# Minutes of the Ockbrook and Borrowash Annual Parish Meeting.

# Held at the Parish Hall, Ockbrook, on Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 19.00.

## Present.

Councillors M White (Chairman), J White, J Kennedy, R Locke, M Wallis and T Holbrook.

## Also, Present.

S Kitchener (Clerk and RFO) and 4 members of public.

## 01/22 Noted Apologies for Absence

Councillors D Webster, G Maskalic, P Fisher and C Millward.

## 02/22 Absent.

Councillor AM Stevenson.

## 03/22 Report from the Chairman – See appendix 1.

04/22 Report from other Councillors – See appendix 2.

## 05/22 Reports from Outside Bodies – See appendix 3.

## 06/22 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The next Annual Parish meeting is scheduled to take place April 2023, a specific date to be decided nearer to the time.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 19.25.

## **Appendix 1 -** REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

### OCKBROOK AND BORROWASH PARISH COUNCIL, 2022 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2022.

Good evening fellow Councillors and Parishoners.

Sadly, since the last Annual Parish Meeting we have had to say goodbye to a highly respected former Parish Councillor and Erewash Borough Councillor, Vera Tumanow.

Vera gave a big part of her life to local politics serving as a Parish Councillor and Erewash Borough Councillor for over 40 years and was Mayor in the civic year 1989 / 1990.

In May 2021 we welcomed two new Parish Councillors, Greg Maskalick and Christine Millward, a warm welcome to you both.

Sarah Kitchener, our Parish Clerk, continues to fulfil her role to an exceptionally high standard in a very professional manner, thank you Sarah.

In the summer of 2021 we installed an outdoor gym on Bare Lane playing fields which many residents of Ockbrook now use regularly.

Councillor Jane White’s snack and drinks table became the main focus of attention for children attending the three inflatable fun days we held on Deans Drive playing field with Sarah, The Clerk, having to replenish her stock several times each day !!

We were pleased to be able to offer financial support to the newly formed Youth Group to help get things off the ground and this support will continue for the foreseeable future.

Our investment in the Ashbrook Centre continues and it is so pleasing to see the Centre now in regular use.

Last year we commissioned a rather unique Memorial Bench which was installed in October and now sits looking down towards the War Memorial.

At the same time to commemorate the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore we planted an oak tree next to the flagpole at the top of the slip road to the A52.

Captain Sir Tom was an inspiration to us all with his fund-raising walks during the COVID – 19 Pandemic.

We have provided support and collaborative work with a number of valued organisations and groups for the benefit of the whole community, Ockbrook in Bloom, Borrowash in Bloom, The Speed Awareness Group and Borrowbrook Homelink, to name just a few.

On a sunny autumn day in November hundreds of residents came together to attend the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial officiated by The Reverend Tim Sumpter.

As winter drew nearer Councillor Donna Briggs, The Mayor of Erewash, kindly joined us at The Royal Oak in Ockbrook to turn on the Christmas tree lights.

A week later our MP, Pauline Latham OBE, joined us at The Ashbrook Centre in Borrowash to turn on the Christmas tree lights there.

Despite a bitterly cold evening we were joined by an estimated 1,400 residents, a record attendance for this great annual event.

I would like to pass on my personal thanks to Toni Leatherland and Josie Gill for their invaluable help arranging this event.

On the 26th February residents and councillors came together to plant 105 new trees on Deans Drive playing field to play our part in The Queens Green Canopy initiative in celebration of The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration.

After several years of lobbying Derbyshire County Council we have at last been granted funding for a much-needed pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Victoria Avenue from the Coop area across to Coates the butchers. This will hopefully be installed in the next month or so.

We have recently invested a significant amount of money for a new children’s play area on Deans Drive playing fields. Installation is planned for this month with the official opening sometime in May.

The appointment of Wayne Peapell as our consultant horticulturist has made an enormous difference in the Parish and the many letters, e-mails and phone calls into the Parish office confirm this.

A significant investment by The Parish Council is now paying dividends where we find a completely different landscape to what we had a few years ago not only in open spaces but also Balmoral Road Cemetery.

In addition to Wayne we now employ Trevor as a ‘litter picker’ who you will see working in the Parish as we try to keep both villages litter free as much as we can.

No doubt the highlight for 2022 will be the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee event on June 5th which is being held on the cricket ground at Ockbrook.

The Parish Council is sponsoring the event and is being organised by Councillor Jane White, Councillor Ana-Maria Stevenson and Sarah, The Parish Clerk.

We all appreciate the huge amount of work you are putting into this event to make it a success, thank you all.

Finally, can I thank every single Parish Councillor for your support and look forward to working with you all for the next 12 months.

Michael White

Chairman

Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council

13 April 2022

## **Appendix 2** -Reports from Other Councillors.

### Councillor J White, Recreation Chair.

During the last twelve months recreation has organised, with help from the clerk, the Remembrance celebrations.

A new memorial bench. A tree (English Oak) in honour of captain Sir Tom Moore.

The inflatable days with refreshments during August on Deans Drive.

New gym equipment for the Bare Lane play area.

The Christmas lights switch on in Ockbrook and Borrowash has had financial and organisational assistance from the parish council.

New play equipment is being installed at the Deans Drive play area on the side owned by the parish council. This new equipment is to include a much-needed fence around the play area to stop incidents of dog fouling. The new equipment will also be more inclusive for children with disabilities. A picnic table will accommodate a wheelchair within the fenced and gated area.

With Regards

Jane White ( Chairman of recreation)

### Ockbrook & Borrowash Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 13th April 2022, DCC Report (Cllr Robert A Parkinson)

Highways Capital Programme 2022/2023 (Borrowash)

* Pedestrian crossing, likely to be sited just North of Co-op entrance, Victoria Avenue
* Replacement footbridge across Ock Brook on FP33 between Deans Drive and Ashbrook Avenue
* Traffic signal replacement, Station Road
* Street lighting upgrade to LED, A6005 Borrowash to Draycott
* Indigo/I4 bus services Real Time Information expansion

Road Safety along A6005

A meeting was held on 12th April 2022 with representatives from Breaston, Draycott and Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Councils, an officer from DCC Highways and the police to discuss road safety issues along the A6005 between Spondon and Long Eaton.  Topics included speeding/traffic calming, the possible use of Speed Indicating Devices (SID), pedestrian refuges and pedestrian crossings.

