

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held at the Old Grammar School Room, Church Road, Rolleston on Dove
on Monday 22 April 2024 commencing at 7pm

Present

Councillor Stewart (in the Chair)

Councillors Appleby, Badcock, Houston, E McManus, S McManus, Peirce, Robson, Sanderson and Storer

ESBC Councillors Lock and Smedley

E Fenn, Youth Representative

C Baker, Station Heritage Group

T Salmon and L Faulkner, Rolleston Civic Trust

V Winstone, Rolleston United Foundation

J Wyatt, Rolleston Scout Group

1. Councillor Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Rollestonian of the Year 2023

Councillor Stewart presented the Rollestonian of the Year 2023 award to Tim Salmon. The award was given due to Tim's leadership of the Friends of Brook Hollows Group and the transformation that this has made to the area and his leadership of Rolleston Civic Trust and all the good work done by them around the village.

In accepting the Award, Tim paid tribute to this partner Ann Morris and all the volunteers that are part of the Friends of Brook Hollows saying that the award was as much for them as it was for him.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 April 2023 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

None raised.

5. Chair's review of parish activities

Writing this review for the Annual parish meeting of 2023 offers a welcome opportunity to reflect back over the year and take stock of how our village life evolves, grows and takes pride in itself. The many varied organisations and groups continue to flourish, each in their own way contributing to make Rolleston on Dove a positive and thriving village to live in. They provide many varied activities for different age ranges. Many volunteers put hours of hard work and effort into these, for which we thank them wholeheartedly. As I have said before we are really fortunate to live in a lovely village with many open spaces and facilities to enjoy - Craythorne playing fields, Tafflands, the Jubilee and Platinum Orchards, The Croft, our various play areas, the Jinny Trail and other well used footpaths, Brook Hollows and the much valued allotments.

For the Parish Council it has been a year of continuing with completion of longer running projects, the initiation of new ones, successfully applying for grant applications and working with generous donors on projects. Sadly, flooding continues to be a major issue for residents. The Parish Council has been proactively working with the Environment Agency, Staffordshire County Council and our MP to escalate the urgency of trying to move forward with proactive potential options, raising its priority and offering support to residents where possible.

Clare Stewart continued in post as Chairman, supported by Steve Sanderson as Vice Chairman. The Parish Council had a full council of 11 councillors in which we are very fortunate, as many Parish Councils are struggling for councillors. In addition, we are also delighted to have two Youth Representatives who are working on various projects. I would like to thank all councillors and our Clerk Mary for their time and support and for helping take care of our village and its assets be this chasing issues, signposting residents to relevant bodies, reporting problems and working on the open spaces such as the Orchards.

Just some of the many highlights of 2023 are:

- Completion of the remaining projects using the S106 monies paid to the village for the development on the old college fields. This money allowed the Parish Council to focus on much needed improvements and an extension for toddlers to the Meadow View play area, the final works were to repair and repaint the existing play equipment together with installation of a new bench and metal litter bin.
- Progression of the Sport England monies project – this continues to be challenging as the pot of money is insufficient to meet the attached condition on these (i.e. that they must be used for changing facilities). After several meetings and calls with East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) and Sport England, it has been agreed that the Parish Council may submit an application to try to vary this condition and to instead provide a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) suitable for all weathers and multiple sports. To assist with this application the Parish Council has appointed planning consultants with experience of these types of project delivery.
- To help improve accessibility to our open spaces for all residents:
 - A kissing gate has been installed to replace the stile from the Craythorne car park onto the field
 - A replacement, stronger bridge from Forest School Street play area onto Craythorne field leading onto a new stoned path was also installed
 - Drainage works have been undertaken on the field to try to improve the very muddy area by this new path in the top corner.
- Whilst footpaths and stiles around the village are predominantly on private land the Parish Council actively continued to work with landowners to maintain, repair and replace these well used trails for all to enjoy. This includes on-going maintenance of paths, stiles and the wooden steps on both sides part way along the Jinny Nature Trail.
- Rolleston Football Club submitted an application for a shipping storage container to replace the old portacabin removed from Craythorne playing field car park. This was fully supported by the Parish Council and has been approved by ESBC.
- The Youth Representatives continue to work with Rolleston Kindergarten on the community library (stored in a renovated rabbit hutch!) located outside the Kindergarten which contains donations of both children's and adult books. This is being much used and well supported.
- And at last! - the railings along Craythorne car park and the surface of this were redone and completed to the correct specification as originally agreed.

