

**May 2011 to April 2012**

**Presented to Annual Parish Meeting May 22nd 2012**

Another year has flown by and its time for the annual report. As I sat down to write it as ever I think what have we achieved, and at first this can be difficult, but once I start thinking about it the Parish Council have in fact achieved a lot over the last year.

During the year we co-opted Mrs. Janet Graves to the Council unfortunately due to other commitments she has had to leave. I would like to take the opportunity though to thank her for her short time on the Council however and appeal to anyone who is interested on being on the Council to contact the Clerk.

Notices will also be going up shortly on the notice boards advertising the co-option vacancy and how to apply. At last years Annual Parish Council Meeting we set up a number of portfolio holders. Whilst this may seem strange for a non political council at Parish level, I felt this gave us more accountability and a better focal point for parishioners as to who was taking the lead role on various issues the Parish Council has to deal with.

A Big achievement for the Parish was to win the Environment category of the Village of the Year Competition 2011. This really show cased our community for what it is, impressing the judges. The Community Led Plan was also another big achievement and would not have been possible without the hard work of the working group, whom are now turning their attentions to thinking about a Neighbourhood Plan.

Talking of achievements and hard work, in our community we have so many volunteers that support us and thanks must go to them tonight. These include litter pickers, the allotment manager and members of the village hall and community centre management committees to name just a few. All of whom put in so much time and hard work ensuring various bits of the Parish run smoothly and efficiently.

Whilst mentioning the allotment manager it seems opportune to say that we are currently working with allotment holders on the feasibility of setting up an allotment association in the next year which will be self financing. If however this cannot be achieved unfortunately rents will have to increase to cover costs. In the meantime the allotments continue to go from strength to strength.

Turning back to our community it was wonderful to be invited to share in the 40th anniversary celebrations and Sports Day with Ralph Sadleir School this year. This was an

opportunity to see again what wonderful community spirit we have in our Parish.  
Something that was also borne out in our second civic service.

The first Community Centre Pantomime was also great fun (oh no it wasn't, oh yes it was, sorry couldn't resist that!) where I thoroughly enjoyed playing Buttons and look forward to the next one. It was fantastic to see all the happy faces in the audience enjoying the show and taking part. Where possible we continue to support and work with many user groups, stakeholders and businesses in the Parish, in addition to Parishioners.

This year we have supported Ajay at the Chemist, to keep this valuable resource open and we have worked with Circa Anglia to tidy up the grass area on the corner of Station Road and South Road. We also offered our support to Round Haye and Northfields during their campaign against the changes to the warden service being proposed by Circa Anglia.

This year following a parishioner's suggestion we bid on EBay for three medals and a letter from Buckingham Palace in recognition of someone who had served on HMS Puckeridge. HMS Puckeridge was a Hunt Class destroyer that the residents of Puckeridge made a significant financial contribution to during World War II. It is only fitting therefore that these medals have returned to the village and that they will take pride of place in the new community trophy cabinet.

This has recently been commissioned to show case all the trophies for various user groups in the whole of the Parish who do not have their own buildings to display them. This idea came from a parishioner who thought it would be nice as there was currently no where in the Parish, to show our achievements.

In line with what has now become a tradition and my legacy there is now a short video show casing some of the aspects I have covered in this report and others I have not touched upon.

At this point I would like to thank Belinda Irons our Clerk, who's support and keeping us on an even keel throughout the year has been very much appreciated, my fellow Councillors and you the Parishioners who have made this such a great year.

And finally, I hope like me you feel a sense of pride in our community and what has been achieved over the last year and think that as Councillors in a voluntary role, we have worked in the best interests of the Parish and all its Parishioners, businesses, stake holders and user groups achieving a lot on your behalf, for the benefit of our community.