

# Parish Assembly April 2021

## Heart of Streatley Notes

### Key Highlights from the last 12 months for the Heart of Streatley Charitable Trust

- New Chairman
- Two new Trustees (Total of five now)
- Revised and refreshed governance
- Skills matrix for new trustees
- Wall repairs on Church Lane
- Wall repairs on the High Street
- Letter drop for fund raising
- Ongoing fund-raising efforts going forward
- New trustee(s) with appropriate skills

This last year has been all about maintenance. The process began with a thorough surveyors report that itemised all areas of the boundary wall that would require attention within the next five years. Once we had an idea of the level of work involved, we began short term and longer-term planning. The most immediate requirement was to put right the section of wall along Church Lane, where some large cracks had appeared. The wall had suffered from the creeping level of the meadow, and there is now a significant difference between ground levels on each side of the Church Lane wall. The original plan was to incorporate two large steel uprights to brace the wall structure. However, once in place these were felt to not be in keeping with the local aesthetic. The two uprights on the Church Lane side were replaced with thick metal plates, and these have been bolted to the remaining uprights on the field side. These we feel provides a good long-term solution, without detracting from the existing look and feel, an important consideration in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

We were also advised to look at a leaning section of wall on The High Street, but events overtook us when it was unfortunately demolished in a car accident. This has also now been rebuilt after an insurance claim, with as many original bricks as were salvageable.

The next item on our maintenance agenda is the ivy on the corner of Church Lane and The High Street. We will be getting advice on how to limit its growth, and eventually how to remove it completely. This will hopefully require just repointing of some of the mortar, and not substantial reworking.

The only fundraising done in the last year has been a letter drop encouraging people to make donations to help us pay for the wall repairs, which has been very successful. However, we are more than ever aware that the wall will need more repairs over the next few years, so we are looking to recruit a trustee with specific skills in the area of fund raising. Along with this is getting a better understanding of how the village would like to see the meadows used. Whilst the original deed specified the terms of the charity regarding safeguarding the chalk downland, we are also aware that, if done sympathetically, we can allow more activities that

benefit the community. One idea to be explored is to organise evening concerts for limited numbers, as a fund-raising event. In a similar vein, we are also looking to revive the idea of a Friends of Streatley Meadow group, encouraging members to make small but regular donations to the charity, in return for news and updates on a more regular basis.

### **Financial Summary**

Net Current Assets: £52,896

Current Liabilities: £39,170

Total Funds: £13,726

**Nick Barnes**

**April 2021**