

**PARISH REPORTS 2017**

The Parish Council

In the past year the Parish Council made grants to the following:

* The Gratton Trust for the joint walkway project
* The Victoria Hall for new winding equipment
* The Bullington Lunch Club which also operates at the Victoria Hall
* Holy Trininty, Wonston and Stoke Charity & Hunton PCC
* Citizens Advice Bureau
* Olive Branch Christian Councelling Service
* Scots Tots

Funds have also been spent in the Stoke Charity play area where the swings have been replaced, the slide and benches repaired and ‘Thomas’ painted. The War Memorial has been refurbished, a new bin has been installed near Sutton Park Road and the bench at the Burial Ground has been restored. Councillor Johns is constructing two new noticeboards and one of these will be sited, with a bench and waste bin, on the grassed area at Gratton Close.

The Parish Council have continued to work with HARRAH, Winchester City Council and Hyde Housing to provide affordable housing in the Parish and planning permission has now been granted for the site at Buddlesgate. The Council have also been involved in ensuring that adequate affordable housing provision was included in the planning application for Old Station Yard.

The Council are very aware of the concerns that residents have expressed about traffic speed in the Parish and the lack of crossing points on Oxford Road and to the garage and post office. With the help of Hampshire County Councillor, Jackie Porter, we are seeking to draw attention to these issues and to seek support for improvements.

The Parish Council have a new website under construction which can be accessed at: [www.wonstonparish.org.uk](http://www.wonstonparish.org.uk)

Please contact the Clerk or one of the Councillors to discuss any of the points in this report, to ask how to apply for a grant or an allotment or about the Parish Council Burial Ground.

The public are always welcome to attend Parish Council meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of each month, and have the opportunity to speak at an early stage in the meeting.

Victoria Hall

At the Annual General Meeting in January a new chairman, Alistair Black, was elected. Thanks were given to George Gray, chairman since 1999, who had guided the committee through the exciting years of re-building the hall (1999-2001) and the purchase of the car park and garages (2011-2013). George remains on the committee as the parish council representative.

The Hall now has a website of its own thanks to Rob Parker who has helped set this up and is very kindly going to remain as web master. The site is to be found at: [www.suttonscotneyvictoriahall.org](http://www.suttonscotneyvictoriahall.org)

It contains the Annual Report and accounts for 2016, information on charges and booking, current activities, a history of the Hall and much more. Do have a look at it and let us have your comments and suggestions!

Sue Lane, Secretary.

**The Gratton Trust**

The Gratton is in good shape in all respects.

Our finances are respectable thanks to all the trustees who work tirelessly to raise funds throughout the year and year on year, to the many volunteers who help us on our busy days and to the public who generously donate and attend our functions, spending their well-earned cash to the benefit of the charity.

On my watch we have managed to complete an improvement project each year and the project for 2017, funds permitting, will be to install a boardwalk along a significant length of the riverside.

Go down to the Gratton and see for yourselves, it really is a great place to be with a kids play area, outdoor fitness equipment, large car park, peripheral path, manicured lawns and picnic tables!

Our Challenges:

Trustees – How many years is it reasonable to expect individuals to give up their time and energy for the benefit of the community? I believe that many of the existing trustees will soon be exhausted and the board will need refreshing. There MUST be replacements out there, or what??

Dogs – The Gratton still has a significant issue with irresponsible dog owners. We have now installed bag dispensers at either end of the Gratton and several disposal bins. We need the public to help police this issue please or let us have your suggestions as to how else we may try to improve it.

Events to come in 2017

June 24th GRATTONBURY October TBC Gratton Clay Shoot

September 3rd Alice in Wonderland Afternoon – a magical time for kids

Thank you for your time and attention, John Polak

**Wonston Villages AED Project**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our community for the magnificent response to this project.  Whether you gave directly or gave of your time by acting in our pantomime or singing in our choirs or baking cakes for our community cafes.  Your generosity in time and money has enabled us to provide five Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPADS) - one in each of our villages.  In addition we have a maintenance fund which will ensure that the CPADS are kept in top notch condition for years to come.  Your contribution has made the Parish a safer place to live and work.  Please take a little time to visit our website [www.wonston-cpads.org](http://www.wonston-cpads.org/).

Following on from our first CPAD Awareness Session at Norton Park Hotel, which was attended by 30 residents and employees, we are holding a further session here in the **Victoria Hall on Friday 19th May 2017 at 7.30pm.**  Our instructor will be Paul Abbott a full time firefighter at Southampton International Airport.  Paul really knows his stuff and injects a good amount of humour into his instruction.

The presentation takes about 60 minutes and I urge you to attend this session.  Whilst our CPADS require no training to use on a patient there is no doubt that having some basic instruction will boost your confidence in attempting to save a life. *Giving up an hour of your time could mean extending the life of someone else.*

I look forward to seeing many of you on the 19th.

Rob Parker - Chair Wonston Villages AED Project 07980 773330

**Winchester Villages Trust**

Charity Reg. 246512

**2016-17**

Wonston parish is one of 14 parishes from the former Winchester rural district council area that combined their charitable funds to form a Trust providing help to individuals and families in times of need. Leaflets advertising this help are displayed around the parish and will be available at the Annual Parish Assembly.

The Trust’s funds are invested in COIF (Charities Investment Fund) and approximately £4000 income is generated annually and is available for expenditure. Over the past 12 months £240 has been spent in Wonston parish involving help with transport costs for hospital visiting in Southampton, equipment to help a young person develop their chosen career and provision of nappies and other essentials for a family with three children experiencing financial difficulties.

Whilst the sums involved are modest a response to recent gift expressed what the help can mean - ‘Many, many thanks. Just knowing that someone cares has made a huge difference. Thank you again.’

Referrals are received from health and social care agencies, councillors, neighbours, friends and family and are treated in complete confidence.

Sue Lane (Wonston representative).

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