

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AGM 18TH APRIL 2011

As I was appointed Temporary Chairman at the SGM on the 21st February I am very grateful for the input from others for my report.

The first part of my report will list some of the achievements of the TRA during 2010.

The most important thing is to thank everyone who helped with everything the TRA did last year. Without all the volunteers and sponsors the TRA could not organise so many events.

Totley Open Gardens took place on 9th and 10th July with 13 gardens and the Pinfold taking part. Teas and cakes were served in 2 gardens and a total of £2,751 was raised towards the youth shelter and youth activities in Totley. This year's Open Gardens will be held on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th July.

Totley Show was held on 18th September and raised £1035.17 despite entries being down on last year. There were 313 entries in the 70 classes, but above all 51 people volunteered their help in the planning of the Show, and in helping on the day. Thanks also go to all the local businesses that support the Show with donations. This year's Show will be held on Saturday 17th September.

The Totley History Group decided that it was now at a stage where it would be better for it to be a separate organisation and this was achieved last year. We wish the History Group every success.

Friends of Green Oak Park was re-established as it was also felt it would be better for a separate organisation to look after the

interests of Green Oak Park. The TRA will still be looking to support projects in Green Oak Park as well as the other open spaces in Totley.

The Totley Music Festival was run very successfully again last year in July despite the poor weather. There were 10 events over a period of a week. I am particularly pleased that both the primary schools took part. This year a bigger and better festival is planned for September.

The Totley Independent also had another successful year and raised £1,456. It has grown in size and attracted many more advertisers. And of course continues to provide a lot of local information to Totley.

Anti social behaviour was prevalent again. Two committee members had developed a working relationship with the Police, & the Chief Inspector suggested trialling a youth shelter, for 6 months. A survey of the 129 dwellings around the park was carried out. 49 residents were spoken to & only 4 objected to the trial. 80 residents were either out or did not answer their doors & a leaflet was left for them, with contact details on, for them to discuss the proposals. We understand that the youth shelter should be in the park shortly and hope that the trial will be a success.

I would now like to turn to events since my appointment.

Unfortunately Chairobics, which had been running most Thursdays in the library, had to be suspended. We do hope to be able to restart in the future. Avril, who had been organising Chairobics on behalf of the TRA felt unable to continue. We did try to find others to help but were not successful. It also became apparent that because Chairobics was aimed at helping the elderly there were issues to do with First Aid and CRB checks to be resolved. When we have a volunteer who has appropriate First Aid

qualifications and who has been CRB checked we will be able to restart.

I also need to report that neither Avril (Chair), Marlene (Vice-Chair) or Betty (Secretary) have been to any of the three committee meetings since my appointment. The rest of the committee have attended all three meetings. Kara Sams has done an admirable job as stand in Secretary.

Despite this all members of the committee have been sent minutes of all the committee meetings and various drafts of the proposed constitution. I have had no comments back from Avril, Betty or Marlene. They were also sent a draft of this report for their input. Again I have received no comment from them.

I have tried very hard to be inclusive as Avril, Marlene and Betty were still committee members but unfortunately they did not feel able to be included.

I and the rest of the committee have worked very hard over the last few weeks to enable us to have a constructive AGM.

The TRA is now at a critical juncture and needs to move forward to serve the needs of Topley. I feel that my work in guiding the TRA is not yet finished and so I will be standing for election as a Trustee and Chairman.

I have a vision for the TRA which sees it as a more effective and more open organisation. I would like more people to be involved and to do good things for the good of the community.

More open means communicating better with everyone. A number of ideas have already been suggested including more public meetings and ways of people to feed back to the committee.

Later we have resolutions reflecting the legal requirement to register as a charity with the Charity Commission. This is an important step to making the TRA work better. I shall make more comment when we come to the resolutions.

Notes for Resolutions

- Registering as a charity is a legal requirement.
- Extra work is not onerous.
- More open; certain information has to be published
- Membership register so we can communicate with members.
- Businesses and organisations can be members.
- Potential to access more grants due to registering
- Extra income through Gift Aid