



# **Rolleston on Dove Parish Council**

Clerk: Mrs Mary Danby  
32 Hillcrest Rise  
BURNTWOOD  
WS7 4SH

Mobile: 07908 545412 (Office hours)  
Email: [rollestonpc@outlook.com](mailto:rollestonpc@outlook.com)  
<https://rollestonondovepc.co.uk>

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR ROLLESTON ON DOVE**

#### **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT**

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting for Rolleston on Dove will be held at the Old Grammar School Room, adjacent to St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rolleston on Dove DE13 9BE on Monday 25 April 2022 at 7.30pm.

Local Government electors for the Parish will be entitled to vote at the Meeting which will be open to the public.

The business to be transacted at the Meeting will be as follows:

- 1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2019 (Enclosure 1)**
- 2. Matters arising from the previous minutes**
- 3. Chair's welcome and review of parish activities (Enclosure 2)**
- 4. Borough Councillor's report**
- 5. County Councillor's report**
- 6. Reports from village organisations (Enclosure 3)**

Councillor Clare Stewart  
Chairman  
2021-22

11 April 2022

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL ROOM, CHURCH ROAD, ROLLESTON ON DOVE  
ON TUESDAY 21 MAY 2019 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

**Present**

Councillor S McManus (in the Chair)  
Councillors E McManus, Sanderson, Stewart and Wyatt  
M Badcock  
P Barnett, Rolleston Civic Trust  
B Gooding  
J Phillips, RoDSEC  
Brierley family )  
Butler family )  
Glasby family ) BKV Poster competition winners  
Morris family )  
Peck family )  
Zaitseva family )

Councillor McManus welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded to distribute the certificates and art set prizes to the winners of the BKV Poster competition:

Under 5's	Claudia Brierley )	
	Ray Foster* )	Joint winners
	Thomas Morris )	
5-7 years	Connie Glasby	
8-11 years	Alice Peck	
12-16 years	Amber Butler	
Judges Special Award	Eva Zaitseva	

Councillor McManus said that all the posters had been displayed on the new noticeboard at the school and some had been displayed on the Meadow View noticeboard. The posters will have been seen by the BKV judges when they visited the village. He said that electronic copies of the posters had been taken and these will be used as images for publicising the 2020 BKV competition. He thanked Karin Kay, Tom Martin and John Phillips who had judged the competition.

**1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2018 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor McManus said that the Rollestonian of the Year award would be presented at the July parish council meeting (voting would be done at the June parish council meeting) – this had been delayed this year due to the local elections in May. As requested at the 2018 meeting, the Honours Board had been installed in the Old Grammar School Room.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF PARISH ACTIVITIES**

Reviewing a year of activities from the Parish Council (PC) reminds you of the incredible number of activities that take place within such a small village and yet again the thanks of the PC goes out to all those volunteers in the various organisations that make it all happen. Without their tireless work and dedication to making things happen the village would be a very different place to live.

For the PC it has been another year of progress, some frustrations and change. November saw a change of Clerk with Jane Bucknall leaving to take on a new role and Mary Danby being appointed to the role. Our thanks go to Jane for her work over previous years and also to Mary for taking up the post with such enthusiasm and already making her mark. May brought the end of Jason Wyatt's term as chair, being

replaced by Steve McManus with Clare Stewart as vice chair. Again, a huge vote of thanks to Jason for the last 2 years of leading the PC through a challenging time in many respects but also one where we have moved forward significantly as a PC. May also saw the local elections and with it the retirement from the PC of James Toon after 14 years of service. James will be sorely missed by all on the Council although he assures us that he will still be around and may be persuaded to join us for a drink on occasion. Thank you, James!

### **Planning**

The revised Neighbourhood Development Plan has once again taken a significant amount of time over the year and we are hopeful that it now nears a conclusion. We await the results of the independent examiner who will review the plan, along with all feedback and make a final decision. This is a very important piece of work for the village and offers us some protection over planning matters that may impact us. I hope to be reporting this time next year that the plan has finally been 'made'.

The proposed College Fields development is another saga that has run throughout the year. Although we await the official outcome of the village green application, at the time of writing it does seem that the construction of the site will commence sometime in the summer. This marks the end of many years of fighting the plans on many fronts and will come as a bitter blow to many. We now need to ensure that the construction creates as little disruption as possible to everyone in the village, particularly those residents directly impacted.

