

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held at the Old Grammar School Room, Church Road, Rolleston on Dove
on Monday 28 April 2025 commencing at 7pm

Present

Councillor Stewart (in the Chair)

Councillors Appleby, Badcock, Gallone, Houston, E McManus, S McManus, Peirce and Sanderson

ESBC Councillors Lock and Smedley

12 Members of the public

Mary Danby, Parish Clerk

1. Councillor Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Rollestonian of the Year 2024

Councillor Stewart presented the Rollestonian of the Year 2024 award to Verity Conner. The award was given due to Verity's ongoing commitment and dedicated service to the village over a sustained period of time.

In accepting the Award, Verity paid tribute to her family and all the volunteers that are part of the WI and the Church saying that the award was as much for them as it was for her.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2024 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

None raised.

5. Chair's review of parish activities

Writing this review for the Annual parish meeting offers the opportunity to take a look back over the year and notice how our village life continues to evolve, grow and to note how much pride there is within it. We have many flourishing different organisations and groups, each in their own way helping to make Rolleston on Dove a positive and thriving village, offering many varied activities for different age ranges. I am still amazed at how many volunteers put in hours and hours of hard work and effort, for which we thank them wholeheartedly. As I have said before in every one of my reports, we are very fortunate to live in such a lovely village with all our open spaces and facilities to enjoy - Craythorne playing fields, Tafflands, the Diamond Jubilee and Platinum Jubilee Orchards, The Croft, our various play areas, The Jinny Nature Trail and other well used footpaths, Brook Hollows and the much-valued allotments.

For the Parish Council (PC) it has been another busy year with the completion of some of our longer running projects and the initiation of some new ones. Fortunately, we have been successful in receiving several grants from both Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Councillors and East Staffs Borough Council (ESBC) Councillors grant fund schemes. This is after submitting applications either written by ourselves or by other organisations on our behalf for improving and replacing PC assets. Thank you to those who have spent considerable time on these applications. We also have received generous donations from other village organisations such as the Transport Festival 2024 and RoDSEC and from Bellway and from residents – all of these are most gratefully received.

2024 was also rather challenging, most notably when Craythorne Playing Field suffered an incursion by Travellers who broke onto the field and set up camp for the best part of a week. This was a very difficult and challenging experience that we profoundly hope not to repeat

again. A full security and safety review of the field and car park entrance was undertaken to assess whether additional measures might be implemented to try to prevent a re-occurrence. Following discussions with SCC and ESBC it was agreed to install large temporary concrete barriers near the car park and field entrance. The full costs, including dealing with the incursion, damage repairs, clean ups, legal fees and post event security measures, were just under £3,200. (Note: Full legal fees, which would have been circa £2500, were not incurred as the field was vacated before initiation of the formal Court process). Thank you to all residents for their much needed and appreciated support during this time, and to those who helped with the extensive clean up required afterwards.

Perhaps not unexpectedly, flooding continues to be a major issue for residents. The PC continues to work proactively with the Environment Agency (EA), SCC and our MP to escalate the urgency of moving forward with potential options, raising its priority and offering support to residents where possible.

Clare Stewart continued in post as Chairman, supported by Andy Peirce as Vice Chairman. The PC had a full council of 11 councillors in which we are very fortunate, as many Parish Councils are struggling for councillors. In addition, we are also delighted to have two Youth Representatives who are working on various projects. I would like to thank all Councillors and our Clerk Mary, for their invaluable time and support chasing issues, helping residents to contact relevant bodies, reporting problems and working on the village open spaces and assets.

Just some of the many highlights of 2024 are:

- The Station Cattle dock wall on the Jinny Nature Trail was rebuilt with drainage and sleepers along the top edge and then planted with native species, wildflowers and hundreds of bulbs using the grant money received from ESBC's Ward Enhancement Programme, together with a donation from a local resident.
- On Tafflands the top of the slide mound and the path leading to this, was resurfaced so replacing the play bark with a new safety surface.
- Full replacement of the aging wooden steps and handrails on both sides of the Jinny Nature Trail was completed, funded by a SCC Councillor Community Grant and Rolleston PC.
- An extension to the Platinum Jubilee Orchard of twenty apple and pear trees funded by a grant from ESBC's Councillors Community Fund, plus five trees generously funded by donations from Meadow View residents.
- The strong working relationship continued with Stretton Parish Council on matters that are of relevance to both parishes e.g. Craythorne Lane, the Jinny Nature Trail, planning applications, HGVs traffic.
- Progression of the Sports England (SE) S106 monies project continues to be most challenging as the pot of money is insufficient to meet the original attached condition on these (i.e. that they must be used for changing facilities). After several meetings and calls with ESBC and SE, detailed investigations working with planning consultants assessed the viability of providing a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), the outcome of this found option this to be unviable also (for many of the same reasons). ESBC have agreed that the PC may seek other variations including the replacement of the zip wire at Tafflands, installing outdoor gym equipment and conducting drainage works on the pitches – we await the result of this application.

