

**Annual Parish Meeting**  
held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 6:00 pm at Bilbrook Village Hall  
**Minutes**

Present:

**Parish Councillors:**

M Adams, S Adams, (Chairman), G Burnett (Vice-Chairman), D Hutchinson, P Hutchinson, S Leedham, B O'Connor, G Price, D Williams.

**Representatives from:**

Codsall & Bilbrook Cancer Support Group, Bilbrook Initiatives Hub, Friends of Bilbrook, Playing Fields Association, South Staffs District Council, We'll Meet Again.

**Also present:**

T Law (Assistant Parish Clerk). No members of the public were present.

**1.0 Community Awards. The following awards were presented by the Parish Council Chairman:-**

- Young Person on the Year Award – Benjamin
- Good Neighbour Award – Kai
- Community Group of the Year Award – The Bilbrook Initiatives Hub
- Exemplary Achievement Award – Friends of Bilbrook (Keri & Annette)
- Community Spirit Award – Earl & Stuart (Peppa Pig & the Pink Panther)

**2.0 Apologies**

Cllr M Barrow, Cllr V Chapman, Cllr A Hill, K Daker (Parish Clerk), Codsall & Bilbrook Twinning Association, South Staffs Work Clubs, St John Ambulance, Codsall Art Festival, St Nicholas Church.

**3.0 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record by the chairman.

**4.0 Bilbrook Parish Council Chairman's Report (See Appendix 1)**

**5.0 Community Reports.** (Organisations who have received grants from Bilbrook Parish Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022) (See Appendix 2)

- 5.1 St. Nicholas Church
- 5.2 We'll Meet Again
- 5.3 South Staffs Work Club
- 5.4 Bilbrook Initiatives Hub

**6.0 Community Reports.** (Other Organisations who have not received grants from Bilbrook Parish Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022) (See Appendix 3)

- 6.1 Codsall & Bilbrook Twinning Association
- 6.2 Friends of Bilbrook
- 6.3 South Staffs District Council (verbal only)
- 6.4 Twentyman Playing Fields Association
- 6.5 Codsall & Bilbrook Cancer Support Group
- 6.6 Codsall Arts Festival

**7.0 Open Discussion** – A discussion took place on the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood plan.

The meeting closed at 7:15 pm

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

## **Appendix 1 – Bilbrook Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Good evening everyone, and welcome to the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting. I am Sue Adams and have chaired the Parish Council since May last year. I will firstly ask those councillors here tonight to introduce themselves, starting with Gary Burnett, Vice-Chair.

Last year the Annual Parish Meeting was not held until the 19<sup>th</sup> of May due to restrictions imposed as a result of Covid 19. Thankfully, we are no longer operating under such restrictions, but we are all aware that the virus has not gone away, and that we must all continue to exercise caution. Infections remain high and many continue to suffer, but hopefully, with vaccination programmes and continued scientific advances, we can learn to manage and live with the situation. Your Parish Council is now operating both remotely and in person. The pandemic has shown us that we can do both, and even have hybrid meetings with some attending in person and others, if necessary, joining remotely.

I would at this point congratulate our Parish Clerk on obtaining both her CILCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification which means that we now have general powers of competence. Conditions of this grant include that at least 2/3 of councillors are elected and that the clerk has the CILCA qualification. This year the Parish Council successfully gained the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS), This is awarded to councils that meet the requirements for operating lawfully and to standard practice, and have policies in place for the training of both councillors and staff.

I would also like to welcome our new Assistant Clerk who continues to be actively involved in our Neighbourhood Plan. Which leads nicely into what has been happening during the past year.

**Remembrance Sunday** – we were able to meet again at the War Memorial on the village green to remember those who gave their lives in world wars and other conflicts, and also those whose lives were changed forever. There was a large number in attendance.

**Christmas Lights Switch on** – back again after the restrictions of last year. A very successful event with large numbers enjoying the evening. Luckily the weather was kind to us for a few hours. At 2.00pm we feared that we would have to cancel due to high winds and snow, but these abated until the end of the event. Some of your councillors will tell you that we were at times hanging onto gazebos to stop them flying away!

