

Chairman's Report 2011

ANZAC Service

Carrying on a tradition that began in 2002 on 25th April we had another very successful ANZAC Day service in the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery. More than 60 people attended the 6.30am service including Australians who are in the UK for various reasons. After the service the piper, formerly of the Black Watch Pipe Band led the procession to the village hall for a gunfire breakfast. Evelyn Read and her team of helpers had prepared a full English Breakfast for an unknown number of diners- in the event 55 people sat down to eat.

Royal Wedding Tea Party

Last month the Parish Council organised a village tea party to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton having delivered invitations to every household in Codford. Councillors and helpers took the part of palace servants; villagers were encouraged to dress as wedding guests, with children coming as princesses, bridesmaids or pageboys if they wished. Thanks to our roving photographer Bridget Lorrimer they were able to have photographs taken with the happy couple who were flanked by beautiful flower arrangements provided by J Claypoole. Brian Marshall had designed and made lovely table centres of a coach and horses and hearts with William & Kate's photos in the middle. The miracle of Codford was that we had tables laden with delicious food and everyone who came along had a wonderful time.

The Parish Council had also provided free mugs for all the children under 16 and villagers who wanted to buy a souvenir were able to purchase them at cost price.

Cherry Orchard Houses

Wiltshire Rural Housing Association have built 4 x 2 bedroom & 3 x 3 bedroom affordable rented homes for local people, these were opened on 18th November. We have been very fortunate that we have 16 energy saving houses built to a high standard by WRHA in the past 3 years reserved for people with local connections.

Community Flood Plan

Three Parish councillors and the clerk have prepared a comprehensive community flood plan in the past year. They have worked with the Environment Agency to ensure that villagers within the flood plain have been identified and are kept informed of developments. At the beginning of this year and later at the village fair the EA have a stand to raise awareness and answer questions. The EA brochure 'Living On The Edge' will be circulated to owners of properties along the Chitterne Brook in the coming months. The Wiltshire Council are providing Gel Sacs at a competitive price through the Parish Council to householders who are at risk of flooding and Louis has been taking orders..

New Road Planning

Our new shop is now being built and planning permission has been granted for additional parking on land on the other side of New Road. We are very fortunate in having such a successful business with Brendan, John & Rachael Smith at the helm and look forward to a new era with a much larger range of goods to support a sustainable community.

Reduction Street Lighting

Louis and I attended the meeting putting forward the proposal and Codford Parish Council was the first to consult villagers and to respond, we were also the first village where the reduction of unnecessary street lighting was implemented.

BT Infinity Survey

In the move for faster broadband parish councillors aided BJ Abbott & David Shaw canvassed every household. Our response was good but the survey area covered other villages around and the total number supporting did not reach the numbers necessary for us to be considered at this time.

Honorary Freeman

Councils are now able to recognise outstanding community service over a long period from individuals within the village. It was felt that Maurice Cole & Kate Forbes were obvious choices. Maurice was presented with a scroll at a Ploughman's lunch & councillors and friends delivered Kate's scroll at her birthday meal.

Railings Chitterne Brook

The Community Payback team cleaned the railings in the High Street, on the Chitterne Rd & at New Rd Bridges in November.

War Memorial Trust

Codford Parish Council now have a life membership with The War Memorial Trust.

Grit Bins

We requested 4 more bins but as the Audit response county wide was in excess of allotted budget Codford only managed to procure 2 more bins High St /St Peters Church & Chitterne Rd/New Rd junction. We will ask for the other 2 bins this year if the opportunity arises.

Selwood Chairman contact

I met the Chairman of Selwood Housing at the WRHA opening in November. In conversation he said if we had problems he could be approached personally. We have had to make contact on a couple of occasions since then and the outcomes have been satisfactory.

PAYE Clerk

We have now registered for PAYE as an employer for our clerk.

Mike Cotterills legacy

As soon as the new shop is opened Brendan is going to let the Parish Council have a special notice board for Council Business only. This will be funded by the £1,000 legacy left to the Codford Parish council by Major Mike Cotterill.

Bookers card

We now have our own Cash and Carry card from Bookers in Salisbury to allow us to buy discounted items for village events.

Thanks

I would like to thank all the councillors for their support and their hard work in the past year and their spouses and relations who came along to serve and clear up after the tea party. Comments have been made about how smart you all in your black & white outfits. This year Councillors have delivered surveys ensuring that every house in the village was invited to the tea party, could order commemorative mugs' commented on the light reduction proposals & had the opportunity to have a say in the Vote For Infinity campaign.

To Tom and Colin for organising the cleaning of the Codford Badge so effectively as well as working with Don & Louis to prepare an effective Flood Plan for the Village.

Thanks to everyone who provided food and supported our Royal Event.

Special mention of certain individuals who have made significant contributions to community life

Brian Marshall with his creative genius in designing the invitations, posters & centre pieces for the Royal Wedding Celebrations; J Claypoole for her beautiful flowers & Bridget Lorrimer for recording the event for posterity so thoroughly.

Evelyn Read and everyone involved in the ANZAC Breakfast for getting up before dawn and providing such a fantastic meal without any idea of how many they were catering for.

Frank West who continues in his work to keep the village spick & span

And finally, to the person who works hardest to ensure that Codford business runs smoothly and masterminds the administration of the Council, a very big thank you to Louis, our esteemed clerk.