Council Tax 2022-2023

The Council meeting on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 set a net budget for 2022 to 2023 at £618.457 million, reassuring Derbyshire residents it would continue to protect and invest in vital services but highlighting the fact it faced ongoing financial pressures in several areas, significantly in services caring for older and vulnerable people and children.

The 3% Council Tax rise (2% lower than permitted by government) comprises a 1% adult social care precept (to be spent solely on adult social care) and 2% for general expenditure.  This means an extra 62p per week for an average band B household and 80p per week for a band D household.

Managing Director of Derbyshire County Council

Emma Alexander, former interim Managing Executive Director and Executive Director for Commissioning, Communities & Policy, was appointed as permanent Managing Director.  Emma will formally take up the Managing Director role from 6th December 2021.

The Managing Director will work alongside the Leader of the Council to ensure that the Council delivers its ambitious plans, and that Derbyshire thrives now and in the future.  It is expected that Emma will give the county strong, accountable senior officer leadership, ensuring the Council has the capacity to face the considerable challenges of the next few years which include leading the post-pandemic economic and social recovery and the integration of health and social care, driving forward Vision Derbyshire to develop a collaborative working model across all local authorities and harnessing the opportunities that levelling up presents.

County Deals

Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council were named as pathfinder areas by the government in February’s County Deals announcement and were invited to apply for a devolution deal.

The four councils have now submitted initial proposals to negotiate a combined devolution deal with the government to seek to be at the front of the queue by securing the earliest possible deal to bring more decision-making power into the hands of local people.  Key areas for greater autonomy and funding highlighted in the submission to the government include transport and infrastructure, business growth, inward investment, strategic regeneration, destination management, employment, education, and skills.

County libraries will not close

Leader of Derbyshire County Council, Councillor Barry Lewis, has renewed his pledge to keep all libraries open across the county.

Councillor Lewis, who is also Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change, reiterated his ‘no libraries will close on my watch’ statement after it was claimed that some libraries may close due to communities not coming forward to volunteer to run them.

Free advice about energy use in people's homes

Residents can get free advice from the Warmer Derby & Derbyshire helpline on reducing energy use, tackling energy-related problems, and making homes warmer and more energy efficient.  They can call 0800 677 1332 free of charge, email wdd@mea.org.uk or check out [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/).

Marches Energy Agency, which runs the helpline, also issues a monthly newsletter packed full of the latest climate news, events, and resources for people in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan - Consultation

Opened: 2 March 2022 - Closes: 29 April 2022

Views are being sought on the latest stage in the preparation of the Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan.  The Minerals Local Plan, when finalised, will be the main document used to assess planning proposals for mineral development to decide whether they should be granted or refused planning permission.  The consultation consists of the proposed draft plan and a number of other supporting documents.

The proposed draft plan covers the geographical county of Derbyshire, excluding that part which lies within the Peak District National Park.  The plan period is to 2038.  The plan sets out strategic priorities for minerals development through its vision and objectives.  It includes strategic policies to address those priorities, including policies to enable the supply of important minerals and, where necessary, it identifies specific sites for mineral working.  It also includes a set of non-strategic development management policies aimed at avoiding, minimising and mitigating the adverse impacts of minerals development.

Equality and Diversity Strategy

DCC has adopted a new equality and diversity strategy for 2022 – 2025. The strategy is designed to help to  achieve DCC’s equality and diversity objectives and contains five priorities:

* a diverse and confident workforce
* employment, skills and business support for people experiencing inequality and exclusion
* engaged communities able to influence decisions
* healthy and supported people
* safe and inclusive places for everyone.

Planning application for Elvaston Castle Country Park masterplan

Detailed proposals to regenerate Elvaston Castle’s historic grounds in a planning application being submitted for the first phase of a £35 million regeneration programme.  Final touches have been added to proposals to reverse decades of underinvestment and secure the future of the 321-acre estate which includes the historic Grade II\* Listed gardens which are the finest example of renowned 19th century gardener William Barron’s work.

It follows a comprehensive public consultation exercise and many months of work with Elvaston Castle and Garden Trust (ECGT), working with the National Trust, to finalise proposals for:

* building a new café accessed from the upper stable yard leading out onto a new adventure playground
* regeneration of the lower stables yard into a space for retail, catering and exhibitions
* regeneration of the upper stables yard for retail and office space
* new accommodation and workshops for site staff and volunteers in the frame yard
* reducing traffic through local villages and improving visitor access to the site by creating a new entrance and access drive closer to the A6 via a new junction/roundabout on the B5010. This would take visitors more quickly into the heart of the estate and to a proposed new car park.

Restored to its former glory, the whole site will remain a country park, free at the point of entry with increased visitor numbers helping to contribute to the running costs.  If the first phase of the restoration gets the go-ahead, it will pave the way for further planned development such as:

* the repair and renovation of further historic buildings on the site to bring them back into use
* converting the ground floor of the castle into a conferencing and events venue
* offering camping and glamping on the estate’s former campsite with facilities for touring caravans, motorhomes and tents.
* an improved and varied events programme to attract a wider audience.

If plans are approved, regeneration of the estate is expected to create more than 170 new jobs and increase the number of visitors. There are no plans to build new residential housing on the estate.  The planning application will be considered by the County Planning Committee which will decide whether or not to grant planning permission.  This is because, under planning law, planning applications for development on land owned by a particular council are considered by the planning committee for that council.  DCC’s Planning Committee considers all planning applications on their merits and is impartial.  All decisions by the committee are based on planning policy, factual information, information presented to the committee and other material considerations.

The £35 million regeneration costs will come from a mix of public and private investment, including a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and substantial investment from DCC.  The long-term plan is to hand the day-to-day running of the estate to the Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust (ECGT) which is an independent charity committed to creating new jobs and new volunteering opportunities, to opening up access to more areas of the estate, and to sharing Elvaston’s history with new and diverse audiences.

