

Chairman's Report
Annual Parish Meeting

I am pleased to say with Sue Playford, Sue Bolton and members of the parish council working very hard last year, we are now running an efficient and cost effective council.

The provision of facilities and activities for all people of Wootton continues to be a high priority and I am pleased to say that the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) should be fully refurbished by the end of the summer, and be available for free and bookable play, and the football pitches will be undergoing levelling works.

A more capable CCTV system has been installed at the recreation ground, which will be monitored 24 hours a day, with a vehicle number plate recognition system.

The parish council were approached by members of Wootton Ramps and Riders, who have requested a skate park at the recreation ground. It is thought this will be on the grass area near to the existing skate park area, which is not fit for purpose. An article will be placed in the upcoming newsletter and a full village consultation process will also be taking place by mid-June.

The residents of Tithe Barn Road have received a letter of consultation with regard to a proposed upgrade of lighting in that area.

The parish council continues with its obligations with regard to village maintenance - grass cutting, dog and litter bin provision, litter picking, street lighting, maintenance of trees, Lorraine Road cemetery and St. Mary's church yard to mention a few!

Unfortunately mindless vandalism continues to be a problem in the village. Over the past few weeks damage has been caused to the windows of the Baptist church and Wootton Lower School. Two arrests have been made and the culprits are due to appear in court. I was hearted to read in a recent lower school newsletter that pupils have raised over £400 towards to cost of replacing the windows at the Baptist church – a lovely community-spirited gesture.

During the last year both Judith Cunningham and more recently, Leila Bland have resigned from the parish council. I would like to thank them for their hard work – Judith was also a Borough councillor for a number of years. I wish them both well in the future. David Price, Claire Bennett, Malcolm Chalmers, Gerald Bygraves and Brian Doggrell have now joined and we will be advertising the most recent vacancy in due course.

As mentioned earlier, the parish council's accounts are in very good order and we continue to work to achieve higher levels of efficiency and structured governance.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations – the day took a lot of organising and the weather remained on our side for most of the day.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of Wootton Parish Council, Sue Playford and Sue Bolton for their hard work, dedication and support they have given me as chairman.

John Wheeler
June 2012