

At last! After many years of our attempts to find a suitable location for our new village hall and then to be eventually granted planning permission we were able to commence the build on the recreation ground on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The build was ahead of schedule until we were hit by the COVID lockdown. Once work recommenced the builders were held up yet again with delays of obtaining certain materials especially plaster for the walls. The keys were eventually handed over on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 but work continued on finishing outstanding items.

On the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> October we were all ready to welcome Mini Athletics, Tai Chi and Slimming World but unfortunately, they only lasted 2 weeks before lockdown. At the beginning of December, they restarted with the addition of line dancing but again were only able to continue until Christmas and then didn't return because of yet another lockdown!

On the 17<sup>th</sup> May we were delighted to welcome them back including several new groups. We now have a different Pilates group. children's ballet classes who meet twice a week and also a home-schooling group called The Square. It is hoped that a different Yoga group will be starting in June and in September we look forward to welcoming back the WI and a new group called the The Cambridge Art Circle. People are also now beginning to book children's parties and various other events.

It has definitely been a very difficult past 2 years but hopefully life will soon become a lot easier.

We hope to open our new café asap, to begin with we will be serving takeaway coffee. Unfortunately, before we can open the café, we are required to register both the servery and the kitchen with the authorities and wait for an inspection of the premises. This requires an enormous amount of paperwork so many thanks to Jill Down who has agreed to take on this huge task. Also, a big thank you to John Hammond who has spent hrs putting in all the AV equipment in the meeting room and installing the large screen for film nights. Hazel should also be thanked for her hard work regarding finances and managing to obtain various grants to cover the cost of lost revenue when the Centre had to be closed

I may be biased but we do have a fantastic Centre which is the envy of many other villages and with our wonderful playground we are attracting a large number of visitors especially from Trumpington. We are victims of our own success as parking is now becoming an issue and we will in the future have to rectify this. How to achieve it is a problem that we do need to try to resolve.

In the meantime, everything at last, is beginning to look rosy.

The play equipment on the recreation ground has been a huge success and is being visited by families from many local villages as well as Hauxton residents. It is so lovely to see all

the children enjoying themselves and having such fun. We can't wait to open up the café and begin to serve drinks etc.

Many thanks to Pramod and Pierpaolo who have painted the basketball lines as well as the hopscotch lines.

Last year the PC set up a sports committee to look after the running of sports on the Hauxton sports ground. A tennis committee was also set up to manage the tennis. During the 2020 cricket season the Hauxton cricket ground was hired by GSCC and we saw great use of the ground being used for junior cricket. It was really pleasing to see children playing cricket in the summer after being in lockdown in the spring months due to Covid. This season, 2021, the ground has been hired by Cam Kerala, St Giles CC & Cambridge Assessment CC all of which will be adult matches. It has taken much dedicated hard work by members of the PC and volunteers to bring back adult cricket onto the sports ground as it is many years since cricket was played there. We now have 8 pitches and have also invested in stumps a scoreboard and a variety of equipment required to host adult cricket. We are hoping to continue to invest and improve the facilities with the hope that at sometime we can possibly host Cambs CB matches. We have recently installed a practise net which has been an instant success with various local clubs including Camb CB booking it for pre-season practice. It is hoped in the near future to set up a Hauxton cricket club.

We have continued to host football with three local clubs (Whittlesford Warriors, Shelford and Stapleford strikers & Foxton Dynamos) using the ground. With football and now cricket we see sports being played on the ground throughout the year which is a great achievement for the PC and volunteers.

The tennis courts opened back in 2019 and excellent use of the courts has been made by both local players and coaches. We have seen a steady uptake in annual membership given the reasonable membership fees, good road connectivity and of course excellent courts. The tennis facilities have been recently improved by the installation of a wind breaker and ball stopping nets.

Last but not least we were delighted to complete part of the pavilion in the Autumn of last year but unfortunately due to Covid restrictions neither footballers or cricketers have been able to make use of the changing rooms. We have also installed a security alarm system on the site.

A huge thankyou to John Hammond and Ray Sammons who have taken on the onerous task of the preparation of the cricket square, Pondori Kuardi for the cricket, Caroline Ruben and Richard Geyman for tennis, Gary Page for football and to Jason Truman for his continuous help and support with caring for the facilities especially during the pandemic. Finally, I would also like to thank all the volunteers who have given up their time to help with weeding, installing the windbreaker and ball stopping nets and the general upkeep of the sports ground. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.