

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2016

Recently three members have been co-opted onto the Committee. Rob Taylor, Gemma Hallin and John Smith. Rob and Gemma are both Parish Councillors and John Smith is already known to many being the leader of the Paths Group. John, who is a retired banker, is taking over as Treasurer. Those that have been co-opted followed the resignations of Roger Wilmer and Pat Palmer to whom we would express our appreciation for their work on Committee.

The Christmas Tree Lighting takes place on 10 December at 6pm and we would thank Pat for continuing to coordinate this event. Due to its increasing popularity, new signs have been bought to help with the management of the road closures. We would ask for the cooperation of all in the village for the hour and a half that the roads will be closed for this event. The Christmas Tree is a feature of the village throughout the festive season.

The Winter Supper will be held in the Village hall on Saturday 7th January. This year one of our members, Dick Waterson, is organising the event along with our caterer, Kelly Mileham. Please see separate notice for details of booking for the supper.

Three planters were installed by the Paths Group in June to brighten up the roads into the village. These have flowered all summer and are being replanted with pansies and daffodils for the winter months. Our thanks to the Conservation Group members who look after them. Daffodils have also been planted where the grass verge was formed on Lampool Edge this year by the Paths Group. This Group, who meet weekly on Wednesday mornings, have also kept clear the paths around the village and are presently undertaking work at Rabbitty Lane to make it more passable during the winter months. This work requires a supply of rubble and if any member has

this available and wishes it uplifted please contact John Smith Tel: 01825 714683.

Due to a recent change in policy at East Sussex County Council the issue of future grass cutting in the village is still under review and it is hoped this will be finalised shortly.

At the beginning of October there was a clean-up day when a remarkable amount of litter was collected despite ongoing litter picking by several of our members. There is still a problem with dog fouling on verges and pavements. All dog owners must take responsibility for clearing up after their dogs and disposing of dog poo bags in the dedicated bins and not throwing them in hedges and bushes as happens on occasion.

The Children's Play Area at the Maresfield Recreation Ground has undergone a complete refurbishment and was reopened on 25 October after 3 years in the planning. Children from Bonners School drew up plans 3 years ago of the equipment they would like and it is already proving very popular. MCG have donated a picnic table for the use of all using the play area.

You may have noticed that the White Rails on the High Street adjacent to the church, as mentioned previously, are in a poor state of repair. They are a feature of the village but unfortunately the White Rails are not considered a safety factor by ESCC and as such they will not fund their replacement. The Committee are currently getting costings with a view to replacing them. It may be the amount required is more than MCG would normally give for one project and this may involve seeking donations or holding a specific fund-raising event.

The website is being developed to give more ongoing information to our members. If you are happy to receive communication by email, please give us your email address.

Maresfield Conservation Group is a volunteer organisation and any member willing to assist the committee with practical help or administration would be more than welcome.

Sheila Cumming

Chairman