

# **Newton Poppleford Playing Field Foundation (NPPFF)**

## **Chairs Report 2023 -2024**

It has been an eventful year for the NPPFF, especially in the wake of the terrible flooding of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 which left devastation around the village & playing field.

The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) situated next to the NPPFF Pavilion was extensively damaged by the flood water which, thankfully did not reach the Pavilion.

Workmen were able to use the Pavilion car park for a skip in which to put the damaged MUGA carpeting and then for storage of replacement equipment/carpet.

It has gratifying to see the consistent use of the Pavilion by the Art Group, Community Café, Dog Club, Garden Club, Lunch Club, Playgroup, and Table Tennis Club.

The Sidmouth Town Junior Vikings footballers have signed a new 10-year agreement with NPPFF to use the playing fields for football training & matches. This will give NPPFF a stable income stream into the future. It also offers the possibility of grants from the Football Association to enhance changing facilities at the Pavilion and also extending the existing car park to accommodate more vehicles and refurbishing the outside toilets.

I would like to obtain a similar commitment from Newton Poppleford Cricketers and there are ongoing discussions on the subject.

Private bookings are gradually increasing, which is bringing in much needed revenue, with bookings from the NHS as well as from various Agencies involved in the flooding aftermath i.e. Environment Agency, Devon County Council, East Devon District Council etc.

Members of the Trustee Board have undertaken fundraising events during the year which have included Bingo evenings, which have proven to be very popular with Parishioners.

A Summer Dinner & Dance is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> June and promises to be a fun night.

A new boiler and new low-cost LED lighting in the Pavilion have led to a reduction in running costs when utility bills are ever increasing, thus giving additional savings.

Finally, I would like to thank the Secretary, Jacqui Baldwin, for stepping into the breach while a search was made for a new Treasurer, Melissa Kirkby who has now been appointed.

**Susan P. Tribble**

**29<sup>th</sup> April 2024**