

# Biddulph Town Council

## ANNUAL REPORT



**2014 - 2015**

# Mayor's Review of the Town Council's year 2014-2015

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This past 12 months have been exceptionally busy and have passed by rather swiftly, too 'swiftly' I feel! Nonetheless as the saying goes 'time and tide waits for no man'. In my acceptance speech a year ago, I spoke about how proud, privileged and honoured I felt in becoming Town Mayor, I also spoke of how thrilled I was that my family and friends were present to celebrate the occasion with me. I can honestly say that the feeling of pride, privilege and honour has never gone away.

As Mayor, promoting the Town throughout the Moorlands and beyond paved the way in making new friends and making my time in office both interesting and very enjoyable. I am extremely proud and deeply privileged to have represented Biddulph across the borders by attending events in areas such as the Girl Guiding International Camp at Shugborough; the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas where I laid a wreath on behalf of Biddulph; and into Cheshire with civic visits to Congleton and Poynton.

My charities this year have been Help for Heroes, Alzheimer's and Prostate Cancer UK, raising £4375 to date. This would not have been possible without the assistance of Biddulph Running Club and many more. I must mention the Biddulph and District Youth Orchestra (BDYO) under Ian Pickford, Eric Cox and his Ukulele band and the help from my brother and the Breakers for their generous support.

My aim as Mayor was to promote the idea of an 'open community' with the running theme of Friendship. This had been achieved by taking a proactive stance in events at local schools, supporting local groups such as the BDYO, and setting up charitable events such as our 60's Night and Bingo. Also the Biddulph Whiners a new group of which I am proud to be founder member, under the watchful eye of Reverend Philip Lockett.

The Biddulph Community has played a real part in promoting the Town, aided by an army of volunteers. Here are some of the events that have occurred over the past year:

- Biddulph Moor Well Dressing
- June 28<sup>th</sup> saw the launch of the Biddulph Festival
- The Christmas Lights switch on took place on the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> November seeing the Town Crier's proclamation and Santa arriving.
- Biddulph and Moorlands Music Festival led by Norman Millard.
- World War One exhibition co-ordinated by Arthur Potts.
- Biddulph in Bloom – awarded Gold in the Large Town category again.
- Receiving £1540.61 from the Running Club, following the Knypersley Run.
- Biddulph Guides 98<sup>th</sup> AGM and awards.
- Dedication of Woodhouse Burial Ground.

- Acorn Awards in memory of Rebecca Harris.
- Accepting the Chain of Office as President of Biddulph Twinning Association. I visited the town with the Mayoress and Town Crier for a wonderful seven days in October, an experience I shall remember for as long as I live.

It really has been overwhelming the amount of people that have willingly helped in some way. May I offer a further big thank you to all the volunteers who have worked so very hard this year to improve the town and the wellbeing of its people, in particular Biddulph Rotary, and the Biddulph in Bloomers, making me as your Mayor feel so very proud of Biddulph, the Garden Town of Staffordshire. Thanks again to everyone involved.

I have done my best, and hope that I have met with your expectations. For me it has been a great honour and privilege to represent you and our Town as your Mayor. It is an experience that I shall treasure fondly. So I thank you all.

## **Cllr Graham Swift**

MAYOR OF BIDDULPH

### **A brief summary of the work of the Council this year:**

- Completed construction of the **new burial ground** at Woodhouse Lane, on land purchased from Woodhouse Middle School. The site was dedicated in May 2014. Continued with existing burial grounds maintenance and improvement work, throughout the year
- Ongoing development of the successful monthly **Biddulph Artisan Market** – first opening in September 2013
- Continued with the Town Council **Youth Advisor** scheme; now having young people meet with councillors and community support police officers each month prior to the Council meeting
- Over £60,000 of **grant assistance** awarded to local community groups during the year, including £25,000 to the **Citizens Advice Bureau** to support its valuable work in the community and £20,000 to **Biddulph in Bloom** to continue its prestigious work in the town. In 2014, Biddulph won the Large Towns category (Gold Award) in the prestigious RHS Heart of England in Bloom competition and will be entering the National competition again in 2015.
- Practical & financial support for the **Biddulph Festival** events – including the successful Americana Festival Parade, American Prom Night, Rock & Chips dance event; Art at the Arms; Rock on the Rocks; Open Cafes, Biddulph by the Sea; BRIC Biddulph Fun Day & many others
- Further development of town events through the **Events Director** project
- Supported the **Moorlands and District Music Festival** at Biddulph High School
- Assisted and supported **Biddulph Moor Community Association** with the third very successful Well Dressing
- Organised the **Lengthsman** scheme – footpath, road signage, verge & ditch clearance work
- Maintenance of **allotment sites** at Moorland Road and Park Lane was ongoing throughout the year. We started planning for a **new site** on land at Springfield Road
- Continued supporting the work of the **residents' and community associations**
- Was a **Regeneration** partner (with District Council & County Council) – continued working on a project to improve the built environment with **street lighting** enhancement, which started in 2013, and completing the scheme to improve the **steps** from the Wharf Road Car Park to the town centre (funded from the Town Council's regeneration budget)
- **Conservation and heritage** work – commenced scheme to improve heritage gates and railings and access to local footpaths; successfully applying for Moorlands Partnership Board funding
- The 2015 calendar was produced to further local **tourism**, plus postcards and other items
- Maintained the **website** – [www.biddulph.co.uk](http://www.biddulph.co.uk) - plus maintenance of **social media** (Facebook & Twitter) pages
- Centenary of the start of World War I and Remembrance Sunday – supported the British Legion & renovated the **War Memorial**
- **Christmas lights** in the town centre & Biddulph Moor tree; organised the switch-on event ~ **Christmas market** and fair, in partnership with Biddulph Business Chamber and the Events Director
- Ongoing staff and councillor **professional training**
- In addition to all of the above, the Town Council is represented on many **outside bodies** and members attended meetings throughout the year, reporting back to the Council at its monthly meetings.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT (UNAUDITED)

