

Chairman's Annual Report

A couple of months ago we learnt that an ex Council Member of some 8 years, Christine Mason, had finally lost her long-battle with cancer. Christine belonged to a host of various organisations in the village who I am sure miss her as much as we do.

During the last year I have been pleased to welcome Janet Disney and Bernie O'Connell to our Council, they have established themselves very quickly and are now valued Members. Both are heavily involved with the Play Park, Bernie also with the Tennis Club and Village Hall. It is always useful for us to have these links with closely related organisations.

So what has the Parish Council achieved in the last year or so?

- **Sampford Peverell CLT:** we sponsored the setting up of a 'Community Land Trust' with the ultimate aim of providing some affordable housing to rent in our village. The CLT is now up and running under the Chairmanship of one of our Members, Heather Culpin.
- **Play Park:** we supported the setting up of this fantastic facility which we are so fortunate to have in our village. This was due to the very hard work of a small band of very enthusiastic volunteers to whom we must be so grateful.
- **Grass Cutting:** following MDDC's decision to withdraw from offering this facility for 'common' road side areas, we have elected to fund the limited continuation of this service with Mid Devon, but from our Parish funds. We have also organised interim cuts with a parishioner for which we are very grateful.
- **Defibrillators:** since Christmas we have organised or sponsored the installation of two defibrillators – one outside the Village Hall and the other outside the Cricket Pavilion.
- **Tree Works:** we have financed the pruning of the trees adjacent to the Play Park and Tennis Courts which had become far too tall. It is worth mentioning that the Tennis Club have been successful in their Stage 1 application to Viridor Credits for a grant to improve the courts and fencing. Assuming they make it through Stage 2, then we will be closely involved.
- **Village Website:** websites are now an important and expected means of communication, but unfortunately we do not all have the knowledge to set up and maintain sites such as ours. So I am enormously grateful that we have a Member, Heather Culpin, in whose safe hands we can leave this.
- **Donation:** at this stage I should mention that we have received a large donation from the Parish Magazine, this will be put to good use in the Village. Many thanks to the team running the magazine, not just for the donation, but such a splendid periodical.

I am sure I have missed out other activities we have been involved in and for that I apologise, but that by no means diminishes their worth.

I would like to close by thanking all the Council Members for their support and hard work over the last year, without which none of the above would have happened. Also of course thanks to our clerk, Mike, his professionalism, support, guidance and at times patience, has been much appreciated – even if I don't always show it.

David M. Cutts - Chairman, Sampford Peverell Parish Council