- Whilst footpaths and stiles around the village are predominantly on private land the PC actively continued to work with landowners to maintain, repair and replace these well used trails for all to enjoy. This includes on-going maintenance of paths, stiles and the wooden steps on both sides part way along the Jinny Nature Trail.
- The Youth Representatives are involved with Rolleston Civic Trust Society assisting with the 2025 Fun Run planning and organisation.
- The Diamond Jubilee Orchard has had its old, diseased Cherry trees removed which opens up the space within the Orchard more and some new fruit trees have been planted. The sharing shelf installed on the gate is very popular and donations are often left of spare plants and seeds ready to go to new homes! Thank you for all the donations, the hours of help from volunteers, and to Cllr Mike Robson for organising the regular working parties.
- A new Perspex bus shelter and extended hard standing on Station Road opposite Needwood Avenue has literally just been installed as I write this! We thank Bellway for their donation, matched by the PC and for SCC for progressing this as promised in this new financial year.

The Station Heritage Group worked hard to manage and encourage the wild flower beds - yet again the Spring planting is a delight to see. The rebuilt historic cattle dock, located part way along the Jinny Nature Trail, has been landscaped and planted up by many volunteers with native species, wildflowers and literally hundreds of bulbs.

Friends of Brook Hollows Group continues to improve this area, such maintaining and working on laying barrow loads of chippings on paths, tree maintenance through to providing nesting platforms. We are all hoping the Swans who have recently adopted the lake as their home may have cygnets!

RoDSEC continued to hold small events such as Live and Local sessions and organise trips to musical events for residents to attend, which are well supported.

The Civic Trust also continues to work hard for the village organising various events which range from quizzes to talks to history walks (very popular outings!), plant sales, managing the delightful wild flower meadow area at the top of Knowles Hill and running the popular Easter Bunny trail to list but a few.

Looking to the future - opportunities and challenges

Looking ahead for 2025 moving through to 2026 the Parish Council has a number of projects to complete delivery of, as well as commencing new ones. These include:

- Proposed installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Knowles Hill. Multiple concerns have been raised by residents to Parish, Borough and County Councillors regarding the speed of vehicles using this road over many years. After due consultation with SCC, it is proposed to install a solar powered SID on the grass verge. Rolleston Civic Trust Society fully supports this project and are donating a significant sum of money towards the purchase of the device. This will be sited on a pole and may be turned to face either up or down the hill. Speed data collected may then be shared with SCC for their consideration for possible future traffic calming measures. The chosen device could later be moved to other locations of concern identified by residents within the village. However, this will depend on the success of this trial and the availability of funds to provide additional mounting poles.

- Using the monies donated from the Transport Festival 2024 to put towards materials, Parish Councillors will clean and paint the railings outside the Almshouses, as well as those along the pedestrian bridge from Burnside to The Croft. To complement the existing much admired flower planters, the PC has funded the purchase and installation of three extra troughs sited on the railings outside the Almshouses. Planting of these has been funded by the Transport Festival.
- Progression of the SE S106 monies proposed variations to the original conditions project.
- Completion of the review of the tired and dilapidated Elizabeth Avenue Play area equipment, seeking views from John of Rolleston Primary School and pupils and residents.
- Further program of tree management on the Jinny Nature Trail and Tafflands.
- On-going footpath and stiles maintenance either on PC land or working with private landowners.
- Working with Stretton Parish Council on matters that are of relevance to both parishes e.g. Craythorne Lane, The Jinny Nature Trail, planning applications, HGVs traffic.

So, it will - as usual - be another busy year for the PC Council and no doubt all other village organisations! We look forward to seeing the results.

6. County Councillor Philip White's report

Thank you to Rolleston Parish Council for your help and support during what has been a very busy year in the village and surrounding areas for the County Council, with the largest programme of road repairs we have seen in decades. Most of our local roads have now received end-to-end repairs and resurfacing similar to that carried out on Rolleston Road last year will be taking place on all repaired roads over the next few months. There are still a few roads that need to receive their end-to-end repairs, the latest of which is Anslow Lane, where repairs are happening over the next two weeks.

We have also seen other improvements, such as the new kerbing on Rolleston Lane and the improvements to the bus stops on Station Road this month. Last month also brought the good news that after years of arguing the case, we have finally secured £100k of funding to make road safety improvements to Knowles Hill and Rolleston Road. Designs are now being prepared and these will be shared with the Parish Council and the wider community for consultation before any final plans are agreed. The brief is to aim to tackle issues with speeding near the junction with Beacon Road and bend at the top of Knowles Hill, speeding up and down Knowles Hill and safety around the junction of Anslow Lane and the shops.

Work also continues to hold the Environment Agency to account for delivering a solution to the flooding issues in the village. Although we have had a mild winter, the need for this is as great as ever and we will need to continue to work as a community to pressure the EA and the government that funds them to provide the solution we need.

