

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

23rd May 2016

The Annual Parish Report is meant to summarise the focal issues of the least year for this village. The emphasis and the importance of any issue will vary from one person to another so what I report here is my view of the last 12 months. It has been a quiet year with no major planning issues and no exceptional events or worries. We have had to address the internal pressures that any council faces in bringing its procedures up to date. Some of these are now compulsory, but enthusiasm for the wind of technology driven change and the ability to carry it out varies from person to person. We live in the age of social media and some of us struggle to make sense and adapt to this. In making these changes to improve communication about what we do and to show transparency in our affairs, we must make sure that we don't alienate those who have different way of doing things and are making contributions to village life in other ways. There are pressures between the old and the new which are not always comfortable. What I see is that the village needs a modern website but how is that achieved, designed and run while recognising the efforts of those who run the current one. There may be funding available from something called "The Transparency Fund" run by the National Association of Local Councils to help us make this happen.

Congratulations to Debbie Wiltshire for getting the speed camera team working and operational. The traffic using the village as a rat run is high but so has been Police presence this year and together with Debbie's group this will help to control speeding.

The village shop and Post Office changed hands and are now run by Karen and Callum. Like all village institutions it must be supported if it is to survive. Arts Reach has had a good and varied program playing to almost full houses. Well done Fran Taylor and all your helpers.

If I have a concern it is that the village hall committee, the Blanchard Trust committee, the church helpers, the transport group are all drawn from the same nucleus of people. We must find a way of getting newcomers to the village and younger people living in the village to become the nucleus for the next decade. We all love to live in Martinstown but for the community to continue as it is villagers must offer their personal service to help the common cause. No help will ever be turned down.