



**BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORTS**

**8 MAY 2018**

**AGENDA ITEM 4**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**COUNCILLOR ROWLAND HIBBARD**

Good evening to you all and welcome to the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting. This year has flown by, as they all seem to now and it has been an exceptionally busy year in the Parish as the Councillors and committee members will no doubt agree. Roads and planning are some of the most regular items on our agendas and probably draw the most members of the public to attend, we had a public meeting about the new MUGA which is progressing and more about that later, but it was excellent to see approximately 100 members of the public come along to give their views and support for this scheme. This year has seen the launch of the Parish Emergency Plan which has been drawn up to help co-ordinate in the event of a serious incident be it fire flood or vehicle collision etc.

Members of the Council were very active in helping to regain our bus service and are working to get some transport on Saturdays, we have helped to install dog bins in Drimpton to try to eradicate the messy problem of dog fouling and we are planning to install one near Hursey Sports Field and in Broadwindsor, we have started a rolling programme of Fingerpost Restoration to not only give travellers clear direction but also to tidy up our byways and highways.

Our Village Halls are well supported as they are a vital community asset which are highly valued by members of the community, we have given a loan to Drimpton Village Hall to help with the creation of an extension to their carpark. We continue to lobby strenuously for improvement and repair to our roads we keep getting told there is a lack of funding to do this but we keep the pressure on.

We are pleased that one of our Councillors Dorothy Rowe has taken on the task of our Footpath Liaison Officer and we wish her well in this role. We still are actively supporting the Community Land Trust Committee who are working hard to bring to fruition affordable housing in the Parish, a further update on this later, support also continues for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee who are working their way to a fully adopted plan.

Our community is well served by the facilities such as the twice weekly Post Office and the Community Shop is a real jewel in the crown of Community Stores in the South West. The Cricket Club continues to flourish and last year we had the opportunity to hold a Parish Council meeting there, a job well done by all who give their time and labour. The School maintains it's very high standards, a credit to all who work there including the teaching staff and other helpers, a report about the School later. I must pass on our thanks to Nigel Arnold the Head who is retiring at the end of this term for doing a fine job in the past few years.

We have continued to improve our communication with members of the Parish and those further afield with our website , facebook items and the tried and tested Broadwindsor News, our thanks to all involved with production and delivery.

The Council is proactive in enabling members to gain training and attend meetings to help further our knowledge of how things work at the front line, we are also in for some interesting times with the formation of the Unitary Authority which comes into being in April 2019, this could give Parish Councils more ability to sort out some of the common problems without having to go on a two year waiting list at County to act - watch this space we will update as

we find out more. Land searches are a huge problem for those who want to either sell their house and for people who want to purchase, we have kept a watch on this matter and added as much weight as possible to help rectify this issue, it can cause a lot of stress and anxiety for those involved.

The Craft Centre is going from strength to strength under the new management and we wish it well for the future, I see that there are approximately 6 or 7 new units and I think most have found clients to trade from them, another valuable village asset.

I will finish shortly but not before I give my heartfelt thanks to all the Councillors for their hard work and dedication and willingness to be involved with their community to make it a better place for all, my thanks also to our County and District Councillors who work tirelessly to further our efforts and to all the volunteers who are part of the various committees CLT, Neighbourhood Plan, MUGA, Shop, Post Office and any others I have missed, you see this is what makes our Community Tick the free spirited attitude of our Parishioners.

But before I finish I want to give a huge thank you to our Clerk Helen who continues to keep us on our toes and sort out the complicated procedures which are part of Parish Councils today, my role as Chairman would be infinitely harder without her valuable assistance and of my fellow Councillors who I know will join me in saying thank you Helen.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7**

### **COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT**

#### **PCSO ALEX BISHOP**

There have been a number of changes to local Policing in Beaminster over the last year or so. As part of that the previous local Constable, Tim Poole retired and as yet has not been directly replaced, though this is in the pipeline. Two PCSO's have moved on, one out of the job completely and they too have not been replaced. Dorset Police have made a commitment to putting extra resources into investigating crimes and designed a new role of a Police Community Support Investigator (PCSI), which you may have read about recently, however this is staffed from the existing pool of PCSO's, so the two previous PCSO's will not be replaced. This has left one PCSO to cover the Beaminster area (with support from the remainder of the team covering Bridport and Lyme). Whilst this is not ideal, resourcing, or lack of, has always been a bone of contention and is always placed where there is the highest need around the priorities the Force sets.

