

HOLCOMBE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

website: www.holcombedevon.co.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008/2009

As you approach an Annual General Meeting, the first thought you may have is, whatever happened to the last year? Looking back we see attendances at General Meetings have stayed roughly the same as normal and the Committee has been involved in the usual range of activities. The website has become a significant part of our advertising and news and is well maintained and used. We have maintained the variety of Speakers at General Meetings. Membership has stayed at a similar level (around 350) although collection of fees is still ongoing.

At a number of meetings we have asked Members to give us some indication of things they would like to see improved within the Village and we now find that people are bringing their problems to Committee Members and suggestions for things they would like to see happen. This obviously has increased the workload on the Committee and we are fortunate to be able to call upon our excellent group of local Councillors for advice and assistance as required.

One of the suggestions that was made some time back led to us starting our coffee club, of which we had three with approximately fifteen to twenty people attending and we were grateful for the presence of CAB, Age Concern, the Fire Service, Police etc., all of whom handed out useful information. This coffee club has now been converted to a lunch group, which the Residents Association and St Georges Church have combined to run. We can cater for up to 36 people and the event is now, more or less, self-funding. We did have part-sponsorship for one event from the Celia Trust for which we expressed gratitude.

Planning applications have taken something of a back seat due to the credit crunch. The Holcombe Hall public meeting chaired by the Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate caused some turmoil at Forde House, due to the number of residents who turned up, making the room quite crowded. However all were given, and took, the opportunity to make comments as appropriate, both at that meeting and at the site meeting that followed. The outcome may not have been what was expected, but it was certainly reached fairly.

My job as Chairman has been much simpler because of the dedication and support of your Executive Committee who really work hard and take their duties seriously. I still hope that we shall be able to get some of the younger generation involved in either our affairs or other interest groups within the Village.

If we have solved any problem for anyone in the Village or helped in any way to make life slightly better for them, then we have all done the right things.

Thank you to all of our Membership.

Gerry Chambers