



Chair's Annual Newsletter May 2023

We said farewell to Barbara who, as you know, was a very long standing council member. We miss her smiles and her quiet and thoughtful approach to issues. We are very pleased to welcome Katie Vanneck-Smith and Tracey Wright who will benefit the Council enormously.

Sarah, our clerk, has worked wonders with the National Lottery and this year has seen the arrival in the parish of five commemorative seats, three new noticeboards, two accessible picnic tables and improved lighting for the village hall. Not bad going!

Some of the play equipment at the Top Field is around 40 years old, and we do need to begin a programme of repair and replacement. Despite Sarah's best efforts, National Lottery have let us know that this sort of funding is not a priority. We have a very limited pot of money and these pieces of kit are very expensive.

Sarah is also looking at financial support to upgrade facilities at the Pavilion. It has needed money to simply bring it up to the standard of a public building but it would be good to make really substantial changes especially as Slindon has such a historic connection to cricket and sport in general.

The floating island is now on the pond to ensure the survival of the ducklings. The National Park and The National Trust are paying for an interpretation board close to the entrance to the woods. This will bring Operation Watershed to a close. POND weed!

November saw some very heavy rainfall and sandbags were needed. Our thanks go to Martin Bailey and his wife Veronique who gave the Parish Council so much help in their distribution. They are no longer provided by District or County Councils, so we have purchased a stock as heavy rainfalls seem set to become the norm.

Road gritting in freezing weather is another responsibility that the Parish Council has to assume. To have roads gritted over a period of 3 or 4 days is very costly. We got away relatively lightly this year but that might not always be the case.

You will all probably know that the planned Grey Route for the A27 is now on hold until 2025. We've attended so many meetings and are a little disappointed that the information on the postponement is rather scant.

My thanks to my fellow councillors, Peter (who we've not quite released into the wilds of Arundel Council business yet), Derek, Patrick, Katie and Tracey. Even without any alcohol, our meetings are relaxed and friendly and always conducted in a positive light, even when opinions differ!

All our thanks to Sarah for the hard work she puts in on our behalf. She really wants the very best for this village and we are very fortunate to have her as our clerk. We're still looking for new members and we'd be very happy to chat to anyone interested.

The Parish Council is the smallest and lowest tier of government and I'll leave you with a quote from Voltaire.

"The best government is a benevolent tyranny tempered by an occasional assassination".