Further afield, this year has seen the continuation of the major programme of road and junction reconstructions around the Burton area and this will continue this year with the reconstruction of the Derby Turn roundabout commencing in June following the completion of the upgrade to the Branston A38 junction. We have also seen the full refurbishment of Burton Library, which reopened just before Christmas with a larger library space, enhanced meeting facilities, new IT facilities, new toilets and a beautiful children's library. If you haven't visited yet, I strongly encourage you to do so.

Finally, you may be aware that the County Council elections on 1st May are due to be the last ones held in Staffordshire. The government (in its wisdom) has decided to abolish Staffordshire's existing county, district and borough councils and create a unitary structure with one council providing all the services currently delivered locally by East Staffordshire Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council. This is a money saving measure and to try and achieve economies of scale, the government has decided that these need to serve at least half a million people. Unfortunately, this means decisions being made further away from local communities. It will also inevitably create additional burdens but also possibly opportunities for parish councils as what will become by far the most local element of local government. The councils are working on proposals to government on how this can be done in the way that works best for local people and a decision will be made by the minister for local government on our new arrangements around the end of this year with elections to the replacement council likely to happen in 2028. I cannot pretend that I believe this is good news and I am concerned that the new councils will be too remote from local people but I am committed to working positively to find the best solution for people in our area should I be re-elected as our county councillor.

7. ESBC Councillors report (Cllr Russell Lock, Cllr Chrys Smedley, Cllr Simon Gaskin)

We enjoy a close working relationship with Rolleston on Dove Parish Council and have helped in securing funding during the last financial year for the area across a number of projects. These have included successful CCF applications:

- **FOJORPS**
Councillor Community Fund for the re-siting of the notice board to a more visual position.
- **Rolleston Civic Trust**
Councillor Community Fund for fruit trees/stakes and compost for the community orchard.

Further, a Ward Enhancement Programme application for works on Brook Hollows, in addition to the application funded last year for the Jinny Nature Trail Cattle Dock. We have engaged with a number of the present issues at Brook Hollows, including bridge works, and also in discussions relating to the use of S106 monies currently held by the ESBC for sports use in the area.

8. Reports of village organisations

8.1 Doveside WI

As ever, 2024 has been another busy year for Doveside WI. We continue to thrive and have welcomed several new members during the year. Our average meeting attendance has been 55.

Since last year's annual meeting, we have enjoyed a variety of interesting speakers. There has been a strong emphasis on entertainment. Alan Smith returned this time to give us of the history of the Minack Theatre in Cornwall; we learned the history of The Shadows, the 1960's pop group and were entertained by their music. Ann Featherstone returned to tell us of the Waitresses Strike in tearooms in 1908 delivered in her highly entertaining way. The outstanding historical talks were David Skillen on The Battle of Britain and Rodney Paul on Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the South Pole. Returning once more was Cathy McAteer to pose the question: Russia, Beauty or Beast? During the year we laughed at poetry, admired fashion clothing, inhaled the sweet smell of lavender and learned about prostate cancer to support our menfolk.

Our hardworking Outings and Events team have organised visits to the Richard III Visitors Centre and Leicester Cathedral, and to Bletchley Park. Closer to home members have enjoyed a picnic on the Croft in August and a visit to De Ferras school to see a production of Beauty and the Beast. Christmas showed us doing a wide variety of things. In early December, our tree decorated with bells made by members, took its place in the Advent festival in St Mary's church. Later in the month at St Mary's, Doveside held a Carol Concert of nine lessons. We invited members of Forest and Dale Group and were delighted by the response. Members from the different WIs read the lessons. Afterwards in the OGSR coffee and mince pies were served. We had a delicious Christmas lunch at Pirelli football ground then a week or so later had our own in-house Christmas party which followed a Bingo Quiz ably conducted by Bob, a friend of Doveside. Between these treats, some of the members journeyed to Stafford on a snowy morning to take part in SFWI's It's Christmas. There is no doubt, despite many Christmas stalls and other interesting speakers, Will Kirk, from The Repair Shop was the draw. Six hundred WI members gazed on him open-mouthed. No wonder he felt intimidated.

We continue to support various organisations. Burton Hope women's charity received a donation of £200 and gifts of clothing and food. Rolleston on Dove's Station Heritage Group received £160 when Rosemary and Clive gave an illustrated talk about their restoration work at the Jinny Trail. Members also continue to knit for the prem-baby unit in Staffordshire.

The Social Group have been busy this year under Diane's guidance with members leading sessions on crocheting, card making, bookmarks decorated with watercolour paints, making angels and the Christmas bells and wreaths for autumn. On going is a challenge to grow a spider plant which will be judged next October for their health and size of growth. The Social Group has continued to grow as well throughout the year.

The Red Box is still available for members suggestions on all manner of things especially technical issues of setting up microphones! The Book Club grows from strength to strength. Despite increasing numbers it is an orderly group who stay on task to offer interesting and thoughtful discussion. That sounds stuffy but we have lots of laughs as well as eating packed lunch as we talk. Chairobics continue to be a feature at most of our meetings. It can be amusing but the serious message is the strengthening and maintenance women's health.

