

The Parish Council is working hard to find a solution to the inadequate bus service. In February a questionnaire was delivered to every household in Haddenham, Aldreth and Wilburton. Councillor David Lyon analysed these and ongoing talks with Cambridgeshire County Council, Dews and Ely and Soham Dial a Ride are taking place. We hope to achieve a satisfactory bus service later this year. I thank David for volunteering to undertake this huge task. He did a great job! Wayman's Pits (Closed Landfill Site) is an ongoing project and now we have the new 40 mph limit along Station Road we will again apply for 'Change of Use' planning permission later this year. We want this place to become part of the village dog walking circuit and picnic area. The views are stunning!

As last year and the year before we are still concerned about the numbers of HGVs passing through the village. Although we now have an agreement with several companies not to allow their vehicles to use Haddenham as a 'short cut', there are still far too many using the A1123 & A1421 as just that. We are still working to find a solution to this problem.

I would like to thank Jenny Manning for all her excellent work in keeping us in order. She works tirelessly to ensure that we do things right and without her input the council could not function as smoothly and professionally as it does.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Council for their support during the year.

I look forward to the year ahead.

Julie M Parr

B. Allotments:

Demand from new holders is slowing down but there is a steady request from existing mini plot tenants for additional plots.

C. Arkenstall Centre:

The building was started 40 years ago and some parts are in need of modernisation. A 5-year plan is being formulated, a lot of which will depend on external funding. Part 1 is to improve the heating in the Main Hall and this is likely to cost around £12,000. Also to upgrade the toilets and this could cost £25,000. Other areas for the future include heat saving, greywater schemes and roofing. These together could run up to £50 to £60,000. Due to changes in hiring demands the role of caretaker/cleaner is being considered to become two jobs.

D. Burial Areas:

The Burial Committee meets 3 or 4 times a year to inspect the cemetery and discuss any relevant issues. Checking the area to make sure it is looking clean and tidy and the grass is being cut regularly. At our next meeting we shall be reviewing the cost of interments, erection of a headstone, additional inscription to a headstone, etc. The prices have not been reviewed since 2007. In the year 2011/12 we have had the following:

- 14 interments of bodies
- 7 interments of ashes
- 8 memorials
- 2 exhumations of ashes

E. Fairchild's Meadows:

The Meadows continue to have a steady stream of visitors, many from outside the village. The wildflowers continue to spread away from the original planting sites and look fantastic when in flower. The hedge between the bonfire and pond fields is growing strongly and in a few years will hopefully be ready for 'laying' in the traditional way. Work in the meadows this year has mainly focussed around the problems of the 'dry' part of the pond and the spread of thistles in the wildflower meadow. Two successive dry years have not helped the pond, which appears to have developed a leak. As a solution a barrier of clay has been built in the dry pond and the overflow ditch has also been banked to keep in water (should it ever arrive). Whilst the digger was on site the marginal area and deep pond area were

