

# Brightling Village Trust

What have we done in the last year?

The Trust exists to support charitable purposes in Brightling and can also make grants to help individuals and relieve hardship. This gives the Trustees discretion to support a wide range of activities which will benefit people in Brightling and which are not otherwise supported.

As in previous years, we followed the 2019 Carol Service in Brightling Church with mulled wine and mince pies in the Village Hall.

We had planned to hold a Spring Forward Quiz at the end of March. Preparations were well advanced, posters had gone up round the village and tickets were selling well. Sadly coronavirus forced us to cancel at the eleventh hour, but our intention is to hold the quiz as soon as the relaxation of lockdown allows.

Our AGM was also postponed as a result of coronavirus. This was especially disappointing because we wanted to discuss proposals relating to four other small Brightling charities. These are the Mary Herbert Educational Foundation (set up in 1728 to support girls' education), the Catherine Stone Bequest (to support the welfare of Sunday School children), the Jesse Gregson Charity (to provide bread to needy Brightling parishioners) and the FH Scott Charity (to support the poor of the parish including through the provision of coal). Meeting the Charity Commission requirements for these very small trusts has proved hugely burdensome – and their precise objectives are now out of date. It has been suggested that the Village Trust might take them over and use what funds there are to benefit modern Brightling.

At the moment, we don't know how to do it or even if it will be possible. But we are keen to hear if people think this is a good idea; and, assuming we go ahead, to receive suggestions about how we can best preserve the history and broad intention of the original bequests.

We would welcome suggestions on this and also for grants that the Trust should consider making, as well as donations and proposals for raising funds.

The Trustees are Mark Bridge (Treasurer), Charles Everett (Chair), David Gasson, Brian Holliday, Bob Howell and Nicola Magill (Trust Secretary).

Charles Everett

Chair, Brightling Village Trust

April 2020