

Flaunden Parish Council

Chairman's Report for the Year 2012 – 2013

This is my tenth annual report.

Having looked back through the Minutes for the year I am once again reminded of the great number of issues and initiatives with which the PC has been involved.

- * Highways is a case where some things are successful & some are not. Although Councillor John Newman sends many emails and has meetings with Herts Highways, some problems take a long time to resolve & some never get resolved. The flooding at the Latimer end of Flaunden Bottom was rectified. Some blocked drains have been cleared, but not the most critical ones. The flattened 30mph sign just past the village Hall has been reinstalled. Some potholes down Flaunden Hill & along Flaunden Bottom have been filled, but there are so many more left unfilled. Indeed it can only be described as dangerous to drive down there.

Once again the PC offers a very big thank you to the Woolletts for putting out the mobile ice warning signs on the approaches to the corner at Hollins Hall in the icy weather.

We also thank Herts County Councillor, Richard Roberts for all the support he gives us with Highways issues.

- * There were 16 planning applications and appeals dealt with by the Parish Council.
- * Your councillors attended an annual Parish Councillors Conference day at The Civic Centre in December.
- * The Parish Paths Partnership grant of £1000 now comes via Groundwork and continues to benefit the walkers and riders round Flaunden. We are very grateful to the P3 Footpath Warden, Bruce Bosher & Pauline, his trusty walking companion,. Thank you Bruce & Pauline for regularly walking all the footpaths & informing us of any problems and for giving us a report at our meetings. Because of this, the footpaths and bridleways have continued to be kept maintained & useable.

This year part of Footpath 16 which goes behind Flaunden Park from Hogpits to Venus Hill was levelled & surfaced with hoggings. The Hogpits end of the path had narrowed due to usage and had become very difficult to walk on. Continuing thanks go to Clayton Rae, the Herts Countryside Access Officer, based at Dacorum who manages the local DBC footpaths and bridleways.

Many good things have happened this year, including:

- * On Sunday 3rd June 116 people in the village celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The PC along with the village groups, namely the Friends of Flaunden Church, The PCC, the WI and the Village Hall Committee put together a Big Diamond Jubilee Lunch for villagers, to celebrate.

Due to inclement weather it had to be held in the Village Hall, not outside, as we'd all hoped! But the hall looked absolutely superb decked out in red, white & blue.

There was a splendid hog roast and buffet for the lunch, there was a diamond jubilee cake with the top decoration designed by one of Flaunden's children, all children under 16 on the day were presented with Jubilee coins, a toast was made to the Queen, and there was a royal quiz to answer.

There were so many people who helped with this event I can't possibly name them all, but I'd like to give them all a huge thank you. From the team that came down early that morning to the

village hall & set the tables, put bunting out, blew up balloons, hung up Dita's wonderful banner over the entrance to the car park, to the team that cleared up afterwards and the people who brought food along for the buffet. Thank you all so much.

I would just like to mention a few by name. Anna Hutton – North & Andrea Norman organised the splendid lunch, Brent Rogers was Master of Ceremonies, Tamar Duncan, Kristian Imroth, Jonty Bier-Allen and Florence Copp read the special Jubilee Prayer, Betty MacLeod baked the jubilee cake and Emma Savage won the competition to design the top of the Jubilee cake, Ev Leach made the beautiful, patriotic table decorations, Margaret Evans personalised jubilee coin sleeves and Ev Leach & Max Evans took the official photographs. Without all this help this event wouldn't have been the great success that it was. A truly huge thank you everyone.

