

Chairman's Report

2021 has been a very unusual year. Most of our meetings have taken place via zoom, which has made decision making challenging. Some of those decisions have been hard, as they have impacted the community (ie closing the playground during the first lockdown). Despite this, we have tried to keep things as normal as possible and have appreciated how the whole community came together during the first lockdown, making sure that everyone that needed it had a good level of support. The Village Hall becoming a temporary food shop was, I'm sure, appreciated by many who struggled with online ordering. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Gardening Club for their work planting bulbs in the Autumn, these will be a most welcome addition this spring as they will brighten our lives as we wait for the Government to start giving us some freedom. Thanks also to Sally Graham for keeping the village litter free. I'm sure her role has been more difficult this past year due to all the extra visitors that Hackfall has attracted during lockdown and the closure of the Hackfall car park. As a Parish Council our thanks go to Andy for finding ways to keep meetings running and Parish Council business in order during these trying times. It has, as I'm sure you can imagine, been a bit of a challenge at times. Alison has been busy sourcing new trees to replace the old oak tree that had to be cut down near the end of the village, this took much longer than she anticipated, but the trees have now arrived and are waiting to be planted. Thanks also go to Alison for driving forward the new mobile post office. This has been a much appreciated addition to the village. Mark has been busy walking local footpaths to make sure that they are all signed correctly and are accessible to walkers. Peter and Geoff did an excellent job with the Christmas tree and lights this year, as did the Royal British Legion with the lights for the Wayside Cross. We look forward to seeing them lit up every year. Geoff has managed to give the playground surfaces a bit of the clean, so they are back to their normal colour. We still have maintenance jobs to do, an agenda item that lockdown has put on hold, but hopefully people can start moving round more freely this summer so we can work on these. Volunteers are much appreciated.