Finally, our grateful thanks to our President, Leanda, for her hard work in the last year. She has led us in splendid fashion with gentle humour and good spirits. She is a delight to work with in what we all know is a difficult role.

8.2 **RoDSEC**

We are now into our fourth year of the new format RoDSEC. During these years we have still managed to put on entertainment in Rolleston Club; 'Carols Round The Christmas Tree' as well as floral displays, all for the good of the community.

The main aim for RoDSEC is to provide entertainment for the local people; I was going to say for the residents of Rolleston on Dove, but we do get support from people in Stretton and Tutbury, so I am widening the net. To that end we decided to invite the 'Bill Bailey' Jazz band back. So, in October we had a traditional Jazz evening which was enjoyed by an audience of 61 people.

On Friday 6th December, with a storm approaching, it was touch and go whether we should go ahead with the 'Carols Round the Christmas Tree' outside on the Almshouses lawn. The really bad weather was not expected until after 7pm and so we took the chance of putting it on. Amazingly, over 150 people, including lots of families, put on their winter gear and

braved it out. It was a great atmosphere with Trevor Foster leading proceedings accompanied by Tim Rockley on the keyboard and with backing provided by a choir led by Lee Cooke. 'Bill' Bailey provided all the sound equipment which was kept dry by keeping it under the gazebo generously provided by Rolleston Transport Festival Committee. Although not a requirement to attend, people did donate money and we found nearly £200 in the buckets. Fantastic response as usual from a very generous village community. The money collected was rounded up to £200 by RoDSEC and split between Local Charities, 'Burton Hope' and 'Burton Soup Kitchen'. RoDSEC had already decided to donate £500 to the Almshouses Trust; £250 to St Mary's Church and £250 to Rolleston Foundation out of funds that had been generated from events that we have been putting to generate funds for these occasions.

2025

On Sunday 26th January The Phoenix Players performed another brand new Murder Mystery Play at Rolleston Club. The audience were in for a treat as another devious plot unfolded that confounded most of the teams. Only one team worked out that "it was the narrator what did it" and hence they came away with the big prize. Another great social evening with lovely atmosphere.

We were very pleased to be able to put on another Live and Local Group Show on 9th March. We managed to get songwriter and author Terence Blacker with his act 'Old Enough To Know Better'. Terence is a great story teller, full of humour as well as being a good musician. He kept us entertained all evening, a real treat.

Numbers attending our evening entertainments are certainly down on pre-pandemic numbers but just about enough to justify carrying on. This is also our big 25th anniversary year as RoDSEC was formed on 23rd June 2000. Twenty five years of serving the community.

I thank all those who offered their support to me over these years. We should now be looking to get a new Chairperson to take us forward. It's about time we had a lady Chair.

Phil Irwin, Chairman RoDSEC

8.3 Rolleston-on-Dove Station Heritage Group (RSHG) *(Under the TREATS umbrella)*

The committee of RSHG wish to thank the Parish Council for its support to the project, particularly during the past year when resources needed to be brought together to achieve the final major stage of the project.

Funding from East Staffordshire Borough Council, Rolleston Parish Council as well as anonymous donations, enabled the re-building of the facing wall to the carriage/cattle dock, together with suitable planting and an interpretation panel suitable for school pupils visiting the site in preparation for learning projects.

Working parties made-up of volunteers continue to maintain the site; meeting on the first Saturday morning of each month, new team members have recently come forward. Visitors to the station site and the Jinny Nature Trail regularly voice their appreciation to the volunteers.

Encouraging young people to be involved remains a goal. Currently two Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates together with their families have come forward. Rather than engage them in basic tasks such as weeding, one is helping to create a feature of the lower section of the

one remaining signal, which has involved laying a concrete base and building a brick retaining wall around the feature. The other candidate will be creating a feature of a surviving chain and pulley; once part of the point-work mechanism, the new exhibit will be situated within the footprint of the signal cabin.

Endeavouring to maintain a high profile, we continue to give presentations and talks to local organisations and stage displays at events. During the past year such talks have been given to both Doveside and Rolleston Women's Institutes, William Shrewsbury Primary School, Rolleston Brownies and Burton Rotary Club. Our display has been staged at the Transport Festival, Scouts Carnival and the Village Fayre.

A half yearly bulletin is dispatched to all interested persons. We are in the process of affixing a QR code to the interpretation panels – the QR connects directly to our recently updated website that gives all relevant information about the station and the current project.

Clive Baker

8.4 **Rolleston Almshouses Trust**

Steve Sanderson, Chairman gave appreciation for the support they get and said that significant donations had been received this year, all donations help towards the Trust's ongoing costs. He said that the Almshouses were now at full capacity and one of the new tenants is the new contractor for maintaining the lawn. Renovations had been completed on four of the six houses; two properties will have double secondary double glazing installed. He gave thanks to the Trustees for their support.

