

## Chair's report to Ovington Parish Meeting 2019

Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking.....

Firstly let me welcome you here again. Can a whole year have gone by already?

As you know we had local elections last week. Our Parish Council elections were sorted a few weeks ago and Tim, Jeremy and myself look forward to serving you all again. ON that note I would like to thank Janet for her hard work and knowledge serving on our council.

But I personally will miss Rod, my mentor, an ear to bend and mine of knowledge on everything Ovington related.

Next lots of thanks go to Tim and Jezza. By my side they stand. Tim does an amazing job reading through reams of paperwork. Jezza has the know-how to fix / mend and construct anything anywhere required. Finally thanks to my amazing clerk Heidi for her relentless and tireless work in keeping us all legal, looking out for grants so we can keep our wonderful village in fine fettle.

The gravity race once again saw even more contestants and more spectators than 2017. I hear a rumour it may be running again (I hope so cos I've already got about four teams ready to sign!). Tim, Jezza and all Tim's helpers did a super job and well done village hall for keeping everyone fed and watered.

The northern trod has sort of been done. It needs extending slightly but I believe that's all in hand. Thanks to the north Ovington residents that contributed to the cost and also to Claire Bowes for using some of her budget money to go towards our cost contributions.

Late last year we planted two new trees in Crown Crescent. They were purchased with a grant to commemorate WW1. We chose American Red Oaks. However earlier this year we lost 2 trees from the Crescent too. They were deemed to far gone to just trim up. I hope to get them replaced though. We purchased wheelie bin stickers for all on both our main roads. I would like to hope that people do see them and slow down.

The litter pick was once more very well supported. My thanks go to all who came. I'm not sure what happened to the 'special gentleman's reading matter' that was found. I hope it has been given a good home! And thanks to all who contributed to the 'feed up' afterwards. Once again the tables were groaning under the weight of so much grub!

We've had a request for an informal twinning with Ovington in Northumberland. Perhaps a penpal circle can come of it. Another request for a village befriending group too from Debra in Adults Services at County Hall and so far I have three names on my list. Watch this space for more info.

Finally we made some charitable donations:

Air Ambulance - £100, First Response - £100, Citizens Advice Bureau - £100

I will announce soon what help I'll be looking for from you good people for my chosen charity.

So enough from me / Parish Council news is all done. Come and see us / join us/ we are always here somewhere!