

Scarning parish Council Chairman's report 2012

My first year as Chairman of Scarning Parish Council has been very busy and has been a steep learning curve for me.

It was with regret that we lost the experience and expertise of Alan Glister and Norman Eagle when they both decided to stand down but *it* has been my pleasure to welcome new councillors Janet Hamlin, Pat Page and Stephen Faulkner. The first thing I noticed when going through the minutes of the last year is just how many times the purchase of litter bins, dog bins and grit bins has arisen. Hopefully we will have accommodated every body's needs in the area. Our Clerk Nick Hartley has produced a very smart new look parish news letter, Councillor Reg Walton cleaned and repaired all of the village notice boards and Richard Allan continues to keep the village web site up to date so there is no excuse for anybody not knowing what is going on.

A speed warning Sign has been purchased and installed on Draytonhall Lane in an attempt to slow the traffic down. A path around the adult fitness equipment on the water meadows play area was installed and this has helped to keep the equipment clean and make the area more usable throughout the winter months. The play area continues to be a popular resource in this end of the village. On the village playing field a zip wire has been installed. Unfortunately this has met with a mixed reception but we are working to resolve the issues. Christmas trees were purchased to go outside the Church and the primary school and they looked beautiful when lit.

To mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee daffodil bulbs were purchased and planted around the village sign and they have made a lovely display this spring. Also as part of the Jubilee celebrations the Milestone Society approached the parish council and it was agreed to finance the painting of the three milestones in the village with help from the children of Scarning Primary School.

Meetings were held with Konnect and First Bus Groups to see if they would consider increasing the number of buses that service the village. A survey was done in the old part of the village to ascertain the need for an improved service but despite a good response to the survey we are still waiting to hear anything favourable from the bus companies. The bus stop outside the village hall has finally moved further along the lay-by.

Sub committees have been set up to manage the water Meadows area and the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Village Fete and Christmas Tree Festival.

The intention was to work on the meadows managing them to protect and encourage the flora and fauna along with the Wensum Valley Trust. Unfortunately the Wensum Valley Trust has had to go into hibernation but Steve Dallaston from the trust has been most helpful in advising us on how to go about setting up our own management group and has given us a management plan and many contact numbers of people who can advise us, along with a good supply of hand tools to enable the new group to get going as soon as the lease has been finalised.

The Jubilee committee have arranged a children's tea party and fancy dress competition followed by a disco, talent competition and barbecue to take place on Sat 2nd June. This will be followed on Monday the 4th with a Beacon lighting ceremony with fireworks.

A village fete and Horticultural show have been planned for August and it is hoped to arrange a

Christmas tree festival to be held in conjunction with the Church annual Christmas Fayre. A story teller has also been booked for this event.

Donations have been given to The Citizens Advice Bureau, Dereham Meeting Point, Dereham Cancer Care, The Air Ambulance and the East Anglia Children's Hospice. Also to theoyal British legion for the purchase of a wreath which was laid by Councillor Reg Walton.

Grants have been made to the Bowls club for the purchase of an awning, to Scarning Primary School for building a pond for wildlife and to Scarning Pre School for internal refurbishment.

Finally I wish to thank our Clerk Nick Hartley for his patience and advice and all the hard work he puts in on behalf of the village and to all of the Parish Councillors for their time and support.

Wendy Brown

Chairman of Scarning parish Council 2012