**Salford Parish Council Newsletter 2017**



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**Salford Parish Council**

*www.salfordvillage.org.uk*

*clerk@salfordvillage.org.uk*

Salford Parish Council meets in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month, with the **Annual Village Meeting** being held on the first Tuesday in April (this year on **Tuesday, 4th April**). Nick Hill is now Chairman and Steve McBride Deputy Chairman. Our other Councillors are Rachel Caldin, Nigel Colston, and Hilary McGlynn (Nigel Colston is both a Parish and District Councillor). We encourage members of the public to come to all our meetings, and particularly the one in April, when our local District and County Councillors also attend. The agendas and minutes for all meetings are displayed on the village noticeboards and on our website.

We receive our income (called a precept) from the West Oxfordshire District Council. For the last few years this has been £6000 annually, which pays for such things as insurance, village maintenance and improvements, the Clerk’s salary, and audit fees. Under certain statutory powers we are permitted to give donations to local organisations which are of benefit to the village, and this year - as before - we have donated to The Villager Bus Service and Salford Village Hall.

Financial cuts are being made by both District and County Councils. We hope we will be receiving a grass-cutting grant in the coming year, but because these things are uncertain we have increased our precept request to £6,700, to ensure we have enough to cover that and any village improvements. We are grateful to Richard Lane and Steve Newman for looking after the grassy areas and verges of the Village during the growing season.

Our area of responsibility covers the village itself and the A44 between Southerndown Nursing Home and The Greedy Goose. We are constantly in touch with the County Council Highways Department about road problems, and in August the Clerk met the District Local Highways representative in the village to discuss drainage issues. The Parish Council have long been concerned about the safety of the road between The Greedy Goose and the Rollright Stones, but our request for a speed limit of 50 mph was turned down by the County Road Safety Engineer in July. One of our priorities is the maintenance of the footpath along the Worcester Road, and we will be keeping a close eye on this during the spring and summer. Potholes and other road problems can be reported easily by anyone, using the County Council website (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk).

The District Planning Department consults us on planning applications, although they have the final say. During the last year there have been three of these, two of which were turned down (one is now under Appeal) and one approved.

In December 2014, the Government published a Transparency Code so that local people could have access to the tools and information necessary to hold their local public bodies to account. A Transparency Fund was created to enable small parish councils to publicise their activities and expenditure, and from this Fund we obtained a grant which enabled us to upgrade our website and purchase a scanner and printer. Hopefully you will use the website and if you have any suggestions or comments to make about it or any village issues, contact the Clerk.

You are probably aware that there is currently a debate about local government reform in Oxfordshire. The County Council have put forward proposals for a single council which would take the place of the current County Council, Oxford City Council, and the four District Councils. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Councils support the County Council position, leaving Oxford City, Cherwell, and West Oxfordshire District Councils in opposition. Salford Parish Council support the latter position, feeling that this stance is more suited to local needs.

Finally, a couple of changes: we have lost our mobile library service, due to the County Council cuts, and we have agreed to the removal of our payphone outside the village hall, which is seldom used these days.

This year’s unaudited income and expenditure summary and the draft 2016 Annual Village Meeting minutes come with this Newsletter. Both are for you to read and will be on the agenda at the Annual Village Meeting on Tuesday, 4th April.

**HM The Queen’ s 90th Birthday Tea-party**

On 12 June 2016 the Parish Council organised a tea-party in the Village Hall to celebrate HM The Queen’s 90th birthday. It was a true community effort, with many people

giving their time and expertise to bake cakes, make sandwiches, and generally run the event. Sylvie McKay made an amazing cake (see page 1) which tasted as good as it looked, and thestrawberries and cream and home-made scones went down well! Many people came and donations were sufficient to cover the costs with a small profit going to the Village Hall.

**VILLAGE HALL*: Report from Willie Ross, Village Hall Committee Chairman***

 The Village Hall Committee organised two successful new fund-raising events at the hall during the year. Held in April, the first was a 50/50 Auction (pictured right) whereby the hall took 50% of the selling price, with the vendor receiving the other 50%. The second, held at the beginning of December, was a Christmas Table Top Sale, which provided local residents and visitors with the opportunity to buy Christmassy things in a happy social atmosphere. At both events, a proportion of the hall’s income was shared with the Lawrence Home Nursing Team charity and particular thanks must go to PJ Seccombe for initiating and co-ordinating them both. In addition, the Committee organised another popular Quiz Night in February, for which special thanks were conveyed in particular to the four volunteer chefs who prepared the delicious Boeuf Bourguignon supper for 60, and also to Nigel Colston who has been compiling the quiz for many years, and once again provided a diverse variety of questions which produced some very close scores, with 7 of the tables ending up within just 3 points of each other.

