

## Chairman's Annual Report 2023

I wish to start by thanking my fellow Parish Councillors for their help during the past twelve months, especially to Wendy Burcham for her work with The Allotment Field and the War Memorial Trust. I think we all want to pass on our best wishes to Councillor Richard Johnson for a speedy recovery and hope he can resume his role on The Parish Council. I also wish to thank our Clerk, Sarah Cardwell, for all her work behind the scenes to ensure the council runs smoothly and to thank District Councillor and County Councillor Ian Gardiner for his assistance.

During the past year we have installed a Motor Vehicle Activated Sign on High Street to advise drivers of their speed and intend to request funding assistance to purchase another two for Stow Road and Thrapston Road. To further address the problem of speeding vehicles, following a successful Local Highways initiative funding bid last year, we are waiting for a 40mph buffer zone on the entry roads to Spaldwick.

I am pleased to report that the allotments continue to be popular and all the plots are being worked. Unfortunately the main gates to The Allotments were stolen last year, this theft is subject of an insurance claim and new gates have been ordered and are expected soon. I am hopeful that the remainder of the Charity Field will be laid to grass later this year and will become a useful space.

A representative of the War Memorial's Trust has visited Spaldwick and inspected our Memorial. His recommendations include replacing the laurel wreath, replacing loose mortar and localised sharpening and deepening of incised lettering, re-painting of lettering in black to match current design, all subject to the consent of Huntingdonshire District Council by way of a Listed Building Application.

The bench ordered to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee last year has been delivered and work is still ongoing to prepare a suitable base for the bench to be positioned beside the plaques on High Street.

My thanks also go to Mick Ager for his continued support and work to ensure the local footpath network is kept clear and well marked and to Chris Hubbard for all his work in creating the Village news letter.

Steve Fane de Salis Chairman