Appreciation

Finally, but by no means least, I would like to extend my grateful thanks to the Clerk and Members of Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Council for their continued help and support in my work as one of your County Councillors.

## **Appendix 3 –** Reports from Outside Bodies.

### Elmcross Allotment Holders’ Association - Annual Parish Report, March 2022

A year on from the first lockdown yet with restrictions still in place, there was a distinct feel of deja-vu amongst the ranks, hardened as we were to the problems of moving about and sourcing gardening requisites. As if predicting ongoing problems ahead, there had been a bumper number of seed orders for our super-efficient Seed Secretary Sue to sort out during the previous Autumn although, fortunately, garden centres remained open. It was progress as usual, with the usual public-spirited stalwarts helping one another out; all that was missing was a bright spring.

New gardeners settled into their plots, making valiant efforts to tame nature, but nature was having none of it; a dry April stunted growth whilst a more than compensatory wet and very cold May put young plants on hold, or in extreme cases burnt and blackened them with unseasonal frosts by night. June was so-so, while blight was a major fear during high humidity in July, realised late in summer by an affected tomato crop. But outdoor tomatoes are always susceptible, and this bout of blight was slow to claim victims so that the harvest was not completely written off. Conversations on site revealed varying results for different crops, a result of topsy-turvy weather patterns featuring brief heatwaves, seemingly endless dull rainy skies and wind. Nobody seemed happy with their results. It was enough to put experienced growers off, let alone novices! Fortunately, the vagaries of last season do not seem to have deterred them.

Covid restrictions eased, but ‘freedom day’ came too late for the reinstated Annual Elmcross Barbecue to survive in its planned state. Downgraded to a ‘bring-your-own picnic’, it took place one warm Saturday evening after a sizzling day, attracting around 25 members who sat under the cherry tree on Elm Street chatting, but fizzled quite early. What is it about barbecues and alcohol that keeps participants animated until well after dark?

While Elm Street may not have the calm, sweetness and light of Shacklecross, it is blessed with a communal area which has been worked on constantly for over a year now; clearing, levelling and frequent mowing by committed volunteers already spending much effort on their own plots have opened up the space. As many of our gardeners are not exactly in the first flush of youth, some were notably uneasy about using an indoor, public space – such as the polytunnel at Collyer’s - for the Annual Elmcross Show last September, but the new ‘Showground’ fitted the bill, although would not guarantee shelter from inclement weather! Using three gazebos with makeshift tables beneath, colourful produce began to arrive soon filling the space. Working on the principle that any show was better than none, the extensive schedule’s blueprint was reduced, with some classes combining or crossed out altogether to allow for a reduced and outdoor event as well as the ups and downs of a difficult summer. This meant that judging too could be scaled down, and our outgoing Treasurer, now no longer working a plot of his own, took the role decisively. There was plenty of mutual admiration of produce and a very relaxed atmosphere was enjoyed by both Elm Street entrants on home turf and very welcome Shacklecross visitors. No monetary prizes were awarded, but regular show entrants know that it is the kudos of a certificate that really counts!

Erewash decided to hold its ‘in Bloom’ competition in an online format only, where only photographs could be submitted and judged. In what can only be described as a surge of optimism, founded on a wave of post-covid (almost) live-for-the-moment, each site was entered with our Chair, Peter taking the photographs. Anyone who has been aware of the rivalry between the two sites in terms of this competition might have agreed that the pictures rather favoured Shacklecross but, no matter; we were in unchartered territory this year! Was I the only person to see irony in an online competition where the awards ceremony would involve a packed audience of winners at Morley Hayes? Nevertheless, as covid ebbed, we were delighted to receive invitations and even more so to take joint first prizes, receiving for each site large, engraved glass trophies to add to our collection (who said we were the only sites that entered?) Our past trophies, which have taken up far too much space, are now stored at the Parish Office, and we hope to see them on the register of assets next year!

By this time, we had already resumed regular bi-monthly meetings so were able to hold our AGM in October as usual. Presented for the best kept allotment, the Highton Cup, having been judged earlier in the year, was awarded twice; first to the winners in 2020 whose glory had been swiped by the pandemic. With barely sufficient time for a photo, the Cup was redirected to the 2021 winner, new to Elmcross but clearly a very able allotment gardener. Reports were given, a new Treasurer installed, seeds swapped, a buffet enjoyed, the whole evening culminating in what has become a very popular and good-natured event: The Quirky Gardening Quiz. Well-attended as ever, at long last Elmcross was truly back on the rails!

Our gardens away from home continue to bolster us, providing boosts to both mental and physical health, even for those who rely heavily upon others for help, providing quiet and a different perspective. Yet on occasions nature is noisy; one afternoon the calm air was shattered by a deafening Formula One Race sounding from a patch of nearby bee-filled flowering comfrey, while the harsh screams of crossbow swifts above dive-bombed in threatening formation like drones in a sci-fi film, making regular incursions. They remained with us all summer, wheeling and screeching overhead, finding their food on the wing. If swifts are in decline, then we know where to find some, observe their habits and habitats, and feel richer for it. Pigeons remain a problem however, and in dry spells will search for moisture even in immerging dahlias, pulling at the soft young leaves; in fact, there is very little green or fruit they will not strip. Everything must be covered or netted.

Other problems persist; pigeons being not the only unwelcome visitors on site. Given rampant price rises and the current world situation, food security is a national key issue. Fertiliser prices have more than doubled in recent months which, along with fuel, will keep adding costs to food production. What we as gardeners produce creates little carbon footprint and whilst we are happy to share surplus produce, allotment gardens will become an increasing target for the unscrupulous. It is therefore timely that the Parish Council has agreed to take a serious look at increasing security on the Elm Street site. Plots let but never worked remain a puzzle, despite demand being high.