With regards to crime and other incidents in the last month, in the early hours of Saturday 7 April, unknown offenders broke into a shed on Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor and stole high value power tools.

On Wednesday 11 April, it was reported that unknown offenders have broken into a derelict property in the early stages of renovation on the outskirts of Broadwindsor towards Stoke Abbott. Nothing appears to have been stolen as there is very little inside. It is likely that offenders were looking for power tools and other items that builders may use. Properties under renovation are an attraction to offenders as there is unlikely to be anyone at the property to disturb them. If anyone knows of anyone in the process of renovation that may like a crime prevention survey, please ask them to contact me.

On Sunday 22 April a stone chip and shattering of glass was noticed on the windscreen of a vehicle in the Fullers area. It was reported as a possible attempted theft from a vehicle,

though no entry was gained nor anything stolen. It is possible this could have been accidental damage. There was a Satnav left inside the vehicle on show. We never advise to leave anything of value inside an unattended vehicle, even if hidden out of site. Remove all belongings from vehicles.

In the early hours of Wednesday 2 May, two offenders broke into Broadwindsor Community Stores. Following the quick actions of a local resident, Police were called and attended the scene, arresting both suspects. I have asked the local Inspector for this resident to be officially praised for their actions. Crimes like this are not a common occurrence in an area like this and when they do occur it is certainly not common for the offence to be witnessed. So, I am very pleased and grateful to those who take it upon themselves to assess what's going on and to act so quickly to bring this to our attention (without putting themselves in harm's way).

Just to keep everyone in the loop, I have recently met with many of the volunteers for the Drimpton Community Speed Watch Team. I am hoping that they will be able to start training in the near future, but they do not have a co-ordinator currently. The Co-ordinator isn't too time consuming, but is responsible for liaising with the Broadwindsor Group for sharing of the kit, ensuring the team who will be doing the activity have the kit available to them and ensuring the team have a rota and liaising with the Police Co-ordinator. I would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who is interested in joining the Team to let me know.

Just to remind everyone that I will be in attendance at the Post Office coffee mornings on the second Tuesday of each month at 11.00 am, for those that wish to come and raise anything with me, or ask questions/advice, or just to meet and say hello.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8**

### **THE OPENING DOORS PROJECT**

#### **COUNCILLOR TIM YARKER**

Good Evening, it's a great pleasure to be invited to your Annual Parish Meeting here in Blackdown. Housing is now up there with health on the national agenda, because of its perceived shortage and unaffordability. Dorset is one of the most beautiful and sought-after places to live but it is facing major housing issues with increased demand for homes outstripping supply. The average house price in West Dorset it is £307,000, whilst in England it is £280,000, this is 12.7 times the average income in the District. The average private sector monthly rent is £778. So people from different walks of life are struggling to find suitable properties they can afford, and some young people are moving away and employers are finding it hard to attract new talent to the area. This is particularly difficult for those that employ key workers, and the problem will become worse as the population ages if we don't do something about it.

Although we have the largest number of Housing Association properties of all the Dorset Local Authorities at 6937, we still have a growing list of families on the Housing Register, currently at about 1550. Of course only those in the highest priority, the Emergency Band, are actually homeless, it is an indicator of those who are inadequately housed.

That is why we launched Opening Doors which is the accelerating homebuilding programme of the Dorset Councils Partnership, with the aim of building 20,000 high quality homes of all tenures between 2016 and 2033. We need to see more homes built every year to sustain our

population, help our communities thrive and ensure that we have the skilled workforce to ensure our economy grows. You have grasped this necessity here with formation of the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust, from whom you will be hearing later.

So what are we doing? Our councils no longer build houses, own housing stock or act as developers but there are steps we can take to enable and encourage greater construction of housing by the market and communities. With our Opening Doors programme, we are taking a much more pro-active role. We are working more closely with communities, developers, Government, housing associations, builders and partners to do all we can to help them to build the houses which we need. We have recruited a senior executive from the commercial housebuilding sector as a Commercial Housing Enabler, poacher turned game keeper, if you like to liaise with the commercial developers and housing associations, encouraging them to build out, and helping them over the various hurdles that our complex planning system throws up. Our strengthened Housing Enabling Team has secured significant funds for community led housing, and for housing infrastructure from central government.

We are also forming a Local Authority Trading Company to deliver housing, with the aim of building 320 new houses by 2024. We intend these to fill the gap where both the Commercial sector and Housing Associations might struggle, and expect this investment to leverage a lot more housing. We are also working to ensure that we get the right balance of sites in the Local Plan reviews that are underway. This is important not only for housing delivery, but to ensure that we meet the Government's housing delivery test. Failing this we are open to unwanted speculative development under the National Planning Policy Framework.

