

Chairman's Annual Report April 27th 2015

This has been a real "curate's egg" of a year, the bad bits being the loss of the Henry Simmonds to Sainsbury, and the loss of the A-Z employment site to yet more housing. After a long hard fight we have finally ensured that Isles Quarry will be developed safely, and may well yet return some benefits to the village. We already have a growing number of new residents, and I want to extend the hand of welcome to them.

But the good bits of the year are far more important:

After years of negotiations, refurbishment has finally begun on the Red Lion, and very soon we will see the long awaited roundabout bring a bit of safety to this most dangerous junction.

The last Annual Parish Meeting was notable for the suggestion that we needed a War Memorial, and a committee drawn from across the village was set up. We held a consultation that overwhelmingly decided the Western Rd Green was the best venue, a TMBC grant of £7500 has augmented the £10,000 earmarked by the Parish Council, and we are talking to builders in the village.

A minor disaster in the year was the sudden withdrawal of the Age Concern Lunch Club, a vital link for many older residents. The Malling Lionesses leaped into the gap, the Parish pledged the funding, and lunches have continued without a hiccup. But keep your eyes open for elderly neighbours who might benefit from a weekly hot meal and some friendly company.

Southern Water have this month agreed to some major works on Hillview/Maidstone Rd to address the sewage flooding experienced since 2013, but we are still waiting for TMBC plans to address surface water flooding in Lingfield Rd /Annetts Hall.

Our 9 point Traffic Plan for the A25/A227 was beefed up in the year by a new Speed Survey part funded by the PC, and KCC and Amey have drawn up a report to deal with the dangerous traffic through Platt, Wrotham and Borough Green.

The Parish Council you elected 4 years ago begins the next 4 years virtually unchanged - my thanks to Gary Harrington as he departs for a new home in Maidstone, and a warm welcome to Therese Dawson from Quarry Hill who is taking his place.

My personal thanks go to my Parish Councillors, and we all extend our thanks to Hazel, our Clerk, and to Barry and Rob the groundsmen who work so hard keeping the village neat and tidy.

Mike Taylor
Chairman, Borough Green Parish Council 2015
TMBC Ward Member, Borough Green & Longmill

Off the cuff on the night: " Hazel, our Clerk, balances the budget, gets everything paid, and keeps the Auditor happy, even with this lunatic at the helm - she deserves more than our thanks, she deserves a round of applause" *followed by rousing applause.*