

WHIMPLE AND DISTRICT VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is very difficult to put into context what we have all been through during these past twelve months. Suffice it to say, nobody could have ever foreseen the circumstances we found ourselves in. Twelve months ago, following the AGM, we were looking forward to another busy year with a full programme of exciting and interesting events. Of the ten events that we had planned, it was only possible to hold two. Firstly, there was the very successful and enjoyable trip to Forde Abbey in Dorset to visit the Plant Fair and Gardens. This was followed with a very interesting talk by Brian Carlson entitled, "All Aspects of Fuchsias" where we learnt a great deal about this beautiful plant including how to propagate them. Then, as we all know, we went into lockdown and sadly had to cancel all our other events. Who would have thought we would have had a year without staging our very successful Flower and Craft Show!

I was very pleased that the Committee unanimously agreed to support the Village Hall maintenance appeal. I know that our donation of £1,000.00 was very well received and the Hall Trustees were extremely grateful for this generous donation. Clearly, without the use of the Hall, we would have great difficulty in staging any of our events.

Despite not being able to hold our usual meetings and, with today's technology, we were still able to communicate with one another without having to meet. I would like to express my thanks to those of you who helped promote the VPA through the various social media outlets and clearly it seemed to encourage more residents of the village to enjoy the benefits from gardening. Let us hope this new enthusiasm continues through 2021 and encourages more people to enter some of the classes in the Flower Show!

It has, to say the least, been a very disappointing start to 2021 with us being in lockdown once again. However, we do have a list of events from last year which we would like to run with and the Show Schedule has been done. So at least much of the work we would normally do in the early part of the year has been completed and there is very little forward planning to be done. We can only wait and see what happens in the hope that we will be able to at least stage some of our events, not least the annual Flower and Craft Show.

**Paul Wilson,
Chairman, Whimple & District VPA**

January 2021