

Chairs Report

Bonsall Parish Council

2011/2112

During this year we have seen a number of changes to the Parish Council. We said goodbye to Karen Taylor. Karen was a valuable member of the group and we wish her well. We said goodbye and hello to Bob Cartright. Bob has been a long serving and hard working member, acting as both Chair and Vice Chair. However, as a newly elected District Councillor Bob has continued to attend the meetings on a regular basis. We also welcome Graham Henderson and Ronnie Addis as new members. I would like to thank all my colleagues for the time and effort they give to the Council and the village.

I also thank our Parish Clerk Catherine Rawas. The Council operates more efficiently and effectively with her guidance, hard work and enthusiasm. I must also thank our other employees: Derek Robertson our meticulous Finance Officer; Leigh Johnson for his work as Village Handyman and all his other contributions to Bonsall; Michael Biggin for our eco-friendly Churchyard and Peter Spencer, our Lengthsman. As in previous years, many villagers and visitors have commented on the condition of our footpaths and public areas.

I also thank our District and County Councillors. Gary Purdy and Bob Cartwright for their regular attendance, reports and updates, their prompt action on all matters raised with them and their help and support over the past year.

The major project this year has been the repair and refurbishment of the village monuments, including the Cross, Memorials and the Wells. The successful application for LEADER funding was completed by Catherine, who also liaised with the Council and a local builder, Stuart Poplar. Match funding was provided by the Parish Council. I think that an excellent job was done and we are pleased that the work has been completed in time for the Open Gardens weekend and Carnival.

Finally, we still have vacancies on the Council and we are seeking people to support and extend the work of the Parish Council on behalf of the village. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk or any Councillor for further information.

**Dorothy Lane
Chair**