

## **Welcome to the Annual meeting of Denstone Parish council.**

Its been a year of change for the council, Cllr Jenny Richardson stepped down from the chair in October, I would like to once again thank Jenny for her dedicated contribution through her time served as chairman, as with all people who are good at their jobs~ she made it look very easy!. I would also like to thank her personally for staying on the council, I really appreciate her support and advice and a guiding hand when necessary.

In May we said farewell and thank you to Cllr Terry Swinson and welcomed Stuart Smith onto the council. A very well known and popular figure in our community and at the hub of all village life and often the first point of contact for residents, not sure if that's always a good thing for Stuart!

Emily has completed her first full year as clerk, putting her own stamp on the role and doing a fine job at the same time, I am sure we are all most grateful for keeping us all informed and in order.

Stephen Burton was appointed as lengthsman in October ~ in at the deep end, literally keeping the culvert clear during all the winter floods, saving the shop, post office and pub from a watery experience . I am sure once we finally get some spring weather we will see him out with the new lawnmower we purchased last Autumn.

Cllr Edward Edmunds continues to be generous with both his time and woodworking skills around the village, the construction of a sand bag shelter and maintenance of the bus shelters to name just two of the projects he has completed this year.

Cllr Bob Wright completed the village walks leaflet, a very professional job and envied by several parish councils, it gives a guide to visitors and people new to the village of all the walks available.

An emergency plan was requested of us in June~ we hope we shall never need it but Cllr Simon Ratcliffe has done sterling work compiling and researching a comprehensive list of contacts and actions should a major incident ever occur.

The traffic sub committee met with highways in June to discuss problems and possible solutions to traffic flow in the village, sadly Richard Rayson has moved to another area but we hope his replacement will continue to support us and we hope to have more positive news in the next few months.

The village website continues to grow~ please pass all news and photographs onto Carolyn Hinton, webmaster, who we are all grateful to for the superb job that she does.

Borough Cllr Chris Smith continues to support the parish at every opportunity and has helped us greatly, not only with a number of financial grants but real and honest advice and I thank him sincerely for all his help.

Out and about in the village we have had litter picks, Himalayan balsam bashing parties and general tidy up times all completed by ourselves and many willing volunteers which all helps in the best kept village competition in which we were placed third last year, a position we hope to improve upon this time.

Cllr Jackie Payne has worked hard with neighbourhood forum to secure us funding for a resurface and revamp of the old railway line area which will be taking place over the coming months.

The war memorial needs to be re pointed and local resident Mick Colclough is under taking this job in aid of Prostate cancer UK. What a fantastic thing to do , and I would urge anyone who can to donate to this worthy cause to do so at the shop or post office, helping Mick raise as much as he can.

In December the extension to JCB s car park next to lady Meadow bridge was begun, residents complained about disturbance from all night lighting and planting schemes detailed in the planning application not being followed. We were very pleased with the almost immediate response and action which has resulted in the lights going off at 10pm. We are also continuing to work with them to push for crossings to be installed at Lady Meadow bridge to make walking to Ryecroft school safer, it seems to be Highways dragging their heels on this one, but we will fight for this over the coming months.

Its been a good year for celebrations in the village too

First came the Queens diamond jubilee~ every child 16 and under was given the chance to have a commemorative mug~ thanks to Jenny and Cllr Barry Hinton for organising this. The village celebrations were organised by Denstone Youth Fund and despite the weather Jackie and her team did a terrific job yet again and an enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Both the church and the village Hall celebrated significant birthdays, all events held being enjoyable and well attended. .

Finally the show, once again it was a huge success with record entries and fantastic weather, a wonderful day was enjoyed by many residents and visitors to the village. Many thanks are due to the show committee led by Barrie with Edward ,Jenny , Jackie and myself and we are already well into planning this years show which will be on September the 7<sup>th</sup>, keep all fingers crossed for good weather again this year.

The end of the financial year has brought a lot of debate on the precept, frozen council tax means that our budget must remain the same as previous years and with rising costs in all areas this means cuts have to be made. . One of the changes is that the report of this meeting will no longer be delivered to every household in the parish~ this was not a legal requirement and cost over £100 to do, therefore a copy will be available from the post office and it will of course be on the website.

That was a very brief recap of the year past, it would be impossible to mention everything and everyone, but I do want to thank all my fellow councillors and all our regular supporters who turn up and help us complete so many parish enhancing projects, your support is invaluable, particularly in austere times to keep our parish a tidy, friendly and above all enjoyable place to live.