A review of the much loved Jubilee Orchard took place to consider how to make this easier to maintain and manage, as it has been in place for many years now. Edging has now been installed around the beds, fruit bushes moved to the banks, all the trees pruned and

Rolleston on Dove WI have taken charge of a herb bed. Several working party mornings have been held to clear the revamped beds and banks of weeds and dig these over for new plants. A new sharing shelf (for excess produce, herbs, seeds, cuttings and plants) has been installed on the gate which is proving a great success – currently it is full of spare Strawberry and Raspberry plants looking for new homes! Thank you for all the donations, the hours of help from volunteers, and to Cllr Mike Robson for leading this.

The Station Heritage Group worked hard to manage and encourage the wild flower beds – the Spring planting is delightful again and the signal box area restoration was completed. With the support of our three Borough Councillors and the Parish Council, the Group successfully applied for a full grant from ESBC (through the Ward Enhancement Programme) to repair and rebuild the historic cattle dock located part way along the nature trail. This is the final area of the old station to be renovated and completed.

Friends of Brook Hollows Group continued to improve this area, maintaining and working on laying barrow loads of chippings on paths, tree maintenance, opening up of the lower banks, provision of benches, and the removal of tons of silt from the lake. Thanks also to ESBC's Open Spaces and TTTV and to the most generous donor who has funded many projects there. What a transformation over the last three years and hopefully more to come!

RoDSEC continued to hold small events such as live and local sessions and organise trips to musical events for residents to attend, which are well supported. The floating lily display in the Brook in front of the Almshouses for the Coronation, enhanced by decoration of the Almshouses, Rolleston Club and the white railings on Burnside with bunting and colourful planting in the gardens and gate areas was much admired – an absolute riot of festive colour!

The Civic Trust also continues to work hard for the village organising various events which range from quizzes to talks, plant sales, managing the delightful wild flower meadow area at the top of Knowles hill, running the popular Easter Bunny trail and the provision of training sessions for the Heart Start Initiative to list but a few.

Looking to the future - opportunities and challenges

Looking ahead for 2024 moving through to 2025 the Parish Council has a number of projects to complete delivery of, as well as commencing new ones. These include:

- The Station Cattle dock wall on the Jinny Trail will be rebuilt with drainage and sleepers along the top edge (it is planned to disturb as little vegetation as possible and reinstate as required) using the grant money received.
- A full review of the somewhat tired and dilapidated Elizabeth Avenue Play area equipment is to be conducted, seeking views from John of Rolleston School pupils and residents.
- Resurfacing the top of the slide mound on Tafflands so replacing the current play bark with a new safety surface (possibly the path and landing area also subject to cost).
- Replacement of the aging wooden steps and handrails on both sides of the Jinny Trail.
- Further program of tree management on the Jinny Trail and Tafflands.
- On-going footpath and stiles maintenance either on Parish Council land or working with private landowners.

Working with Stretton Parish Council on matters that are of relevance to both parishes e.g. Craythorne Lane, the Jinny Nature Trail, planning applications, HGVs traffic.

It will be another busy year ahead for all organisations no doubt with exciting projects and activities planned.

6. ESBC Councillors report (Cllr Russell Lock, Cllr Chrys Smedley, Cllr Simon Gaskin)

The last 12 months have seen a number of activities underway in Rolleston on Dove to which we have supported.

We have investigated and where necessary opposed/supported planning applications and reported play equipment faults. We have helped push forward the conversation between ESBC and Rolleston Parish Council on modification of the S106 agreement with Sport England. We have also worked on the addition of dog poo bins in the Ward, most recently at the boundary with Tutbury Parish Council at Cornmill Lane.

We have encouraged applications to the Ward Enhancement Programme, which has now borne fruit in the funding for the Cattle dock work on the Jinny Trail. We hope a future application for the Brook Hollows site will be possible and will work with Rolleston Parish Council towards this.

We have engaged with a number of the present issues at Brook Hollows, working alongside Parish Councillors, including updates to the signage for recycling bins and working towards the repair/replacement of one of the wooden access footbridges on the site, work for which is now currently underway.

We will also ensure we are present for the upcoming flood meeting between our MP and Severn Trent to ensure residents get the opportunity to raise their concerns with regard to flooding in the area.

7. Reports of village organisations

7.1 Doveside WI Secretary's Report

I took over the role as Secretary once more in April last year and am still enjoying the experience. It has been an interesting year as ever in this thriving WI.

Since last year's AM we have enjoyed a variety of fascinating speakers. We welcomed the return of Cathy McAteer who spoke on Inspiring Slavic Women. Alan Smith talked about the Minack Theatre in Cornwall whilst Ann Featherstone's talk on the History of Panto was wholly engaging. We learned about collecting antiques in May, increased our understanding about sleep in January and the work of the Air Ambulance in September. We now know how women worked on explosives in WW1 from a talk called The Gretna Girls and the Devil's Porridge. Unusually, we welcomed Graham Short two months in a row. In October he began his talk on Becoming an Engraver. Twenty minutes in, the Brook had inundated Burnside, so we all had to paddle home. Luckily Graham returned to finish his talk the following month.

