

Annual Report 2020-2021

The past year has been very testing for all of us and whilst I do not need to remind everybody of this, I would like to mention some of the positives that we all have experienced.

Firstly the community came together during the first lockdown and I would like to thank the Covid Response Group for all their hard work in assisting numerous village residents with tasks such as shopping, collecting prescriptions etc.

In December we also experienced floods in the village and once again we all pulled together, such as Central Beds Council, the Environment agency, Parish Council and many other people including the Covid Response Group. This is one of the many positive aspects of living in a small community, people come together and help each other and hopefully this will carry on in the future.

During the whole year, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for continuing all their hard work in spite of the lockdown and resolving issues such as highways and maintenance problems and keeping eyes on any other items that needed investigating or resolving where. Improvement works have taken place in the Churchyard, Cemetery, The Pound the Trap amongst many.

I cannot miss thanking all of the key workers amongst us whatever profession they work in, as without them all things would have been less bearable as well as all thanks to those now rolling out the vaccine which will hopefully lead to better times ahead.

Reflecting back, we have to remember the 75th Anniversary of VE and VJ day which whilst the celebrations were scaled down due to the pandemic were still significant dates we managed to celebrate. We also took part in the Clap for the NHS staff as well as Key workers and thanks to those who took part or played music as well to enhance the experience.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in crime in the village over the past weeks and whilst this is extremely worrying please ensure all crimes are reported to the Police and the Parish Council will continue to raise concerns with the Local Policing Unit. Please be aware that there are Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May so please use this time to raise your concerns and vote for the candidate most likely to support the village fight against crime. A village Neighbourhood Watch scheme is in its infancy and I would encourage any of you interested to join.

I would like to wish you all well and look forward to a better year for all of us.

Ian Smith

Chair of Blunham Parish Council