Many thanks go to our gardeners who generously give of their time to help others, maintain hedges and communal areas and donate surplus produce, plants and seeds

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Annikki Case who fled her native Finland upon Russian invasion and found a welcome here; she ‘loved this place’ reads the plate on the bench by the Elm Street gate dedicated to her memory. Her experience bears a special poignancy which resonates with our times. Also, to William Barron; the recent demolition of his house has been sad to see. Although not a local man, he made Elvaston Castle what it is today and was hugely influential in the development of Borrowash; many of us garden what was once his land. Last but not least we salute Ian Rose, who dedicated much of his time and aptitude for figures as Treasurer and as former Show Secretary to Elmcross, and who is so very much missed.

Julie Smith, Secretary and Peter Ball, Chair

Elmcross Allotment Holders’ Association, March 2022

### REPORT FOR AGM OF ASHBROOK CENTRE APRIL 2022 - BY OCKBROOK AND BORROWASH WI

April 2021-April 2022 again provided challenges, due to Covid but it really does feel like life is getting back to normal and we are resuming activities that we all used to do.

The WI were able to start meeting together on a monthly basis on Monday, 19th July 2021, having not previously met since 17th February 2020. 19th July 2021 was also the first time the WI were using the Ashbrook Centre for their meetings, and everyone was delighted with the central location, the lovely large, bright and airy room and all the facilities available at the hall.

 The WI’s Chair Yoga classes also resumed at the Ashbrook Centre on Tuesday, 22nd June 2021 and we decided to run half hour sessions with two smaller groups to minimise contagion of the virus. These continued until 12th October 2021 when we increased the sessions to ¾ hour and just one group. We are proud to say that due to the precautions that we took and the strict rules we had in place, no-one brought or caught covid from the classes, this also applied to the WI Monthly Meetings. We have on average 15 people attending the class each week, mostly local, and so are pleased we have met our brief for Derbyshire County Council, to provide exercise for people in the area and increase their fitness as very few classes are available in Borrowash. We also provide social time at the end of the class for people to have a cup of tea and biscuits and make new friends. This particular aspect of the group has been very successful.

On 4th December 2021, the WI organised a very successful Wreath Making Course, at the suggestion of Wayne, the Gardener, which was attended by 15 people. It was held at the Ashbrook Centre and was a wonderful afternoon where our members and some of their friends made really professional looking wreaths under the instruction of Wayne. Everyone who attended was really pleased with their efforts and voiced their hopes that we could organise another one this coming December. We were so grateful to Wayne for making it such an interesting and fun afternoon and he was presented with a bottle of wine and a Lemon Drizzle Cake as a huge thank you from our group.

In connection with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June, our WI will provide tea/coffee/cakes on 2nd/3rd June at the Ashbrook Centre, who have kindly waived the room hire so that we can provide refreshments to the community. Proceeds from this event will go to WI funds. As the scarecrow element of the celebrations has been enthusiastically received by people in Borrowash and quite a number will be putting scarecrows on show in their gardens, we are hoping that they will call into the centre on their way round the village.

We would like to thank Sarah, Parish Clerk for all her assistance and co-operation with the events which we hold at the Ashbrook Centre. It’s made such a difference for the WI to be able to hire a bright and modern venue with good facilities and plenty of space and offers opportunities for us to organise events for the future.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Wayne, who has helped us in choosing a memory tree and also in constructing a bench for us to be placed near to this tree in the grounds of the Ashbrook Centre and for the trustees of the centre in giving us permission to do this.

Finally, we would just like to draw your attention to 3 issues which we feel would improve the Ashbrook Centre.

1) From a health and safety point of view it does require more lighting in the car park area and around the front and sides of the building, as it is very dark and could result in someone falling.

2) Is it possible please for the heating to be programmed to turn off around 9.30pm for our monthly WI Meetings on a Monday? We have had to cut meetings short because it has become so cold that it was uncomfortable to stay.

3) Is it possible to provide more kettles or an alternative source for making hot drinks as the 2 kettles currently in the centre are not adequate? This will be crucial when we are making hot drinks for the Jubilee celebrations.

Pauline Atkin and Jackie Flint

Joint Presidents

Ockbrook and Borrowash WI

3/4/22

### Report from Ockbrook and Borrowash Heritage Society, 2022

There is no full report this year from OBHS due to Covid lockdown and no meetings.

Research for the picture 'Ockbrook 1840' is still in progress, and we hope to resume soon meetings soon.  We still need money to complete the project.

Members fund their own research, but we shall have to pay the artist and then for the display copy for a public board.

Margaret Barker

Chair OBHS.

### BORROWBROOK HOME LINK- ANNUAL REPORT TO OCKBROOK AND BORROWASH PARISH COUNCIL, March 2022.

During 2021 the continued Covid pandemic impacted our activities, especially our social

meetups. However, it has been a positive year for our small charity.

We continue to support the older adults of our parish in living independently in their own

homes by providing helpful information from our office, located in the heart of the

Borrowash. We have added new services and improved the old. Our bright and cheerful

magazine is full of interesting articles, advice and local news. We have had to expand the

magazine from 16 pages to 28 to ensure we can include everything. We have increased the

frequency from quarterly to six editions each year, alongside Easter cards, birthday cards,

Christmas cards and news-flyers.

In 2021 we introduced a new social meetup, located at the Ashbrook Centre in Borrowash.

This is a free monthly meetup with an activity, such as singing, bingo or drumming, has been

a huge success. It is incredibly popular with those who attend and has attracted new

members.

We have recently started a weekly Monday session at the Ashbrook Centre, helpfully

suggested by the Parish Council. During the first month numbers were low, though it is sure

to prove popular. Now that we have achieved a 5-star Food Hygiene rating with Erewash

Borough Council we will be able to offer cooked meals. We will be able to help our seniors

in the Parish with a low-cost hot meal, this will help their pensions go further in these times

of rising costs, as well as an opportunity to meet friends for a chat.

We have begun a community garden project, with the help of the Wayne Peapell, the Parish

Council & Trustees of the Ashbrook Centre. We aim to create a garden suitable for seniors

at the Ashbrook Centre. The garden will serve to promote well-being and gentle physical

activity. It will also be a lovely place to sit, reflect and enjoy the wildlife. We will link some

of our Saturday Session Activities with the garden.

