

CHAIR'S REPORT 2021

This has been a very difficult time not only for the Parish Council but for the community as a whole. We had to suspend the newsletter basically because nothing in the village was happening. Our normal gathering around the Christmas tree couldn't go ahead, but to make up for it the council purchased extra Christmas trees. In addition to our regular tree, there were 2 outside the shop up on the wall and another at the crossroads. These were illuminated by lights on a timer. The council also donated lights to the village hall and they made a fantastic display.

With a WCC Councillor's Grant we were able to make up 14 hampers for vulnerable children who attend Austrey School and according to Mrs Harvey some of the parents were reduced to tears when they received their goody bag. Many Thanks to Lynsey and her mum Barbara who spent time going around the shops gathering the contents and then sorting them in 14 Christmas hampers. We also gave all the children at school a selection box each.

We had a window decorating competition and more than 20 houses took part. The village as a whole took the holiday to heart and some of the illuminated displays were brilliant. People were walking around the village just to look at the windows and lights. Well done to the whole village and the councillors who helped with the trees and lights.

On the subject of councillors, we lost 2 great additions: Anne Wilde who had to resign due to work commitments, and Mick Beeson who had to step down due to ill health. The good news is that he has returned home to his family's love and care and we wish them all the best for the future.

We have two new councillors, Helen Simpson and Heather Swan, who no doubt will bring their own personality to the council. We have one more vacancy which will be filled very soon to bring us up to a full quota.

We received a Covid Support Grant and were pleased to donate some of this to the village hall for the implementation of an accessibility ramp. This was officially opened earlier this year and it now makes the facility convenient for

one and all. The addition of an accessible toilet, makes this a fantastic village amenity.

We can now hopefully look forward to the time when we can have face to face meetings again instead of Zoom meetings and the village can get back to normality.

Tony Treadwell April 2021