



AUTUMN 2015



Hello folks,

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Jackdaw Chatter. I can't say that it feels very autumnal as I write this, although I suppose that the washed out Bank Holiday Monday was a pretty good indication of where things are heading.

Mind you, I do always look forward to Autumn; I think it's my favourite season of the year. One of the recent new highlights of Autumn in the village is the Chutney Challenge at the Swan which will be in late October. I've already made my entry, although I can't describe it here in case the judges may be reading. For the last two years there have been a lot of entries, best part of 50 last year. Time to get yours ready, perhaps?

Of course, another of the things I love about Autumn is the commencement of the shooting season. Paul's shoot on the Quy estate continues to be very successful and I shall be over at Six Mile Bottom for thirty days or so.

The high points, as far as the QVA activities go, are the Horse Racing evening and the Inter-Street quiz. If you have never been to these events I would encourage you to come along this year. They are very enjoyable social gatherings and everyone is made very welcome.

All the best,
Nigel

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT JACKDAW CHATTER
IS MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER**

Bill's Bit Autumn 2015

Another summer nearly gone then, and ein't that been a miserable one this year, and do you know I still ein't heard the Cookoo in Quy. Barry Cox did once but that was in July. He reckoned that hollered out twice down Spring Plantain somewhere and that was it.

We had all that dry weather in April, May and part of June, so most people got a good hay crop in, but then just when they wanted to start harvest that kept raining. They did have a couple of reasonable weeks late July and got a good bit done, but since then they have had to pick an hour or two when that's dry enough. I reckon Chris Butler has finished but Paul Clarke tells me he has still got about a day's combining left to do. He's even got Chris Butler's combine down Alicky to help him finish. He reckons he has got acres of straw all laying out wet on the fields, where the contractors can't bale it yet. That will eventually get baled, no doubt, but the straw ein't gonna be a lot of good. Mind you he reckons the corn yields have been good this year, about 4 ton an acre on the wheats and 3 ton on the spring barleys. He didn't have no winter barley, but where there was some other places the old ears looked long and full, so I expect that yielded well. About 55 year ago when I was on the farm if we got 2 ton an acre we reckoned that was a marvellous crop, but I ein't gonna say the land is farmed better I am sure that's these here scientists what have been improving the seed for years till the greenies come in and started shouting about GA crops or whatever they call it.

Paul tells me there is a big problem with the rape this year. The government have banned a spray they used to use to kill the old flea beetle, but they reckoned that had some effect on bees as well. This year Paul tells me all his rape has suffered badly with this here flea beetle, and no one can yet come up with an answer to it. Apparently the beetle burrows into the stalk of the rape half way up so it kills the top, which is of course where all the oil seed is. He says some of the stalks then bush out lower down the stem, but that's too late for them

to produce the seed. Chris Butler reckons that's so bad he ain't gonna set no rape for next year. He also tells me the sugar beet is looking good this year, but the sugar beet factory don't want much. World glut of sugar apparently. The farmers have been quoted a price for the sugar beet, but after they have had their quota the rest will be wasted. Looks good for my sheep getting a few cheap feeds. Anyway while they have been waiting for the rain to stop they have been getting on with next year's crops and Paul has drilled all next year's rape and the wheat fields are pulled up and ready for drilling in the next few weeks.

We went to a posh Prom concert at Burleigh House in July. That was a bit high faluting classical "battle" music including the 1812 Overture with a World War one grut big cannon firing, soldiers and cavalry from Napoleon's time firing guns and galloping about. Me and Shirley went up and joined the choir, where we sung a few rare rousing songs like Land of Hope and Glory and Jerusalem, blast we both enjoyed that and ended up on the closed circuit big screen. Only problem was I had got my clumsy head on that night. First I spilled red wine over David's shorts, then all the milk over Shirley's dress. They decided I ought to be called LiaBILlity. Then a spitfire come over, which rolled and looped all over the crowd. "Biggles" Hurrell said that reminded him of his days in spitfires. Yes he'd had a flight in a spitfire a few weeks before and reckoned that was wholly marvellous.