### **Highlights**

The year has seen a number of highlights across many areas including:

- Replacement of a large number of road signs around the village
- New and replacement benches on Elizabeth Avenue
- New benches both inside and outside the Jubilee Orchard, both by generous donation
- A replacement spinner on Elizabeth Avenue thanks to a very generous donation
- Replacement planters on the Spread Eagle island
- The archiving of the old village website and the launch of a new one
- Archiving of village records in the county records office dating back to 1896
- A new PC noticeboard located within the school site
- Securing the funding for the re-generation of Brook Hollows
- Installation of the circular bench around the Millennium Oak on The Croft, with thanks to the Civic Trust for the donation

We have also entered the Best Kept Village for the first time in many years and await the outcome of the first round of judging. The results of the children's poster competition have been displayed around the village and prizes awarded at the Parish meeting. Again, a big thank you to all the volunteers, not only those that turned out on the 3 clean-up days but all of those who contribute in their own way. Litter picking, maintaining the Burnside and village entry planters and Spread Eagle island garden are just some of the activities that help to maintain the appearance of the village. Particular thanks go to Janet Sanderson and her small team of helpers who, after many years of maintaining the Burnside planters, has decided to step down. This work will now be carried out by contractors.

Other notable highlights include the incredible Rolleston Remembers campaign in November, culminating in the poppy cascade and a standing room only service to mark the 100 year anniversary of the end of the Great War. Many thanks to RoDSEC as the driving force behind this fitting tribute.

The Jubilee Orchard continues to develop and is looking better than ever this year. Thanks for all the donations and help, in particular to Cllr Mike Robson for leading this. The Station Heritage Group have also continued their outstanding work in maintaining and further improving the Jinnie trail, in particular the station end.



*In loving memory of Ann Haywood*



*In loving memory of Maisie and Geoffrey Birch*

### **Challenges and looking to the future**

The year has also brought a number of challenges and areas that will be taken forward into our plans for the coming year. The railings along Brookside and Burnside are deteriorating at an alarming rate. The PC has been working continually to establish the ownership of these railings and to obtain commitment to repair and replace. This will be an ongoing issue that we will not relinquish.

Along similar lines the car park, railings and changing hut on the Craythorne playing fields are in similar need of repair and upgrade. A project has started to address this and will be reported back though the year.

Although footpaths and stiles around the village are predominantly on private land the PC is actively working on an approach that would see many stiles replaced or repaired to enable these much used trails to be enjoyed into the future.

The elections in May saw only 7 people put themselves forward to become Councillors. Whilst understandable in many ways, this does put additional pressure on those few individuals to deliver services to the village. We will be looking to add to those numbers by co-option but also looking at a different way to get people involved. A new Environment committee will be established which will look to recruit people from all areas of the village and will have a specific focus on all aspects of the environment that we live in including:

- The Jubilee Orchard
- Best Kept Village
- Litter and dog fouling
- Footpaths and stiles
- General upkeep of the village
- Close links to the contractors employed by the council
- Links to other groups such as Station heritage, St Mary's church, Civic Trust, etc

With budgets across all forms of public spending becoming ever more challenged the pressure to 'do it yourself' will increase. Whilst this may not sit well with everyone it is a reality that we are facing, and we have to face into it or see a general deterioration in the standards that we all want to maintain. If you would like to join this group or get more information, please contact the Clerk.

#### **4. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Toon was not present at the meeting and a report was therefore not presented.

#### **5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor White was unable to attend the meeting, but he had submitted the following report:

The County Council has had another immensely challenging year due to further reductions in central government funding and the growing demand for both adult social care and children's services, which now

account for two-thirds of the county council's expenditure. Overall this reduction in funding and increase in demand meant that the county council has had to find an additional £35 million in cost savings for the 2019/20 financial year.

As many people know, one of the options for savings was the removal of funding for school crossings patrols. I am glad to say that following a lot of hard work, the threat to school crossing patrols has been removed and there are no plans to review funding of this service again.

Despite the funding challenges, the county council continues to invest in our area. In the last year we have seen the opening of the state of the art £30m John Taylor Free School in Tatenhill and £6m Henhurst Ridge Primary and a little further afield the new Lichfield Library has won national plaudits for its sensitive restoration and reuse of a disused church in the city centre.

Over the summer we will see major road programmes in our area with the complete reconstruction of the Five Lanes End roundabout and the full resurfacing of Shobnall Road and the lower section of Forest Road. The resurfacing of Beacon Road and Marston Lane will also go ahead but we are awaiting dates for other utilities work to be completed on these roads before dates are finalised as the last thing anyone wants is for the roads to be dug up immediately after they have been resurfaced.

All of this investment, together with the 30 million hours of care per annum the county council delivers is made possible through the careful management of your tax money. I intend to continue to ensure every penny is well spent and focused on the areas of greatest need.

## **6. REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

### **6.1 St Mary's PCC**

The PCC has continued to hold regular meetings throughout the year, to discuss the Finances and the Fabric of both the Church and the OGSR. Whilst there hasn't been a large project, such as the updating of the Lighting system, as in the previous year, to consider, several other issues have been – or are being – addressed which will greatly improve the image and working of the Church.

