

## **Review of our 2021 season**

Mallets have been swung on the croquet lawn at Polesden Lacey for the first time in almost two years by the time you read this and sadly will also have been put away for the winter. We are very grateful Setting out the Lawns to the National Trust team at Polesden for their help and cooperation after a difficult time. They have supplied us with new storage facilities which eliminates the need for our members to enter their non public areas and the problems of white lining the lawns have been overcome.

It was a damp day but with little rain on 28th June when Martin and a team met at Polesden to set out the lawns for croquet. Not quite as simple as it sounds but after all the measuring was done it was slightly easier this year due to the rain which made the ground soft enough to hammer in the hoops without too much effort. We would like to thank u3a members from Horsley, Leatherhead and Ashted who also helped when the call was put out for volunteers. The lawns at the beginning of the season made play, shall we say challenging, but as the season has gone on they have improved beyond measure, despite rabbits still not understanding that this particular grass should be a no go area for them. Thanks also to Ken for the amazing sets of bisques he made and donated to the group, much smarter than the old ones strewn about (picture attached, sitting on one of the smart new boxes). There's a law that says just as the season finishes the lawns are playing really well, our thanks and appreciation to the diligent ground staff.

It was wonderful to meet again in the lovely surroundings of the croquet lawns, surely the best setting of any in England, where visitors are often surprised and intrigued to see croquet being played. We didn't have our usual picnic and tournaments this year but hopefully next year we'll get back into the swing of things and make them happen. Meantime those who hold trophies, enjoy them on the shelf for a while longer but don't lose them! Occasionally we're asked about a group for beginners so look out for any announcements in a future edition of Senior Moments, on the notice boards at monthly meetings and on the website.

However, how many seasons will this last? It's been said before but it's now getting urgent; our lynchpin Martin is wishing to retire and is hoping to guide someone to eventually take over from him. There is a committee of croquet members who share roles so much help is there. As with all groups someone in overall charge is essential and without one there will be no more u3a croquet. You are invited to ring Martin without obligation if you would like to know more about the role.

*Val Cross*

(From Senior Moments November 2021)