Then only a week or so ago Margaret bought Colin Lowe a ride in a tiger moth for his birthday. Colin really enjoyed it and saw some of South Cambridgeshire from a different angle.

My old sheep are looking well now. The lambs (all 10 of them) will be going in the next week or two, and the ewes are just getting ready for the tup. 'Cos I only run about 10 ewes now I had a lot of spare grass at the fields I use in Horningsea, so I asked young James Heckford (Freydis' grandson) if he wanted to put some of his sheep with mine. He is now running 20 odd Southdowns with them, and I shall use his tup. That is lovely to see a good few sheep on the fields again, but I

didn't want to look after too many 'cos they get heavier every year.(Yes I know I'm too old to keep throwing sheep about, but I do still like keeping them.) Anyway with a bit of luck there will be a yard full of sheep about here at lambing time which I hope I will be able to help with a bit.

The Country Fair was a bit of a wash-out this year. I don't know whether Malcolm made any money, but there weren't many people coming in on the Monday when that poured of rain all day. I was scheduled to help sell programmes that day, but David Hurrell, Richard Watts and Geoff Hall were on duty as well, and they sent me home. First time I've been sacked in years. David and Richard stayed at their post till about half twelve, by which time David tells me he had water running out of the ar.. seat of his trousers. I suppose most of you know I "hire out" about 300 bales of straw each year to Malcolm, and then have them back to put in the barn for my use all winter. The system worked well for about 20 years, but this last three years the bales have all got too wet to use later and Malcolm has had to pay for them all being damaged. I don't lose out but that ein't half a job to get rid of 300 soggy bales. Sorry about a bit of smoke down Station Rd Linda, but they've all gone now. After the event we had about 2000 soggy programmes to get rid of as well. I know Johny Chapman will want to thank all those who turned out to sell programmes on all three days. At least the programme sellers on the desk stayed dry in that nice new tent what Childe's charity bought for village use.

We don't know yet how much will come to the village, but we must expect it will be less than usual. There were a few complaints about mud on the road by Stow Court, and all down Station Rd, but I think it was inevitable with all the rain we had and I reckon Chris Butler did try to clear it up where he could. I feel sure that on the whole the village benefits from this Fair normally with generous handouts to village organisations, so we have to be a bit tolerant. The Saturday and Sunday were reasonably dry and some of the events in the ring were very good. They had a pony scurry this year, where teams of

mainly small horses have to go thro' obstacles fast without knocking them over. That's lovely to see these here small ponies tearing along and turning on a sixpence. The beer tent weren't quite so full this year, especially on the Sunday evening, but I reckon a lot of villagers went to Gerry's beer festival at the Swan, which I am told was also very enjoyable.

It was a shame the Fair followed on so close to the Steam Rally which was also held on a wet weekend, and left some mud on the roads. I believe they had a very good turnout of ancient vehicles, tractors, cars and of course steam engines.

Just about the time of the steam rally a grut big lump fell out of one of the conker trees in the Park. Paul cleared it up and that looks a bit sad, but still OK and while he was at it he took down that trunk of the one they cut down last year. If you remember the trunk was left 'cos that had an owls nest in it. I thought all these old conker trees looked better this year, and there weren't no brown on the leaves right up till August, but now they've all got this here rust thing again. I don't reckon any of them will be about for too many more years. Ein't that a shame, we really missed the old elms when they went, but the conker's looked strong and healthy as though they would live for ever, and don't think that's only the older trees - the young conkers still have this here rust on them.