Aesthetically, the Perspex in the outside Notice Board has been replaced and the War Memorial Boards in the Lych Gate have been renovated. The state of the paths leading up from the Lych Gate and the ramp to the main door have been causing concern for a long time. Work on these, together with the underlying drain problems, is due to begin shortly.

The brick, boundary wall which borders the Churchyard and the Croft is also in a poor state of repair, particularly at the end nearest to the Church. It is hoped to have a buttress built at this end, to protect it from collapsing. At the far end, bordering onto the Croft, several trees and bushes have grown into the wall and these have been cut back. In addition, there were some large trees near the jitty, between the Church and the Spread Eagle which were blocking out a lot of light as well as growing into the wall. These have been felled. Work on the steps under the Lych Gate should begin shortly. The top step is to be moved back and appropriate handrails fitted.

This year also saw the production of Christmas cards produced by members of the PCC. These listed the various Services taking place over the Christmas period and were delivered to every household in the Village.

There are also the day-to-day expenses which need to be paid –utilities, insurances and the Parish Share. The PCC needs to decide how best to use the Finances effectively and they continue to offer their thanks to the many people who organize Fund Raising Events in order to raise money for St Mary's Church. They also wish to thank everyone who supports these events, for without these many of the accomplishments would not be possible.

### **6.2 Rolleston Civic Trust**

The Civic Trust AGM was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March and the following were elected as The Committee for the year 2019 to 2020.

Chairman: Peter Barnett  
Vice Chairman: No Volunteer  
Secretary: Anne Overton  
Treasurer: Mike Hill  
Hon Auditor: David Phillips

Committee: Sue Fraser, Roger Gawthorpe, Phil Irwin and Linda Martin

The Audited Accounts were tabled and showed a balance of £7331.26. The accounts were accepted by all present.

### **Meetings Programme**

Our programme began in April with a talk by Brian Morris, The Magic Lantern Man and in May Paul Newman gave us Blessed Assurance.

June saw a change to our usual format, and we decided to hold a ticket only event providing a more humorous speaker followed by a buffet supper, the speaker was David Tideswell, the bird man, who led us through the trials of raising a blue tit family. The talk was very well received and the supper a great success. We have decided to repeat the format this year.

After our summer break September saw Steve Bull recalling the history of The Burton and Ashby Tramway. He had some wonderful slides showing the tramway from its celebrated opening through to its end, including a major disaster on the way. There was a lot of interest in this talk.

In October Graham Nutt was scheduled to talk about The Magic Attic, but as Graham is sadly very ill, John Redfern gave the talk on his behalf, and gave us all a full insight into this valuable local asset.

In November Malcolm Goode finished his series of talks about Burton in World War 1, entitled Burton at War in 1918. This series of talks has led us through all the hard times suffered by Burton folk and its soldiers throughout the war years and has been much appreciated.

We followed tradition by inviting Richard Stone to start our series of talks in 2019, and as usual he gave us a very illuminating hour relating the history of map making.

In February we had a subtle change in our usual format of talks by people relating to events they had researched, to a talk by someone who had actually played a part in those events. Jim Sweeny told us of his part in My Falklands, from how he first heard he was to go to battle, how he got there, what happened when he did, and his thoughts, fears, horrors and relief when it was all over. A very emotional talk.

We ended our year at the AGM with Louise Morris who is intent on Transforming the Trent Valley. We can only hope that she also intends to transform Rolleston as well.

### **Events**

Our plant swap was again held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May and raised £188.50 for St Mary's; this was down from last year but still raised a goodly sum.

### **Village Projects**

#### **Burnside Troughs**

We again had a wonderful display throughout the year, especially with Rolleston in Red, but sadly Janet decided that she must relinquish her role in maintaining the troughs. She will be greatly missed, but things must move on, and all the members of the Civic Trust and The Parish Council are most grateful to her, and her small team of helpers, for their efforts in the past. This is not the end of the troughs as The Parish Council and The Civic Trust will continue to support this much appreciated village asset.

### **The Croft Bench**

During the year The Civic Trust approached The PC with a proposal to donate a circular teak bench to be placed round the Millennium Oak on the croft, and after consideration of the details and specification, they gave their approval. If you now visit The Croft you can rest your weary bones on the latest village bench.

### **Brook Hollows**

Lottery Funding has finally been granted for the scheme to transform the Trent Valley and Rolleston features in that application. We must now await the presentation of the final scheme to see how we will benefit and what works will come to Rolleston. A lot of work is yet to be done.

