

AGM Chair's Speech

I want to recap on what we have done over the last year, but I also want to talk about what we plan to do this year, we have ambitious plans to put on lots more events, but first let me talk about who are we?

The current elected committee members are; myself as Chair, Steve as Treasurer, Nic as Webmaster and Ollie as Minutes Secretary and the co-opted members who regularly attend meetings and help us, Janis, Annette, Pete, Marcia and Sue along with people who attend when they can, you are all a part of making PRS work. But there are so many other people involved, Trish and Sophie who look after the defibrillator, everyone who volunteers to deliver the newsletter and the many of you who get involved in helping with events including, Marcia and Sue in the kitchen tonight who have served the refreshments. It takes everyone to keep PRS going, and all our volunteers are very much appreciated.

Although I have been involved with the committee for 2 years I only became Chair in January this year. I took over from Janis and I want to thank her for all her hard work over the years helping to make the village a better place.

And so to what we have done over the last year. As we started to get back to normal after Covid we reintroduced some of our regular events, the litter picks, the Coal Race, the Christmas lunch at The Peels, the Christmas Fair held here in the Chapel and of course our annual visit from Father Christmas.

We also saw the village website back online, thanks go to Nic for all his hard work in achieving this. There is so much information about the village on there, what is currently going on but also a lot of history and old photos which are lovely to look through. I am so glad we have not lost all of this information. Please do go and have a look, those of you who have lived here along time will remember some of the events, you may even spot yourself in a photo and for those of you who are new to the village it's a chance to find out about its history.

More recently we have seen the reprint of Portrait of Padfield, again thanks to Janis' hard work in making this happen and last month we saw the return of another favourite, The Impromptu, after a gap of several years. The feedback from this was lovely and we hope this will again become a regular event in our calendar.

Of course it's not all about putting on events, there are lots of things which go on behind the scenes, producing and distributing the newsletter, Padfield News (which has now gone bi-monthly as we have so much to tell you), keeping the village website up to date, liaising with our local PCSO, Tracy Jones, about any concerns there are in the village, liaising with the council and highways about the state of the roads (please don't mention potholes!), ensuring the defibrillator at the bottom of Platt Street is in working order, even down to the notice board and making sure this is always kept up to date so you are kept informed of what's going on and I'm sure many other things I haven't had to deal with yet.

All of this is done by volunteers, and this does take a lot of planning and organising. We are always looking for additional help so if you would like to become involved, either as a committee member, a regular volunteer or to help out with a specific event, please do get in touch with any of the committee members.

Having talked about what we have done I would like to move onto what we plan to do. We have lots of events coming up and more are in the planning stages. We are bringing back some favourite old events and introducing some new ones.

The main event coming up is, of course, the Kings Coronation. We have worked with the Chapel and The Peels to put on a day of events for the whole village, starting here in the Chapel at 10.00 for live coverage of the ceremony followed by lunch, at 2.00 the celebrations will be moving down the road to The Peels, with live music being provided by Tom Wynne and a bouncy castle. At 3.00 there will be children's races and games on the rec and The Peels are putting on a buffet at 5.00.

This is one I really wanted to put on as I remember celebrations for other royal occasions, the Silver Jubilee when I was a child, I remember being dressed in red white and blue clothes and going to a street party, and the Golden Jubilee and when my daughter was young and I wanted to recreate some of this and hope the children of the village will remember this as I remember those other days after all these years. We do hope you can come to join in on this historic occasion.

If you want further information about this please speak to any committee member, Claire at The Peels or Kathy, Kath, or Marcia at the Chapel. I will also be posting updates on Facebook regularly until the day and we will have posters here in The Chapel and The Peels and flyers are being distributed to the whole village this week.

In June we will be having a stall on Roughfields during the Hadfield leg of the Tour de Tameside, to raise awareness of PRS and what we do, please do come along and say hello and cheer on the competitors at the same time.

Other events currently being planned are a Wimbledon themed afternoon tea at The Peels in July.

Also, in July we are planning to reintroduce the Sheep Trail, this one was so popular we are really hoping to manage to run this again this year, but it is still in the early stages of planning.

We are also having the Floral Competition again this year which we will be judging in August, the judges will be looking for design, colour, original ideas, and impact, so start planning your gardens now.

September brings us to the Coal Race, after being reintroduced last year and proving to be a popular event we have decided we need to do this again. Unfortunately, Emma is unable to organise for us this year, but the mantle has been taken up by Michelle & Steve who will be taking this on.

In October we are planning to have an Autumn Litter Pick and in November we hope to have another Christmas Fair and then in December we will, as always, have the Christmas Lunch at The Peels and a visit from Father Christmas (We have already spoken to his elves and ensured this is in his diary)

One of the things we are aiming to do is to showcase local talent and we are planning to put on some smaller events in between the larger ones, evenings where we can all meet, have a talk by a local artist or author or music by a local group followed by coffee and cake. These evenings are a nice way to get out for the evening and socialise so if you know anyone who would like to come and give a talk on their work or perform (or if you would) please get in touch with me.

A lot of these events are still in the planning stages and more detail will be circulated nearer the time; I will put these on Facebook as well as in the newsletters.

Lastly please remember PRS is your group, we are here to help the village and we welcome your ideas and concerns so please come and talk to us, either at our regular monthly meetings in The Peels on the 3rd Monday of the month or just email, ring, or message any of us