

Fovant Annual Parish Meeting 15 May 2024 – Chairman's notes and Reports list

Apologies for absence – Derryn Hinks, Mary Kirman, Rupert Williamson, Linda Bailey, Pauline Story, Dr Lindsay Kinlin.

Present: Three Parish Councillors, County Councillor for Fovant & Chalke Valley, 10 public.

Reports: 16 written reports submitted and 2 verbal reports. Five were read out by the Chair, 8 spoken to by submitter. Five not spoken to.

Some main points:

- Almost as many reports as last year but fewer representatives attended to speak. In spite of that, some good discussions.
- An ageing population with reducing numbers of children recorded by Spring Orchard Surgery and on role at Dinton Cof E Primary School.
- The open surgery on Fridays is popular with patients and staff. The meeting wished to say that Dr Kinlin's regular open talks on medical issues are much appreciated.
- Dinton school now in an Academy, The Acorn Education Trust, thus benefitting from additional levels of support and governance. Good results of every year group and Y6 SATs.
- More members needed for Village Hall Committee, Youth Club Trustees and Parish Council.
- St George's Church: In January, The Rev Elaine Brightwell, Team Vicar in the Nadder Valley Benefice, took over the pastoral care of Fovant parish from Rev Dr Graham Southgate.
- The Clays Orchard residential buildings will be updated, taking care to minimise disruption to residents. The Ward Councillor and Parish Council are taking a close interest.
- Wiltshire Council is not in debt, but 68% of budget on adult and social care.
- The meeting protested that potholes on local roads getting worse, even though County says it is allocating more money.
- The Parish Council believes planning permissions from Wiltshire should include enforceable conditions to minimise road blocking by builders' vehicles.
- Parish Council and Youth Club Trustees have established an Emergency Contact Hub, funded by generous grants from SSEN and the SW Wiltshire Area Board.
- 2023 Fete was a great success, with many local participants. No Fete planned for 2024. A committee will be needed to prepare for one in 2025 and draw on existing funds.
- Grants provided by the SWW Area Board and directly by the Parish Council remain important to facilitate village facilities.
- Safety improvement to village roads by increased white line hatching will come this year, and next year hopefully a pavement buildout and change to traffic flow at the triangle at the A30/High Street junction. A SID will be acquired to go on the A30 – the fourth in the village.
- Road drains and foul water drains are all needing increased attention and follow up from the Parish Council.
- Parish Council has developed a new guidance booklet for Riparian Owners along the Brook to try to encourage responsible behaviour that reduces the risk of downstream flooding.
- Defibrillators are being installed outside Clays Orchard and the Greater Good, making three in the village.

Agenda

1. Appointment of Chairman
2. Introduction by Chairman confirming procedures.
3. Approval of the record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2023.
4. Report from Fovant Parish Council.
5. Report of Wiltshire Ward Councillor.
6. Reports from local groups as present. Written reports received to be added to the record.
7. Matters raised by electors present.
8. Concluding remarks by the Chairman.

Other reports and statements offered:

1. The Orchard Partnership
2. Dinton CofE Primary School
3. Fovant Village Website
4. Fovant Youth Club
5. The Fovant Network – no activity
6. Fovant Community Support Group – no activity
7. Fovant Village Hall Committee
8. Fovant Satellite Food Bank – Fovant and Wilton Foodbank
9. Fovant Independent Ladies Group
10. Fovant History Interest Group
11. Fovant Badges Society
12. Community Police Team, Warminster
13. St. George's Church, Fovant
14. Fovant Relief in Need charity
15. Fovant Fete 2023
16. The Three Towers magazine
17. The Open Door
18. Brimclose Fishing Club
19. Croquet in Tisbury

Tony Phillips

27 May 2024

Report from Spring Orchard Surgery Fovant

There are currently 1457 patients registered at Spring Orchard surgery, which covers Fovant village plus the surrounding area. This is slightly less than in 2023, and one factor is that patients registered outside the catchment area have been asked to re-register with a more local GP practice.

In general the practice population is older and requiring more care since last year

The number of children aged under 1 registered with the practice since 2023 has dropped from 15 to 9. The total number of children (under 18s) has dropped in the last year from 218 to 199. 35 of these are children aged under 5, compared to 68 patients aged under 5 in 2018.

