

2018 Annual Review

The committee members in 2018 were: Wendy Andrew, Michelle Brent, Dot Carrington, Diane Elliot, Carol Hawman, Annabel Stanners and Alison Thomson; we also had additional support from several villagers.

In April, we were successful in bidding for a grant of £472 from the EDF Energy Green Rigg Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. This bought a marquee for the Fund's use to replace the one we used to borrow from the now-disbanded Wood Elves group.

Our first event of the year was to be a trip to Billingham Forum for the juniors to take part in a range of activities, such as ice skating and indoor climbing. This would have replaced the spring family fun day. Unfortunately, we had to cancel this due to low numbers. (The adults were more disappointed than the children!)

Therefore, our first actual event was the French fun day, which took place in July. Due to high winds and driving rain on the morning of the event we were unable to erect the new marquee. Instead, we took refuge in the pub and played a variety of table top games as well as working our way through a feast of French foods: du pain, du fromage, des crêpes, des gateaux and, for the adults, beaucoup du vin! C'était bon!

Our annual BBQ took place in autumn this year – the first weekend in October – and we had more sunshine than we usually get in its usual summer slot. Thanks to John Bassett, we used the Ridsdale leek show marquee, complete with drapes and chandeliers! It gave us plenty of space for the BBQ during the day and for the evening ceilidh, led by the Tarsat Ceilidh Band. That was very well attended, and everyone took part in the dancing – probably with more enthusiasm than ability! Everyone there thought we should host an annual ceilidh.

We got into the Christmas spirit early this year by organising a village bus trip to the Edinburgh Christmas market/fair on its opening weekend in November. There was a good turn out and everyone enjoyed themselves in different ways: ice-skating, amusement park rides, shopping, cultural visits, eating and drinking. Again, we had luck with the weather.

December brought its traditional events with a trip to the Newcastle Theatre Royal pantomime (Goldilocks and the Three Bears), the seniors' party, the juniors' party and the Christmas Eve celebrations with mulled wine, mince pies and another very successful raffle. The village children received gifts from Santa Claus again. Thank you to Father Christmas for making the detour from Greenland and to everyone who donated raffle prizes.

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.

A huge thank you to the committee members, their helpers, all villagers and to Liz, Mick, Sonya and Tracy at the Gun Inn for your time, energy, enthusiasm, money and gifts.

Please join us at our **AGM on Wednesday, 6th February 2018, 8pm at the Gun Inn**, when we will elect the new committee. New members are needed as some current members will be stepping down. Please ask a current member to find out more.