



Report to the Parish Council 2017-18

For the second time, we held a **Spring Festival** in May instead of the Easter event. There was a lower than usual turn-out but the children who attended had great fun taking part in a variety of games while the adults bought cakes and tried their luck on the tombola stall.

The annual BBQ was replaced by our **fiftieth anniversary celebration** – ‘The Summer of Love’ event – which took place in July. Despite torrential rain, it was a highly enjoyable and well-supported day. Villagers got into the mood by wearing ‘60s outfits and the food reflected a typical ‘60s tea. There was a 1967 music quiz for the adults and ‘The Way We Were’ photo competition, featuring villagers across the years. There was also a display of photos and newspaper cuttings about the foundation of the Fund, and a highlight was the visit from one of the original committee members. An anachronism was the bouncy castle – but the children (and their parents) really appreciated that. The event and the Fund’s history featured in The Hexham Courant and, as a result, we received a generous donation from Tony Murkett, nephew of the Fund’s founder David Murkett who ran the village pub. We continue to keep him updated.

In November we held a **Race Night**, which was also very well attended. In addition to betting on horses, participants ‘bought’ horses and won prizes if their horse won the race.

Christmas brought its usual events with the seniors’ party, the juniors’ party and the Christmas Eve celebrations and raffle. The village children received gifts from Santa Claus again and, to commemorate our fifty years, the seniors were given engraved pens. The annual trip to the pantomime (Peter Pan) also took place but in January this time.

Meanwhile, the **Bonus Ball** ran throughout the year, continuing to raise a significant amount for the Fund and helping us to run the various events.

In January 2018 we applied for a grant to the EDF Energy Green Rigg Wind Farm **Community Benefit Fund** for a marquee in which to host our various events. We were informed in April that we were successful and have since purchased the marquee. Although its principal use will be for the Fund’s events, we are happy to loan it to local groups on a case-by-case basis, possibly for a small donation to the Fund.

Our **AGM** was held on 1st February 2018 when we elected the new committee. We had lost two members due to house moves but gained a new one.

Sadly, our first event of 2018 – a juniors’ activity trip to Billingham Forum – had to be cancelled due to low numbers. We are planning a summer trip instead.