

<p style="text-align: center;">CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 7th April 2015 Presented by Councillor John Peebles Chairman of the Parish Council</p>

Members of Crigglestone Parish Council have again spent many hours in the community following up the concerns of residents. It is only they with local knowledge of the area who can pass constructive information on.

We also have our District Councillors from both parties in attendance at Parish Council meetings. Where appropriate they will take your concerns to the appropriate District Council Department. So to them, on behalf of both the Parish Council and myself I thank them.

There is also a Police presence at Parish Council meetings. They give a monthly crime report, and show where they have worked under the Safe Scheme. One of our main concerns is speeding and offenders are caught on roads across the parish. Once again I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all of the Officers concerned for maintaining law and order within the Parish.

Once again there is no increase in the Parish precept and our Financial Officer is to be congratulated once again in bringing this about. Last year government grants were made to all Parish & Town Councils. This was given to all District Councils to distribute to their Town & Parish Councils. Wakefield District Council was one of seven in the country who did not pass this grant on. There is a further grant this coming year and this will not be passed on either.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all people who have sponsored a hanging basket. Once again this year I have heard comments giving praise to the floral arrangements throughout the Parish and would like to thank our contractors for the effort that they put into this venture. Also the Parks and Open Spaces Committee who look after our other interests. Betty Eastwood Park is the main area where the Committee and the Friends of the Park spend a great deal of time keeping it as tidy as possible. For their time and effort I thank them.

Although I was unable to attend, I was informed that the Hall Green Gala was once again a great success. I did attend the switching on of the Christmas lights at Hall Green. The Christmas spirit had arrived and it was well attended, and again the young ladies and gentlemen from Dane Royd School were an inspiration with their carol singing.

Another issue pursued by the Parish Council this year is the noise and air pollution problems from the M1. The noise issue in particular has been addressed by a group of councillors and residents. This culminated in a public meeting in July 2014 attracting over 40 local residents and councillors who put their views to a Highways Agency representative.

In July a service was held at Crigglestone war memorial to commemorate the servicemen of Crigglestone who gave their lives in the Great War. Pupils from the schools within the Parish laid crosses in remembrance of each who gave their life in the conflict. This was arranged by Cllr. Keith Wainwright, and the service led by Canon Ian, Vicar of St James.

At last year's Remembrance service at the Newmillerdam Cenotaph, the Methodist Minister gave a short service to one of the largest attendances that there has ever been in all the years that I have attended. During this service a stone trough for small crosses was blessed. This was to be purchased by the Parish Council. However it was gifted to

the Parish Council by Anelays stonemasons on Crigglestone Industrial Estate. It was fitted in place by the District Council.

The Service at St James was also well attended where it was led by Canon Ian. And then to the Crigglestone War Memorial where the wreaths and crosses of various organisations within the Parish were laid in remembrance of the fallen in both world wars and more recent conflicts.

The Parish Council has made very strong objections to the District Council as to their proposed cuts to be made at the Pugneys Country Park. Much of this is within the Parish, and as it now stands is a Jewel in the Crown for Wakefield. However once again we have politicians who fail to take this into consideration.

The Community Hero Working Party chose Mel Grunnel for the 2014 award. It was given for his voluntary work at the Pennine Camphill Community's pottery workshop. There he passes on his skills to the young students. Their finished work is often sold at the various Craft Fairs held throughout the year.

It came as a shock when Canon Ian announced his retirement. He was very well respected by the members of the Council. It was he who brought the idea of a Community Hero to the Parish Council to consider. He served on the committee. It was thought only right that he too should have some recognition for his work in the Parish. Ian was brought up in a mining community where his father was a miner. With a little help from his wife Mary and Cllr. Wainwright as to what he would like, a miner's safety lamp was bought and presented to him, and most graciously received at the February Parish Council meeting.

Again I thank all Crigglestone Parish Councillors for their support, also for the time that they give on the various Committees. Thanks to Peter Daniels the Vice Chair for his support over the year. I would however like it to be known that unlike the higher forms of government there is no financial reward for both Parish and Town Councillors.

And lastly to both Janet Mitchell our Parish Clerk, and Joanie Massey our RFO and Assistant Clerk, my thanks for the skill in which they make Crigglestone Parish Council run smoothly and maintain the precept as one of the lowest in the Wakefield District.

J Peebles

Chair Crigglestone Parish Council