8.5 **Rolleston Choral Society**

Learning was well underway for our 'Around the World' concert in April with its many challenging pieces, not least of which was the Geographical Fugue. "Trinidad" became a popular email sign off for quite some time! We were spending a great deal of time sorting out the intricacies of the new license for photocopying music. Whilst this was not an easy process, we are proud that we, as a Society, are doing the right thing to support the composers and wider musical community without whom the Society would not have access to the wide variety of music that we perform

The Spread Eagle decided that they need the upper room back for other uses. This has been a beneficial relationship since we moved out of the Chapel. As well as being a rehearsal facility it has also housed the music library and equipment but it had become clear to both parties that this was no longer ideal. Over the next few months, the music library slowly moved to its new home being thinned out a little as it went.

June was concert month again. Lots of preparation and focussed ticket selling meant that another successful performance ensued and a very large audience enjoyed music from the lighter side of the RCS repertoire. The solos were all delightful and the differing vocal styles made the concert varied and interesting; thank you to all of the soloists for putting themselves forward and making this concert such a special one.

The end of the summer concert brings round the end of the RCS year and with generous hosting choir members, organised the traditional end of season Garden Party. This was a wonderfully relaxed event which was a well-attended evening of laughter and conversations. The generosity of the members in providing such a varied and sumptuous buffet was a joy to behold.

Although the choir was having a well-earned vocal rest during the summer, the committee were hard at work in the background ensuring that the relocation of the music library was completed ahead of the new term.

A training session on the running of the John Fletcher rehearsal resource website. It is tasks such as this which ensure the smooth running of the choir and making sure that homework between the weekly practices can be done to the benefit of us all.

In September, preparations for Christmas began with a look over excerpts from Messiah as well as getting to grips with the wonderful world of Britten and his Ceremony of Carols.

As we cleared out the stored items in The Spread, we discovered the lectern from the Methodist Chapel where we rehearsed for so many years. The Society had no further use for it but it has returned to the old chapel where the current owners of the building were pleased to receive it.

In October, we supported both our President's 80th birthday celebrations with some music from the shows and we were asked to sing at a funeral in St Paul's Church for one of our member's family.

November came to an end with the Advent Tree Festival and craft fair at St Mary's Church. We raised over £400 as a result of our talented crafters and were able to make a suitable donation to the church. This will hopefully become an annual event.

December is concert month and there is a full schedule of rehearsals and performances, not only in church, but also around the village Christmas Tree and in the care homes at Far Fillimore and Fauld.

The concert in church was a huge success, made all the more enjoyable by the singers from John of Rolleston school joining us once again.

2025 began with the traditional post-Christmas meal at The Spread with a record number of 54 members and partners attending.

We also received the news that June Wedd, one of our founder members, had passed away aged 98. The choir was out in force for her funeral and sang under the direction of June's son, Chris Mallinson.

The first rehearsal of the term was used as a recruitment event and a number of singers came along to experience the RCS way of doing things. Many of these have decided to stay with us which brings the Society numbers up to figures that have not been seen for several years. Hopefully this will enable the choir to broaden its repertoire and appeal even further, ensuring its long-term future as well as playing its part in forming new and lasting friendships.

Here's to another year of continued music making, embracing new challenges and making memories together as a choir and a group of friends.

8.6 **Rolleston Civic Trust**

In last year's annual report to members I mentioned that our Civic Trust membership was dwindling and that our numbers had fallen to 165. A year on and I am delighted to tell you that we have totally reversed that trend and currently our membership now stands at 216, an increase of over 30% on last year's figures. This reversal is due to several factors – the

increased profile the Civic Trust has had at events such as the Transport Festival, our higher profile on social media and the hard work of the Civic Trust committee. We hope to continue to grow our membership during the next twelve months.

One of the major reasons for the boost in numbers has been the reintroduction of the village History Walks. These walks were originally conducted by local historian Arnold Burston. With Arnold's blessing we have taken these walks on and embellished and developed them into a monthly activity. We don't charge anything for conducting the walks but we do encourage the participants to join the Civic Trust at the end. It has been heartening to see so many people attending these walks and it proves there is still a genuine enthusiasm amongst our residents to learn more about village history. There have been over 150 attendees so far and as long as there is continued interest in them, we will continue to run them.

One of the prime aims of the Civic Trust is to conserve and preserve the village and its history. Our History Walks help with this aim but in the long term we are seriously concerned that some of the village's history will be lost if we don't secure its future now. Most of our historical documents, maps, photographs and pictures are in the hands of private residents who are advanced in years and unless we secure these articles in a safe place there is the possibility that they will be lost for the future. As I stated in an article in the latest Rollestonian, we need a village archive.

Currently the Trust is looking at several options regarding the siting of an archive and we are currently in discussions with Mitchell & Butler, the owners of The Spread Eagle about using the rooms that used to house the first girls' school in the village from 1840 to 1909. These rooms, which are themselves of great historical value, are currently sealed off and not in a useable state. We will keep you up to date with developments on this proposal. This must not be our only option though, so if you have ideas on how and where we can create an archive, please let us know.

