

President's Address

HTS AGM 6th December 2023

Eva Lipman

I remember that last year I started my Address by saying that we had been bombarded by bad news from all sides – war, famine, drought, floods, rising prices, climate change and this has unfortunately continued to be the case. Sad to say we lost some members of our community this year amongst whom was Joy Marshall who was a fount of knowledge especially about footpaths and trees and will be sadly missed. We printed her obituary in this year's Spring Edition of our Newsletter.

That said your committee has been working to do our bit to keep this small corner of Britain a happy welcoming place in which to live. We enjoyed the King's Coronation in grand style and we organised another very successful Village Green Party. It seems that our tried and tested formula for our VGP is still enjoyed by young and old judging by the numbers that have fun at that event.

You will be pleased to hear that your Committee is in good heart and we are delighted that we have new members stepping up do their bit. I feel very confident that they will carry our Society on into the future which I find most reassuring.

Fred Russell, who has served on our Committee for many years has decided that now is the time for him to step down as our Vice President. He took over the editorship of our excellent Newsletter in 1998 and continued until 2013 – 28 editions. During that time he transformed it into what it is today. When he stepped down Karl Lawrence, our then Chairman, called him our *Editor par excellence!* He became a Vice President in 2009 until today. We owe him an immense debt of gratitude for all he has done over so many years and we will miss his invaluable contributions. Thank you Fred.

I have a great many more thank yous to make on your behalf.

First and foremost is to Roger Worthington. He is a hive of industry all by himself. He is not only your hard working Secretary but also your de facto Acting Chair. Not only that he has been producing our Newsletters. Thank you Roger. He has been very ably assisted by Andrew Findlay who has been in charge of the production and layouts etc. I think you will agree that our Spring and Autumn Newsletters have been first class. Thank you Andrew.

We are delighted that Cat Howard has agreed to take over the Editorship. If anyone has an article which could be used, or an idea for one could you please let her know. Thank you Cat for taking it on.

Robert Hanbury deserves a special thank you for all he has done for the Society over many years. He has stepped down as Treasurer but will still be on our committee. He has successfully handed over the role of Treasurer to Mike Turner who has taken it on and done wonders with bringing us up to date with spreadsheets and has computerised and automated most things. This has entailed a great deal of research as to the best method to do this. Thank you so much Mike and for producing our accounts and membership lists.

This brings me to our Honorary Auditor Xavier Plumley. He has been auditing our accounts not only this year but previous years. We are very sorry to hear he is stepping down and would like to thank him for doing them. Much appreciated.

Does anyone know someone who might be able to take the auditing over for us? If so please let one of our Committee know. Thank you.

Jacquie and Mike Turner have once again organised a very successful Taplow litter pick around the village. You would be amazed at the amount of litter collected. Quite shocking that it was unthinkingly discarded. We all thank you and your helpers for doing that. We also have to thank Jacquie and Mike for hosting our Committee Meetings in their lovely home and generously supplying us with teas and biscuits.

Organising our wonderful Village Green Party requires an enormous amount of work which has yet again been done by Rupert Sellers. Thank you Rupert. You have done another great job. A army of helpers are required before, during, and after the event and I would like to thank you all for doing your bit.

Our good neighbours SGI at Taplow Court have once again kindly provided the wood for the fire, and the crockery for tonight etc. They are indeed good neighbours and we are lucky to have them as part of our community.