

CHAIRMANS REPORT

As we await the next update on COVID restrictions it is pleasing to see more people returning to Greystones House and even better that there appear to be a number of new sections emerging. Obviously this is tainted a little by a couple of sections folding due to attendance issues and in some cases lack of volunteers to run them. Hopefully in the course of time members will be found to re-energise these sections. Pauline Pegram is working hard to facilitate both.

I am very pleased to say the transition from the 'old charity' to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) has now been ratified by the Charities Commission, the new Trustees have been registered and, through the diligence of the Treasurer (Jan Hollowell), all the bank accounts have been transferred; although this has no effect on the day to day running of the Charity it was required to resolve the issues we encountered before the previous Chairman departed. I would like to put on record my thanks to Barbara Thacker's brother-in-law (John Duddington) for his legal support which was undertaken pro-bono and also the Trustees who all played their part in this significant change.

There have been some comments regarding the ongoing building work outside Room 1. Jan Hollowell and I spoke with the builders in early February and as I write we await a definitive date for the completion. There have been a number of issues regarding the repairs, mostly relating to issues discovered after the commencement of work. Being a listed building means quick options like 'pick any type of slate' are not possible. Also, finding the bay roof was a solid concrete construction, that the roof beams were rotten underneath, and that the consequential reconstruction framework did not fit perfectly have resulted in a significant change regarding reconstruction. I remind you at this time that when the roof is completed the window needs significant repair. This is lined up with a specialist company who await our call to commence. Be assured, we are on the case.

The Trustees continue to meet on a monthly basis and are working hard toward providing a full year of social events. Keep a look out in this newsletter and on the website and posters for details of these events and their respective ticketing arrangements. Most events sell out, often very quickly, so I urge you to book as soon as tickets become available. Jan has been very prudent with the Financial Management of the Association, despite the loss of income in the last 2 years. We are therefore pleased to announce there will be no increase on the Annual membership renewal fee. Renewals are not due until May 1st this year as we have aligned them with the financial year of the Association. The Council have decided to meet bi-monthly as their role has changed in line with the structure of Trustees related to the Charity Commission rules.

You may have seen notices about the building regarding the fact that the Association is run by volunteers. These were in-fact the work of a particularly active volunteer for which we thank Joyce. Occasionally these wonderful people have to step aside either permanently or temporarily. There is always space for members to add their name to the list to volunteer. No matter how much or how little time you can spare there is always a role for you.

Finally, after 20+ years of editing this excellent publication Norman Huckle has decided, for personal reasons, it is time for him to step down. Firstly, on behalf of the Association I offer my sincere thanks to him for his many years of service and best wishes for the future. He has edited this edition and thus I hope he has left these words in! Meantime, he is arranging a handover to some of the current editorial team and new volunteers who have agreed in

principle to take over. However, 'many hands make light work', so if you have skills that may enable you to contribute please contact Norman soonest.

If you have anything you wish to discuss with me or other Trustees please feel free to catch us when we are on site or e-mail me as per the address in the newsletter.

Kind Regards

Cliff Putterford

Chairman

Highcliffe Community Association

07720 467695

Cliff.putterford@highcliffeca.co.uk