The Outings and Events team worked hard to find a variety of things to entertain. For example, in the last year the outings have included a trip to Stoke on Trent Regent Theatre to see The Drifters Girl. Members went on a visit to the Secret Diner for lunch, and to Trentham Gardens for shopping. Before the ground floor was flooded, we were able to visit the Museum of Making in Derby. Closer to home, we had two occasions of Soup and a Film. Another time we held a Beetle Drive.

We supported the NFWI Resolution: No More Violence Against Women and with members approval donated £300 to a women's refuge. A donation also supported the volunteers who work on the Jinny Trail. We have been supporting SFWI's efforts for prem baby knits. Our President set a target of 25 items but so far the hats, matinee coats and blankets have far exceeded this.

This year we hosted the Forest and Vale Group Meeting in October. Many visitors heard Stephen Cooke, an Egghead on the television quiz, talk about how he got into quizzing. We prepared finger food, both savoury and sweet.

There has been some innovation this year. The introduction of a Red Box for members to comment on all aspects of Doveside WI; Chair-obics at the start of the meetings to offer some exercise and a new Book Club which has met to talk about a variety of novels. The leaders of the Social Afternoon have introduced sessions where members lead on crafts they enjoy. There have been a variety of ideas. Advent saw us once again contributing to St. Marys church, a beautifully decorated tree on the theme of Christmas Carols.

Finally, our grateful thanks to our President, Leanda Philliskirk, for her hard work in the last year. She has kept the ship afloat in splendid fashion with her gentle humour and good spirits. She is a delight to work with and has grown in confidence in what we all know is a difficult role.

7.2 **Rolleston Civic Trust**

Your Civic Trust has had another busy year as it enters 54th year in existence.

The 'Friends of Brook Hollows' conservation group that is guided directly by the Civic Trust continues to go from strength to strength and has made the transition from being project funded and supported by the Transforming the Trent Valley initiative to an independent voluntary group with remarkable ease. With the generous help of individuals and local organizations in the village we have been able to plant 2000 Bluebells in the spinney and to purchase a four wheeled trolley to help us move tools and equipment around the site.

On the first Sunday of each month, we have had between 10 and 20 volunteers actively working on the site, laying wood chip on the increasingly muddy paths, cutting back Ivy that is choking trees, lining some paths with dead wood, removing fallen wood that has fallen into the watercourses and cutting back Brambles and Nettles to a manageable level.

Visitors to Brook Hollows will notice that a lot has changed over the last twelve months. Volunteers have removed a lot of the invasive Snowberry from certain areas and cleared brash and Brambles from others. Some small self-set Sycamore trees have been removed and Elderberry cut back to encourage new growth. This general cleaning up of the area has allowed more light into the woodland and is encouraging the growth of wild flowers and bulbs.

We have lost several old and diseased trees over the course of the year. Some of these have come down in the storms and some have been taken down by ESBC because they were in a dangerous state. This work included the removal of trees from the small island by the lower lake because of 'Ash dieback'.

I am pleased to say that after negotiating long and hard with ESBC, they have agreed to supply us with nine established new trees which were planted at the beginning of April this year. We plan to introduce more trees to replace some of those lost as time goes on.

Since the Friends Group started in 2021 there have been over 40 local volunteers who have given up a lot of their free time to make a visit to Brook Hollows a more pleasurable experience for visitors. For this reason, the committee felt that the 2022 Civic Trust Award should go to the 'Friends' group. The usual brass plaque has now been installed on our fantastic Eagle Totem on the entrance by The Lawns.

On another 'green' theme the Civic Trust ran another very successful Plant Fair in aid of St Mary's Church at the beginning of June. We raised a record amount of £758 thanks to the generosity of villagers and the hard work of the Civic Trust committee members who helped to run the event. This is the second year in a row that we have set a plant fair record with £670 being raised in 2022. This year's event takes place on 2nd June.

We continue to run our monthly Litter Picking group which has had some noticeable successes this year and do a lot of unseen, but very important work within the village. Craythorne Road and playing fields are regularly cleaned (despite the ongoing fly tipping that still occurs) and early this year we had 20 volunteers collecting over 23 bags of rubbish from Marston Lane. I would like to personally thank the individuals who go out and clear certain roads and streets in their own time. These people deserve great credit for their fantastic efforts and they should be applauded for their actions.

