

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

I would like to begin by thanking Parish Councillors and Working Party Members for all their time and effort. Yet again we have had a very busy year in and around the village. Some of the more notable items we have achieved are the introduction of cotton bags in line with a greener Somersham campaign along with our shops using alternative packaging. The Environment Working Party are working hard on finding ways to enhance our village and its facilities, we look forward to your support in this.

The recently designated Local Nature Reserve just off Station Approach, is approaching its first year and quite a lot of clearance work has been carried out by local volunteers in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and the British Conservation Trust Volunteers organisation to allow better access. The Parish Council has also just purchased an adjacent area of dis-used railway line and this too will become part of the Local Nature Reserve joining areas of Parish Council owned land being the Lake, Sewters Pond and Station Land.

The Christmas Lights were better than ever this year and quite spectacular with another very successful switch on which saw a huge crowd at The Cross on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. The money raised totalled £2327.55 which will be used to add to future displays and of course maintain the existing equipment.

As I am sure you will have noticed we have a new road layout in the High Street west of The Cross. The objectives of this were 1/ to make the crossing safer for pedestrians. 2/ To provide a much-needed loading bay for regular early morning delivery lorries, which also doubles as extra car parking during the day. 3/ To provide short-term parking for convenience shopping. 4/ To provide marked bus stops on both sides of the street. 5/ To provide as much car parking as possible. 6/ To encourage traffic to move slowly and safely.

Particular thanks go to our District Councillor Steve Criswell for his time and energy on this matter as well as his efforts to obtain substantial sums of money in the form of grants from Huntingdon District Council to fund the replacement skate ramp, part fund the cotton bags and more recently funding to extend our car park in Church Street.

As previously mentioned the multi purpose sports area is about to receive a new fence, this has had to be replaced prematurely due to vandalism by a minority of people, I find this most disappointing and hope that once replaced it will be respected and looked after more carefully in the future by users.

Finally special thanks must go to our Clerk who through dedication to her job allows the Council to maintain such high standards, she often works over and beyond her official role to provide the best for our community.

