking ahead to taking up a new role in the near future. Covid 19 restrictions have made a farewell to Richard difficult but we hope to mark his significant contribution to Twyning School sometime during this term.

Lucy Halling has had a 'baptism of fire' as Acting Headteacher and now Headteacher in some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable. But in this short time, Lucy has managed to get more pupils into school than nearly all other comparable primary schools and the new term has opened well despite risk-assessments that would daunt lesser souls. Of course, she has not been alone in this endeavour and has been supported by the energy and professionalism of her staff. If you thought school staff took a long summer break, then think again! Even their partners were engaged in the many tasks it has taken to keep the doors open. The team is now joined by Mark Davies, our new and energetic Deputy Headteacher. There is a real drive and energy to ensure that Twyning School provides the best opportunity for its children, whatever the circumstances.

Given all the hard work to keep the School open, I was amazed that time could be found for other activities. But you may remember that we had to raise £4,000 towards the all-weather field surface. To this end, a fantastic fundraising effort has been going on during the summer, including a staff bike ride and lots of activities by the children. As I write this article, it looks as though £2,906 has been raised which is 72% of our £4,000 target. My thanks to all who have made this happen.

The governing body is now back up to full strength and has been kept busy during the appointment of new staff and arrangements for ongoing schooling. Can I thank Liz O'Dell who was my deputy and right-hand person until ill health forced her resignation in May. Since then, Carol Chapman has stepped into this role, bringing skills and energy which have been invaluable in keeping everything on track. Maggie Lewis has finished her term of office and Annie Siddall will leave us this term, both having made significant contributions to the School. Governors give their time freely to oversee and support education in the community. We welcome new governors David Henstock, Vicky Young, Oliver Last and Jamie Bartlam.

School is not just about reaching academic targets but an opportunity to develop well-rounded citizens. Covid 19 certainly has its downsides but it has also been an opportunity to focus on how the children relate to one another in their changed circumstances. I was delighted to note in last week's School Newsletter a special focus around the importance of 'good manners' around school. Well done to the staff for highlighting this lesson for life.

Ron Hesketh, Chair of Governors

Children's Society

With things continuing to change daily who knows where we will be at Christmas, but sadly I am assuming that the Christingle won't be allowed to go ahead. It is such a shame as it has become a real tradition in the village. If things change between now and then, I will publicise details on the village Facebook page.

However your donations are still (and probably more than ever) very much needed by the Children's Society, so I will be delivering candles to the school, and children's groups within the village, as normal. I would ask you to please make every effort to fill them (as much as you are able) and return them as will be indicated through your organisation / group. Your support would be much appreciated.

Lorna Herold

Bug Boxes!

Thank you to all the people who have left donations for the bug houses that I have been making and leaving outside my house on Hillview Lane. So far I have passed on £40 to Twyning School.

Ian Halford



The Age UK Gloucestershire team is just a phone call away and we're keen to support all older people in the county during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Call our **Help Team** if you have an immediate problem. The Team provide information and guidance about a range of issues including shopping, community support local to you, prescriptions, benefits and finances and accessing health and social care. The Team will advise on how you can access support if you have recently left hospital.

Call 01452 422660. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm

Call our **Friendship Line** FREE if you would like a friendly chat. We know that social distancing is really difficult and lots of you are missing having someone to talk to regularly. Our staff and volunteers are on hand, with a listening ear and time to chat and we'd love to hear from you.

Call 0800 2980579. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm

Twyning Players

In the last bulletin, we said that we very much hoped to be able to entertain you with something towards the end of the year. With that in mind, Players have been planning and working on a 'Christmas Special' planned for early December. Sadly, the latest Coronavirus restrictions, announced just as this is being written, have put an end to that. Plans have had to be shelved, but not forgotten. We now have ideas 'in the bank' for next year – watch this space!

In the absence of anything new to report, we are offering entertainment in the form of another quiz. This one is based on pantomime, something that none of us will get to see this year. We hope that you enjoy it.

Carol Chapman, Secretary, tel: 293527

?? QUIZ ??

It's Behind You!