The quarterly Rollestonian is now entering its 42nd year. Our Editor does an excellent job in putting this together and has made a conscious effort to make the content more accessible for villagers by adding photographs and articles rather than large blocks of text that may be daunting for some readers. The Civic Trust is currently exploring the option of having a colour cover for this publication.

Planning matters continue to occupy the Civic Trust committee's time. We take our role in this issue very seriously and we are grateful to have the chance to have our say on plans when they are presented to us. It seems that a lot of the plans that come our way involve the removal of what seem to be healthy trees from gardens or properties. In our opinion we don't believe that healthy trees should be removed unless they are directly affecting a property and even if consent is given this should be granted with the understanding that another tree should be planted to take its place.

Not all our initiatives and activities in the village have been met with success. While the Easter Bunny Treasure Hunt was generally well supported and the Wild Flower Garden provided a much welcome splash of colour, our 'Heart Start' initiative was not a resounding success. Despite considerable funding from the Civic Trust and a local sponsor, we only managed to train just over 100 people in the important skills of CPR and using an AED. This was a major disappointment for us as we had hoped that many more would have wanted to get involved.

In July the Civic Trust organized a Car Boot Sale on Elizabeth Avenue for the first time. The event attracted quite a few 'booters' selling their wares but was not particularly well supported by the community. We are planning to repeat this in 2024, trying a date later in the year to see if this is more successful.

The Civic Trust has continued to organize its monthly talks at the Cricket Club and we have been pleased to have had presentations from a range of speakers talking about topics ranging from the South Atlantic to Sweeney Todd and from Wildlife recording to Drone Flying. Sadly, these talks are attracting an increasingly small audience and given the cost the Trust has to pay to provide a speaker, the current model is unsustainable. We are trying to

include more activities into our programme for 23/24 but unless these events are better supported, we may have to call time on this part of our work.

If the Civic Trust is going to put on activities or events within the village, they have to be ones that are popular and well supported by the community. The contrast with the low numbers that we get coming to a talk at the Cricket Club compared to the very high numbers we get supporting our quizzes or our Wine Tasting Evening in the club is quite marked.

Our 3rd Wine Tasting Evening in November was once again a 'sold out' event. Over 90 locals enjoyed the six wines presented to them to try and there is no doubt that this activity is here to stay.

While the Civic Trust's aims are to aid the community as a whole, actual membership of the Civic Trust continues to dwindle. We have around 165 members which is only around 9% of the properties in Rolleston. The membership is ageing and although we do our best to recruit new members to the Trust, each year we lose several members who sadly pass away.

For this reason, we are making a conscious effort to modernise the Civic Trust and to turn it into something of value for the people of Rolleston on Dove going forward. We are trying to find events and activities that will engage the younger age groups within the village. These people are the future of the village and it is important that we try to include them and to encourage them to have a sense of pride in their community.

We already do our best to deliver 'Welcome Packs' to new residents when they move into the village, introducing ourselves and explain the work we do and inviting them to become members. In addition, we have a thriving Facebook page with over 750 followers so we can share news and events as well as an Instagram account. We have found that social media is a good tool to maintain our profile within the village.

Christmas saw the Civic Trust once again charged with erecting and decorating the village Christmas Tree and supporting RoDSEC's excellent 'Carols Around the Christmas Tree'. We also continue our support for the lighting of St Mary's church as well as providing a Christmas tree for the inside of the church.

Another addition this year has been the development of our own website (www.rollestoncivictrust.co.uk) which residents and former residents can use to help keep in touch with what is happening within the village. The website includes electronic versions of the Rollestonian for downloading.

Looking forward to 2024/25, we hope that we will be able to take the Civic Trust forward in a positive way. Despite our relatively low membership, our real commitment is to the village and its most important resource – the people who live here. We hope to continue to serve them well going forward.

Tim Salmon, Chairperson, March 2024

7.3 **Rolleston-on-Dove Station Heritage Group Annual report to Rolleston Parish Council April 2024**

The group wishes to thank the Parish Councillors for their continued interest and support throughout the past year, particularly when placing a bid to the ESBC Ward Application Programme.

With a successful result from the bid, the carriage/cattle dock facing wall will be sensitively re-built by a contractor, the work commencing in May or June. This feature will give the public a complete impression of the facilities provided by a rural railway station from Victorian times until its closure in 1949.

A team of volunteers continue to maintain the site – weeding, dressing paths and splitting Snowdrop plants to give an even whiter carpet in future seasons. It is pleasing that some new volunteers have recently joined the group, including one Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme candidate.

