

# **Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council**

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

### **Chairman's report March 2007**

The last year seems to have flown by and I am making this report for the last time, as I intend to step down as chairman.

I would firstly like to thank my fellow councillors who have supported me throughout the year, and who have put in a great deal of time to ensure that the Parish Council runs smoothly. Next, I must thank Margaret Bentall our clerk, who has, as always, provided a splendid and efficient service to the council, in a very difficult year for her.

Next, thanks to the small but regular band of parishioners who regularly attend the council meetings, and a special mention to those who help with tasks throughout the parish. Mr Trewin, and Mr Stickens for their maintenance work, and Dave, Graham, Trevor, Joy, Ellen, Carola and others for the bonfire.

Finally thanks to Andrew Shaxon our District Councillor and Nola Hendon our County Councillor for their attendance at our council meetings.

The Parish Web Site has been running for over a year now, and I am pleased with the increasing numbers of visits it has attracted. I have had emails from around the world from people with either personal or family connections with Trotton, and I hope that over the coming year we can get more contributions from the parish, particularly old photographs and personal stories from the more senior members of the parish.

One area of concern in the parish, is the increasingly dire state of the lanes and roads. We are aware of the cost constraints imposed upon the County Council, but the lack of even basic maintenance of drainage and repair of potholes is leading to a rapid deterioration which will necessitate more major investment in the future. There was talk of delegating maintenance of local roads to the parish council, but up until now, this has not happened. I am sure that the local knowledge of the council could help improve the situation, and I think it is worth pursuing this as a cause over the next year.

Although we have not yet been able to get a renewable energy project off the ground, I personally believe that we should seriously consider this for the future. I attended a meeting in South Harting, which has been selected to have a "Green Makeover". There was a great enthusiasm by all those attending to make a difference in all sustainability areas, including energy conservation, waste reduction and improved transport. I would like to see a Trotton and Chithurst "Green Team" established to take this forward.

Finally, thanks to Rod Stern and colleagues from the West Sussex Botanical Group who carried out the first of two surveys on the churchyard plants at St Marys Chithurst. A second survey is due shortly to capture the flowering plants. Once this is done, we can ask them if they can recommend a management plan to maintain and increase the diversity of plants there.

I wish the next chairman of the council good luck, and once again thank you all for your hard work.

Chris Hodgson  
Chairman Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council  
March 2007

