

## **Bolsterstone Community Group Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 20 March 2018, Bolsterstone Village Hall**

### **CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Welcome to long standing and new members to Bolsterstone Community Group's 17th AGM, which gives me the opportunity to remind everyone of some of this year's activities.

**THANK YOU** - On behalf of the Bolsterstone Community Group (BCG) Committee I must begin again by thanking all the volunteers who have taken the time this year to help make the village a place where people love to live and to visit. New members have joined long standing residents and "In Bloom" regulars to look after the village by maintaining the stocks, benches, the allotment (including shed roof) and green areas. They have cleared leaves, planted troughs and baskets, decorated the village with bunting and attended various village events. People have volunteered to help when they can see something that needs doing, without having to be asked. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank The Village Hall Trust, without which we would have no venue for any BCG events, St Mary's Church, Stockbridge Town Council (STC) and the Bridge Shop for their support and to Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir (which continues to make their distinct contribution to the village) These groups are represented at BCG Committee meetings at The Castle Inn. Thanks also to Amey for their local road improvement programme.

**BCG Committee** - We are pleased to welcome several new members to the committee. Committee members, who have been proposed and seconded, are: Susie Abrahams (BAHG) Keith Clark (Treasurer) Barry Eustace, Dianne Fortescue/Adrian Scott, Alan Hobson (BMVC) Anthea Peers, Tony Peers (Secretary) Chris Prescott (Walkers are Welcome) Alan Rodgers (Chair) Cheryl Rodgers (In Bloom Co-ordinator) Ian Sutton and Leonie Travis. Committee co-opted members are: Cllr Julie Grocutt (STC) Phillip Verhamme (VHT) Sue Fantozzi (St Mary's Church)

**TOUR de YORKSHIRE** - When the cycle race passed through Bolsterstone village, The Castle Inn, St Mary's Church and the Village Hall rose to the occasion. BCG agreed to help others decorate the village (with old scrap bikes painted blue and yellow, Yorkshire flags and "miles" of bunting from STC and Fox Valley) BMVC and Deepcar Brass Band sang and played on the day and at a special "On yer Bike" concert. Bolsterstone gave an outstanding reception to the cyclists - the Village Hall Trust and the Castle Inn providing refreshments for everyone. Crowds lined the route for the Sportive, which climbed into the village from Yew Trees Lane even before the police motorcade and professional cyclists in the Tour zipped through. All this was televised from a helicopter and it was a great day! Everything worked well, with real co-operation between village groups and individuals and the bunting remained in place until the village summer fayre.

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE** - Every year we seem to surpass the achievements of the previous fayre and this year was no exception. As usual the Village Hall looked lovely with its Christmas trimmings as a cold nip in the air provided a seasonal background. This year attendance was boosted by children from seven local schools, who not only performed beautifully in the Church but brought their families with them. The Village Hall was

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“heaving” throughout the day and with so many new and varied stalls on show, everybody benefited. We are especially grateful to those who donated £400 worth of raffle prizes or brought homemade cakes, buns and mince pies, which made the cake stall look fabulous. Thanks are also due to the Art Society for their display in the Church and we were glad to be able to support six charities, as well as the Village Hall Trust and St Mary’s Church. The success of the fayre was once again underpinned by all the voluntary help we received.

**WREATH MAKING EVENING** - An appeal went out last year for greenery in order to boost our wreath making stocks and this year’s event was supported by 90 people who brought their own greenery. We had a total of 30 large sacks of it! However, once again, everyone seemed to go home more than happy with their Christmas wreaths, which had a professional touch to them. We also piloted our first Christmas Table Decoration Evening. The smaller, select group of flower arrangers agreed that this event had also been a success and something they would like to repeat next year.

**COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE** - You may have read in Look Local that The Community Group was pleased to be able to support an idea, initially brought to our meeting by the Choir representative, who worked with local Bolsterstone residents. BCG commissioned a commemorative plaque for the Old Free School, founded in 1686 and situated just down from the village on Sunny Bank Road. An unveiling event held at the Free School was attended by over 60 former teachers, pupils, friends and neighbours of the school, which was closed by the Local Authority in 1992. Thanks to the hosts and everyone who attended the Open House morning, it was a lovely event where so many different groups of people from the village shared memories and stories of the school with their friends.

**DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLATION** - The idea for a defibrillator was initially put to the Community Group from Church and the Village Hall Trust members, and BCG purchased a defibrillator (supported by the Bridge Shop and the Sheffield City Council’s local Ward Pot Grant scheme and a £25 donation from Summer Fayre ) to be installed on an exterior wall of the Village Hall. We are pleased to welcome the Ambulance Service to explain more about the use of the defibrillator at this AGM later tonight.

**PLANNING and HIGHWAYS** - Several Community Group members alerted us to the threats to nearby Green Open Space posed by the recent planning application for 93 homes to be built alongside Carr Road, to which over 400 local people have sent in objections. The 2013 Sheffield Plan, designates Hollin Busk as *“Open Space outside the Green Belt, worthy of protection for its green character... not to be built on to check unrestricted urban sprawl and to safeguard the countryside from encroachment...”* Members have also pointed out a nearby development just across Hollin Busk Road, at the old Maples Garden Centre, which is in fact in the Green Belt, close to Bolsterstone. Members have also raised other concerns including Sunny Bank Road and Morehall Lane, the Manchester Road sewage works and the village street sweeping. We will continue to feed in our comments on your behalf, in line with the group’s constitution: *“The aim of the Group shall be to promote the well-being of the people of Bolsterstone and adjoining areas by the advancement of education and information and the conservation of the environment”*.

Thank you to everyone for coming tonight and for your support this year.

We hope you will stay and enjoy the refreshments.

*Bolsterstone Community Group*