We continue to give talks and presentations to various groups including the U3A Horticultural Group. During the winter we visited both William Shrewsbury (Stretton) and Richard Wakefield (Tutbury) Primary Schools to introduce year groups to the station amenity – the pupils then visited the site complete with project sheets.

We are grateful to members of Doveside Women's Institute for their generous donation. We are also grateful for the donations from groups to whom we have given talks. Members of both 'TREATS' and 'Friends of RSHG' continue to support the project in various ways.

Clive and Rosemary Baker
On behalf of RSHG

7.4 **RoDSEC**

We are now into our third year of the new format RoDSEC.

In the first two years we managed to put on entertainment in Rolleston Club as well as 'Carols Round The Christmas Tree' plus a floral tribute to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

2023

RoDSEC decided to note the Coronation of King Charles III in May by creating a floral tribute on the borders and in the brook outside the Almshouses. Use was made of the Lily pads that the late John Underhill made many years ago. The floating flower display was created by Janet Stone, assisted by Jane and Sue Howard. It looked a picture and lasted for two weeks. Hundreds of pansies were planted in the border and they too made a good colourful show. Thanks to generous donations from the Parish Council and Rolleston people RoDSEC were not too much out of pocket.

In October we had a Jazz evening. But what an event it turned out to be. "The Origins of Jazz" with the Bill Bailey Band. If you were lucky enough to be able to get hold of a ticket you know what a fantastic evening of entertainment it was. In the first half 'Bill' took us through how 'jazz' originated and developed. In the second half the four piece band performed well known traditional jazz. A highly entertaining evening.

On 2nd December we took 41 people on a coach to hear Derby Concert Orchestra play their Christmas Concert in Derby Cathedral. At this performance they played Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker and then popular music from stage and screen. This has traditionally been a lighthearted and entertaining Concert and this year did not disappoint.

On the 8th December we held another 'Carols Round The Christmas Tree' on the Almshouses Lawn. This time the weather was kind to us so that we could actually hold it on the lawn round the tree. We had invited Trevor Foster (Chair of Rolleston Cricket Club) as compère and Tim Rockley to be the keyboard player. We were very pleased to see so many people

turn out to join us - estimated to be between 150 and 200. People donated £224 which was split between St Mary's Church Rolleston and the Almshouses.

2024

On 28th January The Phoenix Players performed a 'World Premier' Murder Mystery Play at Rolleston Club. The audience was in for a real treat because the play had been written in rhyming verse! This complemented the story line as it was set at a Poetry Competition. The victim was an unliked poet who was murdered with the winner's trophy. From the clues in the first two Acts the audience had to identify the murderer and their accomplice. Prizes were awarded for the correct solution. Another great social evening with lovely atmosphere.

On 10th March RoDSEC put on another Live and Local Act. This time it was a trio called 'Harp and a Monkey'. They did explain where their name came from! Storytelling and folk songs at their best. Good to see live entertainment at the Club.

We have now got through the second year and I think the re-introduction of the entertainment at Rolleston Club has been a success - if success can be measured in terms of full houses for the Murder Mysteries; an Evening of Magic, L&L performances and a Jazz evening.

However, at the recent AGM in March the number of people on the RoDSEC committee fell from 33 to 17. The village organisations are not being represented and hence it's unlikely that we will be able to put on a large event for the village. Hence the whole point of RoDSEC is questionable. We will continue for this year but the future is uncertain.

I thank all those who offered their support to me over the last 2 years. We should now be looking to get a new Chairperson to take us forward. It's about time we had a lady Chair.

Phil Irwin
Chairman RoDSEC

7.5 **The Annual Report of Rolleston W.I. for 2023-24** (Charity no. 509516)

The Annual Meeting was held in March 2023. We were pleased to welcome Grace Hodges as our adviser and helpful guide for the evening. Eight of the committee offered to stand again and Jilly Hodge and Lorna Thompson offered their services. Ten members were voted on to the committee. We thanked Sue Fraser for being our very able President over three years. Sue had to stand down and Liz Murphy was voted in as the new President. The following took office:

H. Barnett, A. Cook, S. Foord, L. Harding, J. Hodge, M. Jacks, D. Johns, E. Murphy, J. Phillips, L. Thompson.

President L. Murphy
Treasurer D. Johns
MCS Rep S. Fraser
Assistant Treasurer L. Harding
Programme Planning H. Barnett
Catering Officers M. Jacks, S. Foord
Competition A. Cook
Thompson
News Letter Distribution M. Whyte
Press Correspondent J. Phillips
Raffle J. Hodge, L. Thompson

