

Hanley Castle Parish Council  
Chairman's Annual Report 2024  
Who Can We Call ? – A Mummers Play

**Narrator.**

Welcome good people of Hanley to our annual review of the year.  
I hope this attempt at a mummers style play will make our activities clear.  
I'm the chairman of this happy band, but for now I am narrator;  
If questions or ideas arise we will try to field them later.

The year has been a busy one with projects old and new  
My players will explain themselves and tell you what they do.  
So if you will indulge me with this foray into rhyme  
I'll get the evening underway, so we'll finish in good time.

The Parish and indeed the world are under a dark cloud  
Who can we call to save the day and make the Parish proud?

**Mrs A.**

In comes I, Rev Sue of Hanley church.  
I'm your conscience and your guru as to climate change we lurch.  
I take up every green-led cause, I champion the bus;  
Wherever there's injustice, you know I'll make a fuss.  
I started Café Tuesdays, I sort the litter pick  
But for the Quiet Sundays I really took some stick.  
I lead on Carbon Neutral, I helped the ND Plan,  
And I'd really like to save the British Legion if I can.  
The Poolbrook water's terrible, I hope it can improve.  
Then writing a resilience plan will be my latest move.

**Narrator.**

Our long campaign for safety on our roads has much to do  
Who can we call to save us but our tenacious team of two?

**Pippa.**

I'm Pippa and the Highways men I regularly hound.  
I've spent the year campaigning for improvements all around.  
I sprung the plastic bobbies from their County Council cell  
And deployed them round the Parish, where I think they're doing well.

**Sara.**

I'm Sara and I'm proud to be a member of the team.  
To reduce the speed of traffic is our vision and our dream.  
We've now installed new VAS machines, we hope they'll help to show  
The drivers through our villages the only way is slowwww.

**Narrator.**

The parishioners need an insight into Parish Council views  
Who can we call to tell the world of all the latest news?

**Big Al.**

I am Big Al, the Champion of causes others shun  
I've got the parking charges paid; the parents think that's done.  
My turn of phrase is famous, I write the meeting notes,  
But the editor then wields her pen and strikes my dodgy quotes!

**Narrator.**

The Showground on our western edge impacts on our days  
Who can we call who understands the agribusiness ways?

**Lesley.**

I'm Lesley, I'm from farming stock, I know the Parish well  
The farmers and the landowners and those that herein dwell.  
We're grateful to the Showground for the tickets they donate;  
I run the draw, hand out the wins - the take up has been great.

**Narrator.**

The phones round here are very poor, the residents frustrated  
Who can we call to champion this problem underrated?

**Angela.**

Up stepped I, Angela of the Link.  
I joined about a year ago and I hope I've made us think  
About how money's allocated, budgets set and spent  
My skills unto the NDP I've also gladly lent.  
I've taken up the local cause of mobile signal strength  
And surveyed Parish members throughout its breadth and length.  
To meetings I have travelled, on people I have called,  
Now maybe we've a chink of light, if a mast can be installed.

**Narrator.**

Alison sadly left our ranks a few short months ago  
Who can we call to fill the gap and give Council work a go?

**Steve.**

I'm Steven of the website and the newest kid round here  
I know you'll make me welcome and nothing shall I fear.  
The Hanley Parish website I gladly helped to build  
I hope you will consult it - all your Parish needs fulfilled.

**Narrator.**

Our villages are threatened by the developers' quest for land  
Who can call to save us from the changes they have planned?

**Steve Gogerty.**

In comes I, NDP Steve, (and an old hand at these plays).  
We've spent a year reviewing it in NON substantial ways.  
With my gallant team behind me we've amended and enhanced  
And to exacting planning terms and timescales we have danced.  
But now I think we're nearly there and ready to submit  
To a Regulation 15 trial, then hopefully that's it.  
The benefit our Parish gains should last the next five years  
And hopefully allay some of our residents' worst fears.

**Narrator.**

The village pond in Hanley Swan has long been most admired  
Who can we call to keep it to the standard it's acquired?

**Nick.**

I'm Nick the Pond, the water flows are at my beck and call,  
I house the ducks, I sort the bins, I tidy round them all.  
My team and I have kept the pond pristine the whole year through  
A focal point of village life – with swans a swimming too!

**Narrator.**

Over twenty miles of footpaths across our Parish fall  
Who shall we call to keep them clear and walkable for all?

**Peter.**

I'm Peter, I'm the footpath man, I walk the Parish ways  
With secateurs and shears in hand, I cast my knowing gaze

Over all the stiles and kissing gates, the bridges and the signs  
But I've worked so hard for many years I'm looking to resign.  
I'm searching for a likely lad or lass to fill my space  
I'm sure they'll find it a rewarding way to help this place.

**Narrator.**

The Village Hall and Playing Field need someone who will care  
Who shall we call to keep these assets something we can share?

**Graham.**

Up steps I, Graham, from Football Club and Field  
I'm pleased that we have signed an agreement now to yield  
The improvement of the pitches to the Football Club and me  
With Richard's expert handiwork the difference soon you'll see.  
I also represent you on the Village Hall Committee  
As we constantly improve the place and keep it looking pretty.

**Narrator.**

The Councillors need guidance and someone at their back  
Who can we call to keep the Council juggernaut on track?

**Becky.**

I'm Becky, I'm the Parish Clerk, my job is very clear  
I try to keep the councillors on task throughout the year.  
I communicate with everyone, I write the minutes too,  
And field a million emails; there's always lots to do!  
I'm responsible for finance, I balance all the books  
And prepare the many spreadsheets so the auditor can look.  
So if you have a query or a comment or a moan  
You can contact me by website, by email or by phone.

**Narrator.**

We also have our colleagues in the higher tiers of life  
Who help us when we call to them to aid us in our strife.  
We gratefully acknowledge all that Tom and Kathy do  
And send the thanks of everyone to PC Kevin too.

But most of all a thank you to the councillors and clerk  
Whose dedication to the Parish raises the benchmark.  
And thank you in particular for playing your own parts  
In this self-indulgent foray into the performing arts.

Sue Roberts

16<sup>th</sup> May 2024.