

## Little Kingshill Village Society

### Chair's Report to the 2016 AGM - 23 March 2016

This year, as in previous years, members of the Committee have been busy in their attempts to enable villagers to enjoy the natural beauty of little Kingshill, its rural setting and rich heritage and ensuring that everyone benefits from superior local amenities and feels safe and protected, in line with the Society's vision.

This was a tall order and often required us to seek the advice and approval of BCC, CDC and LMPC particularly with regard to traffic calming measures and enhancing Meadow Cottages Green.

This took more time and patience than we ever would have imagined but, on a positive note, progress was been made on both of these projects.

New traffic calming measures were introduced to the village and include:

The new welcome sign and gate into the village on Windsor Lane along with the dragon's teeth and the repainted 30MPH roundels.

A new village sign and pedestrian warning on Heath End Road and, for the future, we hope that a new sign will erected on Watchet Lane.

We support the continued use of the Motor Vehicle Activated Sign and believe that it has a positive calming effect on traffic passing through the village. I attended the December meeting of LMPC along with other residents to request that the sign be located from time to time in 40 miles per hour areas such as Heath End Road and Watchet Lane. Our future hope is for Little Kingshill to have its own MVAS which can be moved to various sites throughout the village. This, however, would have funding implications and the sitings would need the approval of TfB.

We expressed our concerns to the Parish Council regarding the dangers of the nursery parking along the bottom of Meadow Cottages. Les Giles now has the matter in hand and Jonathan Roberts from TfB has come up with some recommendations which I am sure they will share with you at some future date.

Meadow Cottages Green has been developed and now has a swing, rainbow bench. Two newly planted trees and a safety barrier of small logs for the benefit and

enjoyment of the children. Many thanks to Amanda Smith for organising the work and to her young helpers and Adrian Doyle. An application has been made by LMPC to Fields in Trust to protect this small area.

As a committee we have tried to be vigilant and mindful of your concerns and have brought to the attention of appropriate agencies matters such as the quality of the trimming of hedges and verges; the broken fencing around the play ground on the common and the various potholes around the village.

In May Diana Varley was elected as a Chiltern District Councillor for the Little Missenden Ward and we were pleased when she accepted our invitation to attend one of our Committee meetings and other village events since. She was given a long job list by us. We thank her for support to date but continue to press her on those ever recurring problems of road maintenance, drain clearance, the flouting of planning permission by the owners of Bubbles and delays in verge trimming.

HS 2 has featured in all our lives for some time now but never more so than this year when we had the opportunity to make our representations to the Select Committee. We have Sandra Mac Donald to thank for petitioning on behalf of Little Kingshill Village Society. She was able to do so because the Society has been in place for many, many years and has such a substantial membership. I know she was also an agent for individuals who wished to petition and in addition a small number of us petitioned on our own behalf. We were listened to and left members of the Committee in no doubt as to where Little Kingshill, hitherto unmentioned in any reports pertaining to the project, was located and the impact the project would have on our community and lives. Did we make a difference....who knows?

We tried to arrange social events for everyone in vain. Let's try something new we thought. Unfortunately, the Big Picnic was very poorly attended. It was a shame not to be able to use the common on such a lovely day. However, we later challenged Insurance requirements for events held on land owned by the Parish Council and for the future it should not be a problem for us to meet the new requirements if we want to use the Common.

A small number of people were excited about the prospect of a Barn dance but sadly, not enough to make it a viable event. So.....we were left wondering what kind of social events villagers would like us to organise.

There are a number of people, in particular, I would like to thank for their good will and community spirit. Every year Peter Hubbard organises and leads a Litter Pick day... so thank you Peter and your loyal band. Although it is usually a small number of volunteers who turn up, I know so many others are litter buddies keeping their own patches clear from Rubbish. So thanks to those people too. It is interesting that those areas with lots of litter such as Watchet and Deep Mill Lane are a result of passers by throwing their lunch debris out of car windows for who living in this area would chose to walk and picnic down those particular lanes?

Our thanks also go to Bran and Petra at the Full Moon for once again hosting the Village carol singing and fund raising event in the pub garden. Bran's mulled wine kindly, donated by him, was made, he informed me, according to Jamie O's recipe. The money raised for The Ian Rennie Hospice at Home Charity was a record £282.03. Bran also agreed to siting the recently acquired village Defibrillator outside the pub. Thank you to Nick Vigart for organising this and the subsequent training as well Sweet Charity , Prestwood who provided the village with the funds.

Thank you to Penny Parslow and Roger Fuggle who are currently working on the Society's hand book for 2016, the price of which we have decided to increase to £4. We think this is still good value or money given the valuable information it contains. The price has remained at £3 for as many years as we can remember.

Many thanks to all 26 volunteers who delivered the 2015 handbooks.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their commitment and hard work throughout this last year. We said a sad farewell a little while ago to Rev Jonathan Stewart and sent him on his way with a thank you tour of Lords. I am talking of cricket, of course. We were delighted to welcome Rev Martin Hatfield and have been grateful for his calm and measured approach to all business matters.

Sandra Macdonald spent hours corresponding, gathering information and honing her expertise on major issues of concern such as HS2, Planning matters, local services and our quest to remain in green belt. It is a joy to see the progress of the new builds on the site of the Prince of Wales that Sandra has spent many years pursuing. Sandra's retirement as correspondence secretary will be a great loss to the society.

Margaret Emery will also be a great loss to the committee after so many years as minute secretary and latterly treasurer. Margaret has been a wonderful treasurer keeping us fully informed on all finance and insurance matters,

Amanda Smith I am pleased to say is willing to stay on the committee. Amanda has the unenviable task of taking our minutes and does it with such patience and perseverance amidst our ramblings.

Penny Parslow and Ian Sherborn organised the 2015 Handbook cover competition for pupils of the Little Kingshill Combined School, with such great results, and we were grateful to Carina Haslam ([www.carinahaslamart.com](http://www.carinahaslamart.com)) for sponsoring the event.

Thank you again to Chris Seagrave, one of our longest serving members and our representative on the village hall management committee Lindsay MacDonald and also to Richard Bradstock, one of our newer recruits.

Lastly, my thanks to Roger Fuggle for setting up and maintaining the website and for having a cup of tea ready for me after our long and exhausting monthly meetings.

Bernice Fuggle