

**MINUTES OF TANWORTH-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

On Wednesday 11th April in Tanworth Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: There were approximately 27 members of the public and Councillors present together with Julie White the Clerk and Sue Bauckham, clerical assistant who took the minutes

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Ross, Councillor Keogh, Councillor Chaudry, District Councillor Atkinson, Mr & Mrs Montagu-Williams and Mr King.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2017

The minutes of the previous Parish Assembly were circulated. It was proposed by Councillor Oakley and seconded by Mrs Buckley that they were a true and accurate record. Councillor Willmott signed the minutes.

3. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Sergeant Bob Shaw from the Neighbourhood team came to the meeting and delivered a report from Sue Blundell our PC from the local neighbourhood team.

Restructure of SNT: The whole of SNT in Warwickshire has been reviewed. It is proposed that the School PCSO's will no longer operate. As a result of this review Alcester South and Alcester North have been accessed as only needing two dedicated PCSO's each with an additional PCSO floating between the two teams. PCSO Gary Johnson-Jones and PCSO Aadila Hussain will be the main point of contact for Alcester North with PCSO Tom Bagg being a point of contact in their absence. PC Sue Blundell remains the officer for the area.

Weekly Newsletter: I am not providing any statistics as these take time to produce and I know that you feel the team's time is best spent out on patrol. In addition up to date information is provided by our newsletter which is produced by our volunteer Dave Malin who gives up his Sunday morning to come and produce the newsletter for both the South and North SNT's. If you have signed up to the Community Message Service you will automatically receive the reports. Alternatively, you can access them on the Alcester North Website. These provide up to date details of incidents on your area. I have brought copies of the recent reports for you review if you have not seen them before. If you do not receive the newsletter and would like assistance in signing up then please contact a member of the team who can arrange to pop around and help.

Fly tipping: There has been a high level of fly tipping experienced in the area and we would encourage any information being rang in if you witness this, in particular VRM's and descriptions of persons responsible.

Community Forum: The current priorities are Patrols to deter and deal with ASB in Studley Village, Patrols to deter and deal with ASB and fly tipping in Earlswood and Tanworth and finally Patrols to deter burglary and vehicle crime offences. If you have any suggestions for the next round of voting please contact the team before 24th May 2018 for these to be added to the on line vote for June.

Crime Prevention Advice and Property Marking: If you would like a visit from the team then you can call and leave a message on 01789 444816 or e-mail on alcesternorth.snt@warwickshire.police.uk and a member of the team will contact you to discuss your requirements and arrange a suitable time to attend and meet with you.

Mobile Technology: Officers have been issued with Mobile phones and laptop computers to give them the ability to stay out on patrol in their vehicles rather than returning to police stations. Body Cameras have also been rolled out which are proving very useful in securing early evidence when officers attend incidents.

News: In February 2018 two Range Rovers were stolen from the Tanworth area in one night. These were subsequently recovered by German Police Officers who found them on the back of a low loader in Germany. During a burglary in Morton Bagot in March 2018 3 high valued vehicles were stolen and all recovered that same day. Arrests have subsequently been made and a male charged with the burglary.

Sergeant Shaw then invited questions from the floor these included questions on cross border co-operation especially with the West Midlands force. He replied by saying that they work well with West Mercia, have cross border meetings, What's App groups however this doesn't happen with West Midlands at the Neighbourhood level. Sergeant Shaw then went on to report that vehicle crime had increased in Warwickshire, especially keyless thefts. He said however the increased trend does seem to be decreasing. He then went on to suggest using the RFID bags to keep keys in as this will block signals, other suggestions from the floor were to use the microwave or the fridge.

4. A PRESENTATION FROM CSW RESILIENCE TEAM

Mr Sam Collins, Senior Resilience Officer gave a short presentation on Planning, Preparing and Responding to Emergencies. He ended his talk with the offer that if any community groups wished to know more about personal resilience then they can request an officer to come and talk to them. A question was then asked about a practice exercise of emergency plans. Mr Collins answered that CSW practice all their plans and would encourage a small local exercise.

5. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman read out the following report:

Good evening and welcome to the Tanworth in Arden Annual Parish Assembly

My name is Roy Willmott and I am the chairman of the Parish Council. I have been chairman since 2003 so I am now just starting my 16th year in the role. The Parish Council is made up of 12 elected Parish Councillors who are all volunteers. All of the Parish Councillors are concerned about the wellbeing of the Parish and have the best interests at heart of Tanworth in Arden, Earlswood, Forshaw Heath, Aspley Heath and Danzey Green. We are very pleased to have recently co-opted 2 new councillors on to the Parish Council – Leila Chaudry and Dave Burgess.

