



BKV Annual Report February 2021

Due to the current lockdown it is not possible to have a proper Annual General Meeting so we have decided that the best way to do this is to issue an annual report of what happened in the last 12 months and hopefully get some feedback from you for the 2021 season.

The BKV competition was cancelled in March last year but the team decided that we still needed to keep the village looking nice and so we would plant up the beds as normal. Because we were unsure about finance for the year we thought it was worth an experiment to grow our plants from plugs as several members had greenhouse space early in the season. The saving was well over £150 compared to the previous year although the plants were a bit on the small size when planted out in May as we should have ordered them a month earlier. However they soon caught up when planted out. I need to thank all those who did the planting last year in what was a difficult social distancing situation. It meant that only one person worked on a bed at a time so that no one was closer than 2 metres apart.

The autumn planting was purchased from our usual nurseryman as everyone's greenhouses were full of tomatoes by August. I would like to thank those sponsors who helped with funding for the autumn planting.

Litter picking alas was cancelled as many of the litter pickers are retired and all were aware of the requirement for social distancing. It was not worth the risk to people's health. We did look at putting on the hanging basket and front gardens competition and we're making good progress with organisation until the judges we used were unable to attend due to family health issues. It was the story of 2020 through out.

We did try to put some pictures out of the lovely gardens and hanging baskets in the village.

Finance

We only spent £268.46 last year due to there not being a competition and received donations of £315 which means that we have a starting balance of £955.89 for 2021. Most normal years our spend has been around £900 - £1000.

2021

Although it is still very early to tell The Community Foundation for Staffordshire have indicated that if possible they wish to run a Best Kept Village Competition in 2021 So we need to prepare.

Most of the existing committee are prepared to do the planting and organise litter picks again however I am stepping down as coordinator and we need someone to create a

village package for the application and deal with the media, sending reports to papers etc. We also want more volunteers for litter picking and helping keep the village tidy. If you are interested in any of these roles please contact me in the first instance so I can pass on the information to whoever takes on my role.

In the past our main communication has been via email, if you want to join the list please contact me on ian.sunley@bcs.org.uk and I will update the lists for the new coordinator.

If you are new to the village and do not know what this is about also E Mail me for more information.