

## Chairman's Annual Report 2014/2015

On behalf of the Parish Council I welcome you all this evening and thank you for your interest in what is happening within our community.

I am saddened to report that Councillors Lindsay Clubb and Andy Durham have resigned from the Parish Council in order to concentrate on their respective business interests. The time and effort they have and are giving to the Parish Council cannot be underestimated. The insights they have given has been valuable and they will both be missed. On behalf of the Parish Council I wish them both well for the future.

As you will recall, flooding has been an issue in Tunstall for some time. Last year the Catchment Pit behind the playing field was completed with connections to both the pond in front of the pub and into ditches along Orford road.

The system was tested severely in the autumn and winter when persistent heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in Orford Road and School Road in particular. Other parts of the village were also affected to some extent for some days or more. Sadly the new system did not alleviate flooding as well as we might reasonably have been expected. SCDC staff have investigated and concluded that there could be measures implemented to improve the situation. So far nothing has been instigated.

Mr David Lowne, a Tunstall resident, spent a considerable amount of time and effort trying to find the causes of water being held back and subsequently flooding roads. He has, through the Parish Council Clerk, communicated with Council employees and some improvements have been made. His tireless efforts are very much appreciated and I know he felt that he was "Pushing water up hill" to get anyone within SCDC to take action. It is fair to say both the Contractors and budget have a part to play in this situation.

The legal process regarding responsibilities for maintaining the Catchment Pit and liabilities is nearing a conclusion, thanks in part to my predecessor Andy Durham and to Lindsay Clubb in particular. On behalf of the Parish Council I convey our very sincere thanks for the work you have done and are doing.

Our Emergency Plan was completed this year and recently distributed to all households within the Parish, along with the Bulletin, by the volunteers who deliver the Bulletin. Thank you all.

The Parish Council have paid for a defibrillator which has been installed on the outside of the pub. Our thanks to John and Ros Hazelton for allowing the machine to be installed on their property.

The Community Hall has been fitted with replacement windows and doors early this year and they significantly improve the Centre. The car park has also been resurfaced. This work has been instigated by Richard Ledger and we thank him for his time and energy spent looking after the Community Hall.

He would be grateful for help on the Community Hall Committee if anyone feels they could be of assistance.

I would like thank my fellow Councillors for their support and encouragement and especially our Clerk, Judi Hallett for her guidance and patience over the last year. I was co-opted onto the Parish Council in March last year and appointed Chairman in July so change has been swift. My hope is that I have done the best I could for the residents of Tunstall in that time.

Finally, my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the life of the village.

Stephen Saunders.  
Chairman,  
Tunstall Parish Council.