

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2002

Trustees: Mr. N. Poulton Mr. D. Stock
 Mr I. C. Knight Mr J. Meischke

The charity was formed on 7th August 1997 to promote sport, sporting activities and recreational facilities within the village of Watton at Stone and the surrounding villages, and to provide an information centre within the village for local residents to use at no cost.

During the financial year the trustees met four times, and reported the details of their meetings to the full Parish Council.

A full safety check has been undertaken on all electrical, gas and fire appliances and a ROSPA inspection has been undertaken on the Play Area.

SQ Environmental Trust made a grant of £6000 towards the re-surfacing of the multi-purpose Play Area. This was officially opened on Sunday 1st July 2001 by Nigel Copping, Vice Chairman of East Herts District Council and Mrs Betty Goble, Chairman of SQ Environmental Trust Ltd.

This meant that the £6000 the Parish Council had allocated towards the MPPA could now be used for new play equipment on the Sports Field. The project was to remove the old slide which was deemed to be a health and safety hazard, erect two sit on spring pieces of equipment and erect a new multi climbing frame with safety surface. Total cost of the project was £12,500. The balance of the monies was £250 from Camstead Homes and £6250 from East Herts District Council.

A new sign has been erected in the High Street giving directions to the Community Hall.

The Community Hall and MPPA suffered a spate of vandalism during the summer months.

Unfortunately drug equipment was found on the Sports Field, which resulted in a meeting arranged by some concerned parents with the Chrysalis Drug Unit, the Police and East Herts District Council. The outcome of this meeting was that the Parish Council was able to secure grant money of £7737.75 from the Communities Against Drugs fund to provide the youth of the village with a 'Meeting Point' and jumps for BMX bikes.

The Cricket section of the Sports and Social Club have requested that a building be erected on the Sports Field to house their equipment and this has now received permission from the Parish Council, the District Council and the Church Diocesan Board.

A new external light has been erected above the fire exit door of the main hall of the Community Centre.

Thanks to John Meischke for being on call to rectify the many problems that arose and to deal with the contractors.