Linda told me her and Darren went for a bike ride along the old railway and on the track up towards Long ground and there was a big old tree (must have been an ash or oak) had fell over across the track. Darren went to look at it and a swarm of bees come out of it so they beat a hasty retreat. While they were there they saw a big muddy area with loads of hoof prints in the mud. Then lo and behold a big Roe deer was running up and down the other side of the hedge. They watched it trying to find its fawn then off they both went running and leaping over ditches down towards black Ditch Cut way. She said they looked so lovely. Paul Currington tells me there are quite a few Roe deer about and he even had 3 Fallow deer on the fields up by the

pink house. There was two bucks with great big antlers and a doe with them. They went off Ditton way and he ain't seen them since. Only yesterday when I went along High Ditch road I saw four deer grazing out on the stubble between High Ditch road and Newmarket Rd (right behind Joan Froment's house). Paul tells me that's a mother and her two this years babies, and she sometimes has one or two others with her.

I know most of you who have lived here a long time know where I am talking about all the while, but new folk to the village often tell me they are lost. I have some quite nice village maps with most of the field names on them if anyone wants a copy. Just send me an E Mail and I will send you a map back. You'd better use my E mail address bill.watts5@btinternet.com for the time being 'cos billwatts@stowcumquy.co.uk is mucking me about a bit, but Matt Eaton is on the case and hopes to restore it for me soon.

With a bit of luck we shall see some new young guinea chicks down Crickles this year. There's been several older birds about there for a few years and every year they hatch out a brood or two, but the old buzzards pick off all the chicks in the first two weeks. This year Paul found a guinea fowl's nest with 24 eggs in it, while they were cutting some of the grass down. It had to be moved so he took 15 eggs and put in an incubator. Nine have hatched out and he will keep them cooped up till they are three or four weeks old, too old for the buzzards, before he releases them.

He tells me all the pheasants and partridges are now released ready for another good shooting season we hope. I look forward to that and have got my old stick all shone up ready. I might even afford a new flag this year. He has put several lots of partridges in Quy area this year as well as Wilbraham and has even seen a pair of French partridges running down the middle of Station Rd last week. He reckons there are a load of mink down by the horse pond and they have virtually wiped out the young ducklings. So many people enjoy feeding the ducks there, and they all pair off, it is a shame they can't

bring off a few broods. He also says there are only 3 geese about there now when there was 5. He don't know where the other two have gone, but he don't reckon it was mink. Something a bit bigger than that with two legs. Hope they enjoyed their Sunday dinners! John Chapman has a nice tale about owls. Last year he had a tame Barn Owl which he reared from a chick. He would let it out in the day and shut it up at night, but it started calling for a mate on several nights and eventually a female came courting. So John let out his owl and the two owls went off to make mad passionate love in a barn opposite. The result was three chicks, which John helped feed by leaving food at his house and the male would come and take it back to the chicks. One day Dad didn't show up for the food, and after a day or two John got worried. He then found out that a barn owl had been killed on the A14, and sure enough it was John's. The female tried to rear the chicks, but unfortunately they eventually died despite all the help John could give them. This year he was pleased to see the female return to the barn with a new mate, and they had three chicks. These appeared to be a bit poorly and a barn owl expert told John that this had been a bad year for field voles, which are the owl's main diet. John was asked to try to supplement their food which he did, and the fairy tale is that all three chicks survived. They have now fledged and gone their own way in the world. Who knows whether mum will come back next year and repeat this happy story.

The fete and water sports went very well again this year, and you will see a report of it elsewhere in the Chatter. Maureen sent out the next day E-mails to each of the stall holders to tell them how the fete had done and how their stall had made. She thought then how different things were when she first got involved in Quy fete 50 years ago. Ralph Crisp was Church treasurer then; he would write out a slip of paper for each stall holder and go round to post it in each door. I reckon that's progress.

They tell me that the inter village rounders went well. Geoff has put a report about it somewhere else in the chatter, but I did hear that Linda

Crisp deserted the Quy spectators and went to join the Bottisham lot. I reckon that had to be 'cos her big son Kevin took her over there under false pretences saying his Bottisham team would win.

So what's to come then? A moonlight walk they tell me and of course the inter street Quiz which Orchard Street will most probably win now we have Matt and Jo in our team, but we won't mind you other teams coming along to take part as well.

