

**CLERK'S REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES
OCTOBER 2009**

MARY BOURNE

Mary sadly died on 9th October after a very courageous and dignified fight against ovarian cancer.

Mary was an active member of the Parish Council for a number of years and its Chairman until her diagnosis last year. She was involved in a huge number of village activities. She liaised with the school over the painting of the formers used for the village signs, the writing of poems for the Village of the Year competition and the designing of posters for the Bonfire and Fireworks Night. She had a marvellous ability to talk to people of all ages. I know the teenagers had a great respect for her.

She designed the village's Jubilee medal which is used on each Parish Council newsletter and which was innovatively included in the chain of office for the Council Chairman.

Mary had a keen interest in the natural world and was instrumental in the development of the wildlife meadow and Bob's Pond. She had a brilliant allotment which always made one smile when passing it.

After retiring as a midwife (having helped many of the village children into the world), Mary took a degree in Fine Arts at the University of Hertfordshire. Working as a professional artist, her studio was her cottage, approached through a magical garden, and where she worked at paintings, prints, sculpture and Raku fired pots, inspired by (among others) Paul Klee and Miro. She had many exhibitions and undertook many commissions for public and private clients.

Mary was also a poet and published two books of poems. The poem which, to me, captures all that was Mary is entitled "Listen Out for Me" and appears in "Nine Lives and Counting" published by the Rockingham Press. She says that it is the last poem of all for her beloved family and all her dear friends. I hope you find it as moving as I do:

*Now is the precious hour,
I lie and watch my fragile dreams
criss-crossing the sky
and the furred bee
bumbling from flower to flower.
I can feel all your loving,
it surges like the sea -
I will miss you dear ones
and you will be missing me.*

*My dust
will join creation's dust
to dance on the meadow's breeze,
float on each puff
of dandelion fluff
and play kiss chase with the leaves.
So as you sit and pause awhile,
feel the sunbeams
and sprinkles of rain,
I shall be close*

*to haunt your thoughts
and watch you smile again.*

I understand from David Perman that Mary continued to write poetry whilst going through chemotherapy and that David hopes to publish those soon.

We will miss Mary so much - she was an inspiration.

BEACON COURT CLOSURE

The Parish Council formed a Working Group to work with Riversmead on their plans for the Beacon Court site. However, despite Riversmead's assurances that the Parish Council and the village would be consulted before any planning application was submitted, the Group was stunned to learn at its first meeting with Riversmead that a planning application had been submitted some days earlier.

The view of the Group and the Parish Council is that all trust the village had in Riversmead to keep its word has gone. Andrew Crumpton is seeking Mark Prisk's help in getting this process halted so that we can have some input into the plans.

Riversmead have said they will supply me with copies of the plans they have submitted and it is the Parish Council's intention that these will be displayed at the back of the Church so that you can view them when convenient. I will also put them onto the website and put the Council's comments/objections up too. If the village is to have some say at all in these proposals, then as many people as possible should send their comments to East Herts. The date for such comments will be posted on the fluorescent notices that Riversmead will erect on the site.

There may be a further public meeting at which you can make your views known so watch out for leaflets, posters, etc.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd November in the Mission Room at 7.30pm.

Members of the public are always welcome at Parish Council meetings.

Carolyn Morgan
Clerk to the Council

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