

Parish Council Chairman's Overview of the Council Year

22/05/23 to 13/05/24

Buckland & Chipping Parish Council has had another busy year. Undoubtedly the highlight was the Harvest Fayre Summer Event which took place in September in Chipping. It was a great success and well attended. Though the weather was too hot for the planned dog show and tug of war, which unfortunately had to be cancelled, the marquee in the field, the band, the craft stalls and the food vendors all helped to make the event a memorable one.

The inaugural Parish Pimms Evening took place in Buckland last July. There was a good turnout and some funds were raised for the Harvest Fayre. Then in August, following the monthly ramble, there was a village fund raising event for Breast Cancer Now.

Last November's Bonfire and Fireworks event was lots of fun. It was great to see so many parishioners there enjoying the fine bonfire and the impressive fireworks as well as the traditional barbecue. We also had a peaceful Remembrance Day Ceremony in St Andrew's Church, which gave everyone who came some welcome moments for reflection. And, in the run up to Christmas, the lovely annual Carols by Candlelight service also took place here in St Andrew's.

Plans have been made to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The Buckland bonfire will be lit as part of the national event. Moreover, courtesy fish and chips are being organised for ticket-holders - if you haven't already done so, please contact Debbie Thompson before 24th May if you would like a free ticket for this village celebration.

The Parish Council has also been hard at work behind the scenes. Our newly appointed Parish Clerk, Caroline Scott, has been making a big difference, including through her overhaul of a lot of the Council operations and policy documents. She has also worked hard to bring the accounts system up-to-date. The Buckland & Chipping Parish Council website is now a much better resource for everyone to use.

During this Council Year we have produced the usual six (now more colourful) newsletters which have been delivered to all the households in the Parish. Since June last year we have been working closely with our new contact at the Churches Conservation Trust. The Parish Council has appointed a new contractor to cut the grass in Buckland and Chipping and also a new contractor to clean the bus shelters and telephone boxes. And you may have noticed that the Chipping Milestone, which was entirely overgrown, has been restored.

Currently we are fortunate to have the full cohort of six Parish Councillors. We continue to be guided by the experience and expertise of Jeff Kenyon and Penny Newman. Debbie Thompson has had her first full year on the Parish Council and Simon Dela-Nougerede joined us six months ago. I have been grateful to Rob Arkle for all of his work as Vice-Chair. My warm thanks to all of my fellow Councillors, especially for the valuable extra time you have given to making our recently introduced pre-meetings so worthwhile. A particular achievement for everyone on the Parish Council to be proud of this year is that no public meeting has lasted longer than 2 hours!

A big thank you to our Clerk and to all the councillors for their committed work throughout the year.

Helen Dauris.