Please let the parish office know if you have any issues so that we can try to address these concerns. Contact details for the Parish Councillors are published in the parish magazine each month and are also on our website. All of our Parish Councillors' work on an entirely voluntary basis and attend meetings twice a month.

I would also like to thank our District Councillor George Atkinson and County Councillor John Horner for all of their support over the last year.

The precept is set this year is £50,000. This is used for the upkeep and general running of the parish. We have responsibility for street lighting, maintaining the parks and play areas, consulting on planning issues, staff costs, awarding grants to local associations and being involved and supporting local issues. The Parish Council employs four part time staff, a Clerk, assistant and two park keepers.

The streetlights or Footway lighting as we have here, lighting roads where people walk, are maintained by a contract awarded to Warwickshire County Council. We wish to thank parishioners reporting to us lights that are not working. You can now use the new website to do this as well.

In this last year, the Parish Council has made further improvements to Earlswood Leisure Park by fencing in the play area so that dogs are kept out, making it safer for the children to play. We undertake a yearly safety check of all the park equipment as well as weekly monitoring by the park keepers.

We continue to maintain and regularly check the 5 defibrillators around the parish we had to replace the one at Tanworth Village Hall this year as it had failed. We're happy to report that none have had to be used, long may that continue.

The Parish Council made the decision that the website needed updating the easiest way to do this was to have a new one made. The website is only just live but I would encourage you to visit the site and hopefully you'll find it much easier to navigate. There will be more information added as time goes on, Julie and Sue ask for you to bear with them as they get to grips with managing the site

The Parish Office is running smoothly, we try to always have the office open on weekdays between 10.00am to 12.00 noon and Julie and Sue are always pleased to receive visitors.

This year the Parish council has awarded grants to Earlswood Museum, Tanworth Cricket Club and have agreed a donation to Tanworth Village Hall dependent on their successful bid to the Arts Council.

An update on the NDP will follow and priorities for The Parish Council in a moment, but on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Saunders and Jonathan Ashcroft for all of the hard work that they have put in to producing the NDP consultation paper.

Finally, on behalf of all the councillors I would like to thank Julie and Sue who work hard in the Parish Office. Also thanks to John and Neil for all their hard work in the park.

Thank you -- any questions?
None were raised.

6. TO RECEIVE A STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31/3/18

Councillor Willmott presented the accounts for the year and explained about the Grants and Donations Fund and the quarterly donation to the Church. The accounts were displayed for people to view. There were no questions.

7. ELECTORS QUESTIONS

None were raised

8. UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Councillor Willmott told the meeting that the NDP consultation documents will soon be received by the residents in the parish. Several questions and points were then raised these being dates of the Open days and their format. This was answered by the Clerk Open days 5th May at Earlswood village hall and 14th May at Tanworth Village Hall. The format of the open days will include a short presentation, maps and information to view and time to ask questions. Councillor Saunders and Jonathon Ashcroft who have lead on the NDP will be at the open days. Councillor Cunningham then explained the process of the NDP. Mrs Buckley then asked for the dates to be advertised widely around the parish, along with the resident's association meetings that will follow on. Councillor Oakley then expressed gratitude for the team who have put together this consultation and asked all those present to encourage others to answer the questionnaire. A question was asked as to how the Parish council meetings will differ from those of the Residents Associations. Mrs Buckley replied that these were follow on meetings.

9. Report from County Councillor Horner followed by short Q & A session

The County Councillor started his report by firstly talking about identifying development sites for the NDP. As Arden is in the Greenbelt all that can mainly happen is limited infill or the use of brownfield sites. The only new building allowed in the Greenbelt would be affordable housing. This in itself can be a problem as land has to be sold at a price below market value, so this becomes a challenge. However this is all subject to an Act of Parliament which can be changed.

The rest of his report followed.

Arden Division of Warwickshire County Council was created on May 4, 2017. I was elected with a large majority, taking 83% of the popular vote. Given such a strong showing the weight of expectation on me personally has been high.