We have continued to run events on a monthly basis over the last twelve months, but as I reported last year, we have made a conscious decision to move away from just restricting ourselves to monthly talks here at the Cricket Club where the numbers attending can be quite small. We are now running a highly successful Quiz Evening at the Rolleston Club twice a year with between 80 and 90 people attending each time. We try to run these as non-profit making activities by charging Civic Trust members just £1 for entering.

In addition to our Quiz Nights, we organised our 4th Wine Tasting Evening in November of last year. This was very well supported and we raised over £500 on the night, which we will be reinvesting into the village. As many of you already know we are working in partnership with Rolleston Parish Council to arrange for the installation of a S.I.D. (Speed Indicator Device). The Civic Trust will be providing 50% of the cost of this. Hopefully, this device will help reduce the problem of speeding cars through our lovely village.

Our Plant Fair was held in June 2024 and was a remarkable success. In 2023 we raised what was then a record £758 to donate to St Mary's church. This year we smashed that figure by raising £1061. With the sale of refreshments, the final total was well over £1400. We would like to thank all those who donated plants, helped out on the day or simply came down to buy something. We were helped by having beautiful weather but we have set a very high bar for 2025's event!

A month after the Plant Sale we organised our second Car Boot Sale on Elizabeth Avenue. With increased publicity for this year's event, we had many more people attending and an

increased number of sellers. It was nice to see so many people queuing up for the start at 9am waiting to grab themselves a bargain.

As you will know, the Civic Trust committee give out a 'Civic Trust Award' in the form of a brass plaque on an annual basis to a person, organisation or building project that the committee feel has truly benefitted the village. We didn't make an award for 2023 but after careful consideration we have decided to give the 2024 award to the Diamond Jubilee Orchard. Mike Robson and his team have done an outstanding job in making the orchard a beautiful and enjoyable place to visit and we look forward to officially handing over the award in the near future.

Everyone in the village must have noticed our new upgraded Rollestonian. This publication began life in late 1982. Then it was a simple four-page newsletter produced on an old-fashioned copying machine and cost 5p to buy! I'm sure our late President Tom Martin would be delighted to see the 2025 version. I'm sure you will agree that the full colour glossy cover gives the Rollestonian a much more professional look and feel and I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to both our editor Glyn and our advertising guru Anne for their hard work in making this work so well.

Our conservation group, the Friends of Brook Hollows, continue with their monthly Sunday morning working parties. The group has anything between 10 and 20 volunteers working hard to make Brook Hollows a nicer place for visitors to walk round. The group has moved seamlessly from being funded by 'Transforming the Trent Valley' to an independent group. We have a small monthly income courtesy of local people buying tickets for the East Staffordshire Community Lottery (please join if you can – details from me!) but a lot of what we do is due to endeavour, organisation and hard work.

You will continue to notice changes in Brook Hollows when you visit. The edges of the island in the lake have been cut back thanks to a grant from East Staffordshire Borough Council. The island hadn't been touched since it was created in the mid-1970s and was in need of a little maintenance. The banks were cleared to encourage the local wildlife to use them to breed and home-made duck boards have been fitted to help the birds and ducklings to get in and out of the water safely. We have also installed several bat boxes on the island.

Several months ago, we registered the lake with two swan rescue agencies so that they could bring some birds if they had any to re-home. It was our aim to reinstate swans to their rightful place in the village. As you can imagine we were absolutely delighted to find a pair of swans on the lake only a few weeks ago. We initially thought they had been released here but it seems that they have chosen Brook Hollows as a nice-looking home. Our fingers are now firmly crossed that the birds stay with us and breed in the future. Work on putting the 'swan ladders' back in place has already begun.

We work closely with the land owners, ESBC Open Spaces and have regular meetings with them. Notable successes and changes in the last twelve months have been the installation of a new footbridge and the repair of the sidewall of the waterfall, which sadly is showing its age. The side walls have also been given additional protection by raising the small walls on either side next to the bridge. This has helped to stop the water overflowing the sidewalls during heavy storms and weakening the structure.

Our small Wild Flower Garden at the top of Knowles Hill continues to flourish and our annual Easter Bunny Treasure Hunt for children and families raises a small sum for local charities. Our litter picking group meet once a month and are kept more than busy clearing

Craythorne Road and the surrounding area. There are about five or six who regularly attend but I would like to mention that there are several other unsung heroes who regularly pick up litter in various parts of the village without being asked. If you see anyone picking up litter, please give them a 'thank you' because they deserve a mention.

We were delighted once again to be asked to put up and decorate our village Christmas Tree on the Almshouses lawn. New residents continue to get 'Welcome Packs' when they arrive in the village and our Facebook and Instagram accounts continue to rise in popularity. We currently have well over 1000 followers on Facebook. We update our page on a daily basis offering a service of up-to-date information concerning events in the village, notices about roadworks as well as providing a diet of village photographs from today and the past. Our website is another way we try to keep connected to the village. The site has pages concerning all the activities we mention here and a lot more. Please visit it if you haven't already done so.

