

Croston Village Festivities Group

Monday April 11th 2016: AGM Chair's Report

"As we look forward to 2015 the plan is to continue as we are. Hoping to provide two events for our village which are virtually unique in our immediate surrounding area. To the best of our knowledge no other village holds any events which have a similar atmosphere of warmth, energy, and enjoyment. No doubt the coming year will produce its usual mix of problems, discussions, and solutions. Hopefully it will also bring the same rewards."

The above is the final paragraph of the 2015 Chair's report at the AGM. Yes, we did achieve our goal of providing two enjoyable events as a result of all the hard work put in. It is hoped that everyone experienced a feeling of satisfaction at a job well done.

The wettest winter on record presented the familiar problems. Positively looked at, we did pretty well. The clouds parted just for a couple of hours to allow for a dry Switch On and even though the PA system couldn't be risked, and refreshments had to be abandoned due to the high winds, the event had a uplifting feel about it as everyone joined in the spirit of the occasion. Special thanks are due to Trinity and St Michaels Primary School who utilised their text message system to keep the pupils and their parents informed of developments and ensured the success of the afternoon.

It rained torrentially on the Saturday before the Christmas Fair but although it was damp and wet on the day of the Fair it didn't prevent the vast majority of the attractions taking place and residents and visitors again turned out in vast numbers.

The fact that a BIG tree fell across the road at Croston Park on the Saturday evening prior to the Fair made Saturday evening less relaxing than it might otherwise have been. Tremendous gratitude is extended to the local officials who worked late into the night to remove it and make the road safe. We realise that it wasn't done just for us, but we benefitted enormously. Without the removal of the tree the event might not have taken place.

The Christmas Lights were as good as ever, if not better. The Switch On and Fair were again significant successes. Two new developments stick out in my mind. Firstly, co-operating with the PTFA at Trinity and St Michaels so that their Christmas Fair combined with our event benefitted us, the PTFA, and most importantly the staff at the Primary School. Agreement has already been reached to repeat these arrangements in future years. Secondly, who could fail to be impressed by 'Santa's Sleigh'? A huge thank you to Southport Hesketh Round Table and to the amazing driver who negotiated the hazard of driving through Croston as if it was, literally, child's play. Hopefully we can repeat this success in 2016.

Thanks go to everyone and any organisation who were involved in any way; as usual too many to mention individually. It must be remembered we are all volunteers who give freely of our time and effort.

AND THEN IT FLOODED.

Setbacks and disasters tend to bring communities together and, as many people have observed, the spirit in Croston in tackling the problems and supporting each other was exceptional.

Community spirit doesn't just happen. It has to be fostered, developed and encouraged to grow. I feel that over the years the events we have organised have contributed to the depth of spirit that is found in Croston. Along with experiences such as Coffee Day, Bastille Day, Music in the Woods, events at the local hostelrys, the Old School, the Community Centre and many others, we help to build on the foundations of our community.

Alan Smith: Chair of CVFG