How about this VILLAGE SHOW then. I reckon there must be a class what suits everybody, so let's hope we get a good turnout on Sat Sept 26th. I think Viv and Gilly will be checking in the entries till 12.00 clock, so please lots of you bring up your entries. Then church doors open to everybody at 2.00pm to view all the exhibits and join in. There will be a BBQ , Beer tent, and other refreshments. See you all there, and don't forget all entries and entrance are free.

Cheers Bill

News from the Neighbourhood watch

I am pleased to say that no crimes have been reported since I last wrote in the Jackdaw Chatter's summer edition, though I did notice that one of the notice boards outside the village hall has been vandalised. There has been a series of thefts from vehicles in neighbouring Lode so please remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour that you may see.

Cybercrime is on the increase so we should all be making it as difficult as possible for criminals to hack into our computers, make fraudulent transactions and in extreme cases steal our identities. Passwords provide the first line of defence against unauthorized access to your computer and the stronger your password the more protected your computer will be from hackers and malicious software.

A strong password:-

- Is at least 8 characters long

- Does not contain your real name, your user name or your company name

- Does not contain a complete word

- Is significantly different from your other passwords

- Contains a mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols.

Help yourself to remember your strong password by:-

Creating an acronym from an easy to remember piece of information. For example pick a phrase which is meaningful to you, such as My mum's birthday is 26th Jan. Using that information you might create Mmbi26/1

Relate your favourite password to a hobby or interest. For example I love to play table tennis could become ILuv2PlayT@T_nni\$

Never share your passwords with anyone.

Try and use different passwords for different accounts.

If you must write them down to remember them, then keep them well hidden and away from your computer.

Viv Fleet

A new baby

To Chris and Anna Boys, of Stow Road, a daughter, Lucia Elizabeth who was born in July.

Quy Church Fete July 18th

On a glorious sunny afternoon the voice of Joan Crisp, our charismatic Radio Quy announcer, rang out round the Orchard to open Quy Fete. There were stalls galore with a large crowd eager to buy from the bottle stall, the toys, books, jams, chutneys, bric-a-brac (where thanks are due for all the good but unusual items which had been given), garden produce and more. With a larger crowd this year the teas and refreshment tent was kept busy. Many of the cakes which had been donated were sold whole, and Matt had been up baking until 2am the morning before (it may also have been that baby Esther was awake all night). The Bar and Barbecue were so busy that, by the time the water sports were in progress, drinks and burgers were all sold out. Ivor the Fergy tractor was also busy all afternoon carting people up and down the Avenue. Many children looked either scary or pretty after visiting the face painting tent.

There were many competitions going on all afternoon. Some, like the pick a straw and Horse racing, had instant winners, or luck of the draw with the raffles, treasure hunt and name the teddy. However most relied on the skill, and determination of the competitors, who bowled and threw all afternoon to get the final highest score.

There were so many raffle prizes that lots of the visitors went away with a prize, but winners of the competitions eventually were Ollie who won the preschool prize for the bowling, Samantha the primary school prize, and her sister Charlotte for the under 16s; Bill Watts won the adult prize (eat your heart out David Hurrell). Richard Trigg won the adult hoopla, and Olivia the children's hoopla. Karen Winder won the roll a ball, while Chloe Norden spooned the most marbles into the flower pot. The Hunt to find where in the village the treasure was buried was won by Karen Austwick, Rosie White guessed the correct name for the fluffy duck, while Linda W named the Teddy bear. The 'nails in the colander' prize was won by Lisa Nixon.