### **Rollestonian**

Our Editor, Lesley Bayston, and our Advertising manager, Anne Overton, have continued their Stirling work in producing our village magazine. We did incur some problems with our distribution network this year, but hopefully this is now resolved as Clare Norman has taken over the vital role of co-ordination of the supply chain. The Civic Trust is very grateful for all the efforts of our delivery team over the years. There are too many to name them all, but you know who you are, and we are extremely grateful for your continued support.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The work in preparing our new Neighbourhood Plan is finally complete and the document has been submitted to ESBC for independent inspection, and, if and when accepted, for referendum by the whole village. There have been some delays in its production, and some unexpected twists and turns along the way, but under the Chairmanship of Lisa Claber, The Parish Council and The Working Group finally achieved the task. It has not been easy as it was essential that our plan was robust and contained all the aims needed to protect and enhance the development of Rolleston as a thriving village, and also to contain all the necessary policies to deliver those aims.

### **Committee and Membership**

I must report that we have been suffering from falling membership numbers for some years. This must be addressed.

It cannot be solved by the Committee alone; it is up to all members to make what we do known to friends and acquaintances who are not members and encourage them to join. It is also up to all members to ensure the Committee thrives and there is continuity looking forward. It will not work if you rely on the same people every year to hold office and run the Civic Trust. To do that is to ensure slow decline to an inevitable end. We must address this problem in 2019/20.

Mr Barnett spoke on the main points from the report and made a plea for people to get involved with the Civic Trust, taking positions on the Committee etc, if people do not come forward the Civic Trust it will fade away.

Councillor McManus said that it maybe that we need to think differently on how groups are publicised, i.e. make use of the Facebook. A parish leaflet was suggested which would tell people about the available groups rather than the parish council-based material. Mr Barnett said that the Civic Trust are actively looking at Facebook but the local businesses like the Rollestonian. Councillor McManus said that there is a need to tell people things via all methods of communication.

## **6.3 Rolleston WI**

Rolleston W.I. has been part of Rolleston village since 1935 and has maintained a strong membership over the years. We now have 64 members. Our President is Verity Conner and she is ably assisted by 11 committee members. We meet on the first Monday of the month at the John of Rolleston School, Chapel Lane.

We try to maintain W.I. traditions by singing Jerusalem at every meeting and concluding with the National Anthem.

This year we have had many interesting speakers such as the A-Z Tour of Calke Abbey by Dot Morson, Sarah Mellor on the Staffordshire Victim Gateway and Barbara Andrews talking about her Suffragette Grandmother.

Our meetings are both educational and social. We have done quizzes, sung carols and discussed topical resolutions. Our competitions for knitting, scrabble and craft work are widely supported. We have planned many interesting visits this year and are grateful for the ladies who offer to drive and give lifts. Musicals are always popular, and we have seen Matilda and Calendar Girls. We spent a weekend away in Leeds, visited an NGS Garden and had supper in Sharpe's Pottery Museum in Swadlincote.

Our speakers have often sparked interest in local landmarks and have inspired visits to Casterne Hall, Ilam and Calke Abbey.

Our Christmas Programme was superb with "Neverland" at Tissington Hall, Pipes in the Peake at Thorpe and the Illuminated Arboretum at Alrewas. We also had an interesting tour of Royal Crown Derby.

There are many things going on in Rolleston which we support by volunteering as stewards, making cakes and selling raffle tickets. We hired a large marquee for the Proms at the Scout HQ and have made cakes for the Scout Carnival. We sponsored a planter, tended a small flower bed in the school grounds and helped the Pre-School raise money at a coffee morning in January. An inspired group of ladies met to make posies which were distributed around the village.

Our Literary Lunch in March with guest author Stephen Booth was a great event, supported by friends and family.

W.I. ladies are always open to new ideas. We have a weekly art group and also made Christmas gifts at a craft evening led by Joy Killick.

It has been a busy year for the Staffordshire Federation with events marking their Centenary. Our A Team won the County Quiz competition again, Marina Greensmith won the County Poetry Competition and Elaine Toon made the Centenary Cake for the Spring Council Meeting. Helen Barnett, a committee member, also runs our Forest and Vale Group Meetings and Verity is now on the Board of Trustees. Two members are on the sub-committee. We have had a busy and successful year and can only hope that next year brings renewed success.

#### 6.4 1<sup>st</sup> Rolleston Scout Group

Graham Jacks reported:

Every year I look back and think of everything that the group has achieved, and I am amazed. I saw a comment recently in social media that villages (such as ours) have little to offer the youth. Scouting does not tick all the boxes, but we have over 250 young people through our doors at the HQ engaged in all sorts of activities and I am so proud to head the team.

Rolleston has again the largest Scout group in Burton and it is about the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in Staffordshire, but it's never about the numbers. The quality of the programme over the last year has been fantastic. From all the camps and trips, the week in week out programme. This has got to be good otherwise the youngsters would leave.

