**APRIL 2018 - REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHEDISTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

As co-ordinator to the Chediston NHW, this year has once again seen only a very few NHW Alerts and crimes in or close to our village. Most of the more relevant concerns have been circulated to villagers on the NHW List. The NHW members list is being constantly updated as newcomers to the village arrive. Each newcomer is given a NHW letter and explanation of the scheme and given the opportunity to join or opt out. Alerts continue to be made via the telephone system list but many alerts are now via email where possible and this function does make life somewhat easier for the sub-coordinators and myself. Generally all incidents are promptly published on the Parish website, and also on the Website’s Facebook page. (It is appreciated that not everyone has computer access).

As previously mentioned we now do not have a dedicated local Police representative/contact. Our contact is solely with the general Police Safer Neighbourhood Team which is now based out of Halesworth. Their area of responsibility is now vast stretching from Southwold in the East to Palgrave in the West. The post of Community Watch liaison Office (CWLO) has been taken away completely. The Safer Neighbourhood Watch Association is now the lead within the county for all Coordinators and contact.  We have now had to completely reregister due to the Data Protection Act. We really have no idea how the scheme is functioning; as the Police have even less involvement now I certainly do not expect any improvement in liaison with the Police or SNWA. Police liaison continues to be poor.

Finally, I have tried to recruit a volunteer to take over my role and run the NHW scheme in Chediston but after many attempts I remain unable to get anybody to fill this role. I have an excellent assistant in Pat Mattinson (who because of health cannot take on the scheme although is willing to remain as assistant). The role is not too onerous but I have a great many other roles to fulfil in the village. So, please somebody volunteer to take this on.

David Mantell

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**CHEDISTON & LINSTEAD PARISH WEBSITE**

For another year I am pleased to be able to report that The Parish Council Website continues to build on its reputation and goes from strength to strength. This year saw a complete revision to the editing suite and appearance of the public face of the onesuffolk websites. The change has involved many hours of research, study and attending seminars. There has been a mixed reaction to the website design but generally it has been very positive. Onesuffolk’s IT department have been helpful but the changes are a ‘work in progress’ as the hundreds of emails and phone messages between myself and them have proved.

As I mentioned in previous years, I continue to be greatly encouraged by the increasing number of villagers who mention that they have seen something on the website, and also those who say that they are regular readers. Most of the new arrivals to the village state that they had read the Parish website prior to purchasing a home here. We still require more villagers to write in to the website with reports of events and photos etc. The website, rather than direct approaches to Parish Councillors, seems to be the hub for information enquiries and complaints; many of these items are published, inviting comment. (In some respects those with dissatisfaction with life within the Parish should also attend PC meetings to reinforce their concerns that they and others have raised on the website!). In the same vein, we continue to have readers all over the world, many of whom have some some connection with the Parish either now or several generations back. Reunions in the Parish have taken place initiated by a chance reading of the website via google or other search engine.

This year I am unable to provide a complete record of reader interaction with the website due to the website design revisions. However, using the google analytical tracking program I note that over the last month, deducting and allowing for people who mistakenly hit on the site (known as a bounce rate), there have been 1302 page reads which equates to a large 65% increase. This is encouraging but one must bear in mind that this is only based upon a month rather than a complete year. One must also take into account that the website’s Facebook page is recording a large readership and may detract from the website itself. The statistics show that locally we appear to have consistently an average of 10 active readers (10% up on last year) every day and these read an average of 3.55 pages on each visit (up from last year). Outside of our immediate vicinity we have regular returning readers from all over the UK plus USA, France, Italy, Spain, and Australia, with smatterings from several other countries. Locally and in order of popularity are the following pages - Home, News, Noticeboard, Events, Events Diary, Churches, are the most viewed over the last year.

Over the last year the Parish Website page on Facebook has continued to attract increasing numbers of readers. Obviously the immediacy of postings appearing on smartphones and tablets accounts for this. Although this may detract from regular readers of the online website, it carries important notifications from the online website and gets messages across. It has proved very popular, with many posts from villagers, but more villagers need to be encouraged to post directly to the Facebook page rather than emailing the website and asking for matters to be published on the FB page! Judging by the number of ‘Likes’ and ‘Comments’ it serves a useful purpose by highlighting events in the Parish and directing users to the Website for further information. It should be appreciated that not everything on the Facebook page is published on the website and vice versa so readers shouldn’t just rely on one or the other for their information.

I know that this seems obvious, but as previously mentioned, I would encourage the PC Chairman and all Parish Councillors to read the website and its Facebook page (yes, I realise lots hate Facebook but it is certainly popular with Councillors’ constituents) and to absorb any concerns that villagers have posted. This will enable a greater understanding of what those concerns are!

Once again, my usual request - I would really appreciate much more input copy from villagers. I continue to ask villagers to report on some events and I would take this opportunity of thanking those who have assisted with reports and photos. Linstead continues to lack the coverage that I would like but this is because very few people from Linstead submit anything; indeed this includes their up and coming events and their Team Times entry, although this year has seen a small improvement of information flow.

I would really appreciate any comments about the website and particularly any improvements that it is felt should be considered.

The website continues to take up a great deal of my time as on average it is updated many times a week.

David Mantell

Webmaster