At 4.30, with the prizes all presented, the stalls and competitions closed, the crowd moved over to the other field where the water sports were to be played. Ray and Margaret Jakes had prepared a very varied programme with the architects of the games being Richard Watts and Matt Eaton. This year the perfect weather encouraged participants to get even wetter than usual. Each game is done by the children first so the adults will know what they are supposed to do. The games started with a sack race, unfortunately some of the children were smaller than the sacks, undeterred and with the help of parents carrying them in the sack, all completed the race with Chloe Norden first and brother Lewis Norden second. The adults were going well till Richard Watts fell and took out two others. This left the way clear for Jason Hall to beat Daren Crisp. Egg and spoon lends itself to possible cheating but as usual the children behaved well with Jack Crisp beating Sakshi Zala in the under eights and Chloe Norden just beating Charlotte Davies in the older children's race. Margaret spent some time telling the adults how NOT to cheat, all to no avail. Marcus Shadbolt just beat Matt Eaton (without cheating) while most others dropped their eggs. The egg throw and catch was less egg-citing as their eggs appeared to break easier than last year, so no really long throws. Zac Delanoy and Robert Hugman just beat Elijah Hall and Ollie Leeson for the children, Marcus Shadbolt and Kevin Harris won the adults competition with Richard Trigg and Clive Crisford second. Karen Winder got totally covered in egg when failing to hold her egg cleanly at about face level!!!, much to the amusement of the onlookers.

The roller trudge was a new game for children and required team co-ordination; it was all a bit slow before Scarlet Watts, Holly Hall and Scarlet Delanoy finished with the most water carried. The adults reverted to the traditional trudge and were more controlled than usual with very little water being spilled.

There was only 3mm of difference in water carried by the first three teams, with the winning team of Karen Winder, Marcus Shadbolt and Nathan Turner managing 164mm of water. Richard, Matt and Lex Devereaux just 1mm behind.

Everyone was looking forward to the bale toss using bigger bales and a higher bar this year. Charlie Doughty was an easy winner of the children's event, he may find it harder next year when he will be classed as an adult once he is 15 years old. Elijah Hall and Charlie Wright were 2nd and 3rd respectively. There was fierce competition in both the adult classes with Charlotte Dayton beating Lisa Nixon after some tremendous tossing between the ladies.

Testosterone levels appeared high as the men strutted about with some psychological eye balling and muscle flexing. With the much more difficult shaped bale two previous winners were knocked out in the final showdown. Matt Eaton came out as this year's champion, and Paul Beesley the runner up. Jason Doughty, who was nursing an injury still finished with his customary full body splash into the pool and was joined by Matt and Chris, so began a really wet bit of the afternoon.

Children climbed out of the pool to take place in a tug of war using mixed teams that had great fun on a close contest. When the adults were called up the ladies challenged the men rather than having mixed teams. With no rules on numbers pulling around 12 ladies beat the 10 men twice out of three pulls, which certainly got rid of the testosterone. Suggestions of unfair play were overruled by the umpire (Ray), as he had never heard blokes complaining of pulling too many women before! You can't have your cake and eat it.

The final event was the obstacle course. Richard and Matt had set this up in the usual way but with an additional tented obstacle of wet sacks of straw hanging inside as an added difficulty. After 10 minutes of relay running carrying two jugs of water round, the team of Rosie Wright, Harvey Francis, Tarlea Dale, Reuben Hugman, Zac Delanoy and Charlie Wright were declared as the winning team. A similar race was now on for the adults, but things were getting slightly out of hand

as it became a free for all with spectators now joining in; their express aim was to throw as much water over contestants as possible. The clear winners were Richard Watts' team of Tennie Videler, Matt Eaton, Nathan Turner, and Karen Winder. Another great fun and very wet games afternoon was enjoyed by all with no known injuries. Thanks to all concerned.

Ray and Margaret Jakes, Graham and Maureen Norden, who had organised the fete so well, thanked all the stall holders and other helpers for all the work they had put in, especially all those who had put up tents and stalls, and who would no doubt take them down on the morrow. Maureen also thanked all the people who had organised the water games, and was glad she felt too old to throw herself and Chick into the pool..

There had been several donations which were much appreciated. At the end a total of £1529-64 will be given to the Quy Church funds , £10 more than last year!

