

CHAIRMANS REPORT

As the nights draw in and the memory of the Jubilee and Olympics starts to fade I would like to say thank you to a number of people who help shape the character of Great Doddington and are our "Gamesmakers".

With regards to the Parish Council I would like to thank Jim Sharpe for acting as chair, we are still checking how long Jim has been on the Council, the records only go back 40 years and he was mentioned then. I have promised to buy him a beer if he does another 40. I know Jim passed his thanks on to Ian Bowyers for his 10 years plus on the Council but I would like to also add mine, Ian's practical and calming approach has been very much appreciated.

Concerning Parish matters apart from planning where we comment and submit our words of wisdom (one day we are hoping someone will listen to us), the main bug bear in the village is cars, either speeding or parking. Can we all ensure that we lead by example and stick to the speed limits and do not block the pavements.

After our recent mini "crime wave" in the summer (6 incidents in one month) police visibility/patrols were increased and all has returned to normal. The crime figures for Great Doddington are so low that the police are now concentrating their efforts in other areas and no longer attend our monthly meetings.

Mercia Crematoria Developments Ltd attended October's meeting and presented their plans for developing a crematorium and woodland burial site on the land next to the prison, opposite the Merry Miller. An outline planning application was validated by Wellingborough Council on 12 September and the target Planning Committee date is 21 November. The Parish Council highlighted concerns around the traffic implications. Wellingborough Council are also looking into their own proposal for a crematorium, so we will monitor the situation.

The Shared Ownership Housing development in the village has gone quiet due to funding issues and further information will be communicated if any progress is made.

The bunting has finally come down following the Jubilee celebrations. For me the spirit of the village really came through and we were the envy of many of the surrounding villages with the events that were planned and so whole heartedly supported. The sea of gazebos and people dancing in the rain to Calypso music was a sight to behold. The organisation behind this event was no mean feat. It was a real team effort with too many people to mention but I would like to single out the dynamic duo of Alison and David Smith, who provided a combination of brains and boundless energy. (David is going to work on the brains element for their next project Alison assures me).

It's been all change at the school after 10 very successful years Mrs Nesbitt has retired. Mrs Monica Eeuwens the new school head is starting to make her mark and her passion, energy and drive is really showing through. I wish her every success. We regards to the school governors I would like to thank Matt Griffiths for continuing in the role of chair and welcome new governors, Richard Wagstaff and Stuart Adams. A quick mention to Nicky Chisholm for organising the first Great Doddington School ball, Groove and Glamour was the theme and it certainly lived up to that, it was really well organised and great night was had by all.

Moving on to the Gardening team Ann Newsome has handed over the baton .Under her guidance and well known organisational skills the Gardening team have provided a splash of colour throughout the seasons, daffodils in the spring and hanging baskets in the summer. The annual village plant sale has if you'll excuse the pun grown from strength to strength. I wish Anne well and am confident the Gardening Team will continue with their superb work. We have finally got the village planters repaired so I wait for the next colourful display.

Finally I must mention the Great Doddington Cricket team, more famous for its warm welcome and superb teas than it's performance on the square, but with the help of the weather and the captaincy of Rick Brawn/Oliver Griffiths it has gone through the season undefeated. This team sums up Great Doddington, all welcome, whatever age and ability and a good time is had by all.

If you have any issues you wish to raise please feel free to turn up to our monthly meetings or contact our clerk Carol Mundy. I would like to thank the Chapel for the monthly use of their new revamped facilities.

Regards

Chris Davies