



Chair's Monthly Newsletter – August 2022

Apologies from me that our last report didn't make it into the Parish Magazine - my fault entirely that it did not reach the editor! However, we do always upload a copy to the Parish Council website for those who don't subscribe to the Parish Magazine, so July's report can be found there.

August has been a busy month, including the good news with the External Auditor signing off our end of year submissions in what is referred to as an 'unqualified' response – a clean bill of health without any comment or guidance.

It is wonderful that the parish has been able to benefit from the National Lottery Communities Fund in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, taking delivery of three commemorative seats, three new noticeboards and an accessible picnic table for the Top Field which is due very shortly! Special thanks to Martin Bailey (Chair of the Sports Association) who has already installed two of the benches. The one by the pond will go in soon, together with two of the noticeboards. The Coronation Hall noticeboard, being made of oak, is really quite heavy – Sarah and I speak from experience having helped offload the delivery van! A contractor will install it early September.

The effects of climate change are a worry for us all. The pond level is very low and we are watching for any appearance of the wrong type of algae. At least there are no fish struggling for survival! The unusually hot weather means that the pond silt continues to dry out more quickly and we are delighted to have negotiated a change in disposal at a landfill site to one which benefits the environment. Working with various parties, including the Environment Agency, and with particular thanks to Gerald Sercombe and his team, it has been possible to agree a much more environmentally responsible approach. The silt will now be spread on a field in Baycombe Lane. The cost of the project finally comes in under budget and delivers a solution which works for everyone – happy days!

A group of local horse-riders have also let us know about a ride they are organising on Saturday 18th September as part of the 'Pass Wide and Slow' campaign to raise awareness of passing horse-riders safely on foot, bike or in a car. Andrew Griffith MP is hoping to come along in support of the event which will start at Gaston Farm, complete a circuit of the village and surrounding lanes and return to Gaston Farm where refreshments will be served along with carrots for the horses. More details to follow, including posters in the parish.

Finally, please do remember that we welcome members of the public to our Council meetings – this month we had four people and a dog join us, so do please come along. There are also vacancies on the Council if you think you might like to be more actively involved in the work of the Parish Council.

Jan Rees, Chair, on behalf of Slindon Parish Council