Bill Watts



Village Show & Exhibition

Sat Sept 26th in Quy Church

Also Harvest Festival 3.00pm Sun Sept 27th

The Village show on the Saturday will be open for entries in Cooking, Photography, Painting/Drawing, Flowers, Vegetables, & Handicrafts.

(a schedule detailing classes will fall thro your door shortly)

Certificates will be presented to class winners

There will also be an exhibition. Anyone wishing to display their hobbies or collectables see Bill Watts

Entries for the show and exhibition will need to be set up in the church between 9.00am & 12,00pm

**The show will
be open from
2.00pm till late**

Teas , refreshments, a Barbecue, and a Bar will be available

Also competitions on the day, especially for children.

A treasure hunt, brass rubbing, face painting .

If you would like to be involved in helping organise this event,
please ring Bill on 01223 811063

**Free entry to all villagers and visitors. All classes will be free to enter,
but donations to the church would be appreciated.**

Come along and join in the fun.

QVA Report

The QVA events during the summer were well attended and enjoyed by all. The first event was the Inter-village rounders match which was organised by Geoff Hall. There is a separate report in this issue.

Village rounders was, thankfully, a fine evening and brought out a good crowd of both players and spectators. Graham, who usually does the barbecue, was on holiday so Nigel and Jane stepped into the breach, offering burgers and hot dogs which pretty much sold out.

The church fete went very well and raised plenty of funds which are, of course, very helpful in paying some of the running costs of the Church. The post-fete games were their usual raucous selves with lots of people getting very wet and thirsty. Many thanks to Matt and Richard for all the effort they put into organising everything.

During the summer we welcomed Nathan Turner to join the committee; we hope he will enjoy getting involved in helping out with the various activities we organise.

The Autumn has some of the most popular events: the Horse-Racing evening, the Moonlight walk and the Inter-Street quiz.

As ever, we always put up posters around the village to advertise these events, so if you are unsure about when an event is taking place, just watch out for the notices.

Please come along and enjoy yourselves.

Ray Jakes

Quy Jackdaw Club Summer Outing

This year's outing saw 53 people travel to Southwold with an afternoon stop at Snape Maltings.

The weather was not quite as kind to us this year as in the past, but thankfully it did not rain – I know it did get a bit chilly later in the day!! After leaving the village hall at around 9.30 the coach driver took us on what some thought was a mystery tour but was just the pretty route to avoid the roadworks on the A14 near the Orwell Bridge. We were dropped off alongside the Pier and the party split up, some walking into the little town whilst others headed straight on to the Pier. The walk along the seafront took us past the pretty beach huts some with their own veranda, others with occupants sat outside in deckchairs enjoying mugs of tea. There were even a few well wrapped souls on the beach although I don't think anybody was in the sea.

Various lunches were enjoyed either before or after a wander around the shops, before the stroll back to the Pier, with many admiring the wildflowers and poppies that had been planted along the clifftop – these were grown from seeds harvested from the battlefields from the First World War, to celebrate the centennial.

By now the sea breeze had turned into more of a chill breeze and many people huddled together on the Pier in sheltered areas. This also gave some the chance for an ice-cream.

Once back on the bus we made our way back to Snape Maltings. Everybody was given a voucher for a free cake and drink in the tea shop. This was thanks mainly to the money donated from the Murder Mystery and the sale of the Snowdrops earlier in the year.

Before we left Snape we had a small raffle and once the prizes had been spread around the bus we headed for home. The sweets were passed around but I'm not sure if the box came back quickly because

nobody had room for any or that half the bus was asleep!!
I did take a few photos but if anybody else took any could I possibly have some copies for my memory album?
I hope you all enjoyed the day – I have had a few suggestions of places to visit next year but please let me know if you hear of anywhere that sounds ideal for a trip in the future.

Anne Moore

Inter-village Rounders

We had our 3rd annual Inter-village rounders again on the rec. Unfortunately we were let down by one team but a team of all stars stepped in and saved the day.
After many close games and no injuries, Bottisham again were victorious having defeated Quy in the final.

