

Annual Parish Meeting Petrockstowe

I would just like to start by echoing the sentiments of the District Council in sending our friendship to the people of Ukraine. As we sit here in peaceful Devon and this wonderful village, we cannot imagine the suffering and hardship the people of Ukraine must be experiencing. The Parishioners of Petrockstowe I know are offering their personal support in many ways and this is to be applauded.

2021 was another challenging year with the continuation of Covid and the slow recovery, which has still not been fully achieved. Covid is still rampant particularly in Torridge so we must be careful.

It was my privilege to have been appointed Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Irene for her years as Chairman. I am grateful she stayed on as Vice Chairman and for all her advice.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for their work and support over the year, including the ward Councillors Richard Wiseman and David Hurley. Also the County Councillor Andrew Saywell. Also our wonderful clerk, Fiona Lowe, who keeps me on the straight and narrow.

Lastly a big thanks to all the villagers who make Petrockstowe such a pleasant place to live.

The village is starting to function as usual with Baxter Hall holding events again. It is marvellous to see so many new groups using the hall – Craft, Sewing, Printing and now the Ladies Social Club. What a vibrant village we have.

There is a list of coming events on the bar.

Planning is in progress for celebrating the Queen's Jubilee with events planned on each of the four days.

There have been a number of contentious planning applications and the Parish Council responded robustly, with outcomes that I think was welcomed by the majority.

We have two speakers this evening David French who is going to talk about The Petrockstowe Community Church and Martin from Devon Communities who is going to talk about energy usage. We will start with Martin.

After the presentations there will be an Open Session and Q & A followed by opening the bar when Councillors will circulate and take any other questions in an informal setting.