**Neighbourhood Plan** – I would urge all Bilbrook residents to complete the questionnaire – either online or using the paper copy that is in the process of being delivered to all homes in Bilbrook. Have your say!. We cannot stop houses being built, but can influence the process.

**The Flagpole** – This was broken by vandals but has now been replaced.

**Bilbrook Village Green** – We have paid for the edges of the grass to be trimmed back, resulting in an additional foot width to the paths, installed new planters, replaced a memorial bench that had been damaged by vandals, and last week an oak tree was planted for the Platinum Jubilee as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

The contract for cutting the grass on the playing fields has been extended for 3 years, and now included cutting of both the old and new village greens.

**Climate Change** – We have continued to plant trees, create areas of wildflowers and endeavour to reduce the volume of paper etc. making more use of social media. Thank you to the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and Cllr Leedham Sam & Tania.

**Community Engagement** – We have tried to interact more with residents by introducing a Newsletter, Bilbrook Buzz.

**Platinum Jubilee** – Celebration will take place in Bilbrook on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Most of the plans are in place. We hope that all present will come.

**CCTV** – a new system is now in place. Thanks to the Crime Commissioners People Power Fund for the grant.

**Playpark** – Feedback was given by residents of what is popular and what they wished for. Following the awarding of a grant by Veolia, an order has now been placed for the refurbishment of some of the articles, the addition of new ones and the replacement of the surfaces around the equipment. Thank you to the clerk who was successful in applying for these grants.

As you can see, it has been a busy year.

Going forward:

**Platinum Jubilee** – 3<sup>rd</sup> June, *including yarn bombing, a mini music fest*

**The Skatepark** – will be getting an upgraded

**Youth Council/ Youth Ambassadors** – The Parish Council in trying to involve younger people.-

And my hope – the signing of the lease between Twentyman Playing Fields Association and Bilbrook Parish Council which has been on-going for over a year.

**Appendix 2 – Community Reports.** (Organisations who have received grants from Bilbrook Parish Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022)

#### **St Nicholas Church, Codsall**

I have produced a quick summary below of the work undertaken in previous years. The number of burials and interment of ashes has been calculated from the fees received. These do not include child burials for which there is no charge.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Burials	30	20	26	22	21	23
Burial of Ashes	33	34	44	38	35	45
Grass Cutting	£7,040	£7,480	£5,720	£6,160	£5,720	£6,160
Moles + path spray	£550	£410	£450	£480	£480	£480
Hedges	£0	£180	£180	£220	£220	£220
Trees	£0	£300	£0	£280	£240	£0
Sundries	£247	£5,690	£1,785	£1,590	£276	£7,864
Total cost	£7,837	£14,160	£8,135	£8,730	£6,936	£14,722

The path has been now extended down the new extension with funds which have been “set aside” for this purpose by the church. It is expected that this extension will be consecrated in time to use well before the existing consecrated area fills up in the next year or two. This is being funded by the church and is part of our continuing support to the community. Further land next to the churchyard is owned by Codsall PCC and the current plan is to keep it available for the future. This increase area will, in the future, need to be maintained to the same level.

The grounds are regularly maintained with grass cutting throughout the growing season as are the hedges and trees. Moles are an ongoing issue, and these are controlled every 4 months. Paths are regularly sprayed to control the weeds. Water taps and waste bins are made available for those who need to make use of them whilst visiting the churchyard.

We have continued with the bi-annual tidying of the churchyard to ensure it remains in good condition and the graves are maintained according to the churchyard rules. These are in line with Church of England rules which we must adhere to, with local differences, to enable us to maintain local consistency. These amendments have been agreed by the Diocesan Registrar. Any items removed are retained and are available for collection by the families.

The wall surrounding the church was damaged on Church Hill during the year and has been repaired with lime mortar in keeping with the local conservation area in which it is situated. Further areas identified for repair in the long term have been identified. This work will have to be undertaken as the need arises.

The churchyard is seen as an integral part of the church's responsibility to the community and further land has already been acquired that can be developed for this purpose in the future subject to planning permission.

### **We'll Meet Again**

During lockdown, around June/July a group of friends in the community discussed opening a club for many isolated, some vulnerable and retired members of the Bilbrook and Codsall community when the former club "busy minds" closed down at the beginning of covid 19. "The we'll meet again club" opened its doors on the 9th September after applying to Bilbrook, Codsall, County Councils, and Support Staffordshire for grants to open and support the club. I was delighted to say we were successful. My thanks go to Support Staffordshire for guiding me through the many hurdles of opening a new group.