Looking forward to 2025/26 we are launching a couple of new Civic Trust activities. Our first ever Fun Run is scheduled for Sunday 20th July. This event will be free for anyone to enter and will include a 1.5 or 3km option for anyone to run, jog, walk or limp their way round. No excuses – you can all take part. Hopefully, with the right preparation and determination we can turn this into an enjoyable village community event.

Tim Salmon, Chairperson, March 2025

8.7 **Rolleston Transport Festival**

The Rolleston Transport Festival held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday in May is a prime village event that brings together all of the local people and organisations each year. This year's event is our 15th and will be on the 26th May.

Last year we had our most successful festival with over 3,000 visitors and over 300 vehicles exhibiting.

We were able to donate £14,000 to local charities and good causes, which brings the total that we have donated since we began to over £106,000.

Our soon to be elected local MP Jacob Collier attended and was blown away by the event, right on the doorstep of where he grew up. An exhibitor again travelled from Holland to show off his Mercedes, it was his third visit and he's coming along again this year in a British car.

Last year's beneficiaries in the village were:

- Rolleston United Foundation
- Rolleston Almshouses
- Rolleston Parish Council

Our other beneficiaries included:

- Age UK Staffordshire
- St John Ambulance
- Midland Air Ambulance
- YMCA Burton & District
- Burton & Rugeley Air Cadets

- Derbyshire Blood Bikes
- Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

The event is run by our own committee who are volunteers and work many hours throughout the year, including having monthly meetings and over 12 hours on the day to ensure that the day is a great spectacle and worthy of the village.

We work closely with lots of local organisations including Rolleston Club, The Rolleston Scout Group, The Rolleston Almshouses Trust, Rolleston Pre School, St Mary's Church, Rolleston Parish Council, Staffordshire Police & ESBC.

We have a website and active Facebook page with over 2000 followers. This year you can again book tickets online or make a donation via Eventbrite.

We have just managed to negotiate sponsorship from TTS360, who will help to pay for our operating costs and we have been able to arrange a fly past by the RAF Dakota in the afternoon.

We have started to put plaques up around the village to previous beneficiaries to show the public who kindly donate to the Festival where their donations are being spent.

Thanks for the continued support of Rolleston Parish Council.

Paul Simnett, Chairman - Rolleston Transport Festival

8.8 **Rolleston WI**

The Annual Meeting was held in March 2024. We welcomed Elspeth Dickinson from Doveside WI who acted as teller in the election of our President. We were pleased that Sue Fraser and Sheila Lord volunteered to join the committee. Eleven members were voted on together:

H. Barnett, A. Cook, S. Fraser, L. Harding, S. Lord, J. Hodge, M. Jacks, D. Johns, E. Murphy, J. Phillips, L. Thompson.

Liz Murphy was elected President for a second year.

President	L. Murphy	Vice-Presidents	H. Barnett, S. Fraser
Treasurer	D. Johns	Secretary	J. Phillips
MCS Rep	S. Fraser	Outings Secretary	H. Barnett
Assistant Treasurer	L. Harding	Assistant Secretary	S. Fraser
Programme Planning	H. Barnett	Welfare Officer	L. Thompson
Catering Officer	M. Jacks	Speaker's Hostess	S. Lord
Competition	A. Cook	New Member's Hostess	V. Conner
Newsletter Distribution	M. Mawer, P. Ford	Flower Rota	M. Mawer
Press Correspondent	J. Phillips	Sales Table	A. Styne
Raffle	J. Hodge, L. Thompson	Archives	J. Phillips

The Byelaws were read out. We agreed to raise the coach driver's tips from £15 to £20 for an evening out and from £30 to £40 for a full day. We had a good balance of funds and usually travelled in cars.

Our membership stands at 48 full members and 6 dual making 54 in total. June Torr won the Amy Everett Bowl for the highest points in monthly competitions. It is amazing what

treasures and keepsakes we can find each month. We look at the items during social time and often vote with buttons. Our themed raffle has become a regular feature. The Burston Bowl Competition for baking was held in May. Cheese scones, butterfly cakes and coconut slices were on the list. Carol Swift was the winner with her excellent baking skills.

Congratulations went to Sue and Verity who won individual categories. Some of our talented members entered items in the County Show. The theme was Alice in Wonderland. Annette did well with her Cheshire Cat getting third prize. Rolleston WI was the winner of the Knighton Shield in the County Quiz again. Our newly formed WI skittles team travelled to Moreton Skittles Afternoon and had an enjoyable time. They did very well to win. Helen Newman presented them with a new trophy. We may be hosts next year. The Barbara Reynolds Plate competition for knitting was popular this year. There were many attractive glove puppets. Janet Brooks kindly acted as judge and the winner was Jenny Phillips with a cuddly giraffe. We hope to donate the puppets to a charity for children.

This year we have had eleven monthly meetings. Helen has booked a great programme of speakers, many of them local or by personal recommendation. We have had talks on the Gretna Girls, Albert Village to Alberta, plastic soup, handwoven bags from the Philippines, women in war and King Charles's coronation. We have looked back with nostalgia to living in the 1950s, sweets from our childhood, steam trains and Rolleston Station and vintage TV with Morecambe and Wise. Isabelle Winter gave us an insight into the amazing work of the YMCA in Burton and we collected food to donate to Burton Hope and the YMCA.