- * On 27th June two Diamond Jubilee Oak saplings, grown from acorns from the Royal Estates, were planted in the village by one of Flaunden's youngest residents, Mary Savage & one of Flaunden's oldest residents Madge Stevenson. One along Flaunden Lane & one behind the playground at the Village Hall. Sadly, a couple of days later the one along Flaunden Lane had been vandalised & the one in the playing field stolen. The vandalised one was repotted & cared for by Ev and is due to be replanted at the village hall.
- * On 26th August at the Flower Festival Songs of Praise in church the Diamond Jubilee cushions, sewn by villagers were dedicated.
- * Young hawthorn saplings were planted in the Autumn to create a new hedge separating the football field from the car park at the Village hall. This was to protect the new fence erected to replace the broken one and make a safer & better looking barrier between car park & football field. Every sapling is showing signs of new growth & we thank Dick Chitty for his digging, planting & continual maintaining of the hedge.
- * The PC again sponsored a craft table at the annual Christmas Craft Fayre in December for 30+ children who enjoyed making Christmas table decorations. Thanks to everyone who helped.
- * The Flaunden Flyer with the next issue will be ten years old and is as strong as ever. The team deserve continued congratulations. The advertisers should also be thanked, as the Flyer has never needed a Parish Council subsidy. Moreover, funded out of the profits, The Flyer team organised another enjoyable and well attended pancake race on 9th February and for the second year running the races had to be in the hall because of the rain, but it was still great fun for everyone. The children ran and tossed and the adults just tossed their pancakes, plus everyone enjoyed the bonus of lovely pancakes at the end. Well done Flyer Team.
- * The popular annual litter blitz on 16th March, organised by Councillor Jill Saunders again, successfully kept the lanes into Flaunden looking good. Thanks to Dacorum's Clean Safe & Green Team for providing litter pickers, bags & gloves. Despite starting off in the rain 16 villagers wore the Flaunden PC high visibility jackets and collected 4 bags of recyclable rubbish and 16 other black bags. They deserve a big thank you. & thank you again to Alvin Michael at the Bricklayers Arms for treating all the "pickers" to their "traditional" & very welcome winter warmer afterwards.
- * 50 children & 42 adults took part in the annual Easter egg treasure hunt on Easter Saturday, 30th March. After completing the treasure hunt sheets the families returned to the hall for well earned refreshments and the children of course enjoyed their chocolate eggs and the craft activities provided for them. Thanks to Ken and his volunteers for decorating the hall so beautifully and to Daph and her volunteers for providing the lovely refreshments.
- * Our own Village Warden, Colin Gurney, continues to deliver an excellent job keeping the Village itself looking good, by litter picking, cleaning road signs, removing debris, clearing the

areas around the village gates and digging out the grips which run into the ditches. Thank you Colin we all appreciate your efforts and are all so pleased you are willing to continue to be our village warden.

Thank you also to the villagers who regularly pick up rubbish as they pass. It makes a big difference to our village.

- * PC Simon Cooper left and has been replaced by PC Ashley Furbey. He works with PCSO Bardhyll Agallili as our police community support. We are always grateful to the police for attending our meetings when they can and for giving updates on any incidences of local crimes. We are also grateful to the neighbourhood watch co-ordinators who inform us of local issues.
- * The PC was very sad to receive news of the clerk's resignation in June last year. Ken Lousvet has been Flaunden's Parish Clerk for over 12 years. He offered to remain in post until a replacement could be found and for this we were extremely grateful. Finding someone to take over has proved to be no easy task & indeed impossible. Indeed it wasn't till March this year when the job was divided into 3 separate parts, a Clerk, a Secretary and a Finance Officer that we managed to tempt some volunteers! & so, we now have Erik Vischer as Clerk, Linda Inchenko as Secretary and Jack Debnam as Finance Officer. The Parish Council welcomes them and looks forward to them joining the team. Thank you.

Many thanks to those of you who have contributed to Ken's leaving gift. A public presentation will be made in September to which you will all be invited.

- * I'm very fortunate to have the same councillors in office again this year. Sheila Wade for the Community. Thank you for getting involved with the people of Flaunden and for being a good neighbour.

Jill Saunders whose role is the environment. Thank you for your continued care and knowledge of our village environment, particularly for organising the litter blitz and communicating with Clayton Rae on our behalf to keep the footpaths & bridleways clear and safe.

John Newman for Highways. Thank you for your persistence in your dealings with Highways and the attention you give to the issues that arise.

Pam Esom for Planning. Thank you for your diligence and the comprehensive responses for all planning applications, for attending the annual planning seminar and for attending and representing Flaunden at Dacorum Development Control meetings.

Thank you all, for the care and time you take to support the people of Flaunden. Thank you team.

I thank Herts County Councillor Richard Roberts Dacorum councillors, Jack Organ, Gill Chapman and Gbola Adeleke for their support of Flaunden's needs.

I also thank Daphne Lousvet and all the willing helpers for continuing to provide and serve the refreshments at our meetings.

And finally I thank Ken Lousvet, the tireless, diligent Parish Clerk, who has kept us all advised and up to date with the local issues and has given us all support in our roles. We have all appreciated his kind support and encouragement and we wish him all the best for his rest & retirement!

So we enter the new PC year with at least a handful of tasks still to resolve. We have new and also familiar events to look forward to.

Flaunden is lucky to have so many talented people who give their time willingly for the benefit of us all, including Dave Arnold who was the worthy recipient of the Peter Scribens silver salver last year for his outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of the village for many years.

Each year we are grateful for the ease with which we are able to choose the next worthy recipient.
Thank you to everyone in Flaunden who helps to make our village the special place that it is.
Thank you.

Vivienne