

General

The chair gave a short introduction to the committee and introduced a proposal to constitute a new standing group. The purpose of the group will be to maintain the established traditions and culture of worship at Bradwell and explore ways of enriching and strengthening them. This is about much more than buying some new hymn books, it is about ensuring that the committee continually works to foster a vibrant and dynamic culture of worship. Concern was expressed that the group may seek to dictate or constrain worship at the centre; but the chair affirmed that this would not be permitted.

Centre Manager

The summer season had been encouraging so far with typically 50 - 60 people on site for the core summer weeks. Bookings for the last week of the season are currently low, probably due to it being outside the school summer holiday period. Late bookings are common and make it hard to predict numbers.

The VAP (formerly YAP) volunteer groups had been a great success with two groups of sixteen coming for two weeks at a time. Both groups integrated well and were invaluable in getting the centre ready for the season and repainting the core block, saving something in the region of £4,000.

Trustees

Sheila Maxey circulated a brief vision for Bradwell which she has prepared after conversations with many people at Bradwell. She had tried not to use the usual phrases or mantras, but to relate it to the needs of today. This will be considered at the next meeting, and there will be further discussion on how it could be incorporated, and how it can inform financial and other planning.

Programme Planning

The group have now had a preliminary meeting to map out the schedule for 2009 with the pattern being broadly similar to 2008 with a family week, drama week, art/craft week, ecology and music. An flyer is planned for the Autumn. It was felt that a core of three or four "family friendly" weeks with more cerebral weeks to begin and end is a pattern that works well for most people. The idea of including occasional "speaker slots" was raised as a way to promote discussion.

Volunteering

The handbook is review is under way. Kate Mulkern has decided to split it up into two leaflets, a guide with all the essential information for those staying at the centre and a volunteers handbook with information on the team roles.

Maintenance

Matthew Dell has managed to complete a large number of outstanding maintenance tasks. Major outstanding work on the reed beds is required and a review of trees on the site needs to be done. A site for a possible wind turbine needs to be identified.

Fund Raising

Eco bags and photo cards sold well at the pilgrimage; more bags are on order. The nails logo has proved enduringly popular with visitors; we should continue to incorporate it into designs. The issue of interest-free loans was discussed; it was noted that the trustees will only support the use of these when the bulk of funding has already been raised for a project as pay-back must be assured.

Cut Your Carbon

The first round application for EEDA funding was not successful, though the team were strongly encouraged to re-apply for the next round in the winter and given advice on how the bid can be strengthened by addressing flood mitigation strategies.

Other Business

The possibility of holding meetings via computer links was discussed. It was felt that these can be useful, but exclude those without access to the technology. It was agreed that a handful of members would trial some of the systems available.

Chris Jones (Bradwell Committee Chair)