

## **St Martha Parish Council - 2016 Annual Report**

We began the year with one newly returned Councillor, Patricia Allen, and one vacancy. One matter of immediate concern was the remedial work needing to be done on the recently renovated War Memorial, as three of the newly laid stones had spalled badly. This matter has taken much Council time but we now have written agreement with the contractor to replace the damaged stones and this work is expected to take place in the summer.

Another matter that kept the Council very busy this year was the Chilworth Community Governance Review. At the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015, Guildford Borough Councillors voted for no change to the present arrangements in Chilworth.

Positive outcomes of this review have been the raised profile of, and interest in, the work of Parish Councils generally and, most importantly, the closer working together of Shalford and St Martha Parish Councils. We now have a representative attend each other's meetings and reports on matters relevant to Chilworth as a whole village are shared with both Councils.

A particular example of this co-operation was the installation in January this year of youth sports equipment at Brookwood Sportsfield (Shalford Parish) funded by S106 monies payable to the community from the developers of Haywards Corner (St Martha Parish). The two Councils worked together with the Borough to enable this money to benefit the village of Chilworth.

In August, we received news from the borough that a complaint had been received from a local resident regarding the height of the eaves on the new bus shelter at Chilworth station. Investigation revealed that the new bus shelter does not meet modern height and highway requirements. Arrangements have now been made to raise and re-position the bus shelter as required.

We have had some personnel changes during the year. In November, David Bunting retired from the Council. Our thanks go to him for his service, both as Parish Councillor and as Chairman. Two new Councillors were co-opted, Richard Good in November and Peter Corning in January. We now have a full complement of Councillors, which is very good news.

Throughout the year, the Council has responded to highway and footpath issues and sent comments to the borough on all planning applications made in the parish. A new bench has been installed in Halfpenny Close and a de-cluttering exercise has mapped all our village highway signs and markers. We also broke with tradition and began to hold monthly meetings.

Among other issues looked into and commented on by the Council has been the proposed disposal of West Lodge, the Guildford Local Plan and the proposed Dunsfold and Newlands Corner developments.

My thanks go to Mike Lunnon, John Peake, Clive Seabrook, Patricia Allen, Richard Good and Peter Corning for all their support and commitment, not forgetting our Parish Clerk, Anne Tait. It is a pleasure to serve such a lively and pro-active Council and we wish all residents to know that we want to hear of issues that are of concern to you so that we can better represent you and your views to Guildford Borough Council.

Stephanie Sokolowski - Chairman

### **The Annual Statement of Accounts for Year Ended 31/03/16**

The Annual Accounts for St Martha Parish may be viewed on the website:

[www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

Alternatively, if you would like to receive a copy, please contact the Clerk – 07976 778864