Borrowbrook continues to be a key member of our community by joining with other

community groups. In this way we can help our members stay linked in with their

community. The local support from both local businesses and families throughout the past

year has been incredible.

Borrowbrook has been approached by Derbyshire County Council and Public Health England

to help them in their project to help distribute hygiene products, such as face masks, hand

sanitizer and sprays. We have already begun this task and hope we can reach out to more

vulnerable seniors in our community.

We are also very fortunate to receive continued donations and support from individuals,

churches, groups, pubs, shops, clubs and organisations from around the parish which keeps

our charity ticking over. Both our Parish Council and the Derbyshire County Council

continue to provide vital grants towards the running costs of Borrowbrook Home Link.

These grants are not only significant in keeping our charity running but they also act as a

signal to other funding sources that we are a worthwhile organisation which can be trusted

to spend money wisely.

Although financial constraints obviously have some effect on how we run the charity we are

committed to ensure that we do everything we can to keep Borrowbrook going for both the

active older adults and those unable to leave their homes. We try to help all our seniors to

feel a part of the community and a valued member of our society.

Our staff, trustees and loyal team of volunteers stay committed to reducing loneliness and improving residents’ wellbeing.

Rachel Page

Project Co-Ordinator

### OCKBROOK REDHILL W.I. - 50th ANNUAL REPORT, 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021.

This is the 50th Annual Report of Ockbrook Redhill WI.

What a year it has been with lockdown being announced from the 23rd March 2020 due to Covid 19 and not being able to meet up to have meetings or see loved ones and friends also not knowing how long it was going to last. All events both local and County were cancelled We did have some respite from the middle of June until the end of October, then another lockdown in November easing for part of December and just over Christmas and then strict lockdown again until gradually easing restrictions from the middle of April and hopefully this will end on the 21st June 2021.

Membership at the end of the year 31st March 2021 was 43, one of which has dual membership. The average attendance over 5 meetings was 19 which was down on previous years due to Covid 19 and the Lockdown and the fact that we did not meet for a monthly meeting until October 2020 this being done virtually via Zoom and has continued to the present. Unfortunately not all members could access this. The average attendance at committee meetings was 10.

Sadly we have lost two members during the year, Barbara Kenderdine who passed away in January and Val Dimaline who is now in a home permanently. Mary Hartley resigned in January and Kath Summers is no longer a member.

Eventually the committee met in August in the garden of our President to try and make some sense of what we were going to do to keep members interested, informed and to help them through the lockdown from being too lonely. We could not have our AGM in May as we usually do and this was postponed until November. At that meeting all the present committee members agreed to carry on from November until our next Annual Meeting which takes place on the 10th May 2021 apart from the Secretary Angela Withey who resigned from the committee due to pressure of work however we did welcome a new committee member, Linda Aldred.

The Committee members from November 2020 – March 2021 were as follows:-

Joint President/Secretary/Zoom Host Denise Archer

Joint President/Secretary/Email Contact Margaret Scott

Treasurer, Joint Craft Co-ordinater Pauline Cassere

Vice President and Sick Visitor Phil Bostock

Press Officer, Zoom Host, WhatsApp Host and

Facebook Sue Maclaine Sick Visitor – contact Helen Rigley

Derbyshire Link Ann Phillips

Produce Co-Ordinator and 50/50 Club Janet Pinchbeck

Birthday Cards and Special Occasions Tessa Brooks

Joint Craft Co-Ordinater Wenda Webb

Committee Minutes Secretary Linda Aldred

New Members & Special Events Hostess Ann Ramsden

Refreshments for meetings & Assistant for Special Events Mary Smith

As there were no nominations for President Denise Archer said she was happy to continue until May, but she also asked Margaret Scott if she would share the job with her and Margaret accepted also until May. Denise and Margaret have also been sharing the Secretarial duties. In March Sue Walker although not on the committee volunteered to take the Minutes of the monthly meetings and Linda Aldred undertook to take the minutes of the committee meetings

When meetings commenced in October they were virtual via zoom, committee meetings, the monthly meetings and also Craft and Produce evenings. A zoom licence was purchased in January for a year and Sue Maclaine agreed to act as Zoom Host with Denise Archer being the co-host.

We have been quite pleased as to how this has worked more members mastering zoom each month. The most members we have had at these meetings is 21.

DFWI weren’t able to have Derbyshire Link printed but kept us informed via six Newsletters until Derbyshire Link resumed in September 2020.

Unfortunately Denman College has had to close this year due to lack of funds and is to be sold.

**PROGRAMME –** Since November this has been arranged by Margaret Scott and Sue Maclaine and has covered Annoying Ancestors with Gay Evans, Stem Cell Donation by Peter McCleave who is himself waiting for a donation, Sex, Scandal and The Church by Kathryn Steenson and a take on ‘Would I lie To You’ when Jean Gemmell did her first zoom meeting.

**50/50 Club** – we resurrected this from March to be able to realise some income and 41 members and friends paid up front giving the WI £20.50p per month.

**PRESS OFFICER** – Sue Maclaine has done a sterling job promoting our WI via Inside 72, our Facebook page, Derbyshire Link and the WhatsApp group.

**BIRTHDAY FLOWERS** – Instead of Birthday Flowers Tessa Brooks has sent everyone a birthday card.

**PRODUCE –** Janet Pinchbeck arranged our Produce meetings and Steph Clubb has demonstrated via zoom making scones, mince pies. Viennese whirls and Cornish pasties. Some members have baked along with her.

**CRAFT** – Pauline Cassere and Wenda Webb have run our Craft meetings starting in December when members made a Christmas Wreath a chat session in February and decorated eggs in March.

**DERBYSHIRE LINK** – Ann Phillips has delivered the majority of the copies of Link to many members and posting the remainder.

Wenda Webb and Margaret Scott continue to be on the DFWI Show Committee and Margaret Scott is also on the Denman Legacy, Virtual Events and Public Affairs committees whilst also being a DFWI Trustee.