We are lucky to live in a wealthy part of a wealthy county. Warwickshire is ranked in the top five of 143 local authority areas in the country for sustainability and in the top 5 most equal places for wellbeing. Although good news this has the downside of meaning that we are net contributors to the District, the County and nationally and due to Government savings aspirations we have had the central government revenue support grant reduced each year since 2010 and we lose it altogether next year. As a result the Council has had to raise the maximum cash it can from tax increases and this year tax has been increase by 3% for general activities and an additional 2% to fund social care for all ages. However Arden Division's wealth means that we tend to be at the back of the queue for Council support services and I have been exploring with officers ways of enabling Parish Councils to fund services specifically for the benefit of their residents. Although my suggestions were initially met with strong resistance I have meetings scheduled with the Police over additional uniformed presence in the Division, the Chief Constable is carrying out a review of public funded average speed cameras of the kind on trial in Hockley Heath. I am continuing pressure on County Council officers over the lack of double and single yellow line enforcement in villages and I am pleased to report that the Chief Constable has finally responded to my request for additional traffic enforcement and he has increased the number of mobile units this year.

We have held four Arden Parish Chairs and Clerks meetings where matters concerning Parishes are discussed. Most recently we met with Redditch BC and Worcestershire CC to explore ways of alleviating the traffic that floods through Arden every morning and evening on its way to Leamington Spa and M40 Jct15. There is no statutory duty on areas building houses to mitigate the effect of the developments outside a small area.

Warwickshire say they have no funds and I am in active discussion with officers about including the A3400 and A4189 to join the A435 on central government's designated Major Road Network. If included it might mean some funding is released for traffic mitigation on our main roads.

The Public Health department has continued its initiative of Dementia Awareness and has initiated a mental health awareness programme. I was surprised to learn that suicide in the leading cause of death for males between the ages of 18 and 25 and 26 and 40. Trading Standards have focused on Internet crime and phone and mail scams while also having success prosecuting contraband cigarettes sales and other fraudulent trading activities.

The bad weather over this winter has taken its toll on the roads with crews having to unblock drains and fill potholes. We carried out a total of 94 gritting runs compared to an average winter needing 55 runs. I am pleased to see that the puffin crossing at Henley High School is now working and brighter lights will be installed in the lights on Henley High Street this summer.

Communities Grants were awarded to Henley Library, the Hub, Henley Guildhall Trust, Wootton Wawen landscaping and Earlswood Village Hall.

A question was raised on Council Infrastructure Levy, County Councillor Horner replied that this is only on new housing. Councillor Oakley then raised concerns about the fire service and ambulance service. County Councillor Horner suggested that he looks at the West Midlands Trust ambulance Service annual report and makes comments of his concerns on that. He also reported that there is no reduction of Fire stations in Warwickshire.

10. Report from District Councillor Atkinson

As District Councillor Atkinson was unable to attend the meeting the Chairman told people the report will be on the minutes but also there were copies to take.

In my occupation I had a chairman who believed that ' nothing is more constant than change '.

We have certainly experienced that in the management of Local Government by the NPPF, Core Strategy, Supplementary Planning Documents, Parliamentary Boundary Changes, Community Infrastructure Levy and many others, however, not all change is acceptable for reason needs to prevail.

Welcome change exists for business and the economy for our District compared with a few years ago, has had

Growth in its economy since the recession at 46.3% which is the highest increase across all local authorities is 3 times higher than the national average and double the rate in the 6 years prior to 2009.

The three strongest industries are automotive, up 526% since 2009, then tourism with an income of £385 million supporting up to 9,400 jobs. Certainly a good economic background. However we have concerns.

The Boundary Commission have accepted the principle we remain in Stratford's Parliamentary Constituency and not be transferred to Solihull, however, the recommendation has to be ratified which I hope occurs because I do not believe our identity is other than with Stratford on Avon.

The introduction of a charge on certain housing development by the Community Infrastructure Levy has considerable value for Parish Councils with market housing having planning permission from 1st. February this year in that those Parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan will benefit by receiving 25% of the charge but those without it is down to 15%. The money can be spent upon a variety of local needs within a 5 year allocation term. This is a benefit even for our Ward where new house building will not be numerous, some 60 parish council members attended courses held by the District Council but those who did not have the benefit of the Districts website detail which has been sent to our Parish Clerk.