So we are doing a lot of work to try and get the houses we need built, and it is my and my colleagues in North Dorset and Weymouth and Portland mission to ensure that the programme is continued by the new Dorset Council after April 1 next year, and rolled out right across Dorset for the benefit of all our communities.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9**

### **BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

#### **COUNCILLOR ROWLAND HIBBARD**

The Neighbourhood Plan continues to evolve and this has been possible because of the input from the members of the Parish who have over the last three years answered questionnaires and attended the roadshows we have staged to keep as many as possible informed. The minutes of our meetings and the results of the questionnaires are available for public viewing on the Parish Council website under the Neighbourhood Plan page.

We are able to inform you all that we are holding public roadshows on the 16 June at Broadwindsor Hall and on the 23 June at Drimpton Hall, this is to allow you all to view version six of our draft plan which is the pre-submission version, we hope that as many as possible of you can attend to view the draft plan and to give us your feedback and comments, those of you who are not able to attend the roadshows will be able to view the draft online and copies will be on view at the shop and pubs and all the Halls. If necessary we can also post a copy. We can then make any amendments before we send it off for inspection by the District Council, there will be a 7 to 8 week period in which you will be able to give feedback and this will start from the 1 June.

The work, time and effort that has been put into developing this plan is a credit to all those who have been involved and I would like to give my sincere thanks to all on the Committee for their time and effort in getting the plan to this point and for the support they have given me as Chairman.

**AGENDA ITEM 11**

**BROADWINDSOR SCHOOL**

**MRS. DIANE COLTART**

Broadwindsor School is thriving with 100 pupils attending the School, this is the highest number of children in the past 18 years. All the vacancies on the Governing Body have been filled and numerous volunteers help to support the School either running clubs and after school activities or listening to children read.

Towards the end of January we had an Ofsted inspection and I am very pleased to report that the School has maintained its Good rating. The HMI Inspector looked in depth at our data, attainment and progress of the pupils, scrutinised pupils' books, checked our safeguarding procedures and spoke to Governors, parents, pupils and staff.

A whole School trip to Salisbury Cathedral was planned for March but due to incidents in Salisbury, this has been rescheduled to take place in June. The classes will take part in a variety of activities including Cathedral stories, animal trails, Magna Carta activities, an organ playing demonstration and an act of worship. A whole School trip does not happen often but when it does all the pupils enjoy a day away from the normal class environment.

Our Head Teacher Nigel Arnold has decided to retire at the end of July after 18 years at Broadwindsor School. The Governors have been busy recruiting a new Head Teacher. I am pleased to inform you that an appointment has been made of a very experienced Head Teacher from Somerset who will be joining the School in the new year. Staff, Governors, parents and pupils will be looking forward to welcoming the new Head Teacher in September.

**AGENDA ITEM 13a**

**BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL**

**COUNCILLOR ROWLAND HIBBARD**

Blackdown Village Hall as with all the valued Halls in the Parish is a bit like the Forth Road Bridge in that as soon as you finish one round of improvement there is another lurking around the corner to keep all involved with the repair and upkeep on their toes !! Last year we completed the refurbishment and improvement of our toilet and kitchen facilities but now we are in the final stage of the interior decoration with just one wall to be finished, also the completion of the replacement of our ancient storage hut which we were thinking would have collapsed many years ago, the new hut will have the benefit of lighting which will prevent many curses when we are trying to locate items after daylight.

Our Committee and helpers work tirelessly to help keep the Hall clean and tidy and the funding we receive from the Parish Council is a valuable source of income as we try to keep charges as low as possible but our ongoing costs water, electric, insurance and maintenance keep slowly rising so we may have to increase our fees despite the injection of funds from the Council. So, a big thank you to the Parish Council but also to all on our Committee and

extended family who are involved with keeping our Hall a vibrant and essential part of our community.

**AGENDA ITEM 13b**

**COMRADES HALL**

**MR. ANDREW HOOKINGS**

At this year's AGM our Secretary of several years, Lesley Tibballs resigned. We are delighted to have a new Secretary in David Chumbley, who represents the Group Parish Council on the Committee. Ron Wright who has served on the Committee for a number of years has also resigned, and now leaves us for pastures new. Ron has been an active member of the Committee, most recently assisting as my Vice-Chairman, advising the Committee on fire safety and organising the redecoration of the Hall.