If I included all the activities each section has done, then I am afraid we would need our own meeting but here's a limited few. Over 1000 nights of camping, group camp for over 200 members, over 800 badges awarded, camps held all over the UK, visit to the Space centre, climbing trip for all the beavers, I'm a Scout get me out of her camp (yes with live bug eating trials), the burning of a Viking long ship on group camp with over 300 in attendance and four leaders getting awards in recognition for outstanding commitment to Scouting.



I am as ever proud of the group, but the true heroes are the leaders and the non-uniform team that make it all happen. The events that we produce now are on a professional level, and without them all working as a team and giving up their time then it just wouldn't happen.

Our event calendar grew last year with the introduction of our Last Night of the Proms event and I am happy to announce it will return later this year. We have also added a Movie night to the programme for 2019 with showings of the Greatest Showman and Bohemian Rhapsody in June - be prepared to sing.

As a Scout Group we are always looking for ways to improve and with the concrete now set on the event stage we are planning another build. This will be at the rear and side of the HQ to create a new large meeting room, event toilets, more storage areas and a permanent canopy on the back of the HQ to replace the current marquee. We have been granted a Pre-App planning application by ESBC and they have no objections. We are now in a phase of group consultations and if all goes to plan we intend to build in September 2020. The main reason for the extension is in two parts. Firstly, we are Full. The HQ is in use Monday to Friday with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Rainbows and Brownies and this is fantastic. The unfortunate part is that we are now turning young people away as we can't accommodate them. We are in the process of recruiting to open a new scout troop next year and to re-open the third Beaver colony.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Village and the Parish Council for Supporting the Scout Group in all its endeavours, I am now working on 2020 to top this year.

**6.5 RoDSEC**

John Phillips presented a comprehensive report which gave details of the many activities undertaken over the previous year. This included three top quality entertainments in its winter programme, Carols around the Christmas tree, the sustained act of remembrance which saw the village gradually growing red and culminating in the Peace Festival which will take place on 29 June 2019. Mr Phillips thanked the RoDSEC members and committee, Rolleston Club, St Mary's PCC and the parish council for its support.

Councillor McManus said that a big thank you must be given to John Phillips who is the driving force of the RoDSEC.

**6.6 Allotments Society**

Tom Martin said that they had a very successful year within its confines and had a steadily growing waiting list. He said that it should be in the parish council's long-term plan that another site may be necessary in the future.

**7. VOTE OF THANKS**

Tom Martin thanked the parish council for the support it gives to the village.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed .....

Date .....

## **CHAIR'S REVIEW OF PARISH ACTIVITIES**

Writing this review for the Annual Parish Meeting of 2022 has provided an opportunity to reflect on the last couple of years since the previous meeting held in 2019. The meetings for 2020 and 2021 had to be cancelled as did many other village activities. These years have been challenging, often difficult and leave us all a legacy of profound impacts, some of which are either just being or indeed yet to be felt. Over the 2 years there has also been great determination and resilience displayed within the village as organisations including the Parish Council, businesses, schools and residents endeavoured to maintain some sort of normality where possible.

We are fortunate to live in a lovely village with open spaces and facilities to enjoy such as Craythorne playing fields, Tafflands, the Jubilee Orchard, The Croft, various play areas, the Jinny Trail and other well used footpaths. There are many village organisations that were determined to keep their village activities running where possible, and the thanks of the Parish Council goes to all those volunteers. Without their tireless work and dedication to making things happen the village would have been a very different place during that time. The Parish Council also thanks the village establishments and schools who somehow managed to survive and keep going despite several shutdowns by displaying great ingenuity and putting in a lot of hard work.

For the Parish Council it has been 2 years of progress, change, some frustrations and many opportunities.

In January 2021 Steve McManus stepped down from the role as Chairman, being replaced by Clare Stewart and Steve Sanderson as Vice Chairman. A huge vote of thanks to Steve for successfully leading the Parish Council into the world of online meetings back in 2020 so ensuring it continued to operate and deliver services to the best of its ability. Also we thank him for his robust and strong chairmanship handling matters during the difficult lockdown period with some associated anti-social behaviour that sadly occurred in our open spaces.

### **Some of the many highlights of 2020 and 2021 are:**

Approval of the important revised Neighbourhood Development Plan that offers us at least some protection over planning matters that may impact us.

A program of improvement and much needed tree works / maintenance on Tafflands and the Jinny Trail.

The resurfacing of Craythorne playing fields car park that was done as part of the compensation for the location of the SCC road works compound located there during the delivery of long awaited flooding mitigation measures and road surfacing.

Installation of replacement benches and large play equipment maintenance on Tafflands.

In addition, with gratefully received help from TREATS, a play tractor has been located in Tafflands which has been much enjoyed!

