

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –YEAR 2002/03

2002 is best described as yet another busy year. In the summer, together with over 200 local residents the Parish Council celebrated the Queens Golden Jubilee at a special event held on 15th June 2002 at Winwick Leisure Centre. 5 bands and a disco provided the entertainment on an outdoor stage area and it was a real pleasure to see the large numbers of people who set up barbeques and partied with their friends and family. To commemorate the Jubilee we created a new path on the Recreation Ground, joining the Myddleton Lane entrance to the Leisure Centre.

We continue our work to encourage community activity and have had another successful Best Kept Garden Competition. 2003 will see the launch of a Youth Good Neighbour Award. This will be an award to a young person between the age of 11-17 living within the Parish and who has made a difference to someone or a group of people in the areas of personal care, care for the environment, care for the community.

Planning issues continue to be a high on our agenda and recent news that under the Borough Council's draft Unitary Development Plan Peel Hall is now protected, as "safeguarded land" which would substantially protect it within the greenbelt, has been most welcome. Pressures on our community still exist with the development of Parkside still unresolved. I would like to assure local people that the Parish Council remains vigilant in the protection of our "Village way of life"

In the last 12 months the Parish Council has adopted two model codes of practice, a model code of conduct, which ensures the highest standards in the way we conduct ourselves and our business and the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which we commit ourselves to provide open information on all our activities and decisions. New audit arrangements came into force during the year. Whilst the Parish Council has naturally complied with the new arrangements, it does not believe that they represent value for money and is protesting at the increased cost.

I am most happy to announce that we have, for our work in developing the Wildflower Meadow at Radley Common once again won the Warrington Environmental Award under the Cheshire Community Civic Pride Competition. In the overall competition for Best Kept Village we were a runner up in our section. We take our responsibilities for the environment seriously and have, in partnership with Groundwork Mersey Valley, now developed a 5 year planned maintenance programme for Radley Common. We are in preliminary stages of discussion with Groundwork Mersey Valley on the potential for developing "Myddleton Mere" Delph Lane as a community resource.

The Parish Council prides itself in its achievements in the provision of community facilities at Winwick Leisure Centre. I can announce that we will be commencing a project this summer for a major extension and internal improvements to the Centre. Subject to planning permission, the work will consist of the building of two new multipurpose rooms to the front of the centre together with a new disabled toilet, new ladies and gents toilets, improved access to the Activities Hall, refurbished showers and new officials changing area.

During the year we have had a number of personnel changes. Councillor Mrs Joan Worthington has left and I am pleased to welcome Councillor Mark Hooper in her place. Regular users of the Centre will have noticed that Lorraine Orrell has been appointed as our Deputy Manager. Ray Hall who was our groundsman has left and his work will now be carried out under a contract with the Borough Council.

I would once again take this opportunity to thank the members of staff of the Parish Council for their hard work and support over the last year.