1. In what year was pantomime first introduced to the English stage: 1702, 1802 or 1902?
2. In pantomime, who is Princess Marcella?
3. In Jack and the Beanstalk what does Jack trade for magic beans?
4. Richard Whittington, the real-life Lord Mayor of London and inspiration for Dick Whittington was born in which century?
5. 'Aladdin' was originally one of the stories in a book of Middle Eastern folk tales – what is the name of the book?
6. Name all of Snow White's seven dwarfs.
7. How many years should Sleeping Beauty sleep for unless her spell is broken?
8. Who took the Babes into the Wood?
9. In which pantomime would you meet a ticking crocodile?
10. Who ate the Gingerbread House?
11. In the pantomime Aladdin what was the name of Aladdin's brother?
12. In traditional pantomime who is the sweetheart of Harlequin?

13. Which pantomime character marries Alice Fitzwarren?
14. What is the name of the father of Cinderella and the Ugly Sisters?
15. Which famous clown pioneered the use of pantomime dames during the 19th century?
16. 'Fe Fi Fo Fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman' is a classic line from which pantomime?
17. Which Downton Abbey star played the Beast in the 2017 film musical version of Beauty and the Beast?
18. In which pantomime does Maid Marian appear?
19. Which wicked character is seeking the magic lamp containing the all-powerful Genie, so that he can rule the world, when Aladdin and his family intervene?
20. Which is the most popular pantomime?

Answers are on page 22

Explorer Scouts



Nothing to report for Explorer Scouts since the last bulletin entry. Back in early July, Scouting, guided by the National Youth Agency, announced a framework for 'getting back together safely', based on Red/Amber/Yellow/Green readiness levels, according to the National (and local) Covid status. At Amber, we could return to Scouting outdoors, with all the Covid-secure protocols in place, on submission and approval of Covid risk assessments. We submitted these in draft form right at the start of the summer holidays, and followed up with the more detailed risk assessments, with the hope of restarting some of our activities. As we go to press, we have just had confirmation that our Covid risk assessments have been approved, and we can start Explorers again, outdoors in small groups.

Dan Orchard, Explorer Scout Leader, 01684 298788

dan@twyning.net

Twyning Playgroup

Twyning Playgroup have had a busy few months. We have had lots of visits to the local school. We have enjoyed a few trips using 'Mini Buzz' to the Funky Warehouse and to Dinky Street.

The children enjoyed lots of outdoor play with the lovely weather we had in the summer which ended with an end-of-term party, where the children were treated to a special visit from some wonderful reptiles. The children got to have hands-on experiences with tarantulas, snakes, lizards and a giant tortoise. Our Pre Schoolers have all started school and we have welcomed lots of new children.

We have already been busy investigating a new water wall, and have been loving all the messy painty activities. We have been enjoying our new puppet show kindly donated by the Players. The children have also been engaged in outside learning and enjoyed making a wormery.

The Playgroup committee have been busy behind the scenes planning for our next fundraiser for Pudding Night, and designing a new website.



Emergency Committee

The recent Government announcement on control conditions imposed on us all to counter the spread of Covid-19, has given rise to the Emergency Committee wondering if there continues to be a level of support required in the Parish that could be met by volunteers.

The application of family and neighbourly support in the first instance worked very well during the first 6-month lockdown phase. The Emergency Committee, the volunteer co-ordinators and all the volunteers were not overly busy. It may be that everyone is now used to the restrictions and continuing to manage their lives successfully.

We are, however, keen to remind parishioners that the Emergency Committee is still willing and able to organise support should it be required.

In addition to the Twyning Emergency Committee, parishioners can, if they so wish, contact the Gloucestershire Support Hub which will respond, usually via the Borough Council.

Contact can be made by filling in the on-line forms or by ringing 01452 583519

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershires-community-help-hub/>

Mark Hartell & Dave Lockett
Twyning Community Emergency Committee

Bridge Club

Unfortunately, like so many other events this year, we have been unable to play bridge in the Ann Townend Hall since the second week of March. This does not mean we are not playing – indeed many of our members are playing together online – but it is not the same as having our normal social evening.

Because of our ages, we fall into a highly vulnerable category, so it is very hard to judge when it will be safe to open up the club, but we do have every intention of doing so as soon as we safely can. In the meantime we try to keep in touch by email as and when we have something to share. This year we have had 6 members who have all celebrated their 80th birthday, but 4 of these have fallen during the lockdown so have missed out on the club's celebration of such events. The good news is that none of our members have fallen foul of this dreadful virus, and we sincerely hope that this will continue to be the case.

