

Report to the Cockfield Annual Parish Meeting 16th May 2024

I was elected chairman of Cockfield Community Council at the November AGM. I took over from Julie Goodsman. Julie is still an active trustee on the council.

Our aim is to bring the community together and showcase what a great village Cockfield is. With over 100 new properties having been built in the village it is more important than ever right now to engage with the new people of the village and let them know what's going on around them.

We look to provide an event once a month throughout the year. Details of what we have done over the past year are as follows.

Cockfield Community Cinema continues to show monthly screenings on the 4th Friday of every month.

Over the past 12 months we have seen an overall rise in our audience numbers and hope to soon return to pre Covid levels despite the lack of suitable films.

In March our showing of the film 'Wonka' had an audience of 57, our highest number since pre 2020/2021.

We continue to run with a dedicated small team of volunteers who consistently give up their time to ensure this event continues.

We are currently planning a live screen event showing a live recorded Theatre show.

The Summer Fair was a welcome return last year after a 5 year break. It drew the Cockfield community together with Community Council providing burgers and games, the WI offering tea with cake, the Football club selling beers and FOCSA together with Catey Pre School and many local charities providing entertainment for our visitors. We had a brilliant day with live music, dancing and the fun dog show which provided lots of laughs.

We raised around £2300 for the community and provided a platform for village groups to fund raise, but more importantly, it brought so many people together either as visitors or volunteers helping out on the day.

This year there will be around 140 people on the day including individual villagers, friends, village organisations, charities, crafters and local entertainers working together to provide enjoyment, fun and a sense of belonging for the Cockfield community. The day will be Olympic themed with an Olympic relay, family races and fun competitions for everyone including dogs!

Your help on the day is always welcome and we are grateful for the support of the parish council and other organisations in promoting the fair amongst friends in the village and wider community, hopefully making it a well-attended and successful day.

Bingo is run in February and October each year and is always well attended. Thanks goes to Trudy Mann and her team of helpers for organising the event.

Quiz Night is held in April and November which includes a fish and chip supper. At the last quiz held in April we had 15 teams participating which made it a great night.

Music on the Green We are planning to hold a music event on Great Green in August this year. The plan is hold the event on the first Saturday in August weather permitting. If the weather does not look great we plan to move the event to the second Saturday. If all else fails we will hold it on the 3rd Saturday in August. We want to give the event to best opportunity of attracting as many people from the village as possible. There will be a free BBQ supplied by Cockfield Community Council and a paying Bar run by the Football Club. Any donations made will go towards the refurbishment of the school library.

December sees the **carols in the Church**. Last year it was not as well attended as previous years. This maybe because it was held at 6.30PM. This year we will start at 7.00pm giving those who work a chance to attend. We also provide a Christmas tree by the pavilion which looks great when the lights are on.

1st Jan Hangover Hike provides the opportunity to clear your heads. This year we met at the Horseshoes and had a lovely walk along Bruffs line and up onto the airfield. Returning to the Shoes where food and drink was available.

Duck Race was held in April and all 100 ducks were promptly purchased. We have now purchased some more ducks so with any luck there will be even more there next year. Special mention goes to Rachael, Mel, Will and Robin for their support.

Donations made over the past 12 months.

CATEY Pre School- £250 for new laptop

Cockfield open day - £200

Earls Meadow - £200 for a new chainsaw

Cockfield School £2,000 for a new library

Finally, It was with deep sadness that we lost one of our Trustees and former chairman Rod Williams. He was a huge part of the community council and is deeply missed. We along with the help and guidance of Robin Morley purchased a Williams Pear tree and held a small planting ceremony at Earls Meadow.

As you can see, we hold many different events throughout the year trying to cater for all. This can only be achieved with the help of others within the village who give up their time and effort to make these events a success. We have had several trustees step down over the past few years and could really do with some more people coming on board. We have our AGM in November, so that gives you all plenty of time to consider becoming a trustee. If you would like further information please reach out to us. Our details are on the village web site and contact details are available in Green Links.

Ivan Green

Chairman Cockfield Community Council.