

What a year!

Well we have all been on a Zoom learning curve, this time last year we were all beginners and now we are all proficient we are only able to use it for sub group meetings, which we will.

We got used to everything that's important in our calendar being either cancelled or modified. So no Well Dressing, a restrictive Remembrance Day and Christmas celebrations. but we have adapted and made sure we continued with business as usual and have over the last 12 months achieved a phenomenal amount.

Art in the Landscape was a casualty of the pandemic but it will be resurrected when community groups are back together. The sponsors are well aware of our circumstances and are supporting the delay.

Both the Well Dressing with Oak Branches, connecting with Oak Apple Day, and our new style Remembrance Day Service on the Memorial Playground were extremely moving in their simplicity, both generating very positive feedback from residents.

One character that does not change with pandemics and lockdowns is Fred Goldstraw who was determined that VE Day would be celebrated in Endon with installations of poppies throughout the parish. Fred was nominated as a Sentinel personality as a result. And of course the poppies were out again on Nov11th, their 5th outing, so they have been great value for money.

Last year John Sambrook and I joined the Well Dressing Trustees, we feel we have been a useful addition, John, drawing the plans for the new shed, myself with assistance with the Lottery application and we have both promoted the realignment of the breasting stones by Highways.

Grants and the pandemic

The PC did not award the annual grants to community groups because organisations were not operational. But we were in receipt of Community Resilience grants, particularly from County Cllr Flunder, which enabled us to pay for deep cleaning of both the Scout Hut and the Village Hall which assisted these two venues to open in the Autumn of 2020.

At the start of the first Lockdown the PC received a grant to design and distribute a card to every household in Endon, Stanley and our part of

Stockton Brook. These cards ensured that every resident could contact the PC for a range of support contacts.

Dennis, our Clerk has fulfilled these pledges throughout the pandemic. Needing to shield himself Dennis has made himself available by phone above and beyond his designated working hours. He has helped, advised and signposted residents in confidence and so many have appreciated his support.

Two Grants of £1000 each have also been received from the County Council, one to provide the Village Hall with covid friendly furniture (chairs and tables) which can be easily cleaned and assist the VH to open up for demanding community use.

The second grant of £1000 which we applied for and received from the Community Foundation, was used to purchase four Apple iPads for Endon High students who struggle to engage with online Home/School learning during school closure. Since EHS is now a digital school even when school is functioning normally homework is mostly done online so digitally disadvantaged students can easily be left behind. Headteacher, Andrew Skelding, assures us that the iPads will be loaned out on a greatest need basis, then called in and reallocated as necessary. He believes that each device will provide them with eight years of use, so this is an investment for the future, not just a temporary project.

Climate Change notes.

A consignment of mixed trees from Woodland Trust was shared with Endon Hall and distributed to Stanley Head and local farmers with oaks planted at Hillswood to help 'slow the flow' and assist with flood prevention.

Wildflower Meadow was unsuccessful last year because the mowing team cut the site inappropriately in spite of our request to the contrary.

Needed to replace eight oaks on A53, we hope that hedge cutters and mowing teams will avoid them in the future.

Litter

Congratulations to our Lengthsman Jim and his team whose vigilance and commitment not only keep our parish clean but recycle 70% of the litter instead of it going into landfill. They have installed an extra bin at Hillswood and clear this area as needed, they also monitor and report on the situation there each week.

Peatfree Challenge

To support our climate change pledge we are extending our peatfree challenge into schools. This project is being funded by County Cllr Flunder, from the Sustainability Fund, who has also contributed to the vertical planter in Station Rd playground.

Refurbishment of the Lawn Cemetery

This began in March 2021 with the restocking of the central garden, which will reflect the seasons with appropriate planting. The benches will be refurbished during May/July weather permitting.

Flood Action

Hopefully some real progress will be seen during the Autumn months following the necessary recent public meeting which was achieved in spite of difficult circumstances.

Social Media Newsletter

Difficulties in distribution together with lockdown restrictions on activities have resulted in news and information being distributed via social media. Our FB page reflects this. Many thanks for the efficiency and accuracy of the reporting, residents appreciate this.

Repairs

Handrail by White Bridge, handrail leading into The Spinney from Hillswood, railing at the rear of Hillswood is also being replaced/repaired.

Stalwarts' bench,

Bench at Moss Hill

Picnic table and bench on John Emery Land

Bus shelter repainted at The Plough

Two bus shelters by EHS, panes repeatedly replaced.

The Plough artefact in the Mini Meadows (opp the Plough) will be repainted during May/June, weather permitting.

Several footpath markers missing - checks done by Val & John Harris and comprehensive survey by Brian Brock. G & A group will divide task of replacement.

Floor in Station Kitchen

Crime

Marker stone and bench at Queen's Cross both stolen and reported to police.

Achievements

Permanent electricity supply connected Unit 2, previously shared with Scouts.
Safer route to school achieved at Clay Lake

Security fencing at Station Rd Playground
Potholes on Hillswood Dr now finally fixed we hope, after a lengthy campaign
by PC & residents
Pavement Dressing in Station Rd.

Station Road Memorial Playground

The planning, discussing, negotiating, ordering and overseeing the installation of the Station Rd Memorial Park has been completed. We are now awaiting some exciting extras, courtesy of generous donations but we decided the children had waited long enough and because of import issues we had no guarantee when the extras would arrive. This being so we held an official opening by invitation on Friday evening April 30th. The children of the Fundraisers were the first users and pronounced it FANTASTIC!

Thanks go to John, Tina, Val & Selina who have worked on this project for almost 3 yrs (this is the 3rd playground Val has been involved with).

EPRP and the PC have decided to offer the completion of the Playground as our application to this year's new style Best Kept Village which is focusing on Community Projects (closing date 31st May).

Well I started with 'What a Year!'

It certainly has been, but there's been many bright spots like the numerous residents who it has been my great pleasure to present with gifts, flowers and cards on your behalf on the occasion of their 90th birthday. I have really enjoyed this part of the job. So on behalf of our residents, sincerest thanks go out to all of you who have given your time and support to this long list of achievements during this tricky 12 months and especially to Dennis who, as always, has kept the ship on course. Let's hope we can sail in calmer waters from now on.