

REPORT for WATTON TOWN COUNCIL

Zoom meeting 20th April 2021

WATTON THURSDAY CLUB Registered Charity Number 263448

We are grateful to the Town Council for their continuing support for the Club.

We have had a very difficult year, as have many other clubs and organisations. In 2021 it is hoped that we will be able to get back to providing an opportunity for our members from Watton and surrounding areas to once again enjoy a range of social and recreational activities, as we have over the past 50 years.

The Club's financial year runs to May 31st, but the activities are planned on a calendar year basis, and we had just started our 2020 programme, which was to have included some old favourites like line dancing and Ten Pin bowling, and some new entertainments like our Film night and a Sausage and Chips outing to Dereham. All of these got knocked on the head when the first Covid restrictions were announced.

It has not been possible to have any social events since that time, and even our top event of the year, our Christmas Party had to be cancelled. We had booked the venue, organised the entertainer and caterers, as well as inviting some of our regular supporters.

The disappointment, among our team as well as our enthusiastic members was considerable. Because of the uncertainty, in the months leading up to Christmas, we had not thought it fair to ask the Council for a grant towards the party in 2020, so our thanks at this time go back to the vintage celebration we enjoyed in 2019. At that party we enjoyed the company of the Mayor, and her husband, who will, I am sure, confirm that there was a lot of noise and audience participation. We also had a generous visit from Father Christmas, who distributed some well chosen gifts. For 2020 we had to restrict our Christmas celebration to giving our members Gift Vouchers and our best wishes. Not a very equivalent situation, and it was quite painful for the team.

We all hope to get back to a full programme later in the year, and perhaps to finish the year with another great party. Our first priority must be and is to keep our members, and their supporters safe. This is always a priority, but in the current circumstances we have to redouble our efforts and not to take any risks by being premature in getting back to the old "normal"

We have had many good wishes from our regular supporters in the town, and we count the Town Council as key among these. We hope we can look forward to your support again when circumstances allow.

Michael Haythorpe

Treasurer for Watton Thursday Club

10.04.2021