



## December 2020

Dear Resident

St Helens Parish Council continue to thank businesses and residents for their ongoing observance of the current Covid 19 guidance, and for the support of the community for the helpline service provided via the Isle of Wight Council Hub (phone 823600), and Community Action website.

The Parish Council are also in discussions to support a couple of local Covid 19 related projects, supporting local vulnerable people and families – working with the local primary school and other agencies.

Thanks also to all involved within the local school, for the efforts of all students to mark Remembrance and Armistice Days last month – working with the Church, we were able to lay wreaths at the memorial, which was 100 years old this year, and students made special commemorative poppies, as well as planting poppies in the school grounds.

The Island's High Sheriff, Mrs Caroline Peel, together with a piper Stuart Kent, and Parish Chairman John Coleman, were able to lay wreaths at the Lych Gate and at the Priory Memorial prior to the lockdown.

The Parish have also supported discussions with the Church, to help with some minor work in the Church grounds – this is very early stages and will develop over the coming months.

Work on the Heritage Trail is continuing, with links to the Parish website – there has been changes to the website and, although very time consuming, it is hoped the site will be more accessible and able to reflect the activities of the Council more immediately.

This includes recent submissions regarding Planning applications, especially Guildford Parks's referral to the Planning Inspector, and our contribution to recent consultations on proposals to increase housebuilding numbers on the Island.

The Parish have undertaken repairs to the Duver Toilets, prior to the planned Winter closure of all but accessible toilets, and funding is in place to prepare the amenity in advance of the Easter holiday in 2021.

Plans are also being developed for the Church Green, following the 'loss' of the information plaque on the Old Church wall – hopefully, this will link to the heritage trail and historic project (delayed by the Covid 19 guidance).

Hopefully, you will see the Parish Councils Christmas Tree on the Village Green which we hope will generate some festive spirit during these difficult times.

Thank you again, have as good a Christmas and New Year as you can, and take care and stay safe.

**St Helens Parish Council**