There have been no social events of any kind only our New Year’s Party which again was on zoom when there was food and drink a game of bingo and a drawing game and two quizzes. Even our Craft and Produce Show in September had to be cancelled.

To try and cheer everyone up near Christmas it was decided to give all members plus three past members a Planter and Christmas card and these were delivered to every member by the committee and were very much appreciated.

From February members could now pay on-line.

Pat Wilson and Shirley Churchman celebrated their 90th birthdays, Pat in January and Shirley in March. Shirley had been a founder member and had taken on President and Secretary positions during her 49 years as a member but due to ill health was unable to join last year.

Denise and I would like to thank all members of the Committee during the past year for their hard work and commitment and also all of our members who are willing to help when asked. It has been a very different year, but I believe we have come through it with flying colours grasping the concept of zoom, which has made it possible for us to carry on. We are just disappointed all members couldn’t participate in this manner. Our WI was a thriving one before the pandemic and we are determined to resume where we left off.

### The Ockash Trust – the past 12 months.

The Ockash Trust had a chequered year like most other community-based charities. Ironically, it was also our 21st birthday year as a charity. This was celebrated in style with our most successful Bargain Trail ever in June, our birthday month. We then held our Elvaston Duck Race in August, and we were blessed with good weather and great attendance. Both events raised nearly £1000! Other events had to be cancelled due to Due to COVID, we haven’t had many applications for grants or rewards, but this is changing slowly, and we’re working more closely with the Parish schools to support various projects. However, we were delighted to give a large grant to the Ashbrook Youth Group as this really gave them a financial boost as they started life, and we’re really pleased seeing how the money is being used for the young people who go there. We sadly lost 2 of our long-standing committee members but were very pleased to welcome Karl and Heather Moore to the team. We look forward to a more ‘normal’ year ahead! Thank you.

Huw Morgan - Chair, The Ockash Trust.

### Borrowash in Bloom – Annual Statement for the year 2021/2022.

Our normal cycle of planning starts in October and November, but due to COVID and furloughs in the industry at the end of 2020, our summer planting order for 2021 was two months late so challenging, but none the less the village feedback was good.

For 2022 we have contracted locally with Dale Abbey nurseries, so we are pleased we have maintained a local connection.

Fundraising last year was good, and we again managed to produce some of our own items to sell. We did appreciate the financial support from both OBPC and Erewash council and along, the local village businesses sponsoring in difficult times, this guarantees the planting for summer and winter for 2022.

In addition to the planting, fund raising resulted in the purchase of

* 1. Hanging basket tree sited at Shacklecross corner.
	2. Further barrels sited at St Hugh’s Church and Victoria Ave.

Cole lane being the only entry point to the village without an entrance display plans to come.

Wildflower seed beds for two locations being created, one near the Nags Head and one at the playing fields with support from Wayne.

We are also developing the Victoria Avenue corner in preparation for the Queens Jubilee.

We are looking for support in all communications to support Bloom initiatives.

We feel the infrastructure is there, but it depends on people being there for the maintenance of the current and even more needed for any future plans.

In Borrowash the core team is 10, and that is really not sustainable and for Bloom to continue in Borrowash that has to increase based on the demographic and the need for balancing day jobs to village activity.

There are several “meet and greets” being planned to encourage support, we will share what people can do locally with our support and what support is required for future plans. Feedback on such as Facebook continues in the 1000’s but if we had 5% of that, with feet on the ground, that would be fantastic, financing their desire to achieve and do more would be the next challenge, but at present its people we need.

### Over 60’s Group

Closed for one and half years with Covid we are back trying hard to do what we can. We have lost 20 people so now we are advertising and last week we had 14 attend. We are going to celebrate Easter with a buffet that should be great, there is not much else to say, onwards and upwards we will go.

### ASHBROOK YOUTH GROUP REPORT TO OCKBROOK AND BORROWASH PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2022.

Chair – Stephanie Dunn

Treasurer – Christine Millward

Fundraising co-ordinator – Katie Eaglesham- Atkins

Following a shutdown of over 3 years due to accommodation issues & Covid restrictions, youth group restarted with a new management committee on 6 September 2021. More than 6 months hard work had already taken place behind the scenes to ensure staffing, training, legal obligations etc. were all in place ready for lift off.

38 local young people signed up for that first night, since then the group has gone from strength to strength within excess of 120 members currently on the books & regular weekly attendances of up to 50 young people.

Most weeks group consists of craft activities, table tennis, Wii, table football, air hockey, pool, football in the MUGA, games of tag, music & of course, the ever-popular tuck shop.

In addition, users have enjoyed many themed nights including Halloween pumpkin carving, Valentine's disco, Rockin' Robbins Drum Workshop, pyjama party, pancakes, milkshakes, loaded hot chocolate, smoothies, pizzas & a great Christmas party funded by the Parish Council.

Going forward we hope to have some trips out over the summer months & possibly some additional sessions over the 6-week summer holidays.

The management committee are fortunate to have secured the services of two experienced youth group leaders, Jess Hind & Liz Williams, whose enthusiasm, professionalism & commitment to the young people of our community is invaluable.

Alongside the leaders a small army of regular volunteers ensure the successful running of sessions each week – thanks go to Jen, Sarah & Jono in particular with support from Christine, Stephanie & Katie.

Youth group users, committee members, leaders & volunteers are all very grateful for the practical & financial support we receive from O&B Parish Council, The Ashbrook Trustees, OckAsh, Borrowash Co-op & many other local businesses who have helped along the way.

### Church Wilne Probus Club.

In the first part of 2021 we conducted our regular meetings over Zoom where a few members, but unfortunately not all, were able to keep in touch and watch our speakers remotely. We were able to share these meetings with other Probus clubs locally and our members were invited to join the Zoom meetings held by these other clubs. Our regular in-person club meetings on the third Wednesday morning of each month at 10 for 1030 in the Village Hall in Ockbrook restarted in July and it was good to be able to meet up with old friends both during our meetings and afterwards over lunch in the Royal Oak. We are still being careful about social distancing, but club life is getting back to something like the normal we had before anyone had heard of Covid-19. We are planning an interesting set of talks at our meetings in 2022 and details can be found on the club's webpage at www.probusonline.org/church-wilne. We also hope to resume the lunches and visits which have been a regular feature of our club activities in recent years.