It is an ageing practice population with an increase in the number of patients aged 80 or over increasing from 131 to 149 in the last year. The number of patients aged 90 or over has remained the same at 29 patients.

As a proxy for active clinical care being provided - 836 patients (57%) currently have medication on a repeat template (up from 50% last year), 21 patients have a dosette box (up from 13 last year). So there is a greater volume of dispensing work, with dosette boxes being particularly time-consuming for the dispensary staff. There have been increasing challenges in the supply chains for medications becoming more unstable in the last year with medications being pulled from supply at short notice – examples include HRT, anti-ADHD medications and more recently insulin and other injectable medications for diabetes. This has created additional pressure on the dispensary team this year.

Health profile

In 2023 20 patients died, which exceeds the previous peak (15 deaths in 2020)

An increase in the number of new cancer diagnoses in the last year (from 15 to 21), 8 of which were from the 61 referrals using the fast track / 2WW pathway in the last financial year. 123 patients overall (increased from 115 in 2023) who are living with a previous cancer diagnosis.

Asthma 94

Hypertension 290, but with an increase in the use of self-monitoring with 310 patients coded as having their own BP machine. 0 patients on high dose opiates.

Atrial Fibrillation 79

Diabetes 90, with a drop in the number of patients with increased risk of developing diabetes (non-diabetic hyperglycaemia) from 173 to 167. Number of patients diagnosed as 'diabetes in remission' currently 20.

On depression register 137, the number of patients with sleeping tablets on repeat prescription has dropped from 28 to 20. 57 patients with opioid analgesics on repeat. We are reviewing the coding for all patients currently prescribed antidepressant medication such as Prozac to ensure that the treatment is still appropriate to continue.

Severe and enduring mental health problems down from 11 to 8

15 patients have a dementia diagnosis (stable)

153 patients are overweight or obese, smoking rates have increased slightly from 156 to 159 current smokers, 36 people are registered as informal carers (was 30 in 2023).

Activity in the last year

785 flu jabs (in flu clinics)

The Friday drop-in clinic has become a stable part of the weekly schedule at the practice and is well-liked by both patients and staff.

In 2023 1232 patients were seen in a total of 3039 face to face appointments done by either Dr Kinlin or Dr van Dorp, with a further 2163 telephone appointments done by the regular GPs at the surgery (LK and FvD).

Additionally there were 3151 face to face appointments with a nurse or HCA.

Currently 38 prolific attenders (up from 34 in 2023)– patients more than 15 appointments in the last 6 months.

Report from Dinton C of E Primary School

As usual, life at the village Primary School has been really busy. We have 72 pupils on roll with small classes of between 16 and 28. One quarter of the children who attend the school reside in Fovant. We currently have a small number of places in all year groups. The council provides a free bus service for pupils from Fovant to Dinton.

Last summer the school received 3 separate awards for Healthy Schools status, the national 'Music Mark' and the PE 'gold standard.' These awards recognise the significant endeavours of staff, pupils and parents. Last academic year, pupils got to participate in 11 different sports. We also produced an amazing performance of the Lion King to a village hall full of local residents and family members.

In December we joined Acorn Academy Trust. This has provided the school with additional challenge and support from an established trust which looks after 22 other schools. The Trust has funded additional staffing and training opportunities for staff as well as additional opportunities for pupils to participate in exciting activities such as drama at the Bath Pavilion. The school has a newly updated website.

Academically the school achieved very high standards with the best Y6 SATs results since the turn of the century and every year group achieving standards above the national average. We have recently redesigned our curriculum to make lessons more sequential and exciting.

Moving forward the school is hosting a circus on July 14th. We hope to see many of you there.

Report for the FPC on the Fovant Village Website

For sharing at the FPC AGM on Wednesday 15 May 2024

The Fovant village website has been in existence for nearly 3 years now, providing relevant, up to date and useful information on local events, groups, resources and facilities. It has an established audience and the usage figures, which are very positive, remain much the same as for last year.

From March 2023 – March 2024, the site has attracted 2,829 Unique Site Visits which is once again impressive considering there are approximately 734 people in the total population of Fovant, meaning we are clearly appealing to a wider audience. There have been 11,151 Page Views in this time showing villagers are referring to the resource.

The most visited page is the Homepage and the average time spent here is anything from 5 – 8mins. The homepage is popular because it contains details of upcoming events and the village calendar. The Parish Council pages, the Local History group pages and the Allotment Recipe section are the most visited pages.

