

Chairman's report 2017.

The Minster Show year starts with late night shopping, so many thanks again to Margaret and Jack Wraith for the Santa's Grotto; Lindsey for being on the door and Santa for once again fulfilling many dreams, ably assisted by an elf! Thanks to Karen for the wrapped presents for Santa to give out. There appeared to be fewer people than last year – but the appreciation from those who visited was in no way diminished and I feel it has become a feature of the late-night shopping experience for families.

Launch Day to Christine, Alison and team for the schedule, Leanne for negotiating with Cliffe's and Ray for organising printing and being there to support. It is very much of a team effort and is the main day we use to raise awareness in the Village.

The set up on Friday went incredibly well with many more hands on the deck to help. Thank you all the spouses, friends and family that came along. Many of us were commenting on how lovely it was to have one less thing to worry about. The weather is always an unknown factor and as it turned chilly early on there were less people towards the end which felt disappointing, but the people there had clearly had a good day.

Congratulations to Caroline and Emily for being organised with the races and finding Annabelle, Lizzie and Chelsea to help man the finish line. Thanet Road Runners for managing the mile races. Thanks to Leanne in the small arena with the babies and Princesses. The Parade this year was manned by Roy and Lizzie with many thanks to them for doing such a good job. Thank you to John and Viv who decorate the Show Princess vehicle beautifully every year and lead the Parade. The evening was a Bingo night, it didn't go as well as hoped, but it was good to see people prepared to try something different.

The security was again provided by Jack Wraith, Jack Hollands, Samuel, Mike, Steve and Brenden. With no incidences this year.

Huge thanks to Matt Spanton for not only bringing the trestles over but also helping set up. Thanks to Danny, Roger and Jack Whybrow for the electrics; Roger for general help over the weekend; Neil and the crew for the Bar; Alison and Chris with their team for the Show Tent; Bernie for keeping people informed as to what was going on; Minster Matters tent and all those who stepped forward to sell raffle tickets; Alan and Penny for providing the games; Karen for organising the stalls, being Vice-Chair and being a main contact for the Village; Teynham Ladies for the gate duty; Peter for helping with car parking; Anne and Jamie for covering the bottom gate; the Groundsmen for all of their help before and after the day; Roy Bailey for collecting the trestles on Sunday and helping with the vehicle section of the Parade with the Courts; Ed Spanton and Ann Tweedale for allowing us to store our "stuff"; The Bell and Parish Council for the meeting rooms. Thank you to McDonalds for their litter pickers and the supply of small water bottles as it was warm weather and they were much appreciated. Special thank you this year to Karen and Leanne for the pre-Show raffle ticket selling; they do have a goal amount to be raised in mind and are determined to get there. Their extra efforts do make a difference to the bank balance. Also I would to mention Clive who has a few trestles and the tombola stored at Attwells, and allows the selling of the raffle tickets in the shop, another unsung hero of the village

The Show is supported by Minster Parish Council through the use of the Recreation Ground and paying the extra wages for the groundmen, so many thanks for their continued support. I also feel that I may have left some people out as there are so many who do help out. Many apologies to those that did help and I have forgotten. You are appreciated as we cannot do all the work as a small Committee.

Thanks to the Committee for their commitment and openness to trying new ideas. It means that the mix of events and stalls produces a Show that gets positive comments for a wide range of visitors.

Thank you to the Villagers and visitors who come along, enter exhibits and join the Parade. The Show would not be what it is without you.

The date for the diary is Saturday 21st July 2018.