Birmingham has considerable housing demands and a report entitled Greater Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market Area Study followed a Birmingham Plan which identified a shortfall in housing needs of about 38,000 dwellings, and for the Black Country the shortfall was up to 22,000 dwellings. Our Ward and particularly Earlswood was identified as a possible location to take some of the need, however, the exercise is not a policy document and at best some brain storming exercise. Being in the Green Belt will inhibit any development threat for the District Council confirm the report in no way heralds a major new development in the district and plays no part in satisfying Birmingham's projected needs. We have to be on top of the threat and that I will do because whilst the report is not any policy whatsoever, we need to be on guard.

11. Reports from Local Residents' Associations

Mrs Buckley on behalf of Earlswood & Forshaw Heath Resident's association said that most points had been covered in the meeting and there were copies of the report to take. The reports for both Resident's Associations are appended to these minutes.

12. Reports from Representatives of Local Groups

Reports were submitted from the following organisations and are appended to the minutes:

Earlswood Village Hall
 Tanworth Village Hall
 Neighbourhood Watch
 Tanworth in Arden WI
 Whitehead Almshouse Trust
 Earlswood Common Allotment Association

14. Any Other Business

None

The Chair was thanked and the meeting concluded at 9.15pm

Signed by the Chairman..... Date.....



RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Chairman/Secretary:
Mrs Jenny Buckley
101 Malthouse Lane
Earlswood
Warwickshire B94 5RZ
01564 703695.

Vice-chairman
Mr. Ewen Cunningham
Copperfield, Umberslade Rd.
Earlswood
Warwickshire B94 5QA
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Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

Our membership remains stable at 100 households approx.

Our accounts are available at any time on request. Our expenses are mainly printing of the newsletter and other material, which we hope will be covered by the membership fees. There is little movement in our financial state partly because we have not raised any money from social events in the last few years. Other groups are doing a very good job in that quarter.

We are still involved in organising the lakes clean ups, informing and supporting residents of planning issues, attending various meetings, in order to have current information to pass on, and general involvement in the varied issues that arise in our "patch".

As the lakes are a large part of our area we do spend much of our time dealing with the problems that such an attraction brings, anti-social behaviour, parking and road traffic concerns amongst others. As you will know there has been a lot of work at the lakes and patience has been required from residents regarding inconvenience from these works. The project manager has been helpful in addressing any issues arising from the work. The new fencing at the bottom of Malthouse Lane, erected by CRT at our request following the works, is very smart and we have thanked them for this. Unfortunately, it makes the remaining fence, it's only just remaining, look even worse. We have asked W. County Council to replace this in the past with no luck. Also, the rubbish accumulated there is the responsibility of WCC. Streetscene have refused to clear it out and, for now, thanks to CRT taking some of the rubbish I put to the front away, it isn't urgent, but the argument will go on with WCC Highways to accept their responsibilities for this unsightly patch.

Fly tipping is now a major issue across our district. We believe that this could be addressed in part by making recycling of garden and other waste easier. We really do need a recycling centre which is closer than a round trip of 32 miles.

The intention to close off the car parking area in Valley Rd. for a trial period with a view to closing it off permanently, has for now been shelved. It was a police recommendation, but we have seen a reduction of fly tipping at this particular place since the suggestion of closing it off was circulated. We will monitor it closely over the next few months before revisiting the decision.

We asked Canal and River Trust to take it over as they have little parking of their own to offer fishermen. They are adamant that they will not take responsibility for it which is disappointing.

We did get a great response to our request for votes at the Community Forum online voting and this secured extra police patrols for the following 3 months. Well done to residents for this.

We also canvassed for residents to vote on the petition to stop Solihull police station closing.

Our MP also sent his protest to the W. Mids. Police and Crime Commissioner. Unbelievably the decision to close the Station has been made against all the opposition from all parties. Our nearest police stations will be Alcester and Leamington once this closure takes place.

Planning considerations also take up our time. We are surrounded by councils desperate to build, or who are already building. Our infrastructure is already creaking so we are all concerned and watchful. The latest report from Birmingham has raised some alarm.

It is a report outlining Birmingham's intentions to accommodate their overspill housing developments in neighbouring boroughs. We will continue to consult with SDC regarding any movement from them to "give away" some of our greenbelt land.

Solihull MBC is also looking for land. They are building developments right on our boundaries and we are already concerned about the impact of these developments on our roads. County Cllr. Horner has been guiding us here and has been instrumental in arranging meetings with Redditch, which has taken place, and SMBC, for which we don't yet have a date - they are seemingly not so keen to meet us.

Of course the Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion and we are all grateful to those who have stuck with this onerous task. It is desperately needed. We hope that all residents take this opportunity seriously and complete the consultation document when it arrives through the door.

