

Bolsterstone Community Group Newsletter

Winter 2019

As we come to the end of another year (and start of another decade) we are pleased to be in touch with members once again through our newsletter. Bolsterstone Community Group has gone from strength to strength during the last decade, with several new members both to the group and to the committee and lots of people willing to “give a hand”. We have gathered many people together to share their ideas, thoughts and concerns, as well as to have more than a little fun, at the varied events we have organised in Bolsterstone.

Christmas Fayre

Just as some members were suffering some form of awful flood damage due to exceptionally heavy rain in late Autumn, the excellent turn-out from residents and visitors at the Christmas Fayre meant that we were able to cheer ourselves up by listening to lots of local children singing in the Church and by meeting friends whilst doing some early Christmas shopping. This annual event requires a considerable amount of planning and organising but the workload is lightened by an enthusiastic band of volunteers who meet, greet, bake, wash up, clear up and set up the village hall. A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way. We were delighted to receive such positive comments from stall holders and from school teachers, who, with parents and grandparents, encourage quite young children to sing so enthusiastically in their school choirs at the fayre. The event is also a great fund raiser and all proceeds go to enhance the village or to benefit charities. We are able to support The Shoe Box Appeal, The Ugandan Village and Macmillan Nurses as well as more local charities. Last year all the proceeds from our three Christmas events (Christmas Fayre, Wreath Making and Table Decorations’ Evenings) were donated to the Village Hall Trust to assist their maintenance and improvement programme.

Wreath Making Evening

We must also thank everyone who helped make the wreath making evening so successful. Volunteers collected and shared a large amount of varied greenery so that we had plenty for everyone - and that was a LOT of people! The evening itself saw some of the worst weather of the year, with (more) heavy rain and winds so strong that people could hardly stand up! Despite anticipating that few people would brave such elements and that we would have lots of spare places, we were pleasantly surprised to see that we were busier than ever this year, the hall was heaving, and some people from the waiting list managed to secure a seat. The huge group of wreath makers, includes lots of familiar faces but also includes many novices as well. After ploughing their way through mountains of greenery, baubles and bows, they created Christmas wreaths of exceptional quality. Funds from this popular event, and the Christmas Fayre this year will go to several organisations/charities including St Mary’s Church, Cavendish Cancer Care, The Dransfield Foundation and Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre.

Christmas Table Decorations’ Evening

Whilst this is a smaller event, the participants remarked on how much they enjoyed it. They learned how to create beautiful centre pieces for their festive tables from our own dedicated team of professional floral volunteers.

Affiliated Groups

Bolsterstone Community Group Committee continues to meet 4 or 5 times a year, with its affiliated groups, in order to share information. The groups include Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir, Walkers are Welcome, The Quilters, The Village Hall Trust, Stocksbridge Town Council, and Bolsterstone Archaeology and Heritage Group. (A BCG member also runs a small French Conversation Group on Tuesday mornings in the Village Hall) We have provided a new notice board for the Village Hall Trust. It is situated in front of the hall and

we hope this will help to publicise various activities. Information can also be obtained from the links on our own website - www.bolsterstone.info.

Planning and Highways

At the time of writing there is no new information about Hollin Busk. Members will no doubt have seen information in the press about the new houses proposed on Wood Royd Road. We remain in contact with Stocksbridge Town Council, through their representatives on our committee, over Green Belt conservation and local planning applications.

Village Maintenance

We continue to check and maintain the defibrillator on the Village Hall wall. We have also provided a new recycled bench under the "Jubilee" tree near the Castle Inn and compost bins for the allotment and the Church. However, we welcome any suggestions from members on what else would benefit the village, especially since we have been fortunate to raise funds from our recent, popular Christmas events. Please get in touch with us with your ideas or put them forward at our Annual General Meeting, where we will provide refreshments and which will be held on Tuesday 31st March at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is now up and running. We are very grateful to David Rogers for co-ordinating this. He has prepared a short information sheet below & attached. Anyone living in Bolsterstone, or close to it, is encouraged to join the scheme. Just fill in the tear off slip and return it to David the local co-ordinator, or to Zoe Sykes the Area Chair.

Dear Resident,

I have volunteered to act as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for our village and surrounding area, as part of the work of Bolsterstone Community Group. If you are interested in joining the scheme, you need to register with the wider Neighbourhood Watch Network, which is linked with and supported by South Yorkshire Police. I shall be attending area meetings and liaising with the area and national network to promote ideas for keeping our community safe. Hopefully it is also an opportunity to share with South Yorks Police our own local concerns and information and request their support. In Neighbourhood Watch and SYorks Police we also have an "Alert Messaging Service" system. This sends out messages to mobile phones or e-mail to warn us about crime, theft or scams happening in our area or police requests for information to aid enquiries.

Please cut out and return the form below if you would like to join this service

The form below should be returned to: Zoe Sykes, Chair of Sheffield North Area Regional Neighbourhood Watch, 16 Chambers Grove, Chapeltown, Sheffield S35 2TD or e-mail zoejsykes@gmail.com or to me David Rogers, Sundown, Stone Moor Road, Bolsterstone, Sheffield S36 3ZN or e-mail rogers.bolsterstone@btinternet.com and I will forward it to Zoe who will then register details with South Yorkshire Police. (Data Protection Act: This information is kept securely and only shared with myself, the Area Neighbourhood Watch Chair and the Police) If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

David Rogers

Name.....
Address.....
Phone number.....
Mobile number.....
E-mail.....

**Hope to see you at the BCG Annual General Meeting on
Tuesday 31st March 2020, 7pm, Village Hall**

Bolsterstone Community Group