Vice-Presidents H. Barnett, D. Johns
Secretary J. Phillips
Outings Secretary H. Barnett
Assistant Secretary S. Foord
Welfare Officer L. Thompson
Speaker's Hostess M. Jacks
New Members' Hostess L.
Flower Rota M. Mawer
Sales Table A. Styne
Archives J. Phillips

Our membership stands at 46 full members and 4 dual making 50 in total. We have many loyal members who have belonged to the WI for several years. Margaret Whyte, Joy Killick, Ruth Parker, Chris Gaunt and Verity Conner were formally presented with their certificates and badges during this year. Our competitions have been keenly supported and it is so interesting to see what treasures we have hidden away at home in cupboards and drawers. Helen Barnett won the Amy Everett Bowl for monthly competitions. In May we held the Cath Gamble Plate competition for craft which was won by Jenny Phillips. The entries were based on a coronation theme. Some of our talented ladies took items to the County Show. Their entries were of a high standard.

Congratulations go to Karen Wenn who won first prize in the Sashiko embroidery class and to Annette Styne who came third with her Dresden Plated Table Runner. They were presented with their awards in November. Liz was proud to receive the Knighton Shield Trophy, won by our Rolleston Quiz team earlier in 2023. The Barbara Reynolds Plate competition for knitting attracted a plague of mice which fortunately were of the knitted variety. Our judge, Janet Brooks, awarded the plate to Karen Wenn for her rainbow coloured mouse.

This year we have had eleven monthly meetings. Helen booked a great variety of speakers, many by personal recommendation. We have had talks on prostate cancer awareness, the life of a novelist, the celebrations of modern royalty, Aquaboxes, Charles Dickens and Christmas and Victorian underwear. Rolleston is a village with many groups and societies and some of our talks revealed what interesting things have been going on around us. Mike Robson spoke about Rolleston's Community Orchards and inspired us to plan a Herb garden in memory of Queen Elizabeth II who was a long serving WI member. Ben Robinson invited us to Pirelli Stadium to find out about our local football team Burton Albion. Ben talked about his early life, much of it spent in Rolleston and how he went on to be High Sheriff of Staffordshire for a year. Rolleston Scouts showed us pictures of camping and walking in Kandersteg and spoke confidently about the fun they all had. Paul Taylor's illustrated talk on Rolleston Remembers was very moving and made us aware of the young people who were victims of war. In January we met with the Breakaway Singers who rehearse in Rolleston and had a great afternoon of nostalgic songs. Now we meet at Rolleston Scouts HQ we are able to meet informally on the second and fourth Friday of the month. It is an ideal opportunity for members who don't want to be out in the winter evenings to come along and meet up with friends. We have also invited visitors to come along and meet us. Many of our talented crafters have shown us how to make items and we have also had communal afternoons making decorations for our Coronation display and our Advent Christmas Tree. This year our Summer and Christmas parties were held in the afternoon as well as the fish and chip supper. It was planned so that everyone could enjoy the events without too much food preparation. The committee met eleven times to plan and do essential administration. Sally Foord resigned in October as she had taken on an officer's role in Tutbury WI. We are grateful for the help she still gives us. A Programme Planning Meeting was held in August which was open to all. We used the Friday afternoons to plan for various events and we invited members to come along with ideas. Our President sends out her monthly newsletter and record of the last meeting by email and on paper and highlights vital information from County and National Federations. Diane, assisted by Lesley, has managed our finances using online banking. Many members find it convenient to pay this way. The Art Group restarted in September and it was great to welcome back our teacher, Diane Gharraie, and have some new members. As usual, cakes have been baked and WI volunteers have supported the Scouts Carnival, Transport Day, the Civic Trust Plant Sale, Gardens Sunday, the Advent Festival and St Mary's church. Rolleston is lucky to have a band of willing helpers. The Christmas Fair was very enjoyable and raised money for our own expenses. The coffee morning in January made money which will be spent on our WI Herb Garden. Helen has