Along with the intended public meetings being held by the PC we will hold our own public meeting for residents. We intend this to be on Monday evening from 8.00pm on 21st. May in Earlswood village Hall.

We will hold our AGM in early October, but our usual Monday evening slot is difficult as the Village Hall is booked. We will let you know the exact date in the newsletter. We had the Police and Crime Commissioner at our last AGM and residents spoke freely regarding their concerns with rising crime and policing levels.

We have two new committee members since last year, Eva Evans and Joanna Wilday.

Eva has kindly taken over as Membership Secretary and Jo is gradually taking on the job of getting the newsletters out to our deliverers. Ewen gets the earache from me about planning issues and I'm grateful to him for his invaluable help. We work together well in the main although I know he is shouting when he opens yet another email from me.

We are of course looking for new committee members, we really do need a few more on the committee. Sarah Adams is doing a great job with the website and we do try to keep this as current as we can. Cheryl has safely guided us through the transition to online banking and associated matters.

I, as chairman, am extremely grateful to all those on the committee.

We are also grateful to those local businesses who sponsor us through planting up our flower tubs.

As Ambleside closed down Earlswood Nurseries very kindly agreed to take over. A resident, Rob Parlett, undertook the "refurbishment" of the planters in the village and he has made a wonderful job of it. They look very smart thanks to Rob and his wife Andrea who is a master with a jigsaw I understand.

Our newsletter deliverers are invaluable as are the lakes volunteers, grateful thanks to all of those.

We also thank the Parish Council and Julie and Sue for their support.

Please come to our AGM if you can, it's another chance to have your voice heard, air issues and find out some facts.

We welcome people getting in touch whether it's to complain, tell us about a problem or pass on info. That's why we are here, to support residents and we love feedback. I'm pleased to say that we are getting more feedback than ever.

Best wishes to you all from us,

Jenny

E&FHRA

Report to 2018 Parish Assembly from Tanworth Residents and Neighbourhood Watch Association

The Chairman Tom Ross writes:

Our Association continues to support work that is being undertaken on the community-led **Neighbourhood Development Plan**. Its AGM in November heard a progress report from the Steering Group's joint chairmen, Mike Saunders and Jonathan Ashcroft. Two of the sites proposed for affordable housing, at **Butts Lane** in the village and at **Wood End Station**, are likely to be highly contentious.

Our Association made successful representations against initial proposals from the **Boundary Commission for England and Wales** that from 2020 the existing Stratford on Avon parliamentary constituency should be split and Tanworth should join Shirley and parts of Solihull in a new parliamentary constituency.

With the help of County Councillor John Horner our Association is co-ordinating attempts by residents on Broad Lane to make the stopping places for school buses safer. There are major concerns about the speed and volume of traffic at peak times. A number of physical proposals are being considered to see if any are practical and affordable. Parking and **general congestion** in the village centre also remains a problem.

In conjunction with the Parish Council our Association tried and failed to secure the site of the former lockup garages between the Bellfield and Doctor's Close as the location of a new **children's playground** in the village for younger children - to be paid for, in part, by the proposed housing development at Cank Farm.

The help of the District Council was sought as an honest broker. Frustratingly, the Council failed to reveal that it was not really a disinterested party: it stood to gain 50% of the proceeds of the sale by Orbit Housing.

Our volunteers deliver our newsletters to 600 households in the part of the parish south of the M42. It is again gratifying to note that the number of households paying their annual £3 membership subscription continues to rise.

2018 was the seventh year of our new website at www.tanworthresidents.org.uk.

Tanworth Residents Association thanks the Parish Council for its continuing help and support through the year and looks forward to continued co-operation with it and other Residents Associations over planning matters and other issues of mutual concern.

ends 24.3.18

EARLSWOOD VILLAGE HALL 2017/18

The last year has been a very busy one and our refurbishment almost completed. The hall has been decorated and the floor has been sanded, cleaned and stained to its former glory! The badminton court has been painted in before the floor was stained so no more scuffed tape to the delight of the badminton players.

The lighting has been updated to meet required standards and a hearing loop has also been put in thanks to the Christadelphians.

The next major expenditure will be new chairs, hopefully more comfortable as we hope to get padded seats. These obviously will be much more expensive than the plastic ones but we hope that the main users of the hall will contribute towards the cost.