We opened our doors in September with covid 19 restricted new members to 27 due. We currently have 34 and 7 committee members with another back up committee member if required. Sadly, we recently had 2 members pass away and a couple no longer able to leave their homes. Our members range in ages between 65 and 98. The majority being in their mid 80's. The 98-year-old is a member of our committee and will be turning 99 in May, always laughing and a joy to be around.

The aim is to offer a varied program of entertainment, speakers, healthy exercises, music for the mind, play games, bingo, quizzes, a card table for those who enjoy playing cards, chat and chatter which enables members to enjoy each others company and make new friends. Currently, we are hoping for speakers on the history of Bilbrook, the Grand Theatre, and many more making it a varied program. We have the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Safety officer coming in June to talk to us on both fire safety and being safe in your home. We aim to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June with a tombola with thanks to the parish council.

In December we arranged a visit to Kingswood Trust for a Christmas lunch. This was a thoroughly enjoyable event, firstly with coffee and cake, a walk around the grounds for those who were able, an indoor activity of calendar making, festive bottles and more. The Christmas meal was thoroughly enjoyed and for those who would otherwise not have a Christmas meal due to various circumstances, nor have family or friends visit them over the holiday, they were able to enjoy some festive company. The meal was wonderfully received, each guest receiving a card and a gift to take home. The staff at Kingswood Trust made us so welcome and the meal was delicious. Our thanks again go to the head teacher, the chair of Governors, community liaison officer and all the staff for making it such a memorable visit.

We enjoyed the visit so much; we are going again tomorrow. Hopefully, the weather will be kind to us, for a walk around the grounds, visit the animals, see the WWII air-raid shelter followed by an activity and afternoon tea. The open- environment, walking outside, being in the fresh air, meeting and being with friends does more than one realises for our peace of mind and well being. We have provided transport by the SS village transport. This is for our weekly visits to trinity church

and Kingswood Trust. Tomorrow, we have 14 members using this wonderful facility. We would be missing many vulnerable and disabled members of our community should we not have transport.

And we are seeing many benefits since lockdown ended but we have seen difficulties for our members, but they are positive too.

In conclusion i would like to record my thanks to the chairman and bilbrook parish councillors for their support and encouragement in supporting the committee to establish the "we'll meet again club" in Bilbrook and Codsall. Also, to my committee who have work hard and with enjoyment in forming the club.

### **South Staffordshire Work Clubs**

There are currently 9 clients on Codsall & Bilbrook Work Club books, 4 of whom are residents of Bilbrook and 5 from Codsall.

South Staffordshire Work Clubs (SSWC) is a registered charity which was established in 2011 (Codsall & Bilbrook Work Club started September 2011 at Lane Green School, Bilbrook) to provide services to support people into employment as well as providing a social hub and network for disadvantaged individuals with various social and economic barriers. Our charity has always had a policy of "Open To All" and based at 7 venues throughout South Staffordshire, namely, Great Wyrley, Featherstone, Huntington, Penkridge, Perton, Codsall and Wombourne.

SSWC offers a preventative, structured approach for individuals to assist them in not becoming long-term unemployed after redundancy, offering employability advice on careers guidance, CV development, job search, transferable skills, IT support, English and Maths support and free access to wi-fi and internet.

SSWC continued to work from Lockdown on March 23rd 2020 and throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, in and out of lockdowns and continued to do so via FaceBook, Twitter, Emails, FaceTime, Zoom and phone calls. The telephone, social media and zoom interaction provided during the lockdowns continued for those clients who were not comfortable with attending the South Staffordshire Work Clubs, when we were allowed to open, due to anxieties caused by the pandemic. South Staffordshire Work Clubs also worked with South Staffordshire Council offering a Webinar Service #Back to Work and Welfare Support#, as well as the Staffordshire Countywide Redundancy recovery Covid-19 which was well received by South Staffordshire residents.

### **Bilbrook Initiatives Hub**

A year ago I stood here and told you all about our busy year supporting Bilbrook residents and other villages too.