Membership of our club is open to anyone who is retired or partially retired, and a warm welcome awaits any potential new members. If anyone would like to be part of our meetings, please email our Chairman, Michael Thacker at michaelnewdigate@aol.com, so that he can supply them with the details.

### Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council, Ockbrook in Bloom Report April 2022.

**Objectives**

The Ockbrook in Bloom team was formed in the early part of 2019 in order to help improve certain hotspots of untidiness and bring into the village colour in varying ways. The initial objectives were to engender a spirit of community, to unite the village, and to endeavour to engage all ages in a love of the outdoors and gardening.

The key objective focused upon to improve the appearance of the village by strategically placing flowers in areas that require enhancing utilizing wherever possible the resources within the village.

More recently we have for this year also utilized the feedback from the RHS who identified that one of our real strengths is the focus on community engagement. We have developed new ways of communicating with people within the village, used their initiatives and ideas which has been successful in encouraging more and more people to “do their bit”

Each of our monthly meetings are well attended as we strive to use past activities, future required skills and timetables for the completion of the projects for the forthcoming submission to the RHS Village in Bloom 2022.

**Engagement of the Community**

Our plans for this year have included the use of a wide range of ages especially from pre-school age right through to well respected seniors in the village. In out first year of 2019 the RHS recognised this achievement and presented us with their first ever discretionary award for Young People. This was gained by our young people who had demonstrated their involvement in a range of activities and learning.

We have in place several projects with Redhill Academy, the village toddler group and pre-school children who have actively been involved in “Harry the Hedgehog” proposed trail. We have a list of other children of all ages, who contribute significantly in all our proposed planting schemes and other activities. For an example one young lady was determined to contribute in helping her community and over the last year completed the following range of activities. She has painted flower troughs, helped in the planting of flowers at Redhill Academy, submitted some great ideas and some outstanding initiatives whilst creating ideas for the sensory garden and submitting a schedule of blue flowers that we require for our well dressing project.

Key to our success has also been to utilise the practical skills and expert knowledge of villagers of ages up to senior years. This group of people have blended into a determination team, along with our younger generation, to make the village bloom again. From achieving a silver award in 2019, the final advice from the RHS was “take it to the next level, go one higher, and you will succeed”.

**Challenges**

From the concept of Ockbrook In Bloom, we have overcome many challenges and from which we have learnt how important it is to be realistic with our future plans. This has included aspects such as adequate funding, working with local authorities over licenses, insurance and regulations. Previously a small team were totally active in wide ranging areas specifically focusing on tasks to the disadvantage of communication. That challenge has been overcome with an installation of a designated communication person who has now released energies of several people to concentrate on practical tasks.

A challenge that we have had to overcome is to appreciate the effects of Covid on the villagers. This has seen a sensitive approach to personal sponsorship and seeking help within the lock down rules to keep projects ticking over. Again, we have maximized the use of natural resources and recycled materials. Many villagers have on a restricted basis contributed within the rules and have given their time therefore keeping us on track.

From a financial view we have been given funding for several of our projects from Erewash Borough Council, Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council and Ockash Trust. Other contributions have kindly been donated by the village. Thank you all.

We have raised revenues from a range of activities and continue to work hard on this key area to help us deliver our goal.

As outlined previously many new people within the village are now keen to contribute in our projects which are thanks to a change in our strategy and communication principles.

We have and still have challenges in practical terms which include waiting for Derbyshire County Council’s approval for our plans for Victoria Avenue, the completion of building work around All Saints Church, and the removal of items which are restricting progress on 2 projects. However, we are confident we will succeed.

**Our Plans for 2022**

One piece for advice the RHS gave us in 2019 was to maintain the work we had produced and not to overstretch ourselves going forward. We had to seriously consider what we could achieve set against those parameters and the challenges that this would bring. The team have taken on board the areas of development that the RHS wished us to consider and have built their objectives around that initiative.

Our original plans were stalled by a release by the RHS during December of 2021 in which they indicated the following “competitors in the Village in Bloom Competition will be penalised for overuse of bedding plants and instead are to plant perennials and herbs as they have a lower footprint”.

However, the Ockbrook in Bloom team agreed that whilst taking into account this new direction from the RHS it was essential that we create a balance between biodiversity and making the village brighter. To that end we intend to balance the two. This can be achieved by the initiatives of the village to create wildflower and perennial areas, utilise biodiversity in several areas, build a sensory garden compete with stumpery and create sustainable processes that will be of benefit to both village communities.

In line with continuing with restoring the heritage of the village, we intend to restart the well dressing tradition that unfortunately ceased in 2013. Much work has been competed in this area and with help and advice from both original members of the 2013 team and the Etwall Well Dressing team, we are on track to re-introduce this skill back into the village.

Even with our new initiatives we still intend to maintain the level of commitment to the original work and sites we improved in 2019.

**Future Strategy**

As we live in a changing world, biodiversity and carbon footprints will become more important to horticulture. In order to achieve that potential direction, it will be necessary to seek to use resources in the following manner:

* Continue to use peat free compost and to utilise more a natural use of mixed leaf mould, manure and old compost.
* Grow more p[lants ourselves as against purchasing them
* To adopt the Parish Councils Green Vision widely through the village
* To use more recycled items on future projects
* Consider a replacement programme of plants to maintain sustainability
* Utilise local historian society and old publications to re-introduce more heritage back to the village
* Investigate the lace making industry that occurred in the village
* Lock down the learning that has been created so that future generations may benefit from our actions
* Endeavour to engage with more volunteers
* Continue to seek to create fresh revenue streams
* Utilise a SWOT analysis of the above and feedback from the RHS to formalise each year a business plan that reacts to the chose yearly objectives taking into account the activities highlighted.