The hall is very popular as a venue with a number of dance groups, as well as parties and various functions. The 'flicks in the sticks' is going from strength to strength with some very popular films being shown. Last month approximately 70 people attended and we have to thank David and Fiona Burgess for their excellent organisation, also thanks to Ewen Cunningham for taking charge of the technical side.

The hall is well used at the moment by a variety of groups and activities and it is very difficult to find a vacant slot to fit casual bookings in.

We have been lucky enough to recruit three new committee members but will always welcome new volunteers. It is essential to have a large band of helpers when we have social events especially setting up the hall for functions.

We have to thank our treasurer Fiona Burgess for handling our finances so efficiently so that we can achieve a well equipped and smart venue for the benefit of the community.

We also thank the parish council for the grants over the past few years which has helped us achieve these improvements. Times were difficult when we had to pay a substantial amount of money towards the new extension of the Museum a few years ago and this delayed the refurbishment of many of the essential facilities such as the toilets, but we did eventually achieve these improvements and they were very much appreciated by the users of the hall!

The committee will continue to keep the hall in good order, which is difficult with such an old building. We hope that we can continue to deal with any problems when they arise and rely on the community to support our fund raising activities to fund any renovations needed.

Jean Keogh

Neighbourhood Watch Report for Tanworth in Arden Parish Assembly Year Ended March 2018

Your NW representatives continue to represent all residents of the Parish at the regular meetings of the South Warwickshire area of NW held in Stratford on Avon. At these meetings we hear what developments the police are planning and are able to feedback our opinions.

The Police Messaging system has now been operating for over a year and residents are able to receive timely messages about crimes in the area of their choice, be it house burglaries, shed burglaries, car crime (theft of or theft from) as well as warnings of current computer scams. I urge those residents who have yet to register to do so to enable them to receive such messages direct into their own e-mail box, and also thank those other groups within the community who are re-broadcasting such messages via social networks/web sites.

It is very regrettable that crime in this area has increased and the frequency of car theft, especially when the high value modern vehicle is taken without the need to use the keys is on the increase. If you own such a vehicle please try to leave your keys in a metal container, especially over-night, those left in the hall or near the front entrance make it all too easy for the car thieves to drive away your motor. Better still leave the locked car in a locked garage.

The more we are vigilant the easier we will make the work of the police and the harder it will be for criminals. None of us want to be a victim of crime so we need to take all reasonable precautions not only with our vehicles but our homes and our on-line activity. Please do not leave car or house keys in the sight of anyone looking in through your windows, do not leave windows open when the house is unoccupied and do let your neighbours know when you are going to be absent from your property, they will then likely ask you to look after their own house when going on holiday in this way we will all be more aware and care for our community. Together we can defeat the criminal.

WHITEHEAD ALMSHOUSES

(Registered Charity No. 237244)

March 2018

The year to end of March 2018 has been a difficult, expensive but eventually satisfying twelve months with substantial repairs and renovations being carried out to all the buildings.

In Overbare Close the roof was cleaned, rotten roof timbers were replaced, UPVC doors, windows, gutters and downspouts fitted throughout and the soffits, fascias and barge boards repaired and then clad in UPVC. The Victorian properties, 1-4 Bates Lane, had similar repairs and upgrades to the sides and rear, while the front elevations with their ornate barge boards and timber windows were carefully restored and painted. The front windows of these four properties had secondary double glazing installed to help with improved insulation while preserving the listed façade.

Further extensive work to the car park, retaining wall, slabs and the steps to Bates lane are planned to start in the spring of 2018.

The Trust has spent in the region of £50,000 to date with the future work to the grounds estimated at a further £20-25,000. Around half the cost of the repairs to Overbare Close, approximately £20,000, can be directly attributed to damage caused by the lime trees to the rear of the property in the grounds of Shenstone House. We are surprised and disappointed that the owner continues to refuse to reply to the many attempts at contact the Trustees have made, to discuss an agreeable solution to the problem. Meanwhile the trees continue to blight the lives of our residents and provide financial headaches for the Trustees of what is a small village charity.

On a more positive note we can report that all properties have occupants and that all our residents are over the moon with the work that has been carried out to date, particularly the improvement to the thermal insulation “ snug as a bug in a rug” as one resident put it!

Finally, after more than thirty years as Chairman, Paul Instone has stood down with Rob Knight taking over, Paul remains a Trustee and the other Trustees would like to thank him for his many years of hard work.

TANWORTH IN ARDEN WI

We are celebrating our 95th anniversary. Tanworth in Arden WI was formed in 1922 and has been active in our Parish ever since.

