

You will be very welcome at our Parish Council meeting on Monday 2nd of February, where we are to welcome the Mayor of Guildford at a reception in the village hall, starting at 7pm. The meeting itself will commence, as usual, at 7.30pm.

It has become a tradition for Albury to host the Mayor of Guildford during their term of office, which comes to an end at the beginning of May. This year it is the turn of Cllr Jennifer Jordan. I am currently the Mayor of Guildford and sit on the Community & Health Scrutiny Committee and the Licensing Committee. On the Guildford Borough Council website, she cites her particular interests as recycling and protecting the green belt.

This year we will also, sadly, be saying goodbye to David Davis, our County Councillor. He has been in post now for 15 years, coming up to 16, so had been doing the job just over a year when I became Clerk back in 1994. He has always been a wonderful supporter of Albury and a source of incredible knowledge and expertise – to say nothing of some very generous grants towards our projects, such as the village green, the village centre and the village gateway, to name but three. I for one will miss him enormously, and I will not be alone.

Please look our for our next quarterly newsletter, which will be through your letterboxes at around the same time as the parish magazine. There is a lot going on in Albury, as always, and the newsletter gives the parish council an excellent vehicle to update you on what we are doing and how we are spending your money.

We determined the Parish precept at our January meeting. This is the money that we receive from the Borough Council, based on our estimate of our costs over the coming year, and is funded through your rates. In this current uncertain economic climate, we have strived to keep our budgets as low as possible, whilst at the same time delivering a service to the Parish, and have increased our precept request by just 2.45%.

The Christmas Carol Concert was a huge success again, and thank you to everyone who supported it. We have again been able to use the proceeds, of £77.00, to support the Friendship Club, which is a great asset to the village.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, slightly belatedly, a very happy and healthy New Year, and a more cheerful outlook as the months go on.