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

31-Mar-14	INCOME	31-Mar-15
£		£
230838.92	Precept	232624.84
29161.08	Council Tax Support Grant	26650.80
3855.00	Agency services reimbursed	0.00
0.00	Loan/capital receipts	0.00
324.67	Interest on investments	825.05
0.00	Sale of Assets	0.00
162.50	Room Lettings	565.00
35,030	Burial Ground	61920.20
550.00	Allotments	522.33
27302.45	Other	7802.22
<b><u>327224.32</u></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>330910.44</u></b>

31-Mar-14	EXPENDITURE	31-Mar-15
£		£
162344.61	General Administration	158694.79
3855.00	Lengthsman	5935.00
62050.00	S137 Payments	86164.78
0.00	Capital Spending	0.00
0.00	Loan Interest and Repayments	0.00
0.00	Running costs:	0.00
395.36	Allotments	2086.45
22781.24	Community Hall	18207.87
0.00	Parks and open spaces	0.00
126840.59	Burial Ground	32391.61
2174.44	Street Lighting	2378.16
<b><u>380441.24</u></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>305858.66</u></b>

GENERAL FUND		
617319.55	Balance at 1 April 2014	564102.63
327224.32	Total income	330910.44
<u>380441.24</u>	Less Total Expenditure	<u>305858.66</u>
<b><u>564102.63</u></b>	<b>Balance at 31 Mar 15</b>	<b><u>589154.41</u></b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2015

2013/14	<b>LONG TERM ASSETS</b>	2014/15
0	Investments	0.00
0	Long term debtors	<u>0.00</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
4224.00	Debtors (net of provision for doubtful debts)	0.00
0.00	Payments in advance	0.00
1119.93	VAT recoverable	7606.25
0.00	Temporary lendings	0.00
<u>557353.10</u>	Cash in hand*	<u>583354.34</u>
<b>562697.03</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>590960.59</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
0	Creditors	1799.18
6650.00	Receipts in Advance	7.00
0.00	Cash overdrawn	<u>0.00</u>
<b>6650.00</b>		<b>1806.18</b>
<u><b>556047.03</b></u>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>589154.41</b></u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
136168.03	General Fund	261636.41
<u>419879.00</u>	Reserves**	<u>327518.00</u>
<u><b>556047.03</b></u>		<u><b>589154.41</b></u>

### Bank Reconciliation at Year End:

Balance on bank statements at 31/03/15:	591,923.00
Less unpresented cheques	8,619.09
Plus petty cash balance	<u>50.00</u>
Balance in cash book*	583,354.34

### Allocated balances as at Year End:

Allotment site development	50,000.00	Restricted Reserve
Woodhouse Burial Ground	73,870.00	Earmarked Reserve
Regeneration projects (Incl 58,000 for lighting column upgrade)	<u>203,648.00</u>	Earmarked Reserve
<b>Total reserves**</b>	<b>327,518.00</b>	

**BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCILLORS (until May 2015)*****PUBLIC LIST***

<u>Councillor:</u>	<u>Address:</u>	<u>Tel:</u>	<u>Ward:</u>
G S ADAMS	17 Marshgreen Road ST8 6QP	517961	North
E E BADDELEY	6 Wedgwood Lane ST8 6RR e: <a href="mailto:eebgillowheath@ntlworld.com">eebgillowheath@ntlworld.com</a>	513002 07977 308043	West
J DAVIES	69 Woodhouse Lane ST8 7EN e: <a href="mailto:jim.davies@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk">jim.davies@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk</a>	514478	North
RJ DEANE		518684	West
L DEAVILLE	'Spindrift', 24 Woodhouse La ST8 7DR	512376	North
J ELLSUM	2 Humber Drive ST8 7LW e: <a href="mailto:wellsun@tiscali.co.uk">wellsun@tiscali.co.uk</a>	07790 201097	East
T GIBSON	47 Craigsid e ST8 6BP	258631	West
D A HALL	3 Mow Lane Gillow Heath ST8 6QH	512626	North
A K HARPER	200 Congleton Road ST8 7SF	861940	North
A H HART	The Granary Woodhouse Lane ST8 7RJ	379431	North
D HAWLEY	e: <a href="mailto:cllrjdhawley@hotmail.co.uk">cllrjdhawley@hotmail.co.uk</a>	07876660662	BM
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R WHILDING	16 Coppice Close ST8 6EU e: <a href="mailto:rob.whilding@sky.com">rob.whilding@sky.com</a>	513887	East
C WOOD	60 Lotus Avenue ST8 6PS	511064	East



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