

## **Chairman's Annual Report to St Hilary Parish Council (2017)**

Another year has commenced with the Parish Council in a sound financial state. However, as we faced the possibility of contested local elections, we thought it prudent to raise our precept temporarily to cover this. This year we have finally changed our banking arrangements from Barclays to Nat West.

Parking around St Hilary School continues to be a problem, with the subject being raised at many meetings. Various ideas to improve the situation have been discussed but as yet no real solution has been found.

The Neighbourhood Plan has moved on with the set-up of a Steering Committee which has been busy creating our questionnaire with Councillors Taylor, Howells and Behrens playing a major role. I should make special mention of Councillor Taylor and his company for printing that questionnaire. I must thank all the Councillors and our Clerk for giving up their time delivering it to the residents. The clerk tells me that he is pleased with the response that we have received so far and says he expects to get one hundred back.

Our Parish was honoured when Olympic gold medal rower Helen Glover and TV presenter Steve Backshall chose to hold their wedding at Prussia Cove. Our Clerk sent a card to congratulate the couple on our behalf.

Boundary changes is a subject that stirs the Trelawney spirit in us all and so we decided that the Council should write to the Boundary Commission to register its objection to the proposed changes in North Cornwall and Devon. Councillor Howells volunteered to write the letter.

Remembrance Day saw us attending St Hilary Church and the laying of wreaths at the memorial. One wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish Council. A young man played the bugle and the ceremony was followed by a church service.

Beneficiaries of the Parish Council during the year were the Church and the Christmas Lights Committee. A one off payment was also made to Cornwall Cliff Rescue.

I will take this opportunity to thank Paul and Brian for their magnificent light display at Christmas and for organising the now annual Duck Race.

Councillor Howells and I attended the Planning Training Conference 2016 held in St Johns Hall. The old hall has certainly been improved quite a bit since my last visit. The conference was very informative covering many aspects of planning. I hope to attend the next one.

My wife Angela and I had the pleasure once more of representing St Hilary Parish Council at the Marazion civic parade. Once again, in recognition of St Hilary being the mother church, we led the Parish Councils in the parade. The parade concluded at the Methodist Chapel, where a service was held by the Reverend Paul Benny. We were further entertained by Marazion School Choir. From there Breage Band led us to the Community Hall where we met local dignitaries, listened to speeches and enjoyed some refreshments.

Now I come to the matter of thanking Roger who has guided me by imparting his words of wisdom every time I phoned him in a crisis. Thankyou Roger. My thanks also to my fellow Councillors for the support they have given me as Chairman. I have enjoyed my term very much and wish my successor all the best.

Martin Searle

