

## **CODNOR PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2005-6**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

We were very sorry to lose our parish warden this year. He has moved on to greater things with Amber Valley Borough Council. His absence was very obvious on the streets in the period before Christmas. We now have a new warden, Daryl Hemsell, who is settling in well - and once again even a casual observer can tell that the village of Codnor is well looked after.

A public enquiry was held about a right of way through the grounds of Codnor Park and The Firs. The claim by villagers that such a right of way existed was supported by the council; and the right of way has been confirmed.

Access to the disabled toilet has been improved to conform to current standards. Amber Valley Borough Council is committed to resurfacing the Alfreton Road car park; following representations by the parish council. They will mark out disabled parking bays.

The borough council has also pruned the trees on the boundary of Crosshill cemetery so that the new streetlights installed by the county are not blocked by foliage. This was also as a result of persistent pressure by the parish council.

There is growing concern about the state of Codnor castle. It was supposed to have been preserved and made safe by the opencasters by now. A 'friends of Codnor castle' group has been set up, which has the full support of the council.

The council has again run best kept allotment and garden competitions. As usual councillors went on two litter picks about the village.

Most residents will know of the vandalism that occurred at Christmas time. Someone felled the Christmas tree in the Market Place with a saw. Not only did this deprive everyone of the tree, it cost the Parish Council - **you** - more than £800. There was the emergency call-out fee to the expert installers, removal of the tree, repairs to lights fused by the incident, replacement lights for next year ..... We cannot insure the decorations against vandalism. The Parish Council have discussed the matter formally and informally at length. They have decided to continue the decorations at Christmas time - we're not going to give in; but what a crying shame if we have to spend yet more money, renting CCTV cameras for the Christmas period.

### **POLICE**

Despite still not having a base in the village, our beat bobby, Sally Rohdes, continues to have a very beneficial effect on the village. Crime is low in Codnor. The main problems are with children and young people. Sally is often joined by our very own Codnor special constable, Darren Fearn. We are delighted to be able to tell you that he was nominated for the Derbyshire special constable of the year award - and won! So we have a very special special in Codnor.

### **YOUTH BUS**

Codnor Parish Council has gone into partnership with Heanor & Loscoe Town Council and Langley Mill & Aldercar Parish Council to buy a youth bus. The County Council youth service will staff it. The police are providing the equipment. As Codnor contributed one fifth of the cost, it will visit us one fifth of its staffed time - one night a week; but we confidently expect its good influence to last much longer!

### **ON THE WEB**

<http://www.codnor.parishcouncil.net/>

This is the Codnor Parish Council website. Parish council agendas and minutes are available; together with a calendar of events, an A-Z, and news items about Codnor. The template used for the site has won a gold award in a prestigious competition. If you have any events you would like posted on the site or an item of news; use the e-mail facility or get in touch with the clerk.

## **ANNUAL EVENTS**

I think everyone who came to the fun day this year will remember it for a long time. New attractions included the county council climbing wall, and J.C.Ball's dancing diggers. We were blessed with gorgeous weather so that the grass was covered with people enjoying the day. We are very grateful indeed to Amber Valley Rotary Club for continuing to organise the event with such enthusiasm. Did you know they even pick up all the litter at the end of the day?

Bonfire night was again a success. Here thanks are due to the sports and social club, and Bert Holland in particular for their collaboration and generosity. We tried to count the people who came; we think it was about 2500. We collected £348, which was later divided between St John's Ambulance, the special constable fund, the fire service, Codnor scouts, and Swanwick Scout Explorers, who all helped at the event.

Two other events which happen every year were the civic service at St James's Church, and carols round the tree on the market. I as Chairman am particularly grateful to the two churches for their wholehearted participation in these events - and of course the Salvation Army who have valiantly accompanied the carols year in, year out, in the worst weather Codnor can provide.

## **PARISH CLERK**

After 15 diligent years Sally Bruckshaw, our Parish Clerk, has retired from the post. We wish her well. Our new clerk is Anne Wood, whose contact details can be found overleaf, we look forward to a long and happy association.

## **FINALLY**

This newsletter is full of 'thank you's. Perhaps that is what a Parish Council is about - getting people to work together for the betterment of Codnor. I hope you think we have some success.