52% of users choose their Desktop to access the website; 43% use their mobile device and 6% their tablet, which is a similar profile to last year. Most of the traffic to the site arrives via Google with 207 clicks from Jan – March this year (2024) compared to 158 arriving via a Direct link.

The annual running costs of the website will increase slightly this year due to the cost of the contact email linked to the site which increased by £1 per month. The website costs are met by the Fovant Parish Council.

All content, design, development and maintenance of the site is completed for free at the current point in time.

Of further note:-

External agencies and organisations continue to find our website and request to be linked to it. The Marketing & Advertising Managers of 'Experience Salisbury', 'Trainline' and 'Village Buzz' send regular updates and more recently 'The New Vic' in Tisbury.

Local groups send posters and requests to advertise their activities to the webmaster and any changes requested are made promptly. Organisers do not have to wait for publication & this means the website is responsive to local needs.

When new pages, news or events are published & flagged on Fovant Facebook this increases traffic to the site

The contact email address linked to the website is used daily by people for queries, bookings & questions which the webmaster responds to.

The existence of the website will continue to provide value and crucial evidence for grant applications for the village eg Area Board, Wiltshire Community Fund and National Lottery & others which arise throughout the year.

Derryn Hinks – Webmaster of www.fovantvillage.com

Fovant Youth Club – ANNUAL REPORT 23/24

Another busy year for the Youth Club and this report looks at three areas: Events Major Expenditure Clubs.

Events

The two major events of the last 12 months for us were the Halloween trail and the Children's Christmas Party. The Halloween trail covered all of Fovant from the High Street to The Poplars and Dinton Road and was well supported by the people in Fovant. The Christmas party included a raffle for Young and Old(er), organised by Julie, with support from committee members. Raffle prizes were donated by a range of businesses and individuals and we are very grateful to all who contributed.

Major Expenditure

The main improvements that we made this year were to purchase a shed for extra storage, a projector and some new chairs and tables. The Parish Council has also undertaken some work to be able to use our site as the Village Emergency Hub – there is a sign now in the window referring to this. I'll underline that the emergency hub is managed by the Parish council, not the Youth Club. We continue to use grants as a primary source of funding, together with activities such as the aforementioned raffle and some donations. The South West Wilts Area Board is very supportive of many charities and organisations in South West Wilts and was able to help us in the last year.

Clubs

Turning to the clubs that we run ourselves, the Toddlers Club has been temporarily suspended as the babies and toddlers became eligible for more formal day care and moved on to nurseries. For whatever reason, there has been a lull in new people wishing to take the opportunity to use the toddlers club. The Juniors remains successful and continues to attract new children, whilst older ones move on. Overall many families are weekly regulars with others coming regularly but not every week; mainly Fovant families but some also live in Dinton.

Finally, I thank all the Committee members and our volunteers who have helped over the past year, but as always we are always looking for more people to help.

Fovant Network Report 2024.

No activity.

Fovant Community Support Group 2024.

No activity

Fovant Village Hall Chairman's Report 2023-2024

This year had been a fairly quiet year for the village hall with everything running smoothly and no disasters happening or major works carried out. But then we had so much rain that although Martin Wallis put sandbags at the door the flood waters ran around the building causing enough damp to distort some floorboards enough to cause ridges.

The heating system has coped well with the cold weather and an extra air source heat pump has been installed in the small room to help keep that room warm and to give some background heat for the toilet area and the storeroom. An airbrick has been installed in the kitchen to help with the condensation problem.

In September our electricity supplier was changed to British Gas Lite and the wi-fi sorted out with a new router. The hall floor is pitted and looks very grubby due to the tap dancing class: how to remedy this is still under discussion and of course there are now distorted floorboards.

The internal door needs to be replaced but until the floor is decided upon that cannot be bought.

The need for a fire-risk assessment was made compulsory and that has now been carried out and the fire equipment checked and replaced where needed. We are still investigating the possibility of a lay-by on Tisbury road side for the benefit of disabled people using the hall.

The pebble picture to celebrate the late Queen's jubilee will soon be installed at the side of the village hall and a tree planted. The iron jubilee bench has now been moved to the side of the pond and the wooden bench is awaiting a decision on where it will go but in the meantime is still outside the hall.