Not a year goes by when we do not put on at least one event for the community to enjoy. This year we are holding a Fashion Show on 20th April in the Village Hall.

We celebrated our Anniversary by having a 1920s bring and share supper. A sociable evening of music and fun.

Friendship, society, and a chance to do new things is what makes our WI so enduring. Our programme of speakers is carefully chosen but without the close bonds formed by our members we would be very staid.

We always hope for more lively people to come and join us. We are open to all sorts of activities and would welcome fresh ideas.

Every year we vote for a Resolution proposed by members of WI nationally to take forward to improve the lives of women and society. This year we are backing Mental Health Matters. We have the ear of organisations and politicians and we really do make a difference.

Last year we voted to become involved in Alleviating Loneliness. There is nothing better than the WI to counteract loneliness. Members are guaranteed a warm welcome and plenty to do.

WIs have been active in Warwickshire for 100 years. Any woman over 18 can join and many young women are setting up new WIs all over the country.

Tanworth WI is as relevant now as it was in 1922 and our members are proud to be part of it.

We meet every second Monday of the month in Tanworth Village Hall at 7.30pm.

President is Sandra Woore - sandra.woore@gmail.com. 01564 742037

Secretary is Eunice Pearson - eunice.pearson444@btinternet.com. 01564 742726.

St. Mary Magdalene

Annual church reports need to fulfil two functions. As reports they need to look backwards on what has happened, in this case in 2017, but they also need to look forwards. They are written in this moment, this 'now', in which the past is set and the future is fluid, and in which what has taken place has the power to shape what is to come. This is particularly the case for this report because the Diocese of Birmingham, of which we are a part, is about to embark on a complete reshaping of ministry and church life unlike anything that has been seen for generations. The surface reason for this is partly financial but many of us feel that behind that is the work of the Holy Spirit encouraging lay people to look to their own vocations in the mission of God in Christ. What we know for sure is that other dioceses around the country are looking on and wondering what they can learn from the direction that Birmingham is taking.

The problems that we face in this diocese are too in depth to fully describe in a report like this but to summarise a few of them would be as follows. Despite our churchgoers being the most generous of givers in terms of the percentage of income they donate to the work of the church, average incomes are low and consequently we are the poorest diocese in the country. As a relatively young diocese we have few of the income streams that older ones such as Worcester or Oxford and so our reserves are very low. Our clergy to parishioner ratio is already more than double that of other places yet we are unable to sustain even that. In addition there is a massive disparity in the sizes of parishes. For example our parish has less than three thousand people and enjoys having a vicar of its own. Compare that to Shirley parish which is numerically something like ten times our size yet has only two full time clergy. This kind of pattern is repeated across the diocese.

The diocese has therefore reached a point where the shape of ministry has to change and as a church we have to decide whether we are going to try and proactively plot a course or sit back and have changes imposed on us. We are very much in favour of the first option and, in the knowledge for a number of years that change was coming, to that end we have been developing lay and volunteer work in the church for some time. Our hope is that we have laid sufficient foundations to be able to adjust. There have certainly been positive signs of this in recent times. For example in May last year we held a volunteers vicarage garden party to which everyone who has some kind of voluntary active role in the church was invited. That amounted to something like seventy people! This level of voluntary giving of time is going to be essential for the way forward. We have also spent significant time planning how the Jim Corbett legacy fund can be put to work in preparing the way for the future and to that end we worked closely with the diocese to advertise and interview a number of people for the role of children and families coordinator/worker, with the successful applicant, Rachel Rollason, having begun work on 10th April this year. Her work is a three year capital project paid for by the legacy in the hope that at the end of three years, if successful, the church will be able to continue to employ her. We have continued the process, begun last year, of working with an architect to look at how we can better use the back of our church. The diocesan authorities have met with us and are in favour of what we are hoping to do and the outcome will be a more flexible space at the west end of the church that can be used for worship, for various church gatherings and hopefully as a resource that other city-based churches can use for day retreats and the like.

All of these aspects are looking strongly at the role of lay ministry because this is clearly going to be a part of the way in which the diocese moves forward. The size and shape of deaneries is under review and clergy are going to be differently deployed. At this point in time we are unsure of the details of this but the diocese is talking in terms of three different roles: oversight, context and local. Oversight ministers will provide ministry across a wider geographical area; context ministers will be specialists who have specific roles such as in Fresh Expressions of church, and local ministers will provide a local focus. The diocese recognises that some of the rural churches, such as our own,

**Tanworth in Arden Village Hall & Muntz Recreation Grounds
Co-Chairmen's Report 2017-2018**

GENERAL

The Joint Committee has managed to maintain general services and fund raising throughout the year despite being short of a full complement of committee members.