Our past year has been less reactive as a Community Group as we have started to learn to live with Covid and we have been able to get back to what we love to do. And that's spending time with the community which we work and live in and supporting it in the ways that are needed.

The Wellbeing Coffee Club continues to be a place where people of all ages come and meet and talk, feel a little less isolated and some really brilliant ideas and connections between local people have been made.

The Hot Food Delivery we continue to support delivering the food and spending time with residents. This is something we started in the first lockdown but it has now grown and evolved as there are many elderly within our community who need additional support, whether its collecting shopping, taking to the Doctors or just having someone spend time with them to talk, this is something we are already expanding on this year.

We continue to support Alan Preece with his Wild Flower planting in the village, in the past 12 months our volunteers who help him have learnt so much and we look forward to seeing how his project continues to grow throughout the year. And continuing to support him.

Throughout 2021 we ran the self soothe project. We provided nearly 300 well being kits to help with emotional regulation and ways to help be more mindful to residents of both Bilbrook and Codsall of all ages, from 5 through to adults. We supported all the schools. through all tiers with these as well as providing them to Bilbrook Medical Centre.

We had some really great feedback from people who have used them and continue to use them.

Over the next 12 months we will continue to support Bilbrook residents, we will continue to help those who have projects and ideas they want to expand upon for the good of the village as well as restarting our Menopause Cafe and starting up our Death Cafe too. Our volunteer numbers are growing, and as they do, it means the service we provide with grow with them. Thanks to the grant from the Parish council, we have been able to buy laptops to be able to help our volunteers with their online training as well now having them for us to be able to work more efficiently, securely and effective as a group.

We are excited to see what within the next 12 months we can achieve and how we can help our community.

**Appendix 3 – Community Reports.** (Other Organisations who have not received grants from Bilbrook Parish Council from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.)

### **Codsall & Bilbrook Twinning Association**

The Codsall and Bilbrook Twinning Association have not held any social event since Friday, 13th March 2020. Indeed, there has only been one committee meeting and that was an outdoor event in the summer of 2021, when it was decided that the Association would remain in abeyance for the time being. We have been represented at the Remembrance Services and laid wreaths at both the Bilbrook and Codsall Memorials in November 2021. It is intended to hold an AGM once the accounts have been audited and no doubt the future of the Association will be discussed.

### **Friends of Bilbrook**

As Covid restrictions eased from April last year we were able to get back to some normality with our usual activities.

Our main area of concentration remains Jubilee Wood which continues to thrive and become home for more and more varied wildlife, some of which we captured on our wildlife camera. Otters, little egrets, deer, badgers, foxes and rabbits. We were able to host our usual dawn chorus walk, mammal survey by students from Rodbaston College and our bat walk with great success. We were able to take part in our 5th RSPB birdwatch in January and await the national results.

Between April 21 and April 22, we have collected 109 bags of litter, carried out 8 water tests and 3 river fly surveys, held two bird ringing events with the Belvide ringers. In March we ringed our first Siskin which was wonderful. We have carried out 5 larger litter picks around the village with Lane Green First School, Bilbrook Middle School and the wider community. We have our Great British Spring Clean event this Saturday 9th April meeting at the Woodman car park at 10am. Craig has kindly offered to supply tea and coffee at 12 after the event. Everyone is welcome to join us we will supply all the equipment needed.

We were able to host employees from a Tamworth company called Plastic Omnium for a CSR day they raked the wild flower meadow, coppiced trees, created log piles and built dead hedges.

Our members continue to litter pick as part of the WV8 Wombles who have collected tens of bags of litter over the last 12 months. We also have 3 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers who carry out litter picks as part of their award scheme.

We spent a few hours cleaning all the Bilbrook signs at the entrances to the village and managed to get a local window cleaner on board who is cleaning signs around the village as he goes.

We pulled 4000 strands of Himalayan Balsam from along the brook. 5 years ago, when we started this project, we pulled over 30000 so we can definitely see the positive impact we are having on this invasive species. By irradiating the Balsam from the banks of the brook we are helping with flooding as more permanent, indigenous plants will have the chance to grow, bind the bank together and act as a natural flood defence. Our work with re introducing meanders into the brook will also help with preventing flooding, as will the leaky dams being introduced.