Installation of the Blacksmiths' gate near the village blacksmiths' anvil on the Spread Eagle Island and an information board (thanks to Clive Baker for designing this) sited opposite these historic items, along with the stepped plinth of a memorial to the horse "Poet" owned by Sir Oswald "John Bull" Mosley 4th Baronet.

Thanks to the Civic Trust for their village improvements which include the creation of a delightful wildflower meadow outside the Jubilee orchard and for their monthly litter picking.

The Jubilee Orchard continues to provide delicious fruit for the village and really is looking good with tree maintenance planned in this year. Thanks for all the donations and help and to Cllr Mike Robson for leading this.

The Station Heritage Group has also continued their outstanding work in maintaining and ongoing improvements to the station end of the Jinny Trail. The spring flowers on the platform areas this year have brought an abundance of colour making it a pleasure to walk along.

Friends of Brook Hollows Group is now firmly established with a group of extremely dedicated volunteers meeting regularly. It is fantastic to see the transformation happening there as areas are opened up, overgrown vegetation and invasive species are removed and muddy paths are improved with chippings. In conjunction with the work and investment by TTTV and ESBC Open Spaces team, especially around the waterfall area, Brook Hollows is returning to its former glory and will no doubt be much enjoyed by residents. More to follow ...!

It is very also positive that RoDSEC has decided to continue albeit in a slightly different form, focusing on holding small events.

#### **Looking to the future - opportunities and challenges**

Looking ahead the Parish Council has a number of exciting projects that are in the process of moving forward. These include:

- Creation of a Platinum Jubilee orchard (with thanks for the generous donation of fruit trees)
- Installation of a Platinum Jubilee bench on the Croft for all to enjoy
- Compost bins (funded by a County Council climate change fund) for distribution to residents
- Further tree management on the Jinny trail
- Whilst footpaths and stiles around the village are predominantly on private land the Parish Council will actively continue to work with landowners to maintain, repair and replace these well used trails for all to enjoy.
- Monies paid to the village for the development on College fields provide a major opportunity to focus on much needed improvements to play areas and outside projects in the vicinity of the development. Such projects include a younger children's play area at Meadow View, complete replacement of the broken railings around the Craythorne playing fields car park area (with free labour provided by the SCC contractors as a further part of the compensation for the compound location, improvements to Tafflands footpaths with woodland flowers, bird and bat boxes
- Also discussions are taking place over how best to replace the old changing facility at Craythorne playing field

The Parish Council has a full council as we welcomed 3 new councillors during the last year. Together with the longer serving councillors, the strong links with other village organisations and the Parish Council contractors, this will all really help maintain delivery of Parish Council services to a high standard for the village in these times of increased pressure on public funding.

Councillor Clare Stewart  
Chair 2021-22

### **RoDSEC Report**

At the RoDSEC AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the position of Chairman became vacant. This followed 13 years of exemplary chairmanship by John Phillips whose dynamism and enthusiasm took us on a journey of celebration and achievement for the village.

The Zoom meeting of RoDSEC Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 concluded that RoDSEC should not put on any large events and that they postpone any decision until the next meeting when hopefully they could meet in person. Without a Chairperson RoDSEC would remain rudderless until the next meeting that was due to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September. Comment in the Autumn Rollestonian that year declared that if a Chairperson could not be found RoDSEC was liable to fold.

This seemed a terrible state of affairs given the hard work put in over many years by John Phillips and the Committee. It had been agreed at a meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April that RoDSEC should not hold a large event for the foreseeable future. This was mainly due to the complexity of the legislation that is required and it was felt that the effort needed in putting events on was not rewarded by the turnout. The last large event was the Peace Day which was not well attended. Also, the numbers turning up for 'Carols Round the Tree' fell year by year. So what is the future of RoDSEC? I thought it worth putting my head above the parapet and suggesting a slimmed down version of RoDSEC that carried on with the most successful aspects: that of putting on entertainment at Rolleston Club. The Live and Local performances were generally a sell out; as were the Magic Evening and the Murder Mysteries. We also had a big turnout for the Blue John Soul Band. These type of events combined with trips out to Concerts and the theatre for all the people of Rolleston would be a way of keeping RoDSEC alive until such time as we felt it was appropriate to have a large event. To this end I offered to be Chairman to get this off the ground. At a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October this proposal was put to the full RoDSEC committee and it was accepted on a majority vote that we go this route. I asked for volunteers to sit on a small committee to kick it off and 7 people said that they would attend. I chaired this first meeting in October 2021 and we put in place a programme that included a Murder Mystery at Rolleston Club on 27<sup>th</sup> February and a 'talent evening' of local bands and performers in May. The later event is now called "The Music Box" and will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Also, we thought it worthwhile trying a new venture; that of providing a coach to take people to concerts and shows. To this end the Derby Concert Orchestra performance in Derby Cathedral on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December was targeted. The response was very positive and 32 people went on the coach to hear a very entertaining programme.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February, The Phoenix Players performed a Murder Mystery at Rolleston Club. We had limited ticket sales to 80 and these were snapped up making it a ticket sell-out. Those who were there were treated to a first class 'who done it'.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 RoDSEC held an AGM where 19 people attended. Councillor Clare Stewart chaired the proceedings. With no other nominations Philip Irwin was re-elected as Chairman. Sue Irwin filled the post of Vice-Chairman after giving up her post of Treasurer, which she held for 12 years. We thank Sue for doing this job for so long and welcome Kay Simnett as the new Treasurer. The post of Secretary was filled by Kath Pickering, who for some time had been minutes secretary. It is pleasing that now we can go forward with all roles filled!

