

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT, 2020

It is fair to say that at the beginning of the year no-one could have predicted that in a matter of weeks we would be in a state of lockdown. The parish and indeed the country have faced great challenges over the years and have come through. While many planned events have inevitably had to be set aside; there will be a future and there will be continuity.

Over the course of the year we have seen the placing of a plaque to commemorate the end of the First World War; sadly events to mark VE Day have been affected by the pandemic. It is hoped that later in the year there will be an opportunity to celebrate, it would be appropriate if this were to coincide with VJ Day.

Despite the disruption, the work of the parish council goes on. In common with other parts of the country, Pilling is expected to provide more housing. This does however create some difficulties when the infrastructure is unable to support this expansion.

We have seen how areas of the parish are prone to flooding, some drainage of the watercourses has taken place over the past year and while this has aided the flow of water, problems still exist. Pilling Flood Action Group will, we hope, enable people to be better prepared for when flooding occurs. Meeting with various agencies to address the problems still continue and are valuable in flagging up areas that require work. All too often though, we are told that work cannot take place until funding is available.

Another difficulty caused by extra housing is the increase in traffic which puts further strain on ill maintained roads. Work to repair a road collapse on Taylors Lane took place recently and after a few days another part of the same road caved in. Failures by agencies to complete works properly are again passed off as being due to shortage of money. Parishioners are concerned as are we at the number of times traffic lights are situated for essential work to be completed. Coordination is needed to ensure that inconveniences to traffic are kept to a minimum.

We have been pleased to welcome three new councillors who have taken office, they have settled in well and are all making valuable contributions to the work of the council. Recently meetings have commenced with neighbouring parish and town councils with the aim of providing a unified front to on matters of common concern.

As many newcomers to the village have found, Pilling is a thriving and pleasant location. The village has looked wonderful over the months due to the work of a band of helpers ably led by our Parish Lengthsman Stan.

In January construction started on the new community hall and the builders have made splendid progress especially given the twin effects of poor weather earlier in the year and the pandemic. It is an impressive structure and will be the home for many village activities in the years to come. Perhaps when we are able to meet together again we will appreciate village events even more.

Throughout the past year and through these difficult times as we seek to lead our community, I am grateful for the support of my fellow councillors, our clerk Gillian and our lengthsman Stan.

**John Savage,
Chairman Pilling Parish Council**

