

Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre (KWMCC) - Annual Town Meeting 11/04/2022

In what has been a challenging couple of years for the community locally, we are pleased to say that all of us at KWMCC have tried our best to remain open (within government guidelines/restrictions) and hopefully we have played our part in making our open spaces available for residents to walk, meet up and ensure the availability of all of our local facilities we have wherever possible.

I would like to start with the success of the Chinwags since the close and return from lockdown. With thanks to everyone involved including East Suffolk Partnership for funding, our Communities Officer Andrew Joliffe, KWMCC own Fiona Farrell and Molly Jarret for the organisation of entertainment, local businesses for sponsorship, generous donations of raffle prizes and all of the many volunteers who bake cakes, meet and greet, makes teas and coffees and generally make the KWMCC Chinwag a part of the Kesgrave social diary (**see Appendix 1**). Over 100 residents attend each month and we are proud to have this going ahead locally for many months planned in advance. Many thanks to all.

Despite restrictions in place we have managed to get many things completed at KWMCC which in hindsight we may never have time to complete during a 'normal' year. We have recently completed a refurbishment/refit of our bar area including foyer (**see Appendix 2**) which makes the area so much more appealing. We have installed new LED lighting, furniture, worked on the toilet areas, kitchen facilities, painted from top to bottom and new carpets to upgrade everything we have.

We have recently had a major investment for a new Sports Hall to upgrade our facilities and although after a few issues is now working wonders. We have also at the same time completed the refurbishment of Ropes Hall flooring which is our main events area for weddings/entertainment which is looking great so another example of what we have achieved during tough times.

This year we welcome Molly Jarret as our new Marketing & Events Manager following the retirement of Jo Barker who residents will know and we thank Jo for all her time and commitment to local causes. Molly has settled into the role very well and we can see alongside Fiona that the KWMCC diary of Events has grown and as we aim to add many community events at low cost for all families, as well as adults who fancy a night out with a bit of entertainment.

<https://www.facebook.com/KesgraveWarMemorialCommunityCentre/>

As the sport minded residents will know we have previously had new tennis courts replaced which are great, the Petanque area installed which has its very first game this April 2022 and recently we had our very new All-Weather-Service installed which has had great feedback from hirers (**see Appendix 3**). Sincere thanks to Dave Steward and the rest of the Team at SPARK for helping support us as they do with so many local amenities.

KWMCC also have a close relationship with the Town Council and I would like to thank Jo Abbot, her team and indeed the operatives involved in everything we do including the Family Funday, the play area based on-site, as well as the communication promoting projects/events in the area.

To be honest its been a tough period for all of us but the partnership we have at KWMCC between all of the local Heads of Schools, the Police, Town and District Councillors and the residents have made it a year where we have really tried our best for the community and I thank everyone who spent their time for all of their help and support.

Thanks

Stuart Lawson General Manager KWMCC

Appendix 1: Chinwag



Chinwag 2: KWMCC Bar Area



Appendix 3: Opening of All-Weather-Surface

