

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in The Main Hall, Leonard Stanley Village Hall on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 8 p.m.

Those Present: Cllrs Rob Bayliss (Chairman), Jan Bogdiukiewicz, Graham Davies, Sue Davies, Kate Harrison, Phil Herbert, Steve Lydon, District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, Diane Odell, Beat Lusty, Debbie Thompson, Pamela Fawkes, Tim Vale, Christine Phillips, Denys Phillips, Maureen Kerry, Maggi Mukasa, Rosemary Reeves, Vernon Gibberd, Tineke Gibberd plus 2 further Members of the Public.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chris Connett and Stuart Craddock, Dave Longworth, Heather Longworth, Robbie Harkins, Dave Camm, Andy Roberts and PCSO Liz Ward.

1. Previous Minutes: The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2016 were accepted as a true record.

2. Presentation of Village Champion Award:

The Chairman gave a short speech and presented Diane Odell, the new Village Champion, with a small gift of a landscape painting of Selsley and flowers in recognition of her tireless work for the Mankley Field Action Group. He also presented the runners up: Maggi Mukasa and Beat Lusty with small tokens of appreciation.

Diane Odell gave an acceptance speech; in which she accepted the award on behalf of everyone who contributed to the Mankley Field Action Group. (See Appendix 1).

3. Reports on the activities of the Parish Council:

The Chairman Rob Bayliss reported in detail on the following:-

1. Finances including:
 - Careful cost control and minimal unforeseen items in 2015-2016 allowing minimal increase in precept for 2017-2018
 - Will be more pressure on finances in 2017-2018 owing to potential £3000 contribution to GCC for Ryeford Bridge (in conjunction with Kings Stanley) and other potential one-off expenditure items
 - Future precepts will be helped by additional households
 - Regularly seeking funding / grants from a variety of sources e.g. GCC Active Together for tennis courts and money for defibrillator
 - Grants to Twinning Association (£300), Toddler Group (£150), Citizens Advice Bureau (£350) and Village Fair (£359)
2. Developer strategy and financial contributions
 - Pre-application protocol finalised and lodged with SDC
 - Considerable further work towards securing maximum S.106 moneys from Mankley Field

- Small-scale contribution from an individual development
 - Future income from the Community Infrastructure Levy
3. Pavilion and Playing field including:
- New closer liaison with Football Club
 - New tenancy and usage agreements with Football Club
 - New dog signs
 - Increased playing field maintenance
 - Additional picnic tables
 - Plans for play area upgrades and new picnic area
 - Other potential additional facilities / upgrades with S.106 moneys
4. Mankley Field
- Proactive communication with Barratt Homes throughout reserved matters application and subsequent implementation
 - Active representations to GCC and SDC on all issues
5. Planning including:
- Mankley Field
 - Greenstiles
 - Brunsdons Yard
 - Eco Park
 - Lots of small ones

4. Reports from Village Organisations:- Reports were received from the following organisations (see Appendix 2):-

- District Cllr Steve Lydon
- District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
- Footpath Wardens
- Football Club
- Litter pick
- Police Report
- Village Fair
- Village Hall Management Committee
- Website
- Welfare Trust and Rishton Education Foundation
- W.I.
- Wine Circle

5. Issued raised by attendees

a. Phone Box Kiosk at Seven Waters. - Tim Vale raised the issue that although the inside of the box is kept clean, the outside of the box is in need of repainting.

The Parish Council has recently responded to a consultation; in which they asked BT if they can adopt the box but have requested that it is painted prior to the adoption taking place.

b. Mankley Field - Denys Phillips asked what will happen to the monies raised from 'fines' for early deliveries to the Mankley Field development?

The fines are from Galtec who are developing the site on behalf of Barratts, in their efforts to try to deter lorries turning up to the site before 8am. They have said that they will fine companies £200 for every instance but the Parish Council has not seen any evidence of this. It has however been agreed that any monies from the fines will be donated to the Village Hall Management Committee.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Appendix 1

Speech from Diane Odell – Village Champion

Thank you.

For several reasons I feel very embarrassed at accepting this award. Firstly it seems incongruous to be given an award for failing to achieve the objective. Secondly, whilst acknowledging I probably the loud mouth so many people fought and worked so hard to try and keep Mankley Field green. I thought long and hard about whether to accept this honour and am only agreeing to it on the basis that I represent all those involved. So much went on behind the scenes and at the outset I wish to apologies if I miss out any names. So in no particular order.

Firstly Councillors Steve Lydon and Nigel Studdert-Kennedy. Both worked so hard to try and stop this development and managed to get their colleagues at SDC to give their support. They have done so much work on our behalf behind the scenes and are still battling on to keep things on track now that work has started on site.

Then there are the Parish Councillors of both Leonard Stanley and King's Stanley who leant their support and financial backing.