planned some interesting outings during the year. It is getting more difficult as hotels and travel are expensive. We have been for meals at the Secret Diner, The Boars Head and Ashbourne Garden centre. Unfortunately the weekend away to Leeds and the meal at The Mulberry Restaurant were postponed due to unforeseen problems. However we did have a super visit to Birmingham Hippodrome to see the Nutcracker Ballet and an interesting day out in Leeds, visiting the M & S Archive at Leeds University. It was quite nostalgic to see our household goods and previous outfits displayed in glass cases but we realised that quality items last much longer. Our craft afternoons are fun. In April we made red, white and blue bunting and crowns to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Ann Cook kindly lent us her front garden to show off our display and advertise Rolleston WI. We donated food for the Burton Hope charity to help families over the school holidays and we tended the seeds that Liz had given us and reported on their progress. Our members read their WI magazine and log on to mywi when possible. We are looking forward to using the new WI Learning Hub on line. Members take a keen interest in the WI Resolution choices and support the issues as best they can. Verity is a trustee and vice chairman of SFWI and keeps us up to date with County events. Verity and her team organised the successful "Here Comes Spring" and "It's Christmas. Our Committee Officers attended officer workshops and represented us at the Annual Council Meeting on zoom and we entered the Press Report Shield competition. Helen Barnett is the Group Co-Ordinator and keeps the Forest and Vale Group together. We hosted the Group Meeting in April with a very entertaining speaker Susan Leicester on The Seven Ages of Woman. Congratulations to Lorna for winning the competition. Some of our team helped with the County Show preview evening. Reports have been written for the Rollestonian, the Church magazine and the SFWI. Our Committee has worked hard this year and is constantly trying out different things. Liz has fitted well into her role as President and invited members to help out during meetings. We thank our members for their support and loyalty. On behalf of the committee I would like to present this report to the Annual Meeting of Rolleston WI and hope for a happy and successful year ahead.

7.6 **Rolleston Transport Festival - 2024 Annual Report**

The Rolleston Transport Festival held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday in May is a prime village event that brings together all of the local people and organisations each year.

This year's event is our 14th and will be on the 27th May.

Last year we had another very successful festival with over 3,000 visitors and over 300 vehicles exhibiting. The local MP Kate Kniveton attended and commented on what an amazing event it was and that Rolleston should be very proud of it. An exhibitor even travelled from Holland to show off his Mercedes, it was his second visit and he's coming along again this year!

We were able to donate £12,000 to local charities and good causes, which brings the total that we have donated since we began to over £90,000.

Last year's beneficiaries in the village were:

- St Mary's Church
- Rolleston Almshouses
- Rolleston Pre School

Our other local beneficiaries were:

- Burton Hope
- St John Ambulance
- Midland Air Ambulance
- Burton Addiction Centre

- Burton Air Cadets
- Derbyshire Blood Bikes
- St Giles Hospice

We are currently looking for worthy causes to be beneficiaries this year.

The event is run by our own committee who are volunteers and work throughout the year, including having monthly meetings, to ensure that the day is a great spectacle and worthy of the village.

We work closely with lots of local organisations including Rolleston Club, The Rolleston Scout Group, The Rolleston Almshouses Trust, Rolleston Pre School, St Mary's Church, Rolleston Parish Council, Staffordshire Police & ESBC.

We have a Website and active Facebook page with over 1800 followers. This year you can book tickets online or make a donation via Eventbrite.

We have just managed to negotiate sponsorship from Bellway Homes, who will help to pay for our operating costs and we have been able to arrange a fly past by the RAF Lancaster in the afternoon.

Paul Simnett

Chairman - Rolleston Transport Festival

Tel: 01283 813372/07866 430240 Email: paulsimnett@me.com

www.rollestontransportfestival.co.uk

<http://www.facebook.com/RollestonTransportFestival>

7.7 **Rolleston Almshouse Charity**

We recently refurbished our third Almshouse renovation (house No. 4) and our resident is in the process of taking up his residency.

The tree works in the front garden that had to be deferred partially due to the inclement weather preventing access to the site for the machinery has now been completed. The work planned for the rear garden should be started at the end of April.

We would welcome any help towards bringing the three remaining properties up to the same standards as those we have already renovated. Sadly we are not in a position financially to do that at the moment, but we are being kept very busy doing minor improvements for all residents to improve their living standards. Please contact us with any suggestions or help!

Mike Robson, one of my fellow Trustees, has undertaken work along the stream boundary garden along with help from some DoE students and other helpers. Large bushes have been removed, the beds are being weeded and dug over and the plan is to plant perennial plants along the whole boundary.

I have had some interesting papers passed on to me by Sylvia Martin from her husband Tom's archive. Tom as a longstanding previous Chairman who I had the pleasure of serving as a Trustee with. There are lots of facts and anecdotes about the Almshouses and residents over many years. One of the stories mentions a gentleman who frequently spent a lot of time imbibing at Rolleston Club and often he was helped home at the end of the evening and put to bed! News reached the Trustees who included the Rector and I believe on more than one occasion he was reprimanded about this behaviour!

I thank all of my fellow Trustees and our Clerk, Tim Aston of Talbot Solicitors for their continued support and help as well as our general handyman John Deacon who willingly helps out with minor maintenance emergencies.

Stephen Sanderson
Chair of Trustees

7.8 **Rolleston Scout Group**

2023 was a very significant year for RSG with our 90th anniversary having begun in the St Mary's Church hall in 1933.