Given all that has happened in the last two years it is some relief that we can start planning events with some sort of certainty that they will happen. We are therefore planning more entertainment in the Autumn and hopefully bringing Live and Local Acts back to the Rolleston Club.

I thank all those who offered their support to me over the last few months and I know we will take RoDSEC forward for the foreseeable future.

Phil Irwin, Chairman RoDSEC

### **Rolleston on Dove Allotment Society**

The allotment site is currently thriving, and all plots are taken. We have 45 plot holders, 8 associate members and one life member. The 2022 season has seen a larger than normal intake of new plot holders. Most are new to allotment gardening. Many have indicated that they are looking for space to grow their own produce, that perhaps their home gardens do not provide. We continue to hold a variety of social events throughout the year for members and these are generally well attended.

Of concern, is our new tenancy agreement with ESBC. Our leases have previously been for five-year periods. However, the current agreement in place, is for two years to the end of September 2023.

ESBC have indicated that they are currently reviewing the available land for burials in the Burton on Trent area.

Graham Anderson  
Allotment Secretary

### **Rolleston Civic Trust**

#### **Chairman's Report 2021-22**

This has been a very busy year for the Civic Trust. We began it by creating our first ever Wild Flower Garden at the top of Knowles Hill. This created a welcome splash of summer colour to the area outside the Orchard and we hope that this will become a regular annual feature in the village.

In April we ran our first ever Easter Bunny Treasure Hunt which involved placing pictures of a dozen well-known rabbits on lamp posts around the village, giving children various clues to help them locate them all. This proved to be hugely popular not only within the village but from the surrounding area as we received over 160 entries to the prize draw with some coming from as far as Swadlincote. The activity raised £140 for the Blue Cross Animal Shelter and will definitely be repeated this year.

Obviously, a lot of our activities were restricted because of the pandemic and our monthly meetings for members became virtual meetings on Zoom. At least we were still able to offer members a talk on a monthly basis with interesting talks by Dave Hollis, Robert Mee and Clive Baker. In July we were able to resume our talks in person with Malcolm Goode, Chris Copp and Blue Cross coming to talk to us on a variety of subjects. In October we were treated to a fascinating talk by ex-village resident Rodney Paul who packed out the Cricket Club with a talk about his hero, Ernest Shackleton. The Committee decided to give the 2020 Civic Trust Award to The Jinnie public house. This was because of their much appreciated efforts to remain open and offer food and hot drinks from their outdoor stall throughout the lockdown periods.

Also new for 2021 was the creation of a regular litter picking group that meets on the last Saturday of every month at Craythorne Road Car Park. Volunteer numbers have varied considerably during the year but it has been good to see various families with young children turning up to help keep our village clean.

On the first Sunday of every month the 'Friends of Brook Hollows' meet. We have over 20 volunteers who turn up when they can to do conservation work within Brook Hollows. Our work is funded through the Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) initiative using National Lottery funding. We have purchased tools to use on site and many of the volunteers have undergone training in everything from First Aid to Water Safety.

Visitors to the spinney will notice that we have laid a lot of wood chip on the paths to help keep down the mud. This has been donated by a local tree services company and will be an ongoing project for the volunteers. Our other tasks have involved cutting back the non-native Snowberry, which dominates parts of the woodland and removing small self-set trees that are growing in the wrong place. We have cleared an area near the middle bridge and we will be planting Bluebells and wild flower seeds in this area in April. We received a donation of 1000 snowdrops and these were planted by the lower lake in February.

The Summer months will see the volunteers busy removing the invasive Himalayan Balsam by the watercourses and there will be two information boards being installed, one on the history of the site and one detailing the wildlife. In addition, a wooden 'totem' sign is being installed with a sculpture of an eagle on top that will welcome visitors at the entrance by The Lawns.

Future plans are for the installation of more benches, a bird hide/screen at the far end of the woodland, an eagle sculpture trail and the creation of an educational area with wooden log seats as well as the ongoing maintenance and care of the woods.

