

The Trustees of the Dalton Charity

Dean Grange Farmhouse, High St, Upper Dean, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 0LT

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 4th MAY 2016

This report represents an update on the operational activity of the Dalton Charity between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016

Community Activity for the Villages of Shelton, Upper and Lower Dean

1. The charity made a donation towards the cost of the Puppet Show for children of the villages in January 2016.
2. The playing fields were used by several successful events during the year thereby promoting a feeling of community - in June the Dog Show brought our dog lovers together, in July the Summer Village BBQ took place, in September we hosted the Annual Flower and Produce Show with over 50 exhibitors and 40 competitors, and in December the Xmas Fair attracted over 100 visitors.
3. In July we leased a quarter of an acre to the New Allotment Association at a peppercorn rent to use for 12 allotments - we believe allocating this space by the charity for the use of the village provided a great new community facility.
4. The playing fields continue to be regularly used by the Rushden Cricket Club who have been complimented on the overall standard of the field. This is appreciated since it adds to the appeal of the facility. We are currently negotiating a new five year agreement with them.
5. The hall is also used by the Grasshoppers Preschool during term time.

Improvements to Facilities

I would like to start this part of my report by thanking my fellow trustees for their help and support, particularly in the area of identification and application for grant facilities.

1. The Playground improvement programme finished in June with repaired equipment, new flooring and fencing to ROSPA acceptance standards. The playground was handed over in almost new condition to the Parish Council. (Thanks to a grant from Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and Bedford Borough Rural Grant Scheme.)
2. The old rotting Cricket Club Containers were removed in July, and now the roadside playing field area is safer and tidier.
3. The Hall saw major improvement this year – in November new energy efficient lighting, and double-glazed doors and windows were installed, with full decoration in time for Christmas. The Hall now looks more attractive to external users. (Thanks again to Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, Bedford Borough Rural Grant Scheme and Cllr Martin Towler.)
4. Safety was improved by the removal of two ash trees overhanging the road in November.
5. Racking was installed for the storage of china thereby also providing more room to the Bowls Club for their equipment.

The Future

We are currently exploring various schemes to bring the toilet facilities up-to-date.

Financial State at the end of March 2016

1. The Year Ended March 2015 Accounts are presented. Year Ended March 2016 Accounts are not yet finalised.
2. The income of the Trust in YE 2015 was £6,134 (v. £7,517 in 2014) and outgoings were £10,669 (v £10,481 in 2014).
3. The grants received in YE March 2016 amounted to £16,716 to undertake the improvements to lighting, windows and doors and hall decoration.

Bill Ashby

Chairman of the Dalton Charity