

## **Chairman's Annual Report 2016/2017**

It has been a privilege to serve as your chairman this year. The Parish Council said goodbye to long standing councillor Rod Whitehead. We all wish him well with his new endeavours. Coming on board we have three new councillors. Katy Morris, Jeff Fry and Chris Harper. It is good to see new councillors standing up on behalf of our community.

It is to community that I turn first. This year has shown that Langar and Barnstone enjoy a vibrant social life together. Apple Day drew juice lovers from all over the Parish with four generations chopping, pulping and pressing together. If you didn't make it try hard to this year. The resulting juice was great. None was left, even the pulp went to the anaerobic digester to generate electricity. There have been a few ceilidhs this year. Between the blisters and red faces, we must be boasting some of the best rehearsed dancers in the area by now. Great fun was had by all, long may it continue.

We are lucky to have so many active community groups in our Parish. Arts, Cafés and Productions not being the least of it. I can affirm that the Parish Council will continue to support community actions wherever we can.

On the infrastructure side of things we now have (as I am sure you are all aware) a new outdoor gym. The equipment has been designed to be low impact so there is really no excuse not to seek it out and give it a go.

Not much has changed with the village hall. A few minor alterations here and there. The main thing has been the introduction of WiFi, free for all visitors. This offers additional facility and widens the appeal of the hall as a venue. We saw the new WiFi in action during our experimental small business surgery. We invited small businesses based in the Parish to meet with media consultants to discuss web and print issues. Although not oversubscribed, those who did attend reported a positive experience. One of the visiting consultants has redeveloped our own Parish Council website. We are very pleased with it.

Following last August's Parish planning meeting we followed up on a request and now have a hearing loop in the hall.

The discussions about the safety of the C28 (Bingham Road) are continuing with the Highways Department of the County Council. The movement on this has been a traffic survey which was recently undertaken on Musters Road to monitor how much traffic passes through the village. It turns out, unsurprisingly, to be a lot. What happens next and how this data is to be used is under discussion now.

It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to the Cubs, the Beavers and the Women's Institute. Without new volunteers, they have closed and will be missed I am sure by all who attended. I would like to say thank you on behalf of the Parish Council to the organisers who ran their organisations so well for so long.

In the wider community, we no longer have a Post Office in the Parish. Our post master has retired and we wish him well.

We do, however, welcome back the Unicorn's Head. After what seems like forever, Beth and Jez are back at the helm in a rejuvenated pub that stands to serve for the next 300 years.

Next year promises to be as packed as this one has been. We have work to do on the forward plan and we have new boundaries with new Borough and County councillors to work with. There are lots of ideas buzzing around. Now where did I put my pen?

Cllr Alan Carter-Davies

17/04/17