

<p style="text-align: center;">CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 7th April 2009 Presented by Councillor John Peebles Chairman of the Parish Council</p>

It has been a pleasure to have served as Chair of this Parish Council for the past 12 months. I would like to thank Councillor Carol Norris our Vice Chair for the help and support that she has given me throughout the year. I will take this opportunity to thank Maureen Cummings on behalf of the residents and members of this Council for the devoted work she has done for this Parish over many years. First as a District and Parish Councillor, then taking the Parish Clerk's post. As her work as a District Councillor intensified, and so she continued with the Responsible Financial Officer's post to remain with us. The time has now come when Maureen has decided to move on and we give her our blessing and good wishes.

We now welcome Julia Ford as our R.F.O. and Clerk to The Worrall's and Charlesworth Charities as well as the Village Institute.

Throughout the year it has been a great pleasure to work with Janet our Parish Clerk. And I thank her for the support she has given to me and the Chairs of various committees. Thanks to Janet Stocks in looking after the Village Institute.

It was with great reluctance that the Parish Precept was raised for 2008/09. This being the first in several years, and one of the lowest in the Wakefield District.

Crime still remains a top priority. There is still a very close liaison between the Police and the Parish Council. PCs Laybourne or McMahon are in attendance at all Parish meeting to give detailed reports on all aspects of local crime. They take away a list of priorities such as speeding, vandalism and groups of youths who cause problems to residents. I can assure residents that action is taken. I thank David and Paul for their dedication and work within this community.

Planning is still monitored very closely by all members. At Calder Park, Peels now work quite closely with us, and if there is anything that members do not like in their applications we do try to resolve it in a more mature manner. We gave our backing to the residents at Newmillerdam who formed a Community and Conservation Association. This was to fight against development of the Old Colliery site on School Hill and gain Village Green status. They are almost on the brink of achieving their goal. Notice has been posted in the Wakefield Express by the District Council.

The land behind St James School has raised its ugly head once more, and members are spending a lot of their time in trying to keep it out of development plus other major issues that are being forced on the Parish by Wakefield District Council. This is your Parish and must never be integrated within the Wakefield boundary. At the moment Cllrs. Peter Daniels, Paul Crompton Keith Wainwright and Jackie Craven, are fighting the proposals being put forward by the Wakefield District Council

The marker stone at the corner of Denby Dale road and Durkar Low Lane was donated by Peel Holdings as a way of an input into the community.

The Parish Newsletter is doing very well and is delivered throughout the Parish. Parish Council activities are also publicised in the Parish Link Magazine and through the Wakefield Express community columns.

Several grants have been made to local groups and organisations, with a few more to be considered.

The Parks and Open Spaces Committee continue their good work with sponsorship of hanging baskets. The 2008 baskets, by what I have heard seem to have been the best showing since the Parish Council started it. Any feed back is appreciated by the Committee. In Betty Eastwood Park, Tom Handley has worked with local residents and district tree wardens to manage trees in the Park and some Tree felling is planned at Willow Garth for Health and Safety reasons.

It was decided by the Parish Council that the Parish Plan should be updated. And so a meeting has been arranged for all interested parties to meet at the Village Institute at 7 PM 21st April to form a Steering Group. It is hoped that there will be the same interest as when the first Plan was created. At the same meeting it is hoped to form a small committee to select Community Heroes, a suggestion from our local Vicar.

The Parish Council web site has been very successful with hits from all over the world, and very helpful in many ways.

The Remembrance Day ceremony at Newmillerdam continues to see increased attendance which is very pleasing. And I thank Stuart Marsden from the Methodist Church for his valuable help. Also Canon Ian Gaskell for both the Church service then at the Crigglestone Cenotaph.

Last of all I thank all members of the Parish Council for the time and devotion that they give to help residents with any problems that they may have. Our sole aim is to try and help Crigglestone residents to the best of our ability, and long may they do so.