

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to Burntwood Town Council's Annual Report.

Following my election in May 2008 I was looking forward to meeting the people and organisations in Burntwood. This was not to be, from June until December I was in Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield and the Dr Samuel Johnson Community Hospital, Lichfield, following two major operations and then I caught a bug which laid me low. As I said in my Christmas message, I pay tribute to all the staff at both these hospitals for looking after me during this time. I thank the Vice-Chairman Councillor Kenneth Humphreys for his support. I am most grateful.

I was home for the well supported Annual Carol Service which was held at Chasetown Methodist Church and in March I was able to share in the Civic Service, which was again held at Chasetown Methodist Church. The theme of the Civic Service was young people. The Service was also well supported and was followed by a Civic Reception at Chasetown FC's Scholars ground.

During the year the Town Council obtained Quality Status and the certificate was presented at the July Town Council meeting by Viv Evans, Chief Executive Officer of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association. Mrs Evans said that she thought that our application portfolio had been outstanding.

The Town Council relaunched the Burntwood in Bloom Competition in 2008. The competition was well supported and details of the 2009 competition have recently been announced.

The Town Council launched a new and exciting Website (www.burntwood-tc.gov.uk) in March which contains lots of information about Burntwood and the Town Council.

My charities for the year were the Burntwood Live at Home Scheme and Leukemia Research. Thanks to the generosity of prize givers, donors and ticket buyers £940 has been raised to be shared between the two charities.

Finally I would like to thank the Town Clerk, Mary Danby, for keeping me on a straight path and the Chairman's Secretary, Jayne Minor, for looking after my diary and the whole of the staff at Burntwood Town Council.

During the year Councillor Susan Woodward resigned after being an elected Member since 1993 and we were saddened by the passing away suddenly of Councillor Ian Crossland – we think of his wife, Meg, at this time.

I close this report with praise on my lips for my Chaplain, the Rev Christopher Parkes for his help and support, and my family who have been a tower of strength.

I wish the incoming Chairman every blessing.

Councillor John Walker MBE JP
Chairman, Burntwood Town Council
2008-2009