Geoff Hall

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info@whiteswanquy.co.uk

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Jackdaw Club May Coffee Morning

The coffee morning held at the end of May raised £250, slightly down on recent events but as several people were away on holiday still a fantastic amount.

Karen and Steve were away on holiday so Donna and Linda stood up to the challenge of running the cake stall. Donna had to do a quality control survey before she was happy to sell any of the cakes; luckily we still had enough to sell!

Auntie Mal was again in charge of Bric a Brac and Books (Joan was also on holiday) and did a roaring trade, with new deliveries of items arriving throughout the morning. Thanks to everybody that donated items.

Tracey, Ella and Leo were kept busy on the tombola stall with almost 80 prizes on offer, ranging from packets of sweets to shower gels and bottles of wine.

Pam and Mick had tables groaning under the weight of bedding and vegetable plants as well as houseplants and cut flowers. Mick had even diversified and brought along some of his free range eggs.

Thanks to everyone who donated prizes to the raffle - it kept Linda busy and always rounds the morning off with prizes being well spread around the room. Helen and Kath were busy serving teas and coffees from the hatch and always had the washing up organised as well.

Thanks again to the team of helpers that give their time freely to help set up and run the stalls. Also to those who donate items for the stalls and of course to those who attended the morning and made it such a fun atmosphere.

Anne Moore

Views wanted on future of district elections

A ten-week consultation has been launched to ask how often elections should be held to appoint councillors to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Local residents, businesses and other organisations are being asked whether there should be a move to 'all-out' elections of the whole Council once every four years, or preservation of the current 'by thirds' system of electing one-third of Council seats each year for three successive years out of four.

The change is being considered ahead of a scheduled boundary review later this year by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The review will see wards - the geographical area councillors cover - adjusted to ensure that all district councillors represent approximately the same number of electors.

As part of the review, LGBCE will consider how many councillors are needed to effectively represent South Cambridgeshire residents. If the Council continues to elect 'by thirds', the Commission will look to introduce three-councillor wards across the district. An 'all-out' election cycle - which would begin in 2018 at the earliest - would see a mixed ward pattern, favouring single-councillor wards where possible.

Currently, 57 councillors serve four-year terms representing 34 wards across South Cambridgeshire. Depending on their size, some wards have one councillor while others have two or three, meaning that some residents are eligible to vote in district council elections more frequently than others.

Cllr Sue Ellington, Chair of South Cambridgeshire District Council's Civic Affairs Committee, said: "There are pros and cons to both options for running our elections in the future. We'd like as many residents, partners and other organisations as possible to give us their views, and all feedback will be considered ahead of a vote on the matter by all Councillors later this year."

Parish Council Update

Since the last update the PC has welcomed a new co-opted councillor, David Kearney, from Vicarage Meadow, who replaces Helen who left in February. Sadly, we've also said goodbye to Gill Butler, who tendered her resignation over the summer break; we've advertised the vacancy and are now awaiting the results of that advertising from the elections department at SCDC to find out whether we can co-opt to replace her or whether we'll need to hold a by-election. Hopefully by my next update we'll have another new councillor.

There were no objections received in the consultation period for the new speed limit, so we're just waiting for when Highways are next in the area doing work for the 30mph signs to go up.

There's a new dog poo bin gone in along Station Road, so hopefully that will reduce the incidence of dog fouling along there. Please do be considerate and make use of it to tidy up after your dogs!

We've recently had contact with several concerned residents about the King Street Housing managed properties on Minter Close. The recent government announcements about right to buy being extending to housing association tenants will not at present affect those properties on Minter Close. This has taken quite a few letters and e-mails back and forth between the PC, KSH and SCDC, but the status of the land as a rural exception site, and the covenant between KSH and SCDC in the S106 agreement, which forms part of the planning consent on that land, at the moment, protects it from that upcoming legislation. The land was sold to KSH by the Francis estate, to ensure the availability of affordable rented accommodation for those with a connection to the Village. It is the hope of the PC that this remains the case.

Matt