

# Wingerworth Parish Council annual report

2005-2006

## A message from the Council

THE sudden death of Cllr Shelagh Walker a year ago cast a shadow over the start of the new Council year. Whilst recognising her valued contribution to the Council during the 17 years as a member, it also left a third vacancy within the Council. It was agreed that there would be a co-option process for these vacancies and later that year Margaret Parker, John Ollis and Russell Stafford joined as new members, Margaret and

Russell for the Wingerworth Ward and John for Hardwick Wood. Once again the Council had a full complement of members

The past year has been a steady one with some projects, unfortunately, falling by the wayside due to either lack of interest or commitment. However, there have been some positive aspects. One of these has been the Council's Footpath Committee which has been given a new lease of

life thanks to Cllr Tom Snowdon and volunteer assistant Mike Sims.

Along with occasional helpers, they have been working on bridleways and footpaths in the area. They have had valued help from the Footpaths and Bridleways Section of Derbyshire County Council. They are also working on up-dating the footpaths register which will be a tremendous

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# Working for you

## Activities in the Parish Hall



**A packed Parish Hall for the Council's annual Christmas event**

THE operation and maintenance costs of the Parish Hall is the Parish Council's major area of expenditure (see page 4 of this report) but the investment does mean that there is a flexible multi-purpose centre at the heart of the community which provides for a host of activities.

These activities include badminton and table tennis, both of which normally take place on two evenings a week, and classes in ballroom dancing and martial arts.

The Parish Hall also provides facilities during the week for the Wingerworth Library and the New Road Nursery as well as an After-School Club, a Mother and Toddlers Group and a weekly clinic.

Other organisations regularly using the Parish Hall include the Wingerworth Community Association, the Women's Institute and the Women's Club.

A number of organisations make occasional use of the Parish Hall for special events such as annual meetings and presentation nights and a range of private functions are catered for from children's parties to golden wedding celebrations.

The Parish Hall is also used for a series of public meetings, fund raising events and exhibitions and, from time to time, commercial events which are charged at a higher rate.

Important annual events that take place at the Parish Hall include the Remembrance Day Service, the Switching-on of the Christmas Tree Lights and the ever popular drama productions which normally run for three nights at least once a year.

And of course the Parish Hall is used for the monthly meetings of the Parish Council and for meetings of Council committees. One of these committees is charged with making sure that the Parish Hall continues to serve the community well and with adjudicating on the increasing number of occasions when there are more requests for bookings than rooms available.

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asset to all walkers who enjoy the rural beauty of Wingerworth.

The never-ending problem of litter and vandalism is still a concern for the Council. Through the Clerk, we are working with the Area Manager of Spar Lateshopper to address the litter problem around that area. This includes a short-term project of extra litter picking duties for our grounds man whose time is paid for by Spar. Extra litter bins for that area will also be sited soon

The one act of vandalism that did blight the year was the damage caused to the Christmas tree and lights. It was mindless, as vandalism usually is, and the culprit was caught and fined by the police.

There are, thankfully, more positives than negatives to be found. The annual switching on of the Christmas tree lights with the carol concert that follows and the Remembrance Day Service are two events during the year that the Council are proud to play host. Both of these bring together all ages of the community for very different reasons. One person who will be missing from these events in the future is Richard Felton, Head of Hunloke Park School. After 30 years of teaching the young children of Wingerworth, he has recently retired. Although a resident of Ashover, he has always been involved in Wingerworth life through the school. He, in fact, instigated the renovating of the area around the War Memorial stone which eventually became the Jubilee Gardens

The sports and leisure facilities are continually well-supported by the Clubs, Associations and the general public. The Council staff, along with District Council staff, continue to maintain the standard of care to the playing areas and the pavilion. The Parish Hall is also well used and accessible to groups, organisations and the public. This cannot be achieved without the hard work of the caretaking and cleaning staff along with the Bookings Clerk. The Council acknowledges this and thanks them. Thanks also to Mike Taylor, the Clerk, for his hard work and involvement in all matters of the Parish Council.

