

# Letter from the **editors**

CARNIVAL PROCESSION



**H**ow quickly the clock ticks on and the 78th issue of *Newport News* is out. Our production cycle for this number started at our usual half yearly meeting on September 11th when we got together over a glass of wine to plan the next issue. Everyone pitched in with their own ideas, reactions to the last issue and argued over the finances and how much to charge for advertising. As usual we made no changes in our rates. We then all went forth with exactly a month to approach advertisers and supply Tricia Rose with articles and pictures. Miriam Pender has a difficult job in coordinating the advertising team, agreeing wording and layout and sending it to Barney Miller, our designer, by October 9th.

The History editors, Anthony Tuck and David Evans, in addition to researching and writing their own articles have to check any historical features from other contributors to try and ensure consistency and accuracy. Other demanding jobs are undertaken by John and Berenice Oswin Smith who compile and check the Information pages.

Tricia Rose has to consider all the material submitted and meld it into shape before sending it on to Barney Miller who, with his wife Hannah, designs the layout and puts it all into shape, rather like a three dimensional jigsaw as he once described it. It then goes off to the printers and comes back in time for Don Alexander and his team to distribute it by December 1st.

I have mentioned just a few of the people who create each issue every six months but in total there are some 40 people involved and without their help it just wouldn't happen.

The events of the past six months which most stick out in my memory



CHRIS MURPHY

are the celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee on June 5th and the carrying of the Olympic Torch through the village on July 7th, together with the very successful Carnival procession and Fête which raised and distributed to participating village organisations

some £5,600, a massive amount remembering the appalling weather. It is said that some 6,000 people lined the streets of Newport, probably the largest number in its entire history.


Elsewhere on the palette of the last half year's happenings has been the

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## EDITORIAL

re-emergence of the possibility of the expansion of Stansted airport in the longer term, which once again casts a long shadow before it. I don't suppose that we have heard the last of this ongoing scenario. When my wife and I first arrived in Newport in 1965 the battle was pitched against having it at Nuthampstead, and since then we have endured nearly 50 years of fluctuating uncertainty over the development of Stansted airport.

The subject of the expansion of the village continues. One of the interested parties, Bill Bampton of Pelham Structures, addressed a meeting of the Parish Council and assembled residents when his plans were vociferously rejected. Meanwhile the argument for and against having any development in one area or spread throughout the Uttlesford villages continues with some very effective views being expressed.

Turning to the Grammar School, I note that they have been granted Academy status as from September 1st. This gives them greater autonomy over their own affairs. The former

Head Teacher, Sean O'Hagan, has stepped down after six years at the helm after a rather disappointing OFSTED rating of 'satisfactory'. An acting head, Matt Gibson, has been appointed prior to the selection of the next Head Teacher. The school needs to have many good candidates to choose from as urgent and effective action is needed to bring the school up to 'outstanding' at the time of the next inspection.

I was disappointed that the number of Parish Councillors has fallen from 11 to 8 following the resignation of Richard Deamer, Denise Morris and Tristan Rose. Please consider putting yourself forward if you are interested in the future of Newport and can afford a little time. With the Localisation Act the Parish Council has greater powers and responsibilities. Your village needs you!

Whilst on the subject of the council I was delighted to see the four new flower beds in the High Street and Cambridge Road following the distribution by the District Council

of the New Homes Bonus. It certainly brightens up the village.

On my own patch we were very fortunate to have attracted 12 of the top players in the world to our Newport Croquet Club Open Tournament in May, which was a great honour. We have now been going nearly thirty years but sadly only two members actually live in the village. Do please come and join us.

Finally I note with concern that Meals on Wheels, formerly supplied by the WRVS in Saffron Walden, will now be produced by a French multinational company, Sodexo, with the meals coming from Enfield, Colchester and Basildon. I should be interested in hearing from residents what their verdict is as to the quality of the meals.

Please enjoy this issue. Please also support our advertisers upon whom we depend so much. This is really important as virtually our entire income is derived from those who pay to advertise in our pages and the best way of thanking them is to support their products and services.

Happy Christmas and New Year. **NN**

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