Bookings for the village hall are slightly down. Jenny Berwyn-Jones who had run a very popular seated exercise class for many years had to give up due to falling numbers. We do have a Pilates class on a Wednesday morning and a new Yoga class on Tuesday evening.

Mike Carey, who has been on the committee for many years as both treasurer and chairman will be standing down at our AGM and in the meantime has gradually handed over to Ken Tymms our new treasurer who joined our committee in October. Ken has been working hard to change our bank which should hopefully make banking more straightforward.

Beryl Patten is also standing down at our AGM. Beryl has served on the committee for many years helping to run events and keeping the hall stocked with essentials.

The hall committee have the responsibility to keep the hall in good repair for the use of the people of Fovant and continue to run events to raise funds to do this and to provide enjoyable evenings for the people of Fovant. There are Quiz nights in October and April, a ploughman's lunch in December and for the third year now a Cheese and Wine evening March. In addition, we arranged a Music Night with Mitchell and Vincent in November which was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

All of these events rely completely on participation by villagers and the committee try hard to keep the costs down.

Finally, we are actively seeking new people to join our committee. It is a great way to meet people and to take an active part in village life. Committee names and contact details are on our notice board outside and you can talk to any of us to find out what is involved. Celia Haselgrove
celiahaselgrove@btinternet.com 01722 714876

FILGroup 2023-24

Once again this has been a very busy year for the FILGroup. The membership has grown to over 21 & the members have been offered a lot of interesting events with speakers, 'hands-on' & social events.

The group has had several excellent speakers - 2 speakers specialising in buttons. Anna McDowell of Dorset Buttons told us about the iconic history of the unusual style of a Dorset button & Catherine Potter who showed us her upcycling skills using buttons as a theme. The Bobby Van came in September & passed on valuable security advice to members. A wonderful flower arranging demonstration prior to Christmas left members with many ideas for creating Christmas displays. The garden theme was carried on in February with a visit by Alex Graham the local garden designer and Chelsea Gold medal winner who talked about her passion for the marvellous charity called the National Garden Scheme. An interesting talk by the RNLI in April & The Wiltshire Beekeeper in May highlighting the dangers posed by the invasive Asian Hornet were also well attended.

On a lovely day in June 16 members spent a glorious day out firstly enjoying coffee & a browse at Hilliers garden centre before moving on to The Silk Works near Winchester for a lunch & a tour.

The FILGroup took a central part in Fovant Village Fete in August 2023 with members manning the stall, pouring untold cups of tea, making cakes, scones & generally volunteering in so many ways to help create a very successful stall raising a lot of money which was given to the fete for the Stars Appeal.

This event was followed by our biannual Jumble Sale in October where once again the members willingly gave their time to sort, sell & organise the vast amount of jumble donated to the group.

Two occasions in the year saw members 'hands on' first at a Christmas decoration workshop & then hats which were then worn at a 'Mad March' tea party. Both events proved to be very popular & all members left with very personal creations at the end of the afternoon.

A group of 28 (members & partners included) were treated to a wonderful dinner in early December brilliantly catered by 2 committee members-Marilyn Willoughby & Jane Carey. A thoroughly good evening with delicious food was enjoyed by all. Future events include a talk on The Warrier Charity - a charity set up to help injured servicemen in particular those suffering from PTSD; a further talk by Professor Nigel North; an outing in June-this year to The Vyne near Basingstoke & of course the annual Garden Party in July.

With charity collections of over £160 to The Trussell Trust, over £125 to the RNLI in the name of Sally McGinn, the proceeds of all wine sales at the Christmas meal & our contribution to the charity collection at the Fovant Fete, the FILGroup has not only created entertainment in the village but also contributed generously to charities. We continue to welcome all ladies and on many occasions partners & family as well to come and enjoy the the meetings which now take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2.30 pm. (Garden Party in July 5.30pm) Please contact e-mail:

filgroup15@gmail.com

Fovant History Interest Group Report for the Annual Fovant Parish Meeting – 15th May 2024

Background to the report.

Fovant History Interest Group was established more than 20 years ago with the following purposes:

- To do further research on the history of Fovant from external sources as well as from local residents and ex-residents.
- To index the historical records and images of Fovant and make them available via a website and publications.
- To interest the residents of Fovant in the history of their village by organising or being involved in events.