My final thanks go to the Members of the Council for their support alongside their work and commitment to serving the residents of Wingerworth.

I make no apologies for repeating that in Wingerworth the good and pleasant far outweigh the bad.

*Ann Sainty, Chair*

## Activities in the community

THE Parish Council supports a range of activities in the community including football and cricket. The Deerpark cricket ground is a home to two teams playing in the Derbyshire County Cricket League and the Deerpark Pavilion serves these teams and any teams using the nearby football pitch. The Council also provides the Adlington football pitch for juniors.

Other sporting activities supported by the Council are tennis at the three court complex at Deerpark, bowls on the neighbouring bowling green and angling in the Wall Pond. The Council provides a children's play area at Allendale Road and

the broad expanse of grassland at Chartwell Fields which is available for outdoor games. The Council bears the considerable costs of maintaining these facilities in good order through grounds maintenance contracts, professional consultancy and the use of specialist contractors to deal with sensitive environmental work as with the Wall Pond.

One important facility in the Parish is the allotments at Watson Lane. Although owned by the Parish Council, much of the organisation and upkeep of the site is undertaken by the Wingerworth Allotment Holders' Association who work hard to support this important community asset.

# Working for you

## Caring for the environment



**Picture illustrating of the range of outdoor activities offered by the Parish Council with fishing in the fore at the Wall Pond beyond which is the bowling green, the tennis courts and a football pitch.**

OVER the past couple of years the Council has been committing more resources to caring for the environment. The Council pays for the provision and servicing of an increasing number of litter bins and dog bins throughout the Parish and the Council has negotiated a contract with Tates Lateshopper to clear litter from the front of the shopping complex at Allendale Road.

The Council also cleans bus shelters and maintains a number of pieces of land around the Parish including the churchyard, the Sheepwash, the island at Stubbing Pond, the paths at Deerpark, the copse near the Island Pond, the reed beds and surrounds at the Wall Pond and various areas where overgrown vegetation can restrict access.

The Footpaths Committee of the Council, with support from the County Council and help from volunteers, undertakes both maintenance and improvements on the 14 miles of public rights of way in the Parish and generally surveys and monitors the states of these important rights of way.

The Council is fortunate in having an active and highly competent tree warden who is taking a detailed interest in those trees subject to tree preservation orders. He also takes a more general interest in trees throughout the Parish and gives consideration to extending the number of trees covered by preservation orders.

In a broader way, the Council keeps a close eye on all planning applications submitted from the Parish with a view to ensuring that all new developments are in keeping with the character and ambiance of the Parish which is so appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

The much appreciated annual floral display is provided by the Parish Council which contracts a specialist supplier to provide, erect and service the many hanging baskets in the Parish.

## Supporting the community

THE Council is a listening organisation that attempts to respond to requests and needs in the community. To that end the Council has a Listening Service at the Parish Hall on every Saturday prior to the monthly meetings of the Council. The Listening Service is conducted by two Parish Councillors and is open to all residents of Wingerworth to voice any comments or concerns.

Small donations are made by the Council to a number of organisations in the community as well as organisations from outside the Parish who provide benefits to parishioners.

The Council also attempts to represent community views on a variety of issues including the need for improved bus services, road safety concerns, the need for improvements to highways and pavements and the maintenance and management of environmental features in the Parish.

The Council supports Wings by taking a full page in each edition as well as a four page spread for the annual report. It also has an active website at [www.wingerworth.org.uk](http://www.wingerworth.org.uk) which both provides information and acts as a sounding board for anything to do with Wingerworth.

The Council is proud to be your Council, is keen to listen to you and always seeks to do what is best for Wingerworth.

