

## Chair's Report 2018/2019

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members for their support and encouragement, especially those who attended the Society's Annual General meeting on Wednesday 27th March.

Before the start of Society business Ellie Powers, Senior Asset Manager and Mahmoud Jaweesh, Hydrogeologist at Affinity Water gave a presentation on current low flows and plans for future work on the River Misbourne. A summary of this very interesting and informative presentation can be found on our website.

Throughout this past year we have continued to work closely with our Councillors at Little Missenden Parish, Chiltern District Council and Bucks County Council, to bring your concerns and issues to their attention.

We contacted BCC following yet another car accident in which a motorist approached the end of Watchet Lane too fast, and drove straight across to the other side of the road damaging the road sign and notice board. Our concern was this pathway is used regularly by residents going to the post box and parents and children walking to and from school. Consequently, the junction was checked by the Local Area Technician who recommended that a slow sign be painted on the road just before the junction. He also decided to contact the Network Safety Team to request a report on this junction. Road markings at the junction of Nags Head Lane and Windsor Lane were repainted last year after concerns from residents.

Roger has made trips down Deep Mill Lane with his camera from time to time and in fairness to the Council they have responded to complaints from residents and only recently repair work was carried down Deep Mill Lane. We would encourage everyone to report potholes of concern on <https://fixmystreet.bucks.gov.uk> as numbers do make a difference.

In the summer we reminded residents of the problem caused to pedestrians on our narrow pathways of overgrown hedges and overhanging branches. We also raised the issue of the overgrown hedge beside the Windsor Lane allotments to Little Missenden Parish Council. Brambles and stinging nettles growing out of the hedge made passage for parents and children hazardous especially with cars parked close by the pavement. The hedge was eventually cut on Oct, 18<sup>th</sup> well after the Sept. start of the autumn term and well after the guidelines for hedge cutting to protect birds.

It was felt that Little Kingshill was in need of a tidy up so in line with the Great British Spring Clean, Peter Hubbard kindly organised a Litter Pick on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April and I was very pleased at the number of people who turned out to help. We know that residents are good at keeping their own patches clear but we have so much rubbish thrown from passing cars down Watchet and Deep Mill Lane. As these lanes are unsafe for villagers to venture down, given that one has no speed restrictions and the other has so many blind bends, I made a request that the environmental team at CDC undertake the task of clearing these lanes as well as sweeping leftover debris from autumn from pavements. We await their action.

Thanks to Ian Mackey's research and his book about those from Little Kingshill who died in the Great War we were able to learn more about these 11 individuals. Martin Hatfield talked movingly about the lives and circumstances of some of them during the Remembrance Service in the village hall. The names of the 11 soldiers were read out at the memorial site as part of that commemoration.

These soldiers are also remembered in the village by the 11 trees growing along the front of the common. Some time ago I was notified by LMPC that one of the trees, the silver birch, needed to be replaced but at another location on the common. The tree had grown so very, very tall due to a lack of light. After discussing this at our committee meeting and with various people around the village it became evident that everyone was strongly of the opinion that the existing arrangement along the roadside should be retained if at all possible. LMPC are now arranging for us to meet with their tree expert to see what can be done.

We have been pleased to lend our support to various community events by advertising events such as the Coffee and Cake Mornings at the Kingshill Baptist church, the WI centenary and providing financial and practical help to Play@ LK the community playground project group. Fingers crossed that this project will come to fruition this summer.

Carols at the Full Moon, now a well established village tradition, had the best ever attendance and I am so grateful to Bran and Petra for hosting this event in the pub garden and for providing the mulled wine and drinks for the children. Thank you also to the musicians from the Baptist Church and local community who accompanied the singing. This year we supported the Cinnamon Trust, a charity which relies on volunteers to walk dogs and foster pets whose elderly and sick owners have difficulty caring for them. The trust also runs an animal sanctuary. Claire Fallowfield, who herself is a volunteer, kindly organised the publicity and collection.

Our Parish Council, in a gesture of goodwill gave us funds for a Christmas tree. In the event, the tree was kindly donated by Andrew Davidson, and so funding from the Parish went towards battery operated lights which we will be able to use again in the future.. Thank you to Andrew and to Martin Hatfield for coordinating the project, erecting and decorating the tree with assistance from Peter Lowe and Deborah Castle.

We are contacted from time to time about concerns over planning regulations and rights of ways. Although it is not part of our remit to become involved in disputes between neighbours we do want the rural setting of the village and the natural outstanding beauty of this area preserved. Where there appears to be an infringement of planning regulations, which threaten this, we do recommend you pass on concerns to your parish Councillor or the enforcement officer at CDC.

Despite the departure of many faithful and long term members, our membership has remained constant as a significant number of newcomers have joined. Over 150 members took the opportunity to pay by bank transfer for 2018/2019 which reduced our workload.

Many thanks to our 25 volunteers, who did a sterling job of delivering handbooks and collecting subscriptions. At the beginning of October we held an afternoon tea party as a thank you for their efforts.

Having the ability to contact you by email on village matters and emergencies has been extremely useful. Roger always attempts to respond to your emails promptly and I thank him for all his efforts throughout this past year.

Finally ,I would like to extend my special thanks to the members of my committee Amanda Smith as Minutes Secretary, Nick Vigart as Treasurer, Martin Hatfield, Richard Symonds, Chris Seagrave and Roger Fuggle as Communications Officer for their efforts and the time they have given this year.

Richard Symonds has decided to step down. I have really valued Richards support and expertise over the last three years, especially drafting our constitution and supporting Roger with the handbook.

Roger and I will continue in our roles for the moment in the hope that someone will be come foreward to shadow us and then take over in the next few months. It is our firm intention to step down at the end of this calendar year because of family commitments. We are always on the lookout for fresh ideas and new people to join our committee. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 8.15pm, drinks and nibbles are available and we aim to keep our meetings relevant and succinct.

Bernice Fuggle