



Shavington-cum-Gresty Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report

2022-2023



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Dear residents of Shavington-cum-Gresty,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2022-2023 Annual Report. As I mark the end of my fifth year as Chairman of Shavington-cum-Gresty Parish Council, I am filled with immense pride in our collective accomplishments over the past year.

This has been the most significant year for generations; we have seen the passing of our monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and the proclamation and coronation of King Charles III.

This year, we also reached several significant milestones, including the successful launch of the #QueenBee initiative, the organization of our inaugural Christmas Festival, a record-high occupancy rate of Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall since its inception, and the commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

These achievements would not have been attainable without the unwavering dedication of our employees, Councillors, community groups, and volunteers. Due to the momentous events of this year, there has also been a tremendous amount of cross collaboration between community groups which is always wonderful to see.

For those who have recently joined our Parish, I trust that you have integrated seamlessly into our community and relished the diverse array of events we have hosted.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Parish Council, both current and past, for their commitment to our Parish. I also convey my best wishes to those who did not stand for re-election in their future pursuits.





Annual Remembrance Service

We have consistently facilitated a multitude of community events throughout the year, including our annual Remembrance service which now follows a well-rehearsed format. We iterate on the exact format each year and the live streaming of our service has remained in place since we first introduced it during the coronavirus pandemic to ensure members of the community are able to watch along from home should they wish to.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to everyone who contributes to the event behind the scenes, including Woodnoth-cum-Shavington WI whose steadfast support to provide refreshments at parish events, including Remembrance, does not go unnoticed.

Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III

Shavington-cum-Gresty marked the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 with a splendid array of events led by community groups including Shavington Village Festival Committee.

The celebrations included a concert honouring her remarkable seven-decade reign, our

annual village festival, and a joint outdoor church service.

Our Parish was among over 3,000 locations across the UK and Commonwealth to light beacons in tribute to this momentous occasion, and it was an honour to be asked to light ours alongside the esteemed President of Shavington Village Festival Committee, Councillor Rene Hancock.

The passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022 was indeed a solemn moment for us all. Nevertheless, we continue to cherish her unwavering dedication to our nation. Our Parish Council had been diligently preparing for her passing, ensuring that the necessary formalities were carried out seamlessly.



In September 2022, our Parish witnessed yet another historic event as we celebrated the accession of King Charles III to the throne. We honoured the occasion with the reading of the Proclamation outside Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall on Sunday, September 11th. It was heart-warming to see community members gather to recognize this solemn but momentous event.

The change of a monarch is a difficult time for all, and I would like to publicly thank Simona Garnero, Shavington-cum-Gresty Parish Council's Clerk, and Sara Randle, Shavington-cum-Gresty Community Manager, along with Reverend Rachael Griffiths of St Mark's Church and Reverend Sarah Butcher from Shavington Methodist Church, for their commitment to ensuring the necessary preparations were in place in the months and years preceding the event.



Thank you also to the members of the community who, following the announcement of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, offered their support to ensure the pre-prepared letters were folded and assigned into delivery routes into the early hours of the morning, so that volunteers could spread the word across the whole Parish as soon as practicably possible.

We had just one chance to get this right and the hard work of all involved, including Council employees, to prepare in advance of the announcement, ensured we could execute seamlessly.

#QueenBee

This year, we successfully launched the #QueenBee initiative, which sought to both

celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and foster conservation efforts within the Shavington-cum-Gresty community.



The initiative encompassed a wide range of activities and events, such as flowerbed and wildflower planting, collaborative celebration gardens, #QueenBee trails, creative workshops, sunflower growing, and art competitions. The #QueenBee trail signs can still be seen on Cherry Tree Park.

Christmas Festival

In December 2022, we proudly hosted our very first Christmas Festival, which took place across the three sites of St Mark's Church, Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall, and Shavington Methodist Church.



The event featured Santa's Grotto, exquisitely decorated by Shavington Village Festival Committee, as well as stalls, fairground rides, music, a puppet show, hot churros from Hickory's Smokehouse, craft activities, and a Carol Concert by Audley Brass.

The festival experienced tremendous attendance, and whilst there is always room for improvement, it was a delight to witness our community unite in celebration of the festive season.

Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall

This year, I am proud to announce that we achieved the highest occupancy rate for Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall since its opening, thanks in part to a comprehensive overhaul of the booking process and commercial model which took place a few years ago that has contributed to a steady increase in usage since.



Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall is available for hire for parties, clubs, events, and more. For enquiries, please telephone at **01270 42 11 25** or email at villagehall@shavingtononline.co.uk

Throughout the year, we have endeavoured to maintain a prominent Parish Council presence through our event organization, quarterly newsletters, and the Shavington Online brand, which we actively promote on our website and Facebook.

We are keen to continue collaborating with other organizations in the Parish. If you are part of an organization that could benefit from the Parish Council's support, whether through event promotion or newsletter articles, please contact the Clerk.

As always, I am available to discuss local issues or receive feedback on our events and initiatives. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please arrange a meeting with me through our Clerk by calling **01270 42 11 25** or emailing clerk@shavingtononline.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support, and I eagerly look forward to another year of progress and growth for our community.

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin Gibbs

Chairman,
Shavington-cum-Gresty Parish Council