Bookings for the hall continue to be consistent with weekly Yoga classes joining the regular Fitness, Kickboxing and Martial Arts classes. The Queen’s 90th Birthday Street Party at the hall was a jolly affair in the summer, and other village use of the hall included the NGS teas, the Salford Fete and the Macmillan Coffee Morning in September organised by the Bayliss family. We have had a number of bookings for NCT Antenatal Courses, in addition to the regular adult and children’s parties.

We are very grateful for the continued donations from the Fete committee and Salford Parish Council. These are banked in the separate Hall Maintenance Fund which is retained to ensure we have sufficient funds to keep the hall in consistently good condition. One outstanding item of maintenance – the repair of cracks, and subsequent painting, of the hall ceiling – will be undertaken during the Easter holidays. The hall is equipped with tables and chairs for 80 with ample crockery, cutlery and glasses, plus a piano, two table tennis tables and indoor cricket nets. The hourly hire rate for non-Salford residents will be £14 from April, but the rate for Salford residents will remain at £7 (half-price). Bookings – 01608 641414, [www.salfordvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.salfordvillagehall.co.uk).

Thanks are due to all members of the Committee for their guidance, support and contribution throughout the year, particularly to the McBrides for donating the Christmas Tree; and also to Ray Timms who continues to cut the grass and keep the grounds in very good order. Members of the Committee are: Jo Cloughley, Tim Dowling (Treasurer), Sue King, Nicki McBride, Sylvie McKay, PJ Seccombe.

**SALFORD FETE : *Report from Mayur Amin, Chairman of the Fête Committee***



Salford villagers and visitors enjoyed a wonderful fete at Salford on August Bank Holiday Monday (see picture above). The sun shone and lots of people came to enjoy fantastic stalls, good things to eat at the barbecue and in the Village Hall, listen to live music while sipping their Pimms at the bar, and all sorts of attractions to keep the little ones happy in the children’s corner. The fine weather encouraged many children to take part in the games and races, from the long-standing round-the-village race to the novel balloon game, a big hit with participants and spectators alike. The dog agility and dog show, as always, attracted many and was a great crowd – human and canine – pleaser. Competition for a ride in a unique vintage Bentley was fierce, no doubt to match perfectly with the fine clothes acquired at the vintage clothes stall. It was a really successful day, and this year we donated over £3,600 to the causes we support: Lawrence Home Nursing Team, Salford Church, and Salford Village Hall. For the first time, we donated the proceeds from the dog events to Pets as Therapy.  The Fête Committee would like to thank all who helped to make this a successful event, not only to raise funds but also to enjoy being together as a community. It was particularly touching to see some village children getting involved in the fund-raising through their loom-bands stall. Thanks also to the Salford Inn and local organisations who donated such marvellous raffle prizes and to the local supermarkets (Sainsbury’s, Co-op and Aldi) for vouchers to offset some of our costs. We are also particularly indebted to the Fawdrys for loaning their field, which provides such a wonderful location in the middle of the village.

The committee always welcomes new ideas and helpers (either in organising or on the day). Please contact Mayur Amin (Tel: 01608 644456) if you can help in any way.

**ST MARY’S CHURCH: *Report from Sally Chambers, Church Warden***

The Village Church Council meets 4 times a year to oversee the upkeep of the church and the churchyard together with the services over the year. We are very grateful to everyone – and there are many – who help us to do this. At the moment the fabric is uptogether and the churchyard wall has not had a recent collapse. In 2016 we had 5 funerals including a burial of ashes, 2 marriages and a baptism.

Everyone enjoyed the Christmas services and Remembrance Sunday marked at the village memorial.

We are well served by the team ministry and very lucky to have Rosemary Roberts play the organ. The organ is in good heart and we have had very few mice this winter.

The Chastleton Teas and Salford Fête take the worry out of meeting our day to day financial commitments. We look forward to a good summer and to welcoming everyone into our church. A reminder for your diaries: the Annual Vestry Meeting is on the 2nd April at 6pm in the Church. This is an open meeting and all are welcome.



**Salford Parish Council**

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

**Mrs Carol Ross**

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