

Chairman's Annual Report.

If anybody had said to me last May that in the next year we would have had three Prime Ministers, two Monarchs and I would be writing this report, I would have replied that they were talking nonsense.

Well, it has all come to pass.

As I have previously said we only just managed to keep our Parish Council, by the minimum required, at the last elections.

Fortunately, we have had some councillors join us but there are still vacancies and if anybody wishes to know what is involved, then feel free to contact me. It is not just a case of attending our 4 weekly meetings as some people have discovered.

We have been emerging from the pandemic and the village has started to return to its usual vibrant self.

Some perennial problems still exist however, such as dog fouling because of inconsiderate owners and antisocial behaviour by some of our youths.

The carnival returned and was another great success.

Somersham 4U Newsletter returned, due to the hard work of some of our new and younger councillors.

In December the Christmas Lights went up and “The Gentleman in a Red Suit” was there again. Thank you to all the gnomes who made it possible with all their hard work.

We managed to keep the precept increase to a minimum and the details are in the Somersham 4U Newsletter.

The village-wide 20mph zone has been approved and we are waiting for Highways to implement it.

In early May we had the Coronation Party in the Park. Its success was due in no small measure to the hard work of our new Deputy Clerk, Jane Turney, and The Time Bank organised by Paula Peck.

Looking forward we have the Carnival coming in June among other events.

There have been some changes in the office staff.

Anna Chivers resigned as Time Bank Co-ordinator and Paula Peck has taken over.

Penny Bryant, our Parish Clerk, retires at the end of May after 25 years and Irene Healiss becomes our Clerk having shadowed Penny for a year.

With Megan Blewett's departure, we appointed Jane Turney as our Deputy Clerk, and we have insured continuity in the office.

Over the past year we welcomed Julia Drury, Claire Fidler, David Hudson, Kirsty Meadows, Francis Smith, Anne Ephgrave, Ryan Wilson and

Unfortunately, we have said goodbye, for work or personal reasons, to John Blundell, Anne Ephgrave, David Hudson, Kirsty Meadows and Ryan Wilson.

As this is my final report, and I know that I wrote that last year, I would like to thank all my fellow councillors, both past and present for their full support over the past five years and to our District and County Councillor Steve Criswell for all the work he has done on Somersham's behalf behind the scenes.

Finally, I cannot finish without heartfelt thanks to Penny Bryant for the work she has done, and the support she has given to myself and the Parish over the last twenty-five years. I hope she will not be disheartened when she discovers that you work harder when you are retired.

We are now going forward with a new Chairman and Clerk, and I will be glad to give them my full support.

Thank you everybody for your tolerance and take care of yourselves.