Frank E Harrison – Project Manager Ockbrook In Bloom

Agreed and Confirmed by Chairperson Mrs M Overton

### Ashbrook Centre Trust, Annual Report 2021-2022 Registered Charity no 1161417

The Ashbrook Centre is currently a Charitable Trust working on behalf of the Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council to renovate the Ashbrook Centre building and return it to public use.

Prior to October 2019 the Trust was being run by three Trustees and had been operating under a lease from Derbyshire County Council who are the landlords of the building. It is the intention of the Trust to hand over the running of the Ashbrook Centre to the Parish Council once it is fully refurbished and financially viable.

In October 2019, the Parish Council voted to change the composition of the Trustees and increased the number of Trustees from 3 to 7 in order to provide structure and governance. The new Trustees are focused on pushing the progress of refurbishment and ensuring that available funding is targeted at the priority tasks to open the hall and realise income through bookings.

From October 2019 a monthly report has been given to the Parish Council Meeting, and a clear record of funds spent, and income received has been included in the financial statements. All contracted work has been subject to the governance laid down in both the Trust Financial Procedures and the Parish Council Financial Policy.

Trustee meetings have been held monthly, and minutes published to all Trustees. A full and detailed project plan is in the process of being updated, published to the trustees and agreed upon.

Since October 2019 the Centre has undergone a complete transformation, and from February 2020 it has been open again for public use although constrained by Covid precautions.

The area around the Centre has been developed into a well-maintained outdoor space with indigenous tree planting and wildflower gardens. The Parish Grounds Contractor is now based at the Centre and has developed the area, largely at his own cost. The recycling of Christmas Trees and the composting of the Parish Green Matter from hedge cutting and mowing all take place within the Centre grounds.

This year has been difficult and a rollercoaster of ever-changing constraints relating to the Pandemic. Where possible our groups moved to outdoor activities utilising the Centre MUGA in accordance with the rules. Thankfully this has now returned to a more normal schedule with Groups returning indoors for their activity

At the start of last year, the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was cleaned and made safe for general use, not only by the Groups but following the initial evaluation we have carried on encouraging use by the general public at weekends and during the school holidays. It has been exceptionally pleasing to see an increase in the number of young Parishioners playing football and netball at the weekends.

With an increase in the number and diversity of the Centre users additional funding has been utilised to purchase a high-definition CCTV system which is now installed and covers the entire exterior of the Centre. The key objective of installing CCTV is to support the welfare and safety of both users and their equipment, however it has already supported the events of a recent accident which is an added and unforeseen benefit.

In addition to the CCTV, we have invested in improved hot water provision, lockable storage cupboards for the groups equipment and Wi-Fi to support the Centre CCTV.

Current Bookings:

Bounce2beats – Trampolene based exercise.

WI chair-based yoga – Chair based exercise for adults.

Kickboxing – training and exercise for all ages.

WI Monthly – General monthly meeting.

MUGA – Weekend and school holiday access for the young people of the Parish.

Borrowbrook Homelink – Award-winning local charity supporting the elderly who live at home.

Dynamicmotif – Dance class.

The Youth Group – This is divided into two age groups and offers a variety of activities.

2021/2022 is the year in which the Trustees hope to open the remainder of the hall, and they are currently working toward completion of all the facilities by March 2023. The work planned for the coming months is to refurbish the four smaller meeting rooms and the shower block; and to replace the heating with an economical and eco-friendly system.

Funding has continued to be received from the Parish Council and other sources to assist refurbishment, and grants are being sought from Borough and County Councils as well as local businesses. Due to the effects of the pandemic, it is now envisaged that the Centre will be self-funding from lettings by 4th quarter 2023 2023.

The Trust Annual Report for the Charity Commission is now due and will be submitted along with the financial statements for the financial year.

The current Trustees:

Mr. Richard Locke Chairman

Mr. David Steare Vice Chairman

Mr. Terry Holbrook

Dr. Margaret Barker

Mr. Michael White

Mrs. Jane White

Ms. Jayne Kennedy

Mrs. Sarah Kitchener Clerk to the Trustees

Richard Locke

Chairman

For the Ashbrook Centre Trust

### Ockbrook and Borrowash Scarecrows.

Plans are progressing well with the team meeting monthly.

Scarecrows committed at deadline day stand at 98 with a broadly 50 /50 split across the Parish, a great result.

Funds are slowing coming through via donations, with ticket sales being used to award to both Bloom projects this year. We will be grateful of the funding from the OBCC as the printing and advertising expenditure will be the main spend.

A side benefit to some of the local community groups is the ability to support by providing refreshments and gaining donations for themselves.

As for next year, we take a view post June.

A demonstration of Scarecrow making was held on the 9 April which was attended by 25-30 people who had a go or just gained the experience.

The day was made possible by Wayne’s Peapell support in his own time, to whom the team would like to pass our thanks to.

Phill Barlow 8 April 2022

### Silvers Community Knit and Knatter Club.

The club has been going since 2012, which is 10 years.

It has had various purposes from computer classes, crafts to now a Knit and Knatter club (although a coffee morning for some).

The club at present has a membership of 14 people who don’t always turn up on a regular basis.

Last year the Parish Council kindly let us have the hall for free and this helped us financially, the club has a small membership as we only charge £1 for weekly fees.

2021/22 the Parish Council decided that the club should pay for hall hire and we are now having to pay a rental fee of £10 per hour.

So much so we have had to increase our weekly fee to £2 per person and reduce the time that we are there to 1.5 hours from 2 hours to reduce the cost of hall hire. We do struggle financially especially at holiday times and sickness.

We are a very happy group, and to bring together lonely people who are possibly widowed and widowers and people living on their own, together on a weekly basis is very important to their wellbeing and mental health.

We do enjoy our weekly gatherings and Sarah is very helpful if we need any help or advice.

Hopefully we can increase our numbers of members in 2022 with the Parish Councils help as there must be an awful lot of lonely people in Ockbrook and Borrowash that would benefit from our Silvers Club.

Thanking you for your time.

Elaine Spray

Club Founder and Organiser.