Understandable personal circumstances arising for a number of committee members meant that their roles were inevitably severely curtailed. Joint Chairmen Alan Wilding & Roger Skyrme made a number of appeals for support through the medium of the Parish Magazine, which just recently may have borne fruit.

We are grateful to our Secretary, Leila Chaudry, for the work carried out to create an electronic hire programme system and handling the booking enquiries efficiently and courteously. She also organised a very successful Bollywood Nights event in the village hall. Her overall contribution this year has been invaluable and is appreciated.

We must mention the fund-raising contribution (part of 'Donations' in the accounts) made by Janet Rea in the year. To celebrate her 80th year she determined that she would raise money for the village hall by walking a sponsored 100 mile section of the South Down way in Sussex. Supported by husband Chris and friends including Barbara Daniels, not to mention daily training routines with Margaret Stockdale before the event, Janet completed the route in 10 days and raised £2130. Thank you, Janet!

Thanks too are due to Sally Sutherland, our auditor, who once again has given her time to audit the accounts for both the Village Hall and Muntz Hall sites.

Roger Skyrme & Alan Wilding intend to resign from frontline posts in 2018, but remain co-opted to manage projects in hand (see below) and help new committee members find their feet. Over all we are hopeful that 2018-2019 will prove to be a time of committee renewal with new ideas introduced both for facility development and fund raising.

VILLAGE HALL

General

Despite all, the Village Hall had a successful and active year in 2017. It remains one of the key focal points within the village along with the church, the school and the pub. However, its existence depends on our ability to meet the costs of running the site through fund raising and marketing the facilities. It also relies on committee members willing to be registered as Trustees, as required by the Charity Commission.

The core activities that used to take place in the Hall, such as pantomimes, nursery, Gilbert & Sullivan are no longer available to us, so we have had to find new ways of attracting hirers and new ideas for fund raising. We hope this will emerge from potential new committee members.

Income & Expenditure Account

At 1 January 2018, the current account stood at a satisfactory £17,994. The Income and Expenditure Account shows a deficit of about £1600 over the financial year. This arises principally from final payments of £1800 for the tree removal project carried over from the 2015-2016 budget, and £3000 contribution from Village Hall funds as part payment to architects for new entrance and foyer proposal drawings suitable for Planning.

Your committee worked hard at Fund Raising. In 2016-2017, not including donations, we raised (£8702-£6239) £2463 which is a satisfactory 40% return on investment to stage events. In the forthcoming year if there are not the bodies to research organise and manage fund raising events, we will rely only on our hire income alone which declined by just over 15% from last year to £7,200.

At the last Committee meeting we agreed to raise hire rates April 2018 onwards, which have remained fixed over the last 4 years.

Under Repairs & Maintenance, the Auditor has combined routine and exceptional costs together. Excluding exceptional costs of Tree Project (£1880), Entrance Project (£5202), replacement hot water heater (£954),

Earlswood Allotment Association Report 2017/18

The association had a successful and productive year the weather conditions on the whole being favourable for growing. We welcomed some new members and their enthusiasm and hard work was well rewarded at harvest time.

As well as our annual barbecue in August we had a very successful well attended day trip to the Malvern Autumn show. We rounded off 2017 with a Christmas meal in December.

The association is grateful to the parish council for collecting the annual plot subscriptions alongside rents as this means the whole amount is received in one payment and makes financial planning easier. During the year a tiller was purchased for the use of all plot holders. We renewed our annual membership of The National Allotment Society and participated in the Kings seed scheme which in addition to offering a generous discount on seeds purchased by plot holders also pays the association a commission based on the value of the total order.

At the end of the growing season three plots were vacated and two of these have now been taken on for the new season with only one plot remaining vacant.

The security of the site in particular the perimeter is an ongoing concern and work to maintain and repair the fencing has been the main focus of work parties held during the year. The committee is in the process of getting quotes to replace the smaller of the two gates at the entrance of the site.

The association would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support in particular the hedge trimming and tree pruning carried out during the year.

Linda Fryer

Chairman Earlswood Allotment Association

18/3/2018