In October last year, the Civic Trust were immensely saddened by the news that our Rollestonian editor, Lesley Bayston, had passed away. Lesley had been a stalwart of many village organisations and had been our editor for a number of years. She will be sorely missed.

In November 2021, the Trust organised our first ever Wine Tasting Evening. The sold out event at the Rolleston Club was enjoyed by everyone who attended, even though not all the wines were liked by everyone! The event raised well over £400 which the Trust will be re-investing in the village, probably with a bench in a suitable position.

In December we were approached by the Parish Council to take on the role of putting up and decorating the village Christmas tree outside the Almshouses. With the help of experienced old hands like John Phillips and some of our newer and younger volunteers from the 'Friends' group this feat was achieved successfully and we were immediately rewarded by a fall of snow that made the decorated tree look a picture.

The Civic Trust continues to take an active role in planning matters within the village. We are always asked for our approval or otherwise of building or garden alterations. We take this role very seriously and comment on most of the cases brought before us. One of our principal concerns is the loss of green space for housing, despite the existence of the village plan which was created to try and prevent this. We will continue to fight against these building projects where we feel they are detrimental to the future of our community.

The Civic Trust has done its best to try and maintain and add to our membership over the last twelve months. We have been posting 'Welcome Packs' through the doors of all new residents to the village which contain a copy of the Rollestonian, walks around the village, the Parish Council Directory and leaflets promoting the Trust's activities. As a result, we have now recruited several families as new members.

Your Civic Trust has plans to build upon the work we have achieved over the past twelve months and want to introduce some further activities later in the year to try to keep as many people involved in our community work as possible.

Tim Salmon, Chairperson.

**Rolleston on Dove Station Heritage Group**

Due to the pandemic, this is the first report to the Parish Council (PC) since April 2019. Following the February 2020 working party, members did not attend as a group until June 2021. Once the first lockdown ended in August 2020, individual members carried out necessary tidying and maintenance.

It is with sadness that we acknowledged the passing of Alan Partington in June 2020. Without Alan's interest, encouragement and active assistance, I feel that the project would not have passed the first hurdle.

During the winter lockdown of 2021, we were encouraged to witness so many visitors enjoying the early spring blooms, snowdrops and daffodils etc. We continue to receive complementary comments from passers-by when we work at the site.

Following an assessment in July 2021 by a judge representing the Royal Horticultural Society 'It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme' our project achieved Level 5 – OUTSTANDING. Thank you to our dedicated band of hands on helpers without whom this could not have been possible.

The assessor noted the latest feature; a 'bug hotel', its components, old pallets, garden canes, unwanted bricks etc, had been sourced from many village residents. This palatial residence has proved a great attraction to younger visitors.



**Above: Building the Bug Hotel 2021**

The assessor made just one criticism – we should clarify on our signage that the site is maintained by volunteers. We do actually have one such sign that portrays two of our members weeding the wildflower meadow and inviting others to join.

Those two members are Joe and Maureen Martin who in the early days put their hearts and souls into our project as they always do, whatever they tackle. Maureen's love and vast knowledge of plants together with Joe's many practical skills, particularly wood carving, proved vital to achieve the goal. In March they relocated to Anglesey and we wish them happy days looking out to the sea and the Snowdonia mountains.





**Above: Maureen and Joe tending the wildflower meadow**

As a source for education, both transport heritage and the natural world, we maintain ties with local schools and organisations such as Scouts, Guides, Brownies and other societies. Recently when site visits were not feasible illustrated talks were presented by Zoom.

Apart from developing the flora throughout the seasons, our current railway project is to rebuild the signal box foundation and add a graphic showing the original building cutaway to demonstrate the lever mechanism that once controlled the points and signals. Another goal is to restore the facing wall to the carriage/cattle dock.

The project survives thanks to support from 'The Friends of Rolleston-on-Dove Station', who not only make regular donations but help in many practical ways. Burton Railway Society adopted the station as their charity for the 2019-20 season and the Transport Festival Committee have named us as a beneficiary for this year's event.

Our thanks to PC members for their support in generating a walker's gateway to our village.

Clive Baker





**12th ROLLESTON  
TRANSPORT FESTIVAL  
& GARAGE SALE  
Sunday 5th June  
10am – 4.30pm  
on the Croft and Burnside**

***200 Classic Cars & Commercials***

**Admission: Adult £5.00, Accompanied children Free**

**Bus Rides around the Village \* Fun of the Fair**

**Food available \* Miniature Train Rides**

**Battle of Britain Fly-past (*weather permitting*)**

**Celebrating Rolleston Club's 125th Anniversary  
with Live Music**

***Supporting Local Charities & Good Causes***

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