Irene Fort, Secretary

TRAC

A pocket history of TRAC

The idea to develop the site at Kilmore Lane as a sports facility was the vision of Mr Mike Warner and Mr David Stokes (PC Chair at the time). They put a commercial deal together whereupon Mr Warner gave the plot of land, with a car park and drainage, in return for Kilmore Lane being used for access to the new houses.

Mr Stokes set up TRAC (Twynning Recreation and Amenity Complex) as the body to run and raise money for the development. TRAC was opened in 1999 after much fundraising through Sport England and Lottery Funding.

A 28-year lease was drawn up allowing TRAC to use the site. The lease expires 2031.

The objective of TRAC was to provide, manage and maintain recreational facilities for all age groups.

It was set up as a charity and is registered with the Charity Commission.

Over the years

- ◆ Many people/villagers have been members of its committee and all have given their time freely alongside their own busy work and family lives.
- ◆ TRAC has worked closely with Twynning Primary School to ensure the children of the village benefit as much as possible from the facilities on offer.
- ◆ TRAC works closely alongside Tennis Club as the major users of the site and has always included them in their fundraising ventures.
- ◆ The site has mainly been self-funding and the resident committees have worked hard to secure grants and funding as and when needed. Otherwise funding has come mainly from memberships and August Bank Holiday events, which of course include the annual village fete.

We have:

- ◆ Ensured the site is fully maintained
- ◆ Resurfaced the courts (twice)
- ◆ Installed a new perimeter fence to the play area
- ◆ Repaired, maintained and replaced equipment in the children's play area where needed

The committee worked extremely hard to secure 106 monies for the development of the top site, refurbishment of play area and resurfacing of the courts.

We have an exciting 5-year plan (available on website) and wish the new committee the best of luck taking it forward and bringing those plans to fruition. Recently 106 money was obtained for extra changing facilities, within the vicinity of TRAC, and we already have instructed an architect to discuss extending the current pavilion.

There are too many people to thank individually who have helped make TRAC what it is today. The community are extremely lucky to have such fantastic facilities on their doorstep and ultimately our thanks should go to Mr Warner and Mr Stokes for having the idea in the first place.

As a community we need to come together and aim for the same thing... To provide the best possible recreational facilities we can for multi users of all ages.

We were hoping to move forward with the use of the Kilmore Field which as stated earlier, the 106 money enabled us to develop the top field for youth football, and we had many plans for more improvement, but have hit a few problems which I am not sure we can overcome, but be assured that TRAC committee are fully committed to continuing to provide play and sports facility for the village community.

Anyone who wishes to be involved in helping to improve these facilities please get in touch.

Lorna Herold, 294292

Parish Council contributions to TRAC since 2016

| | | |
|----------|--|------------------|
| 15.04.16 | Parish Council annual contribution | £700.00 |
| 16.05.16 | TPC towards cost of new fence for the play area (Total cost £6549.18) | £2,798.82 |
| 2017 | no donations from TPC | £0.00 |
| 11.01.18 | Parish Council annual contribution | £1,000.00 |
| 08.03.19 | Parish Council annual contribution | £1,000.00 |
| 03.04.20 | Parish Council annual contribution | £1,000.00 |
| | | £6,498.82 |

See overleaf for the current TRAC report

TRAC

It has been quite a few disruptive months at TRAC. Not only have we all had to deal with the current pandemic but we have also had to deal with a lot of discord between the Parish Council and TRAC. This ultimately led the TRAC committee proposing to dissolve TRAC completely and hand over the running of the site to the PC. I know that this decision was not taken lightly by the committee and we apologise profusely for the inconvenience that this caused to the community (especially the closure of the Play Area). But it seemed that whatever we said or proposed was just not being listened to or taken into consideration. We therefore notified the PC of our decision and all members were contacted, in line with our constitution, asking them to vote in favour of or against the proposal to dissolve.

However, during the requisite 21-day notice period, we were approached by many villagers who have been involved with TRAC over the past 21 years, urging us to find a way to avoid handing the site over to the PC and wanting us to continue running it in the way it was intended, for recreational purposes. After lots of consultations and discussions we are pleased to say that a new committee, as a charity, has been formed, and the need to dissolve avoided.

We appreciate all those who took the time to vote and understand that it might not have been the decision that some were hoping for, but as a resolution was found before the 21-day period ended we were able to withdraw the proposal.

