

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY 13TH MAY 2021

We are all well aware of the difficulties of the past year, but we as a Parish have come through it fairly unscathed and indeed have succeeded as a Council to achieve our objectives, and much more.

Firstly a grateful thanks must go to all those who volunteered to help others over the past year, with special recognition to the management, staff and volunteers of the shop. The service given under difficult and fluctuating circumstances has been fantastic.

The last year has seen the installation of the variable speed sign on Helmdon road, which has helped reduce the speeding entering the village.

.A planter was put on the verge near the shop. An attractive feature, solving a long standing problem.

In October a Silhouette soldier was purchased and placed on Magpie road and then moved to Castle green for a remembrance ceremony on the 11th of November, with some seventy villagers attending.

With Churches closed your Council bought and erected a Christmas tree in the Castle green field, and Carol singing took place around it on a wet evening just before Christmas. The most rewarding initiative was the giving of food hampers at Christmas to our most senior citizens, very kindly put together by the shop. Websters and the Star also supported our idea with their own parcels. Showing how we as a community pull together in difficult times to support each other.

Our grass mowing contractor is doing a superb job, and has been given the contract for the next three years on the same terms and price.

The library idea is progressing with an opening scheduled for late June in the Church. My thanks and appreciation to the P.C.C . By working together we can provide a much needed facility and meeting point for all.

The pocket park continues to be well used, and half a dozen trees were planted in January, along with pond clearance.

The allotments have been transformed over the past year, including the clearance of the ditch, and now have only one uncultivated.

We continue to liaise with, and meet up with HS2 representatives, and are kept informed of the Church hall progress.

Graham Roberts our village footpath officer has overseen the improvements to our footpaths , with wood chips being laid down, steps made, and new kissing gates on the Path to Moreton Pinkney over the old railway line.

My thanks and appreciation to Colin Wootton for his tireless work on the village website.

A great many people have been involved in helping us as a council to bring all these

achievements to fruition, and my thanks to all, as it also shows how we come together as a village.

Finally my sincere thanks to my fellow councillors and Christine Coles our clerk for all their hard work and advice over the year. A year in which we welcomed Mike Powell and said goodbye to Laura North from the council. Many thanks Laura for your contribution in word and deed to the benefit of our village.

We live in a lovely village with a great spirit, and. I hope we can all come together on Castle green on Sunday the 11th of July to celebrate with our picnics the return to normality.

Richard Fonge. Chairman.