

Chair's Report

It has been interesting to experience the contrast from my previous term of office, during 2020 with the Covid lockdowns. I was able to visit schools and organize the PACT Services in the Square this time.

Both the Easter cards and Christmas cards were organized on time, though even with later Easter dates, timescales were tight. Thanks go to the head and staff of both the Petersfield Infants School and Sheet Primary for their cooperation.

The Good Friday Service went well, with attendance above expectation. The weather was dry, though very windy. However, the Christmas Service weather was extremely wet, as well as windy. Subsequently, the Carol singing around the town was cancelled, and the Carol service took place in St Peter's church. Attendance was naturally affected by the adverse conditions. The Salvation Army band played beautifully, as ever, on both occasions.

Restoration House had previously requested to join PACT and we were delighted to welcome them to join us in April.

An opportunity arose to participate in Herne Fest and to that end a flag banner was purchased. The committee felt it was a good opportunity to engage with some of the community. Unfortunately, the proposed activity was more complex than first thought and not enough volunteers came forward to comply with safeguarding issues, so the stall was cancelled.

With many branches of the leading high street banks closing in Petersfield, the administration of our bank account has become increasingly problematic, especially regarding the Christmas Day Lunch. Therefore, it was decided to apply to Lloyds Bank for a small groups account. This was turned down by Lloyds, without explanation. Their Petersfield branch is now closing. We continue to seek a satisfactory solution. Many thanks go to Helen Mason 2 and Christine Tully, who spent considerable time and effort on this task.

While it has been a privilege to meet so many different members of the community during my time as Chair, it has also, at times, been an onerous task, involving administration which should have been carried out by a secretary, or administrator. My thanks go to Christine Traynier for taking on some of the duties as secretary, alongside her role of webmaster.

This situation is far from satisfactory. We also continue to seek a Vice Chair, and I urge someone to come forward to fulfil either of these roles. The future viability of PACT is called into question by this state of affairs.

Carolyn Barton