Membership has always been open to anyone in any location wishing to learn more about any aspect of the village's history or to provide any information about the same.

Membership

Mary Kirman remains in the role of Chairperson that she took over in 2021.

Nicola Matthews remains in the role of Treasurer that she took over in 2021.

Rupert Williamson remains in charge of the website www.fovanthistory.org, which he also took over in 2021, and receives any emails sent to the group via the website, dealing with them as needed.

Sue Kent remains the member who has taken over from Liz Harden the changing of the themed "Fovant Then" display boards in different places in the village.

Liz Harden remains actively involved in the group and we regularly draw on her extensive knowledge and large collection of documents and photographs as a consultant.

Activity in the past year

Activity of the group in the past year has included:

- Putting a regularly changing "Fovant Then" display board in the waiting room at Spring Orchard Surgery as part of its refurbishment after the Covid 19 pandemic. The display boards are themed with information and photographs on different subjects, and the first one hung in the surgery about the Women's Institute and the second one about medical services, have both attracted positive interest and comments.
- There are over 20 themed "Fovant Then" display boards and these are to continue to be rotated between the longstanding sites of Fovant Village Stores and The Greater Good, as well as now Spring Orchard Surgery, and the newest site of the Waterside (Youth Club).
- To make the changeover of the themed displays easier, a new lightweight frame has been purchased to mount them in, and with the first one having proved successful three additional frames of the same type will now be purchased.
- As the group's Chairperson, Mary Kirman attended the newcomers' coffee morning held at the Village Hall on 20th May 2023, and sold some of the "Fovant – Pages from our History" books to people who had recently moved into the village.

- The group had a small display at the Village Fete held at East Farm on 19th August 2023 which attracted considerable interest, including from non-locals. The display was of the World War 1 military camps which was appropriate given the venue of the fete. Several more of the “Fovant – Pages from our History” books were sold at this event.
- Unfortunately the researcher from the BBC1 programme Antiques Road Trip did not let the group know when the programme which featured the Fovant Badges would be shown, but it is available on BBC iplayer. All of the old photographs of the badges used in the programme were provided by FHIG, but there was no acknowledgement of this in the credits.
- Mary Kirman is carrying out research into the current whereabouts of all the 89 individual lots of the Fovant Estate, sold off by the Earl of Pembroke in the auction held at The White Hart in Salisbury on 27th August 1919 (“at 2 pm punctually”!). This involves matching the numbered lots on the map in the Village Hall to the descriptions of each lot in the original auction catalogue, and then noting which buildings remain where they were on that date and which newer buildings now stand on what were then mainly fields and orchards.

Future plans

- Rupert Williamson may hold an open day at his garden in the summer to raise funds for the group, at which new displays will be available to view.
- The group aims to continue to catalogue Margaret McKenzie’s collection of historical research in the form of documents and artefacts and investigating the possibility of storing it in a suitable venue in the village, ideally to be accessible in line with her wishes.

Contact details: info@fovanthistory.org Mary Kirman – Chairperson maryk@the-people-element.com 01722 714930

Liz Harden – For any individuals with queries or wanting to view items in her collection lizjoh87@gmail.com 01722 714253

Fovant Badges Society Annual Report to Fovant Parish Council

Firstly, and most importantly, on behalf of the Trustees of FBS, I would like to thank you most sincerely for the very kind grant you recently awarded the Society. Without such generous donations FBS would not be able to guarantee the constant maintenance and ongoing public awareness of these very treasured landmarks.

The intention is to spend FPC’s grant towards the installation of a new information board to replace the existing, rather dated one, in the viewing lay-by along the A30. We also need to concentrate on getting the story of the WW1 in Fovant and the creation of the badges to the wider public. On saying this we have gone some way to achieving that by producing in the last month some rather nice tri-fold folders to distribute to various tourist attractions and venues. Already The Military Museum (The Rifles) The Salisbury Museum and Arundells in The Cathedral Close, The Gold Hill Museum, The Abbey Museum, the Tourist Information Centre in Shaftesbury and Wilton House shop have them and we will continue to add to this distribution.

In the last year we have recruited two new trustees and are very pleased to say that Martin Wallis has agreed to also join us. He will be an important link with the Parish Council and therefore the residents of Fovant.