Additional thanks must go to Brian Stone, our Treasurer. Brian's financial management abilities have ensured that we have maintained and improved our financial position. Members of the Hall Committee have all been involved in a range of fund-raising activities including a race night, the Comrades Arms, 100 Club and the Film Club, or undertaking our own maintenance.

Together with the grant from the Parish Council, our fund-raising events have enabled us to provide a superfast broadband facility throughout the Village Hall, which will enable us to 'stream' the Royal Wedding and Cup Final on 19 May. We have also improved our heating in the main Hall, and redecorated the whole of the ground floor, and insulated the floor of the stage. In addition, with good financial management we have avoided any increase in our hire charges.

The Village Hall remains at the heart of our community, like the White Lion Pub and the Village Shop. It never ceases to amaze the amount of use the Hall has, apart from the usual venue for parties, weddings or wakes, we have a huge range of regular users including skittles, short matt bowls, over 60s, WI, Quilters and Stitchers, Gallery Choir, Brownies, and Sunday Afternoon Church services etc .

**AGENDA ITEM 13c**

**DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**MRS. ROSEMARY SHEPHERD**

Life in Drimpton continues apace. Our main focus over the past year has been to fund raise and complete Phase 1 of our Car Park Extension. This has been achieved thanks to a fantastic Sub Committee who set about organising a number of very successful events and all our Village groups who also raised money through extra activities. An interesting range of Artsreach events were very well attended by local people and a large number from further afield. These all helped to swell the funds and with more events planned it was apparent that finances were in a state where we were ready to start some serious planning for the project to go ahead. We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council who made us a generous offer of a loan which enabled the work to start at the end of the summer and to be completed before the autumn/winter weather came in. We have been advised not to go ahead with tarmacking for at least 3 years – so plenty of time to raise the additional funds for this and explains why the thermometer outside the Village Hall is so tall.

We have continued to ensure that the Hall is well maintained. Some our largest bills have occurred because of problems with plumbing; a cracked pump in the roof space caused flooding and a damaged ceiling; a variety of minor inconveniences in the toilets. Thanks to the Parish Council; their continuing support with annual contributions to our running costs is very much appreciated when these emergencies arise.

The Village's De Fib Machine had to be removed from the wall outside the Hall where it was accessible to all because of the failure of the unlocking system. Martin Rowan Robinson who took on responsibility for checking the equipment fought hard to get the suppliers to admit that it was faulty. The costs quoted for getting it inspected were extortionate. This equipment was purchased by all the various organisations in the Village for the village. It didn't seem fair that they should all be asked to contribute again for something that was clearly no one's fault – just a piece of inefficient equipment. Eventually a more reasonable deal was struck with the suppliers. Once again, the Parish Council have come to our aid They have now taken responsibility for all running costs and repairs for the 3 machines within the Parish. (Broadwindsor, Drimpton and Kittwhistle) and our machine is now back and accessible.

On a disappointing note, you may be aware that we no longer have a Football Team in Drimpton. Two years ago, they were so successful that they began running two teams but that was short lived. We are very grateful to Tony Francis who through his knowledge, understanding and commitment has maintained the pitch and the surrounds to a high standard throughout the past year. Because of this there are other teams who are wanting to use this pitch while theirs are unplayable.

At our AGM I stood down as Chairman after 3 years. Fortunately, Martin Higgs was waiting in the wings and is now our Chairman. (I am continuing as Bookings Secretary should you wish to use our Hall.)

#### **AGENDA ITEM 14**

#### **BROADWINDSOR ALLOTMENT GROUP**

#### **MS. SHEILA HAWKINS**

In 2017 we had 20 paid up plot holders. So far this year we have welcomed two new plot holders and said farewell to three. So, there are still plots available, either full sized or half plots, should you know of anybody who might be interested in taking one on.

We would like to thank one of our plot holders once again for mowing lots of grass, including some of the paths between allotments, which is much appreciated. He has undertaken to do the same during 2018 with his brand-new mower. During a period last summer, when the mower had 'died', David Leader very kindly brought the mower from the Broadwindsor Sports Field along in an effort to keep the bottom track clear, and we are very grateful to him for that.

We should also like to thank another plot holder who provided creosote and treated the fencing at the main gate in December last year. Several plot holders participated in the Dorset Tea Sunflower Growing Competition. Although we didn't win anything, it was lovely to see the displays of sunflowers growing across the site.



