

## **Hadlow Parish Council Chairman's Report Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

This will be the last time I have the pleasure in writing a Chairman's report for Hadlow Parish Council and addressing you all at the Hadlow village meeting.

This will also be the last time the Parish council will have Ken Terry, Freddie and Iris Shaw, Richard Morley and Charles Vernon. None of these have put up for re-election onto the Parish Council. I would personally like to thank them for all of their hard work over the last 4 years of my term as Chairman. Ken Terry previous Chairman and long-time member of the Parish Council deserves special thanks for many years of devoted service.

We had another mild winter with no snow, so our voluntary snow wardens were not called upon but we thank them anyway for their continued support and willingness to serve.

The Parish Council purchased additional land neighbouring the present cemetery enabling the cemetery to be extended. This allows for an estimated further fifty years of burials and internments. Many positive comments have been received about the condition and the appearance of our cemetery. This is a credit to all concerned. The hedges have now been planted and fencing erected, I look forward to the completion of this project and will watch over the hedge to see the progression.

The day to day work in the Parish to serve the community is well managed by Melanie and her team. They are always available to help with whatever comes across the desk or through the door. Elaine is now dealing with most of the cemetery administration and continues to ensure we are up to date with relevant legislation. Final thanks to Dave for his many skills that keep the parish looking so tidy and maintained. The team are always looking at ways to get more funding and this has shown with the funds available for the new play area at William's field, where work commences in early May.

I would also like to thank as part of the big team that supports the community TMBC Councillors Jill Anderson, Janet Sergison and Howard Rogers' all of them, looking for ways to enhance the parish. The advice we get is invaluable. County Councillor Mathew Balfour who always pops in to keep us up to date with what is happening in Kent and somehow always finds some hidden treasure to help us improve the facilities in the parish. Good luck to them all in the forthcoming elections.

Parish council meetings have not been the same without PCSO's Kim Hockey and Toni Matthew coming in to keep us informed of the decreasing crime figures in our parish. I believe a lot of this is a result of all the hard work you both put in. We would like to thank you both for all of your hard work and the unseen time spent helping the parish and the youth of Hadlow.

I do hope the Parish will be able to co-opt some good hard working parish councillors onto the council after the elections. I have seen some comings and goings over the last 8 years, being such a vibrant village there has to be lots of commitment if you wish to join the council.

The Christmas lights this year were the best we have ever seen with the support of the village and the investment we have been able to enhance the lights and reduce the running costs. It is always a pleasure to see Hadlow lit up at Christmas.

A few things that we have not fully achieved as a council are to have enough volunteers for speed watch; I thought this may have improved after our meeting to discuss the tree. A big thank you to those who turn out and especially to Mel as I know the time she spends trying to make this work.

The only thing that I leave unfinished is the lease for the village hall and the Hy-Arts centre. These areas are so important to the village and I do hope the closure of the leases will happen shortly.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to serve on the parish council and I look forward to seeing you all around for the foreseeable future.

David Hammond  
Chairman – Hadlow Parish Council