Our accounts continue to look healthy thanks to Terry Lister our treasurer and the Badges themselves have never looked so good as they do at present without the constant liaison between Leslie Brantingham our conservation officer and the contractors. We have recently entered into a new contract with J&JHFencing. (Hoopers) to replace KDC.

The Drumhead service is to be held again this year on the 7th July at East Farm. Our continuing thanks to the Williams family. We look forward to seeing many of you there for this unique service. Last year it proved to be a great success after the enforced break of years due to the pandemic.

Many of you will remember Margaret Mackenzie who loved The Badges and all that they represented, FBS and beyond will be forever grateful for her very generous bequest and we shall dedicate the information board to her.

Finally, we intend to publish an up to date booklet of The History of The Fovant Badges in which preparations are ongoing.

Please take a copy of our annual Newsletter where you can read the detail of the points I have raised in this report. Thank you.

Jose Green. Chair of the Trustees. May 15th. 2024.

Please find below the policing report from the last year ranging from 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

There has been a total of 19 crimes recorded in your area which is a decrease from last year where 26 were recorded.

- We have had 0 reports of RTCs in your area and 4 road related offences which includes, speeding offences.
- There has been 1 burglary reported in your area this year, this was at a rural location and not a residential building. This is lower than last year where 5 were reported.
- You have a low level of antisocial behaviour occurring within your area which is good news, there has been 4 reports for the year.
- There have been 2 reports of Theft for the area, this is due to Fuel being taken from an agricultural business.

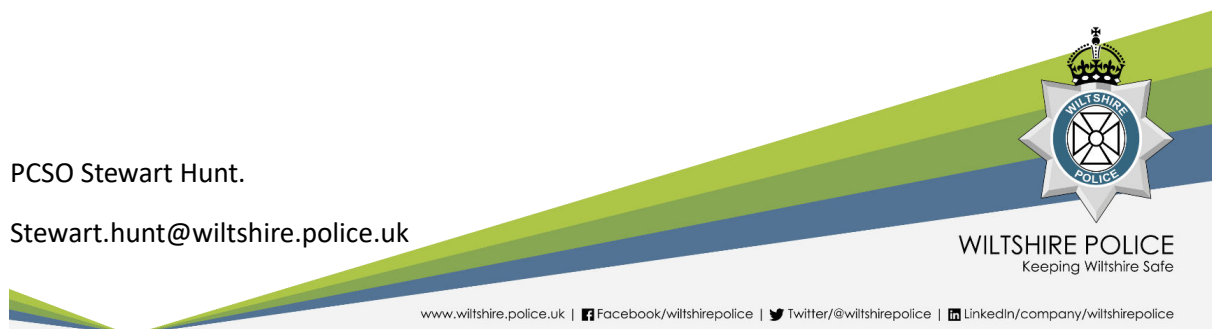
The local neighbourhood team will be increasing their presence in the rural community which will involve a higher level of patrols in the area. This gives local communities the opportunity to engage with officers and express any concerns they may have and also to ask for any advice they may require.

Please be aware of the Bobby Van Trust, a registered charity who work alongside Wiltshire Police and offer a completely free service to anyone over 60 (or over 18 and registered disabled). They offer a free Home Security service which includes checks for door and window locks, lighting, dummy CCTV cameras and more. They also offer a Stay Safe Online service which will help prevent any fraud related offences occurring. Their contact number is 01225 256867 and their website is BobbyVanOnlineSafety@wbvt.org

Lastly can I encourage everyone to sign up to the Community Messaging service, where you can get up to date information on what is going on in your area (QR code on the next page)

PCSO Stewart Hunt.

Stewart.hunt@wiltshire.police.uk



Annual Report by Fovant PCC for St Georges Church for the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Fovant Parochial Church Council, the PCC, has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar, the Revd Elaine Brightwell for promoting the mission of St George's church in Fovant.

The PCC is also a trustee of the Fovant Village Hall.

During 2023 our electoral Roll was unchanged at 42 members, we pay our 'share' to the Diocese based on these numbers. Attendance at services was slightly reduced on 2022.

In 2023 we were fully back to Pre-Covid activities. Evensong was cancelled during the winter months of January and February as the church is so cold. There was a successful Harvest Festival Service followed by Lunch in the Village Hall on 24th September, the proceeds of which were given to the Organ Fund, and a Remembrance Service in the churchyard and church, which had lower numbers than in recent years. We planted a hedge instead of spending a large sum of money on rebuilding a low wall, and this is growing nicely, we have also developed a wildflower meadow border around the Churchyard edge to encourage wildlife and native plants.