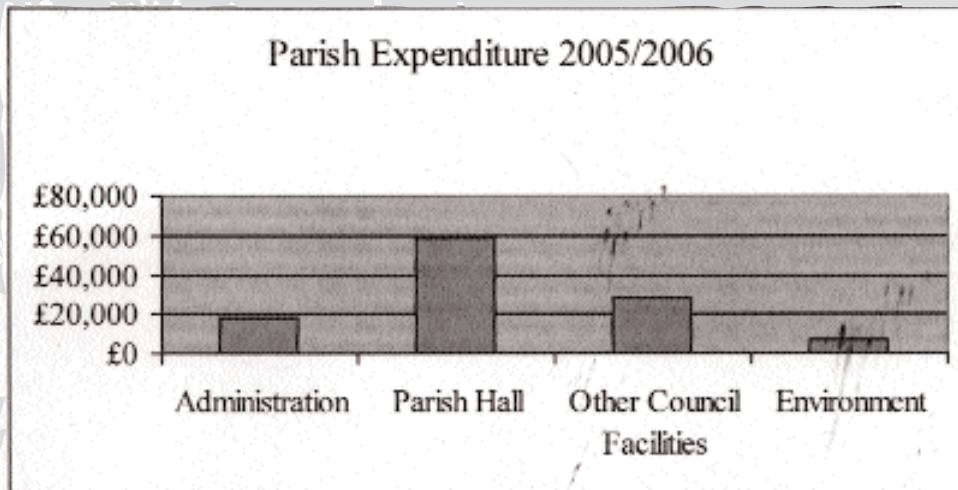
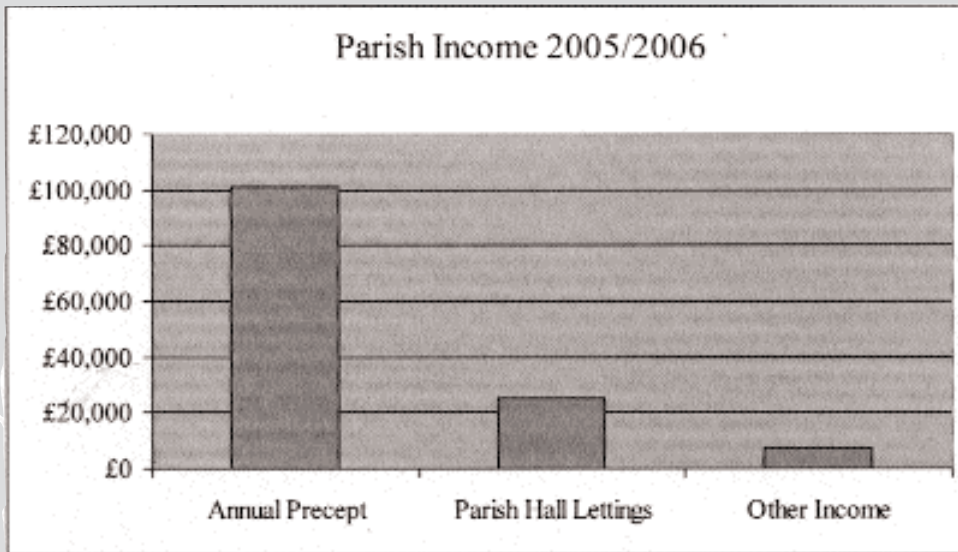


**One of the hanging baskets comprising this year's floral display in Wingerworth.**

**Below, The broad expanse of Chartwell Fields**



# Working for you



## The Parish Council's financial results for 2005/2006

THE total income for the Parish Council for the last financial year was £133,346 which was an increase in income against the budget figure of £126,415. The total expenditure for the same period was £107,516 which showed a saving against the budget figure of £114,633.

These results leave the Council with a surplus in excess of £18,000 for the twelve month period. The main categories of income and expenditure are summarised in the two charts below:

The results of the Audit Commission's external audit of the Council's financial accounts will be posted on the main Parish Hall notice board in the autumn.

The Council remains committed to a tight control of expenditure and strives to achieve value for money in all of its activities. As a result of this disciplined approach to the management of its finances the increase in the annual precept for 2006/07 has been held to the prevailing rate of inflation.

