

# Joy Mead Annual Report 2020/21

Charity name: Joy Mead Charity Trust (No. 304191)

This was the year of the Covid 19 pandemic and never had our charitable aim of *'Maintaining the buildings and grounds of the Joy Mead, Farthingstone, for the use of all'* been more important.

In March the country went into lockdown and everything seemed to stop. But the Joy Mead continued to provide a quiet safe refuge for families and individuals throughout the year. We recorded over 5000 individual visits.

While most **events** were inevitably cancelled, we did manage to host our annual Village Tea in July, with plenty of Covid precautions. And then later in the summer we took on the job of a scaled down 'Harvest Tea' as the normal Harvest Supper could not be run safely in the Village Hall. With thanks to all the participants, both events were thoroughly successful and it was particularly good to enjoy a rare social occasion.

**Maintenance** carried on as usual with the mowing rota over the summer and a carefully socially-distanced tidy-up in the autumn. Many thanks to everyone who helped. Just before the start of the pandemic we also used a grant awarded by Tesco in 2019 to pay a professional to undertake the latest section of path repairs.

Inevitably our **fundraising** was substantially affected – and we did not qualify for Government grants unlike the Village Hall. But thanks to kind donations and our healthy reserves, unlike many organisations we were not immediately been thrown into financial difficulties. More details are set out in Tony's Treasurer's 2020 report.

The competition for **grants** has become ever more intense and we were not successful in attracting a major grant to help with the Cloister roof repairs. Heritage Lottery shifted their focus towards helping organisations in crisis due to the pandemic and we therefore did not qualify. However we were eventually successful in being awarded a grant for £9000 from the locally based Finnis Scott Foundation which came through in 2021. We are very grateful for their support.

Normally we hold our AGM early in the year but it seemed wise to defer it this year. So we are now halfway through 2021 already and the future is looking much brighter.

## Highlights of 2021 so far...

- The grant of £9000 enabled us to carry out essential spot repairs on most of the Cloister roof in May (the 8<sup>th</sup> side needs completely replacing).
- Early in June the Joy Mead hosted another challenging 'Farthingstone Foot Fest'.
- Later in June we opened our gardens for a second very successful 'Farthingstone Open Gardens' and raised a fantastic total of £2700.
- July saw a lovely sociable get-together for the annual 'Tea' followed by a great concert night at the end of the month with 'Back in Time'.
- A number of exceedingly generous donations that have boosted our reserves and demonstrated strong support for the Joy Mead.

The next major **challenges** are planning for our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations next year and raising a total of £70,000 to replace the priority section of roof.

## Thanks:

The Joy Mead has been more than ever valuable as a community asset over the last 18 months. We are very lucky to have it – and to have the support from everyone in order to keep it going. A huge thanks as always to the Committee, to all the volunteers who help with maintenance, to all those who have made donations and to everyone who helps with and supports events. Thank you very much everyone!

Debbie Mason (Chair of the Joy Mead Committee)