Unfortunately there have been a couple of instances of theft from sheds on plot sites during the year. We have put a warning poster on our noticeboard and let other plot holders know, suggesting that anything kept on the allotment is as secure as possible. We will report any further instances to our Community Police Officer.

The Allotment Group was very pleased to be offered the possibility of a small Parish Council grant. After discussion at our recent AGM it was agreed we could purchase moveable bird scarers to discourage jackdaws and crows. The Parish Council are also considering reinstating the hedge along the road at the bottom of the site. Allotment Group members are generally in favour of this idea and hope to be consulted on the plant type and its maintenance, should this go ahead.

This year we will plant some wild flower plug plants in our slowly-developing wild flower meadow. Members are welcome to grow or buy wild flowers and plant them themselves. We also plan to use the top of the meadow as a communal seating area, probably using logs and planks.

## **AGENDA ITEM 15**

### **BROADWINDSOR COMMUNITY STORES**

#### **MR. ANDREW HOOKINGS**

This April saw the end of our 5<sup>th</sup> year of trading, with a turnover of £231,054, and another year where we traded at a profit. During the early part of our trading year we welcomed Kevin Madder-Smith as our new manager, taking over the reins from Stephen Jarvis, who has since embarked on a three year adventure on his canal boat.

Kevin settled into his role very quickly and his passion for the role can be seen by anyone visiting our stores. Aply assisted by Jane Sloman, we continue to offer a wide range of produce and groceries. Our ongoing success this year is in part down to the excellent work of both Kevin and Jane, but also to our group of 49 volunteers, without whom we could not operate.

The shop provides an Amazon drop off/returns point. We also provide a Paypoint facility where customers can pay their utility bills, television licence fee and top up mobile phones. In addition, we offer a prescription service with Barton House Surgery with deliveries to the shop, twice a week.

Our Management Committee with nine members, meet usually on a bi-monthly basis. Fraser Hughes our Chairman of almost 7 years, has decided to step down, but remains on the Committee. Fraser's enthusiasm and drive was instrumental in getting the business off the ground, and he has continued to steer the ship excellently until he stepped down

The Treasurer, David Taylor, has again done a marvellous job, and works tirelessly in his role. Susannah Madigan, our Committee Secretary since the business was established has also stood down, but remains on the Committee Other members of the Committee include Stewart Urry, Vice-Chairman and Company Secretary; Charles Quin, Legal Advisor; Chris Edgerley; Sue Hibbard, who stood down from the Committee at this year's AGM; Sally Dawson: and myself. At the AGM, Sandra Burrows was elected to the Management Committee. At our first meeting after the AGM in April I was elected as Chairman, and aim to continue the good work of my predecessor.

## **AGENDA ITEM 16**

### **BROADWINDSOR JUBILEE GROUP**

#### **MR. KEN BODYCOMBE**

Broadwindsor Jubilee Group was formed to celebrate the Queens Golden Jubilee in 2002. The purpose of the Group was to organise events in the Village primarily to have fun, but to also fund the Annual Fun Day. Surplus monies as a result of the Fun Day are donated to some organisations in the Village. Due to funds raised throughout the year we are able to hold the Fun Day and Fireworks free of charge to all.

This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year for the Jubilee Group. To date we have donated funds in the region of £20,000K to village organisations. Donations made for this year were awarded to Broadwindsor W I. School, Over 60's club, Fullers Social Club, Brownies, Hursey Sports Field and the Church After School Club.

Report of events for the year from March 2017 – March 2018.

Easter hot cross bun and coffee morning held on Good Friday.

Spring Fair/Plant Sale and coffee morning. We also invite other stall holders who request a space to sale their products.

Fun day held in early June. Starts with big breakfast from 9.00 am -11.30 am. This year we did over 110 breakfasts. We get plenty of help from non-group members to deliver the breakfast to whom we are very grateful. This is hard work but fun.

This year we did not hold our usual fun day fete in the afternoon. The Group felt trying to do it all on one day was too much for the Group. This was disappointing for those families with small children. They didn't have anything arranged specifically for them as in other years. The Group have decided to revert to our usual format for the 2018 fun day. We plan to spread the event over two days. A barn dance was held in the Village Hall to round off the 2017 fun day which was very successful.

In July we held a thank you evening for all those who have helped us with events throughout the year. We catered for 70 helpers and members.

