

## Chairman's Annual Report for Breaston Parish Council

Welcome everyone to this year's Annual Parish Meeting, as you know the Parish Meeting gives us all an opportunity to find out what's happening in the Parish and what's planned for the future, tonight you can look at the displays and see for yourselves what the Parish Council and local groups and organisations have been up to in the past year and what their plans are for the coming year.

To quote Councillor Mounsey's report from last year's meeting "who would have thought that what we assumed was just a bad case of 'flu' would turn out to be so devastating." 12 months on and the word 'vaccination' has become a bye word for protection. And by all accounts it has proved to be such for most of us. It has enabled us to get on with life which is very much appreciated. Covid now seems to be very much a part of the English language and life itself. The pandemic really showed the community in it's very best light and residents rallied round to help each other, and we believe it has made the community stronger in the long run.

Throughout this time our Clerk, Nicala has remained steadfast and resolute in her work for the Council. Alongside Lyn, our Caretaker, together they have maintained a steady and reliable service to the community of Breaston. For many months they both worked in isolation until the rules were lifted. Nicala in maintaining law and order! And Lyn in keeping the Breaston environment clean and tidy. For Lyn this has meant picking up drugs paraphernalia on all of the village open spaces even syringes on Johnson's Meadow!

A BIG THANK YOU TO BOTH OF YOU.

Despite all the Government restrictions our council meetings kept going via Zoom, and then when restrictions were lifted and with the kindness of the Methodist Church meetings have been held in the Methodist Hall. It is only recently that we have started to hold committee meetings back in the Council rooms.

An issue which our Clerk has had to contend with has been the frustration of ground maintenance, hopefully now such issues have been ironed out with new contractor in place and, things will run more smoothly!!

The Cemetery Chapel and its use has been another issue of debate and continues to remain on our agenda. A circular was put out for residents to comment upon, and the replies continue to be collated by Councillor Beeching.

Thankfully this year we have been able to commemorate VE day at last which was incorporated within our Royal Celebration to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the event was extremely well attended. The weather held out and the afternoon was enjoyed by all, with typical village fete games and live music from the Ilkeston Brass Band, the Old Time Rags and 'Lily' our soloist, who has become a popular and regular entertainer at many of our events.

Our next event is the Big Jubilee Picnic to be held on 5 June 2022, on Duffield Close and will also be in celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. People will be encouraged to bring a picnic. One can only hope the weather will be good to us!

Moving on from Summer events, our annual Carol Service will hopefully take place near to Christmas, information regarding this event will come about nearer the time.

Over the Summer months Nicala and her friend Ann worked hard in getting the old burial files sorted out. Plus, after a three-year slog Nicala has also managed to get the Memorial safety work in the Cemetery completed, notwithstanding at the same time dealing with the legal elements of the

Cemetery as well. There is now a comprehensive document on our Website for viewing when plot owners need to make transfers.

'Drains' remain an issue of (pungent) concern, but again notwithstanding our intrepid warriors, namely Nicala and Lyn tackle such issues without complaint! The good news, if one can term this as such, there were less issues to deal with than past years! Let's hope it continues this way.

The Breaston in Bloom and litter seeking folk continue to keep Breaston looking colourful with flowers and foliage and tidying up around the area, and it is very much appreciated by the residents. Thank you to all our Bloomers.

Car parking continues to ruffle feathers, but there appears little the Parish Council can do to make things better, apart from encouraging people to start walking!! We've been working hard to find ways to help with climate change issues and continue to investigate ways that we can futureproof Parish Council Land and Buildings.

Further discussions continue relating to Perks Park and its enhancement, and future exercise equipment is now well and truly up and 'running'!!! and the equipment is now on order. Ongoing information as to its progress will be reported within the 'Village magazine.'

Trees! It has become my personal objective to plant more around the area for future generations to enjoy, with some 20 or so saplings planted on the canal path and 12 more being nurtured at the moment before planting out in and around Breaston in the autumn.

As a Parish Council we will continue to listen to residents' comments and concerns and in so doing endeavour to do our best in maintaining Breaston to the standards people expect. But to remind everyone there is only so much we can do, but if we as a community work together then that is strength in numbers and who can say what can be achieved!

Heather Wrigglesworth

Chair of the Parish Council.