

Bigbury Parish Council
Chairman's Annual Report 2019

Whilst the intention is for this just to be the usual annual report, I'm sure that you all know that it will be my last report as chairman. Therefore I would like to begin by saying a very big thank you to all my fellow councilors for all their help and hard work, not just for this last year, but also for the four years of this term of office.

I am very pleased to say that the Neighbourhood Plan has progressed well this year under the expert leadership of Val Scott, who I am delighted has become a member of the Parish Council. The Plan is nearing completion and will be submitted to SHDC for final consultations in the near future. Part of the plan is the affordable housing scheme at St Ann's Chapel, which is now awaiting approval from the planning department, and hopefully work will commence in the autumn. It is important that local people who are interested in these houses be sure to apply as soon as possible. I would like to thank all the members of the NP committee for their dedication and hard work.

We have had a change of ownership at Burgh Island which has been very good news for the community. We are now welcome on the island, and we all need to get back into the habit of supporting this unique local business as much as we can – I used to be a very frequent visitor myself, and have very fond memories of enjoying the facilities of the Pilchard Inn which has now had new kitchens fitted and does an excellent range of food. Added to that, the owners of Burgh Island also acquired the Bay Café, which we are assured will be re-opened in the near future. At this juncture I should mention that we owe huge thanks to Beth, who in her role as District Councillor worked so hard to ensure that that the plan to build four houses on the site was overturned, which enabled the café to continue as a community amenity.

Last summer, our local shop changed hands, and we are pleased to welcome Jaz and Jaswinder to Bigbury. We wish them all the very best for a successful and happy tenure at the shop, and hope that they are now feeling settled in the parish.

At the same time, on behalf of the parish I would like to thank Dane and Hilary for their many years of hard work to enlarge and create

such a community friendly business. I am sure that we are all delighted that they still like us enough to decide to retire here.

We are sorry that the Korniloff has now closed as a residential home at Bigbury on Sea. Like our other businesses it was part of the community, not least because of the monthly charity coffee mornings that were held there. Recently these coffee mornings have moved to the Memorial Hall, and have been very successful so far. I would like to congratulate Jean and Yvonne for all their efforts in supporting such worthwhile causes.

Whilst on the subject of the Memorial Hall I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work, both in looking after the building and in laying on such a wide variety of entertainment and events for the community. Also thanks to all those who hold regular classes and activities here.

I am very pleased with the continued success of Bigbury News, run by Louise, which must be one of the best parish magazines in the area. Recently Louise has introduced Bigbury Drums, a linked email newsfeed which gives up to date information about all sorts of local events. You will find details of how to be part of it in the magazine if you are not already signed up.

On the subject of local communications, we are also very grateful to Stuart for his years of excellent work on the community website.

I would like to finish by thanking all the parish councilors, Beth, Sharon, Cathy, Val, George, and also Hannah for all their support whilst I have been chairman, and to wish the new parish council and chairperson every success for the future.