Fireworks evening held as close to the 5<sup>th</sup> as possible. Again this was a great success. We also sell soup, hot dogs and burgers on the green prior to the display. This year we had sponsorship of £250 from Symonds & Sampson's. A local resident donated a large firework this year which we used as our finale. This was a great ending to a super show.

Christmas tree lights and village house lights this year were switched on by our own Vicar Joe Neary. Followed by carols in the local pub. Spike and Vikki, our Landlords, provided mulled wine and mince pies. Fun was had by all.

Our yearly quiz night was held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Arranged once again by the Group's treasurer Heather. Another fun evening.

So I am pleased to report that the Jubilee Group feel we have achieved our objectives. Enabling us and others to have fun throughout all our events this year. We look forward to another successful year for 2018-2019.

This year's Fun Day commences a Big Breakfast on Monday 28 May from 9.00 to 11.30. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30pm we have sing-along version of Mama Mia. Saturday 2nd June Fun Day 2pm until late in the Square and West Street (the road will be closed) with live music, stalls, skittles, vintage cars, plate smashing, teas, BBQ and much more

#### **AGENDA ITEM 17**

#### **DRIMPTON & NETHERHAY YOUTH CLUB COUNCILLOR STEVE CHUBB**

Good evening. My name is Steve Chubb and I am here to represent Drimpton & Netherhay Youth Club. Firstly, I must thank all the volunteers who help run the Youth Club which meets twice a month in Drimpton Village Hall. Numbers are currently around 20 children, ageing from 7 to 15.

The last year has seen a new team running the Club, a big thanks to Rob, Emma and Tracey for taking over and keeping the Club going, other helpers also require a thank you for helping when required, some remember being at the Youth Club in Drimpton in their youth.

In the last year we have arranged the following:

- Film nights
- Games nights
- Axe Valley Zoo visit
- Police Station visit
- Art night with help from Beaminster School students
- Yeovil climbing wall
- Skittle night in the pub where over 30 children turned up, a big thanks to John & Sue.

I must thank Roger Smith and the Village Hall Committee for helping to organise another Arts Reach evening with Tessa Bide a puppeteer, this was a great success with over 50 children and adults enjoying an evening of visiting the moon!!!

Unlike a lot of local youth clubs we are entirely self-funded so have held a charitable comedy night in the Royal Oak Pub with some excellent comics. I must thank those involved in organising these events; we hope to do the same again this year. This keeps the admission cost to £1.00 per child. We have applied to the FMR Trust for money to enable the children to visit local attractions which pays for transport and helped towards purchasing a fold up pool table to make it easier to move and store.

All our helpers are all DBS checked and we have trained first aiders at each event. We have been pleased to have members of Stockland Parish Council visit to show how we organise running a youth club.

## **AGENDA ITEM 18**

### **CLAPTON, WAYFORD & DRIMPTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**MRS. DIANA LEAKE**

#### **Membership**

We have 73 members . Membership is currently stable.

#### **Meetings**

We have continued our programme of monthly meetings which have been well attended by members. We have had a varied selection of Speakers including the Head Gardener at Barrington Court, local food producers (watercress), a local naturalist, Colin Vardy and a practical demonstration by Brian Carlson — making hanging baskets.

#### **AGM**

21<sup>ST</sup> February 2018, John Wright was re-elected as Chair for the forthcoming year. Ian Hallett will continue in the role of Show Secretary. Julia Borland has taken on the role of Treasurer and Jean Colgan has joined us as a new Committee member. Linda and Roger Smith have both left the Committee and although the Society is sad to see them leave we also appreciate that they have given many years of faithful service to our Society - Linda in her capacity as Treasurer and Roger as Vice Chair.

#### **Key Events in the Past Year**

**Potato Day.** Saturday 3<sup>RD</sup> February. Approximately 150 people attended , a similar number to previous years. Thanks to Pennards Nurseries who made the day possible and Rosemary Shepherd and her many helpers for the excellent catering.

**Annual Show** . This year's Show was a great success with a similar number entries to previous years including entries from Broadwindsor School. This was Ian Hallett's first year as Show Secretary a title which encompasses many roles —organisation, leadership, innovation and communication. Ian proved to be a very effective Show Secretary, his expertise as a RHS Judge ensured the Show was of its normal high professional standard.

#### **Visits**

Visit to Wildside Gardens on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 which included a tour of these fascinating Gardens.

#### **Charity**

Our Village Hall has recently extended the Village Hall carpark. This was an essential improvement and as a Society we were glad to be able to make a small contribution.

#### **Forthcoming Events**

Annual Show, 2.15 pm Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Potato Day, 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019