As I said last year a big part of our work is educating young people about nature, wildlife and the importance of conservation. As part of this we were able to host groups at the wood again last summer and had two groups of Brownies over 4 evenings. After the activities they enjoyed toasting marshmallows around the fire pit.

We also hosted Holy Cross for their first Forest Church session. This was a great success and a great opportunity to reconnect spiritually with the natural world. We look forward to more sessions this year.

Last year we were successful in partnership with BPC in getting the donation bins removed from the Woodman car park which has significantly reduced the amount of fly tipping on this car park.

One of our members worked with Lane Green First School in November last year to hold their own mini-COP 26. Staff and children made pledges to support reducing climate change and we approached local businesses to make a pledge. We had 6 pledges including one from BPC to reduce their paper use-so thank you.

Building on last years school campaign 'Switch off when you drop off', advising parents to switch off their car engines whilst at the school gates, we took part in the SCC business anti idling campaign. Sadly, we could not get many of our local businesses to put up posters to support this campaign, although when we spoke to business owners, they all agreed it was a problem. The pollution caused by 5 minutes of engine idling is frightening, let's hope the rise in fuel prices will encourage people to switch off their engines even if preventing air pollution to slow down climate change and protecting everyone's health does not.

We applied to the SCC Climate Action Fund to purchase an air pollution monitor for Lane Green First School and were successful so pupils will be monitoring the air quality around their school. We also applied to the SSDC climate change festival prize to set up a repair café in Bilbrook and we are waiting for the results of the application.

We recently helped to plant trees opposite the high school and on the playing fields with BPC, and have liaised with Rodbaston college to provide a volunteering opportunity for students who are spending a couple of hours every Thursday mulching the trees to give the trees the best start possible.

4 of our members volunteered to be part of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group with an aim to ensure that the development planned for Bilbrook will have the least possible impact on our green spaces and wildlife habitats.

In October 2021 we celebrated our 10th Anniversary with a small gathering of those we wanted to thank for all their support over the years. It was a very pleasant evening sharing memories. In February 2022 Jubilee Wood celebrated its 10th Anniversary. We are so proud of the wildlife friendly space we have created, the birds and creatures that have made it their home, and the lovely comments we get from residents who enjoy walking and sitting in this peaceful area.

We have clocked up £8,568 worth of volunteer hours in the last 12 months.

Over the next 12 months we will continue with our conservation work, ensuring those habitats in Jubilee Wood are maintained. We will also continue to work with SSDC to allow the grass verges to become important habitats. The County recorder is monitoring all the plants that have returned to the verges over the last 12 months and it has been really encouraging to see the return of some rare species that are really important to our pollinators.

We also hope to hear the outcome of our application for the public right of way between the playing fields and Jubilee Wood.

And we will continue to work with local schools and other groups for young people educating them to be the conservationists of the future.

Some of you may be aware of a new flagship UN report on climate change out Monday indicating that harmful carbon emissions from 2010-2019 have never been higher in human history, is proof that the world is on a “fast track” to disaster, with scientists arguing that it’s ‘now or never’ to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Healthy ecosystems can provide 37 per cent of the mitigation needed to limit global temperature rise. Damaged ecosystems release carbon instead of storing it.

Therefore, the work being done around Bilbrook by us, BPC and SSDC is a positive move to maintain those healthy ecosystems but we can’t stand still we must keep working towards limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. We can all do our bit to make sure we have a viable planet for all our futures.

Questions for BPC

Last year I suggested that money from solar panel farm should be used for environmental projects around the village, can you tell me what this has been used for over the last 12 months?

Last year I put forward an idea to hold a sustainable business award in Bilbrook, is this still a possibility?

### **Twentyman Playing Fields Association**

TPFA is responsible for providing the income to maintain and improve the village hall and fields, and to manage the day to day running of the facilities.

Firstly I would like to thank those people who have helped during the year, and would welcome any additional volunteers to join us. If anyone is interested, please speak with either me, my wife or Pat and Denis Hutchinson.

Covid – 19 meant that we were not able to open fully during the year, which impacted on the revenue from hiring both the hall and football pitches.

During the year we paid for the repair of the flat roof section of the village hall, and this highlighted the fact that the pitched roof section is in need of remedial work.