We are so grateful to those who have volunteered to help take TRAC forward (some will have to wait just a little longer, as we are limited to the number we can co-opt outside of an AGM) and I hope they will get the support needed to continue to make TRAC successful.

It is a shame that the recent discord meant that some of those who were previously on the committee felt that they no longer wished to be involved, but we are grateful for all the time and effort that they have put into running TRAC over the years. We now have to ensure that their vision for the site is brought to fruition. We trust that the PC will continue to support the new committee and respect the decisions that they make.

Historically, TRAC has been a membership-only site and we understand that this has caused some discord within the village, as people thought it was elitist, so TRAC recently asked the PC to consider awarding them £3000 a year, so that the need for memberships could be removed, making the site more accessible to all. (Currently the PC awards TRAC £1000 annually: see previous page for a breakdown of PC contributions since 2016.)

Unfortunately, at a recent PC meeting the PC voted unanimously against extra annual funding and stated that they believed TRAC should be entirely self-funding, including the Play Area. We are one of the few villages in Gloucestershire whose playground is not fully run and maintained by their Parish Council and there is no income from the Play Area. Our income currently comes from grants, membership fees, court hire and the village fete (which of course was not held this year).

We worked hard to secure 106 monies, from the two developments within the village, and were given a substantial amount to create a football pitch on Kilmore Field for U13s football. However, since the area has been completed, the Parish Council have not agreed to give us a license for the top site, as they saw the opportunity to build a new childcare facility, with wrap around care, on the site. TRAC did not agree with the suggestion to build on the site as it would compromise the football field and more importantly, as a charity, we did not wish to be seen supporting a private venture; and so the discussions/disagreements commenced.

The PC now feel that the best location for the playgroup development is on the original TRAC site. An area of approx 235sqms, beyond the current pavilion has been identified, which would involve TRAC having to relinquish the lease for that area. We already have plans to build a third tennis court and this may inhibit those plans. Even though this new area has been identified, the PC continue to deny the lease for the top site. They don't want to run the football field, but perversely do not want TRAC to run it either.

In order for us to be self funding, as the PC suggest we should be, we were relying on income from the top site. We had hoped that any money generated, would go directly back into the whole site and help fund it going forward. WE HAVE NO HIDDEN AGENDA and without a lease for the top site it will be very difficult to cover all the costs.

We therefore need to ensure that we are able to utilise the facilities on offer as much as possible and encourage regular hire of the courts for multi sports. If anyone would like to run a regular activity from the courts, please do get in touch. The MUGA court is fully floodlit and indeed there are already plans for veteran football to run and hopefully netball will be able to return soon too.

It is going to be difficult time ahead for the new TRAC committee but hopefully everyone within the village and surrounding areas will support them in their venture.

Ultimately all we want to do is to be able to provide the best possible recreational facilities we can for multi users, as was initially intended when the idea of TRAC first evolved.

Bulletin admin

Submissions of articles and photographs relating to Twyning are always welcome for the Bulletin. If you run a club or stage an event in the area let us know! You don't have to be part of a club or organisation to contribute, though – the Bulletin is truly a community effort for everyone to share in.

If you'd like to advertise in the Bulletin or be added to the email contact list for reminders, please contact the editor (see below for contact details).

Deadlines for the year's Bulletins are:

15th January
15th May
15th September

It's Behind You! – the answers

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|--|
| 1. | 1702, at the Drury Lane Theatre | 9. | Peter Pan |
| 2. | Sleeping Beauty | 10. | Hansel and Gretel |
| 3. | His mother's cow named 'Old Buttercup' | 11. | Wishy Washy |
| 4. | 14th (1354) | 12. | Columbine |
| 5. | One Thousand and One Nights (or Arabian Nights) | 13. | Dick Whittington |
| 6. | Doc, Grumpy, Sleepy, Bashful, Happy, Sneezy and Dopey | 14. | Baron Hardup |
| 7. | One hundred | 15. | Joseph Grimaldi |
| 8. | Their father | 16. | Jack and the Beanstalk |
| | | 17. | Dan Stevens (Matthew Crawley in Downton Abbey) |
| | | 18. | Babes in the Wood |
| | | 19. | Abanezer |
| | | 20. | Cinderella |

Back cover: Autumn sunrise over the river at Twyning (Photos by Eirlys Hughes)

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