As WI members we are trying to reduce single use plastic. We have had meetings on the second and fourth Friday afternoons which are social times for members who do not want to come out on cold winter evenings. It is a chance for tea and a chat or time to knit or learn a new craft. Our skilled members have led sessions on marbling, egg decorating, appliqué, mandala patterns, painting, and various activities. We have made banners, tree decorations and prepared for the Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning.

This year our Christmas party was held in the afternoon as well as our fish and chip lunch. We had strawberries and cream in July, a mince pie and drink in December and a piece of cake and a toast to our WI on our 90th birthday in February.

The committee met 12 times to plan and do essential administration. They also make phone calls and do a lot of work at home on our behalf. A programme planning meeting was held in July which was open to all. We invited recommendations for good speakers and ideas for subjects. Our President sends out a monthly newsletter and record of the last meeting by email and on paper. She also prompts us with timely reminders during the month. She highlights vital information from County and National Federations.

Diane and Lesley have managed our finances well using online banking. Many members find it an easier way of paying.

Our WI Art Group started again in September, meeting every Thursday afternoon in term time. We have an excellent Art Teacher in Diane Gharraie and we are self-funded. Rolleston certainly upholds the WI tradition of cake baking. We have supported village events like Transport Day, the Scouts Carnival, the Civic Trust Plant Sale, Gardens Sunday, the Art Exhibition at St Mary's, the Village Fayre and the Advent Christmas Tree Festival. Peggy represented us at Village Fayre meetings and kept us up to date. Members were encouraged to enter and we would like to congratulate Peggy, Joy and Pauline Pidsley who did well.

Joy Killick represents Rolleston WI at Friends of Brook Hollows and reports back at our meetings about achievements and work done.

The herb garden in the Jubilee Orchard has been planted in memory of Queen Elizabeth II who was a WI member and is open to all.

Many of our village events rely on WI members to volunteer their help in many ways. The Christmas Fair was held at Rolleston Scout Group HQ. We had many visitors including a hurdy gurdy man and we raised money for our yearly expenses. Our coffee morning in January was not so well attended but we had a good time and raised money towards a big screen which will help the Scout Group and those who hire the room, including us. Helen Barnett planned many interesting events for us. We have been for meals at the Mulberry Restaurant, Marsh Farm, the Boars Head, the Waterfront and The Beacon and our helpful drivers offered lifts and we donate towards the cost of travel. In April we visited the Aquabox HQ in Wirksworth to see how volunteers make and pack the wonderful water filters and send off boxes of essential tools and lifesaving equipment to people in need of help.

The Garden Visit to Rosliston was a calm and enjoyable experience on a beautiful evening. Helen booked tickets for local shows Beauty and the Beast and Made in Dagenham so that we can enjoy going out as a group.

We have a lot of water in Rolleston, and sometimes too much and are concerned about the state of our rivers. We took part in WI's Week of River Action in September, holding up banners and Helen even ventured into the Alderbrook wearing her wellingtons and swimsuit. Our photographs of Rolleston floods and the waterfall in Brook Hollows were chosen to go in the SFWI Calendar this year adding to the watery theme.

Our members receive the WI magazine and log on to mywi when possible. Some have booked places on the WI learning hub. We take a keen interest in the Resolution choices and our votes were sent to SFWI to be counted. Elspeth represented us at the Annual Meeting in the Albert Hall and reported back. Verity is a trustee and a Vice-chair of SFWI and keeps us informed of all County events. Her team organised the successful "It's Christmas" and "Here Comes Spring" at the showground and a few members are regular helpers for county events. Our committee officers attend training workshops and the Annual Council meeting on zoom. We entered the Press Report Competition. Liz had Highly Commended in the CAD painting competition. Helen Barnett is Group co-ordinator and masterminds our Forest and Vale Group. Rolleston WI supported the Group meetings hosted by Anslow and Tutbury and was happy to welcome Rough Hayes into our Group again.

Reports have been written for the Rollestonian, the Church magazine and the SFWI. Over the year our WI has subsidised events, paid for small items of food and drink at celebrations and given out small gifts. Lorna has visited members who are ill or have a special celebration.

Our Committee has worked hard this year and hopes that members enjoyed our programme of events. This WI year has been a lot of fun. In February we celebrated Rolleston WI's 90th Birthday with a special dinner and entertainment by Lola Lamour. It is great that after ninety years we are still here as Rolleston WI and provide opportunities for meeting new people and learning new things. We thank our loyal members for being so supportive. On behalf of the Committee I would like to present this Report to the Annual Meeting and wish us a happy and successful year ahead.

9. Vote of thanks

Councillor Sanderson thanked the Borough Councillors for their support to the Parish Council.

Councillor Sanderson gave a vote of thanks to Councillor Stewart and the Clerk on behalf of the council for the hard work and support they give to the Parish Council and he said that he was looking forward to another successful year.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed

Date