We did apply for a grant, but in this instance were not successful.

However, with the help of grants from the local authority and an unexpected settlement of an insurance business interruption claim, we remain in a good financial position, and are planning for the work to be carried out during the summer. Remedial work and redecoration inside of the hall can then be carried out.

Now restrictions are removed, bookings for both football and the hall are being taken.

As the Parish Chair has stated, we hope that the lease between the TPFA and BPC will be signed in the next few days the lawyers having agreed that all necessary actions are in place.



This has been a joint effort by both parties, complying with charity law, to endeavour to protect the land given by the Twentymen family, together with 2 tranches of land purchased by the PC in past years, for the use of the residents of the village.

The proposed lease is for a term of 30 years, and we hope that our successors will renew the lease when appropriate, reflecting the situation at that time, and ensuring that it remains for the use of the local inhabitants.

### **Codsall & Bilbrook Cancer Support Group**

We represent the Codsall and Bilbrook Cancer Support Group. My name is Angela Graham and I am the chair of the group and Les, my husband, is the treasurer. We have been making steady progress with the group for the past 12 months and we have also implemented some changes to the group with help and advice from Ann Ross and members of the Bilbrook and Codsall Parish councils. The group is now on a more democratic footing. We have appointed trustees and we are in the process of appointing members for certain jobs within the group. There will have to be a members vote for this to happen, later on in the year. We are making progress with our membership. As well as having 40+ members on our Facebook group page, we have new members and volunteers from Bilbrook, Codsall and some outlying districts. We meet on the third Friday of every month from 10am to 12 noon at Trinity Methodist Church on Histons Hill, Codsall.

We are constantly looking for new ways to spread the word about this group and

recently we applied to the cancer care map uk organisation, worked on by 10 people with an idea from Jonathan Dimbleby (chair of the Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund). They wanted to pinpoint on a map where all the cancer support groups are. They could be organisations run by then NHS, charities, community groups, small practices and private companies. This online site makes it easier for people to find what is available in their area. As well as this we are also present in the Support Staffordshire directory. We were awarded a membership last year.

So what have we done with the grant money generously donated to us from Bilbrook Parish Council?

The grant is going to help pay for the hire of the meeting room over the next 12 months and the hire of a professional therapist to talk to us about diet and meditation. For example: meditation for pain relief, advice on how to include anti cancer foods in our daily diet. The money will also go part of the way to paying our advertising costs with the parish magazine.

During the last year, we held two fundraisers. One on the Wheel Field and one at the Christmas Fair. This separate money is used to make charitable donations and some of it is ploughed back into the building society account held in the group's name, to pay for smaller expenses. We usually manage to raise somewhere between £200 - £300.00 and best part of that amount is donated to worthwhile cancer charities. We have donated to Prostate Cancer UK, Cancer Research UK, The Mouth Cancer Foundation, sponsorship money to the Severn Hospice as well as supporting the Royal British Legion with two poppy wreaths laid at the Bilbrook and Codsall memorials.

We give support advice and information to our members by referring them to

Macmillan. We have a large collection of their booklets giving important advice, at our disposal. We tell them of the latest developments in cancer diagnosis and research, when we find relevant information in the media.

## **Codsall Arts Festival**

On behalf of the Codsall Festival committee, I am pleased to provide a progress report on the biennial festival currently taking place.. We are halfway through what is a shorter programme due to the national uncertainty surrounding us during our planning year.

I am pleased to report that the first half has gone with a swing. We featured an opening night with performances from two dance schools namely the Codsall and Suttie schools of dance. The young participants appropriately called it Delighting in Dance, and it certainly was.

We next featured Mr Peter Rhodes who captured a maximum audience with a presentation of his life experiences here and around the world including all the trouble spots.

The Codsall Dramatic Society followed with their production of Steel Magnolias. An all-female cast gave a very engaging and professional performance which to my own eyes was well received by a full house.

Continuing with a high note was the now expected jazz night with the Chicago Teddy Bears playing at Perton Civic Centre. As usual, they were a great success.

As members of the council will see from our brochures we are continuing with music and individual presentations in the second half of this festival.

In thanking you for your continued support I can report that it is our intention to feature Bilbrook Village in our 2024 Festival.