

Ibstone Parish Council has been going through some changes in recent weeks. Christopher Harbord who has chaired the PC for the last 3 years and served as a councillor for **almost / over 20**, has decided to stand down. We will miss his leadership and his experience, but appreciate that he feels he has 'done his bit' and it's time for new blood. So,

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

We now have a vacancy on the council and this is your opportunity to actually do something for Ibstone instead of observing on the sidelines. It means attending 6 PC meetings each year and representing the PC at one or two meetings with other organisations such as Bucks County Council or Wycombe District. More and more responsibility is being devolved to local level and you really can make a difference. Please contact our Clerk at the email address below or talk to any of the current councillors if you would like to know more.

Cllr Randall recently attended a meeting with BCC and WDC to review the handling of the extreme weather conditions. Obviously there is the issue of all UK councils being caught out, literally, and running out of salt and grit. They will be making provisions to try to make sure this doesn't happen again but you have the chance to put your thoughts directly to BCC by emailing their suggestions to scrutiny@buckscc.gov.uk, or write to Scrutiny, Room 27, Old County Offices, Buckinghamshire County Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA.

We are looking at placing a grit bin for use on the road outside the school and perhaps another at the top of the village, if it is wanted there. Please let us know if you think this is a good idea or not. There is already a grit bin in Grays Lane and these bins are purchased by the PC but refilled by BCC.

The Neighbourhood Watch Network has proved its worth yet again. In addition to regular warnings on local criminal activity, the system will be used in the future to make sure that all villagers requiring help during extreme weather conditions receive assistance. If you have any resources that might help, such as a 4 wheel drive or if you are happy to help clear someone's drive for their emergency access, please let us know.

Our local police officers WPC Claire Marchant and PCSO Sarah Turner are holding a 'Have Your Say' session at the school between 9.30 and 10.30 on March 16th at Ibstone School. They would like to meet you there to hear any thoughts you have about local policing or to offer advice on any problems you might have. They hope to hold the next session on a Saturday morning or on a week day evening. There is a new system for marking your belongings using 'smart water' which is applied to items and carries a code which identifies the owner if stolen goods are recovered. Councillor Grimsdale who runs the NW scheme has more information on these new systems and can be contacted through the Parish Clerk. clerk@ibstone.org.uk

If you have been in the church yard recently you might have noticed some damage to the bark of the ancient Yew tree. This has been done by deer rubbing against the tree, probably to ease their antlers coming through. It's thought that the tree is more than one thousand years old and the village tree warden has approached the PC as well as other organisations, for funds to put protective railings around the tree. There is some temporary wire fencing round it to protect it until this can be arranged.

The new signs warning lost HGV drivers that the roads in Ibstone are not appropriate for them should be going up any day now! The erection has been delayed by the recent weather conditions. BCC officials say that they have had other priorities. Our

next meeting and the Annual Parish meeting will be held on the 10th of May in the cricket pavilion. We hope to see you there.