Being an old building St Georges continues to throw up challenges:

The Old Mortuary behind the Church suffered subsidence and it was agreed to close off one doorway where a large crack had appeared above the lintel. The coping stones were moved out to the area beside the compost heap. Work to the West wall of the Church necessitated removing a pew to another location in the church to allow the wall to breathe, and this uncovered rotten floorboards and

joists, which were replaced with air dried oak. The wall was repaired with the job completed in February, and the bookshelf permanently relocated to the north aisle.

In the storms of last winter, a tree came down across the lane which needed prompt attention and then the other 3 trees required topping to make them safe. The church gates are being replaced and the metal work repaired shortly and we are delighted that work to clean and restore the Organ is starting any day now.

There was one wedding, two baptisms, one funeral and 3 internments of ashes in the churchyard during the year.

On 31st December we hosted a farewell service for Rev. Dr Graham Southgate, who has moved to the Upper Stour. Approximately 150 parishioners from across the Benefice attended and we ended the morning with drinks and nibbles. Graham was presented with a framed montage of photographs of the church and £350 towards his new garden.

The Newcomers Coffee morning took place in the Village Hall on 20th May.

We are grateful for many members of the Village who support us, including the Parish Council for the grant to cut the Churchyard grass; those who open and close the church daily, come to clean and arrange flowers, and support services though being sidesmen, and those who give regularly to help our activities.

Vicki Rowse. Fovant PCC Secretary

Fovant Relief in Need Charity

The charity received one request for help in November which needed discussion, but with the departure of the Rector as ex-officio Trustee and Chair this request took some time to finalise. It has now been agreed to help. At the moment there is £899.82 in our current account as the cheque has not been presented as yet.

A further deposit account has been identified but the signatories have either died or left the village. This account is also in the process of being sorted out. There is over £2000.00 in that account.

There has been a change in Nominative Trustees, with Tony Phillips and Paul Rae taking the places of Anne Cooke and Karen Gilbert. Matthew Boatwright and Celia Haselgrove remain as trustees. After discussion with Salisbury Diocese, the Rev Elaine Brightwell has joined as the ex-officio Trustee, in her role as the Team Vicar for the Nadder Vally Benefice which includes Fovant. Matthew is the new Chair.

This new group of trustees are updating the information held by the Charities Commission and are in the process of moving the charity on and making it much more effective in providing help quickly where there is a genuine need. Given that the most recent Schedule was dated 1980, mechanisms of communication need to be modernized, with a goal to provide improved awareness among Fovant residents about the confidential help available for urgent issues.

Fovant Fete 2023

With the kind help of the Williams family we were able to hold a successful village fete, with multiple support from both inside and outside of the village, including pony rides, bouncy castle, refreshments of diverse variety, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Brigade, dog show, tug of war and many side shows, which resulted in the ability to pass all of the monies spent there on the day, gifted to the STARS APPEAL who, without using any of the funds still available for future similar events, received £2,324.81 for the excellent work they do to support Salisbury Hospital Trust, which greatly enhance patients experience during treatment.

William Holmes

The Three Towers Magazine 2024

The Three Towers magazine has been published for so many years, it was a shock that villagers within a particular group felt it was outdated.

As editor I was approached to continue with a smaller version for those who wanted a hand held version rather than using the Internet.

Covid meant many advertisers stopped due to financial reasons and so a small version seemed ideal. The cost to be 50p to villagers.

It then transpired that those approached didn't wish to pay! Luckily only a specimen number of copies were printed at my expense

I still have the printer for use if any villagers wish to set anything up?

I know that a lot happens in the village unknown to many! I have only looked at the relevant Web page once and felt it was too much time sitting in front of computer. I spend too much time on more important things or just relaxing with a paper or crossword, family tree and real family and friends. A local magazine or booklet would be much more fun to browse in the sun outside!

