

# GULDEN SUTTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT YEAR ENDING 2022

The Chairman's Report is a formal document, which is sent to the Charity Commission on an annual basis. It serves as an opportunity to look back over the events of the last year. However, in this case, this is the last of the reports of the Association as we have known it for nearly 40 years. We will soon be moving to a new organisation in the form of a CIO.

So perhaps we can look back over the years since the Association was founded. If I recall what the hall was like when I came to the village. It was just the main hall with the toilets and the committee room at the end. There was no Marigold Room. There was no tarmacked car park. There were no lawns or trees and shrubs. The 'new' school hadn't been built yet and there was no neatly tarmacked path through from the car park to the school.

In the intervening years all those have changed. The Marigold Room was added to the main hall. Everyone asked why we needed another room. The hall is big enough they said. But as soon as it was built it was filled and it has been full since. The car park was tarmacked and marked out, and has been a huge benefit to the village for the shops and the school, as well as the hall itself. The village lottery was started to raise funds when the hall was being built. This continued for many years until bad health caused it to finish a short time ago.

The hall has been very well looked after. We have had so many volunteers helping to maintain it. Many people have given their time generously to help in lots of ways. We used to have maintenance days on a Saturday morning, until we found that there were more chiefs than workers and we didn't get many things done.

On a personal note, for three years after we came to the village, we organised the Sutton Six 10K run, with all the publicity, race numbers, marshals and medals involved, after the Horwoods left the village. That was a steep learning curve. We have had many social evenings in the hall. The best has to be when we booked a steel band. That was some sound.

Ruth has organised a number of craft fairs and flower demonstrations over the years. I have chaired and been involved in the Fete Committee, since forever it seems. That is a fabulous occasion. I ran Junior Club for some years and, of course, all the football

parties that have been held in the hall. I have chaired Hall Management Committee for many years, as well as other committees.

Looking closer to home, in the last year, we have had the new doors fitted to the main entrance and new trees planted outside to enhance the look of the hall. We have introduced new policies to look after the Users of the hall and we are in the process of developing those policies and bringing them into use.

The CIO or Charitable Incorporated Organisation has obviously been the main effort this year. It necessitated forming a new set of Trustees for the CIO and for them to examine the work of the current Association to make sure it is managed well and the finances are up to scratch. This was completed successfully and I would like to thank the CIO Trustees for their hard work in doing this.

They have started with a bank balance that any Trustees would be delighted to have, and one that is considerably more than the bank account when I took over as Chairman nearly 40 years ago. This balance has been built up from the Hall Users and must be spent on the hall. I am sure it will be able to improve the hall considerably.

As usual my thanks go to anyone who has helped the Association and the hall in any way over many years. It has been very successful and is a wonderful showcase for all that hard work.