Current membership

2 Beavers groups (6-8 years)

Monday 17:00-18:00

Tuesday 18:00-19:00

Fire station visit, talk by BUPS dental.

VIP days bring an adult to experience beaver activities den building, S'mores, peg aeroplanes making chocolate superheroes, a bouquet of flowers a keyring and cup of tea and cake.

Animal friend health and fitness and gardening badges.

2 Cub groups each with 30 members (8 - 10.5 years)

Monday & Thursdays 18:30-20:00

Busy with personal challenge and problem solving activity, celebrated talents and hobbies through group presentations, marked burns night with an address of the haggis, pancake night, night hike nature walk.

2 Scout groups 10.5 - 14.5 years

Wednesdays and Friday 19:15-21:15

Rolleston's got talent.

Hikes including the chippy walk which helps our cubs develop Road sense, finding their way and of course all fuelled by chips from one of several chip shops with waking distance.

Weds scouts built a 10 foot catapult capable of firing projectiles 25 meters.

Explorers also meet at our HQ on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

We are delighted to see so many of our Beavers who progress to Cubs and then on to Scouts and subsequently in to Explorer Scouts a number of whom attended Kandersteg international camp in Switzerland giving rise to some of them searching for mobile signal on a mountain hike to discover their GCSE results and one who was selected to join a contingent of 36 at the WSJ in South Korea. We are immensely proud of all our members last and present.

Activities

Group Camp with a pirate theme with professional pirate actors who stayed in character from dawn till dusk creating adventure on the high seas including walking the plank on our event field and some of you here will have taken us up on our invite to join us, we hope the Scurvy from the sea biscuits and rotten frog cleared up quickly.

Let's not forget about Summer Camp too.

Alter Rock indoor climbing and ice skating and roller skating were also on the agenda.

Badge work activity nights.

Eggstravaganza Easter sleep in at HQ.

Events

May Circus theme carnival with circus acts and teaching, ballon artist and all the usual stalls. The event was well attended, began with themed walking parade starting at The Lawns with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in fancy dress, banners in the circus theme.

July Rollestonbury

In its 16th year in 2023 has become our main fundraiser enjoyed by many which enables us to fund important building maintenance and improvements and will enable us to work toward refurbishment of our kitchen, adding sound proofing to the main hall and updating our electric wiring.

November 2023 was one of the wettest fireworks nights in memory and when many others cancelled their display due to flooding we were thankfully able to continue. This event is specifically key to repaying the outstanding balance of £39,000 of a £50,000 loan from District Scouts which helped us complete the HQ extension.

Building

Raised level of concrete at rear of the building and built permanent canopy over to provide undercover space of 300 sq. metres for scouting outdoor activities, camp meal serving area and events. This means single level access throughout the building including the lift to upstairs. Along with permanent outdoor events stage with climbing wall built in (often doubling as an undercover tent drying area!) and the extension creating a large upstairs room enabling two groups to meet at the same time

This canopy and floor completes a vision for the build which has been funded both by fundraising over decades and a loan from District Scouts which we continue to pay down through fundraising.

Waiting list circa 60 - recruiting for adult help.

Running an HQ building with these facilities brings with it cost, as for many here tonight we've experienced a doubling of our utilities which has taken them to over £1,250 per month. Our main hall continues to be available when not in use for hire by community organisations which helps us keep scouting an affordable adventure that every child deserves.

The Scout HQ is also used for meetings for Guides and two Explorer groups (over 14s) also use the HQ for their meetings. Together this means the HQ is used by over 200 young people in scouting activities of one kind or another and more than 20 different groups each week.

We are especially grateful to the grant from the Parish Council for the defibrillator cabinet which will be located on the outside of the Scout HQ for the benefit of visitors to HQ and the wider village.

As a reminder of our 2024 events

Carnival with a witches and wizards theme is on 18th May

Rollestonbury is on 13th July

Bonfire night with Pyrotex fireworks display 2nd November

Jason Wyatt

Chairman, Rolleston Scout Group

7.9 Rolleston United Foundation

The new Committee is now in place and applications were invited from young people who live within Rolleston and Anslow parishes for a small one-off grant to help buy some of the initial necessities for those intending to go into higher education courses or apprenticeships in September 2024.

Vaness Winstone
Secretary

8. Vote of thanks

Councillor Sanderson thanked the new Borough Councillors for their support to the parish Council; he also thanked the Groups who had spoken to their reports at the meeting.

Councillor Sanderson gave a vote of thanks to Councillor Stewart and the Clerk, Mary on behalf of the council for the hard work and support they give to the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 7.42pm

Signed

Date

