

## Chairman's Report 2008-2009

Another year has gone past very quickly for the parish council. Maybe this is because once again the council has been busy trying to ensure that Wysall continues to be a friendly, dynamic and exciting place to live!

The year began with me being re-elected chairman. I would like to thank Charlotte James for being chairman in 2007-2008 and giving me a break! She did a tremendous job and worked very hard to make everything run smoothly.

It was with great regret that we had to accept the resignation of Tim Calnan from the council. Tim had been a councillor for many years and was always willing to give of his skills and time. He was the driving force for the magnificent Village Hall extension and his contribution to the council is greatly missed. This position on the council has been filled by Mrs Pearl Edge. Pearl is still getting to know the ropes but I am sure that she will make very useful contributions that will benefit the work of the council.

The day to day business of the parish council continues in a very similar vein to previous years. I think we have had planning applications to consider at most meetings!! The continuing problems of dog fouling and speeding traffic have also been aired this year.

The parish council became aware of a vacancy in the Little Lincoln development. We were very much involved in ensuring that the dwelling was allocated to a local resident who works in and around the village. This is in line with the original purpose of the development and it is pleasing to see that it is being used as such.

The parish council entered the village in the Best Kept Village Competition. It was the first time that we have entered for a number of years due to various building projects that had been occurring around the parish. We were very pleased to come 4<sup>th</sup> in the competition for our size of population. I would think that we will be entering again this year and that we will be able to improve our position. It is regretful that I have to criticise the county council, but unfortunately the incompetence of the Highways Division does require a mention. For a number of years we have been asking for a Wysall name plate sign on Bradmore Lane. It is the only entrance to the village without a sign. A communication from the County Council Highways Department stated that they couldn't even find the Lane!! However, in an e-mail received at around the same time they said they were looking into replacing a damaged finger-post at the junction of Bradmore Lane and Keyworth Road. They said that they had been out and inspected the site – so they did know it existed after all!! Needless to say we are still waiting for the finger-post sign and have been told that it is likely that we will get our village name sign. We are also still awaiting the actual road name sign which is the responsibility of the Borough Council. Don't hold your breath for a speedy resolution of these matters!!

The parish council web-site continues to be successful. The number of hits remains at a high level – however we are aware of the need to keep the content fresh and interesting and to this end would welcome suggestions to improve the website or enhance it's content. We have tried to encourage advertisements from local businesses but so far have only had limited success. This is an area that requires a little more attention in the hope that the website could become self-supporting.

The Village Hall and Play Area have been targeted by vandals on more than one occasion this year, however after one more serious accident earlier in the year when the young people involved were caught we have not had any further problems and we hope that this is the end of the matter – at least for the time being.

The village has seen the deaths of 3 stalwarts this year. Mrs Gillespie who was landlady at the Plough for many years passed away in May. Mrs Jean Colton who had lived and farmed in the

Village all her life passed away in December. We also had the sad loss of Mr Leslie Derrick who had also been in the village all his life. He made a huge contribution to the Wysall and served on the parish council for many years. He also was involved in the Luncheon club and the Afternooners Club. He will be greatly missed.

The Afternooners Club has unfortunately ceased to meet. This is due mainly to the changing demographics of the Village. The village has changed to predominantly young peoples one with a large proportion of younger families. The parish council were pleased to see the formation of a Youth Club – this however has had a faltering start – and is currently not meeting. We would like to see it up and running again soon.

The main thrust of the parish councils work this year has been the installation of the new kitchen in the village hall. With the help of lottery funding and the continuing generosity of many villagers through fund raising we now have a 1<sup>st</sup> class kitchen to complement a 1st class hall. I would like to thank Charlotte James and Mary Elston for all of the hard work that they have put into the project. They have ensured that they have put into the project. They have ensured that the kitchen is now an asset to the Hall and judging by reports of people who have hired the building since the kitchen was completed they have been successful in making it an easy place to work in. Thanks once again.

The parish council now has its next project lined up. I am delighted to be able to announce that we have been successful in obtaining a grant from The Lottery Heritage Fund to restore the clock on the church tower. The clock is thanksgiving present to the Village for the safe return of all the soldiers from Wysall who went to fight in the 1st. World War. The clock is the parish councils responsibility and as I am sure you will have noticed, it has been stopped for some time now. The whole mechanism needs renewing and the face need re-gilding and re-setting on the tower. We now have the funding to carry this work out and to also provide information to visitors to the church about the history of the clock. We are now awaiting the necessary permission from the church authority to proceed with the work. At this stage I would like to thank Steven Reed, Chris French and Sam Stephens for all of their help in preparing the grant application. We now have a great deal of work to do on ensuring that the information boards and educational resources that we will provide are of the best quality possible. If anyone would like to be involved in the project I would be glad to talk to them about it.

I would encourage all residents to become involved in the Village and the parish council welcomes suggestions of how we could make the village a better place to live.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my fellow councillors for their help and support over the last year. It is absolutely invaluable in making the Village what it is. Mike Elliott, our Clerk, has once again kept us on the straight and narrow – without his help over the years I don't know how we would get by and so I would like to extend a big thank you to Mike.

I am positive that the next year will again be a busy one for the parish council but I am also sure that we will be able to meet any challenges head on and once again keep Wysall as a delightful Village to live in.

Thank you all for attending and please continue to work with the parish council for the good of the Village.