Thank you so much to all helpers both past and present. I really miss your once a month visit and the chats and gossip. I still have your bags and you are welcome to collect and keep them. Pauline Story

Gates Close on Fovant's Brimclose Fishing Legend

Some fifty years ago, a popular local farmer and his friends from Fovant and surrounding areas, hit upon the idea of creating a fishing haven in the gorgeous Wiltshire countryside between Fovant and the nearby River Nadder. Attempts had been made before to create a commercial fishery on Fovant Brook, but it soon became clear that these plans were not viable, and that was all it took for the iconic owner/farmer, Wally Barrow to form a group of like-minded locals to create a haven for trout fishing along the latter reaches of Fovant Brook, together with several good 'beats' on the Nadder. To develop the Brook still further, Wally and his team of followers created two lakes which was later to become three with the construction, in a magical, peaceful setting, of a final lake named after one of his grand-daughters, "Sarah-Jane".

Initially it was the farm workers, assisted by the growing community of fishing enthusiasts that carried out most of the work, and the effect was inspiring. The Nadder and the Brook were populated by many wild Brown Trout together with other local species that included crayfish and even eels waiting to set off for the Sargasso Sea, near Bermuda where they would spawn and the young would then make their way back to their ancient UK home-waters where the process would begin again.

Farmer Wally and his local friends got together to form the Brimclose Fishing Club, so called after the meadow of the same name, above the largest of the three lakes. The Club membership tended to be good friends, many of whom would work for 2 hours of the week, every Tuesday morning. This merry band, some of considerable maturity, were a community right out of the TV series, the Last of the Summer Wine, developing friendships that would remain for the rest of their lives. Wild fish were supplemented by two stews where fingerling Brown Trout and (separately), Rainbow trout were matured before being released into the three lakes as they would not be welcome in the Brook or the Nadder.

The wild fish in the river and the Brook were supplemented by stocking the lakes with Rainbow Trout, some of which were brought-on in a stew constructed to accommodate tiny little trout 'fingerlings'. Wild creatures such as pike and eels not to mention growing populations of fresh-water crayfish, swans and wild Canada geese all added to this charming backdrop of peaceful co-existence. The whole fishing Club 'patch' had a fabulous collection of wild life where every living thing just seemed happy and able to peacefully co-exist.

It was a terrible shame that it couldn't go on forever. One day last year, the Club members were summarily directed to leave the farm, leaving the lakes stocked with fish that they had bought for the benefit of Club members. One day, it is hoped that a new generation of friends will once again clear the silt from the lakes and restore the magic created by the late Wally Barrow and a present day cast of the Last of the Summer Wine – on water!!

You may wish to be aware of a quite charming short history of the Club produced by Jane Pybus, (a notable Fovant resident and one of the earliest Brimclose Fishing Club members), who would be delighted to make this available to anyone in the village who might be interested. I can provide her contact details if you would be interested.

David Morley

Growing Enthusiasm for Croquet in nearby Tisbury :

Some 50 years ago, a Bowls Club was formed at the edge of the village Recreation Ground close by Tisbury's railway station. Over time, a membership of over 100 became less than 10 and with repair and maintenance costs it effectively became non-viable. A Fovant-based group of Croquet enthusiasts were eventually able to generate renewed enthusiasm for the facility to introduce Britain's quickest growing sport of Croquet into the immediate area. In two years, this new, not-for-

profit Club has repaired and refurbished all of its equipment and facilities and has a growing number of like-minded members that, with a simple handicapping system, enables men and women of all ages and experience, to play 'AS EQUALS' on a delightful village setting. The changing rooms seemed to be the only impossible dream to replace, as the present facilities are completely rotten. After a year of highly focussed fund raising, an amazing £25,000 has been raised from Wiltshire County Council, Sport England, Croquet England and others too, and new facilities will be installed next month so that by July, all-new changing rooms will be attached to the present Clubhouse!

Membership costs the same for one whole year, as two rounds of Golf (£120) at Rushmore Golf Club with no further fees; instruction is free and all the game equipment is provided (excluding flat soled shoes, to avoid damaging the lawns). The Club is available, seven days a week for all of the summer, and much of the winter. It's a great group of people who enjoy a wide variety of competition from 'spirited' to very much 'largely social'. Not only that but Children of at least one Club Member can have full **membership for only £30** (aged between 15 and 24). It will be a brilliant place for all to enjoy the summer making new friends and mastering (quite quickly), a game that will amuse, intrigue, inspire and challenge.

Check their website (tisburybowlsandcroquet.com) to arrange an initial trial game and see for yourself. Croquet is quite literally a great game for everyone!

David Morley