Turning to individuals and there are so many. So in no particular order. Sue Davies who actually started the campaign but who handed it over when there were problems with SDC over conflict of interests. Sue continued to work in the background doing an enormous amount of work behind the scenes, in particular I recall the numbering of the pages on all the village green files which took several weeks to do. A really mind blowing, tedious job but essential.

Graham Davies who had the courage to put his name to the village green application and then to accept that he might have to personally find a large sum of money if the High Court ruled against our submission that the application fell under the Aachen Convention.

Irena Litton who did so much work and research and in particular in finding Emma a solicitor at ELF and then getting Cain our barrister on board.

Cain and Emma who were prepared to do work for very small sums of money. A real boost to all to realise that there are still people prepared to help and who are not motivated by greed.

Then there are the men from the allotments who did all the original work on the village green application, Graham, Dave Camm, Mark Snell, Mike Wyman and Richard Aston.

And of the people who were prepared to read out and be cross examined on their witness statements. A really frightening thing to do and requiring courage.

Then there were those who were willing to put up notices, Roger Davies and Chris Judson who was always willing to jump on his bike and cycle the villages stapling notices wherever required.

The band of volunteers who tirelessly put leaflets through doors amongst whom were Sarah and David Pearson, Mick, Mike Wyman, Nicola, Simon Stroud, Harvey Ireland and Sue Davies and also Barbara Hale and her friend in King's Stanley. Many miles were walked doing this.

It is impossible to give any idea of the extraordinary amount of time and work that went into this over a three year period. My comments only touch the surface of what was done.

Finally and not least of all those people who wrote letters of objection, completed village green questionnaires and statements, gave money and support including those from King's Stanley and elsewhere.

This was not one person but a whole community which came together to protect what it held dear. It showed what great community spirit this village has and I feel proud to be a part of that and also very humbled.

My great regret is that we did not succeed. It was not for want of effort or determination merely that it was an impossible task and that it is now quite clear that the decision was taken even before the arguments against it were voiced. Had this been a level playing field I have no doubt but we would have succeeded.

My hope is that the huge influx of newcomers will not overwhelm the village and that we manage to keep Leonard Stanley as a village community with people knowing and helping each other as opposed to a dormitory town to the larger conurbations where people have no interest in their neighbours and community.

Appendix 2

District Cllr Steve Lydon

Leonard Stanley PC AGM Report

Severn Trent have announced that will need for water mains work for Mankley Field, Broad Street Kings Stanley **28/07/17 to 21/10/17** AFTER the Ryeford Bridge works.

Ryeford Bridge work will be put off until Bath Rd closure is over,
This road will be closed from 10th April 2017 to 16th June 2017

Woodside Lane development and problems it has caused noise, traffic etc is only the warm up act for Mankley Field, both developments none of us wanted. Thanks to Rob and Irena and all the Pc members for the work they do, also the work by my fellow District Cllr Nigel Studdert Kennedy.

The issue of superfast broadband for part of the Marsh Road, endeavouring to get this sorted via the eu funded superfast Fastershire initiative.

All highways and other County Council matters please now refer to Lorraine Patrick the new County Cllr for our area.

SDC

- Highest ever public and business satisfaction with the Council (80% and 70% respectively)
- Resident and business rating for value for money, efficiency and service standards at best ever
- Council housebuilding programme delivering to timetable and budget (236 homes at cost of £19m over 5 years)
- House building and commercial development rates being sustained
- Council seen as an effective and valued partner in economic development and regeneration by local companies, investors, business organisations and GFirst LEP
- Carbon management programme delivered – Council was first in Europe to be ‘carbon neutral’
- Membership at both leisure centres at record levels (good for health and well being, good for income!)
- New ‘invest to earn’ capital investment completed at The Pulse, Dursley and underway at Littlecombe
- Gloucestershire’s only local plan adopted under the National Planning Policy Framework and the first Community Infrastructure Levy scheme in the county – shortlisted for national award
- Successful management of the single largest regeneration site in Gloucestershire (Council owned site at Littlecombe)
- Award winning canal regeneration project with high levels of public support, over £113m private investment and, in three years alone, 48,000 hours of volunteer work
- Substantial reduction in waste to landfill – already half the countywide target for 2020 – and a substantial increase in recycling (the success of which has brought issues and increased cost)
- Admired and highly commended rural sustainable drainage scheme in the Stroud Valleys – one of only two UK projects sponsored by the Environment Agency – CPRE award
- Successful work on education-business links and skills (Stroud Ambitions, Employability Charter and support for Festomane)
- Substantial chunk of LEP Growth Deal 1 and 2 funding for infrastructure projects in the District
- Continuing high quality services – accreditation such as EMAS and Green Flag
- 7th best council tax collection rate in UK and best in Gloucestershire, improved position re business rates (up from 207 to 87)
- Top quartile performance for homeless prevention

Not so good

- Aspects of refuse and recycling service – teething problems, cost overruns, delays to depot construction
- Brimscombe Port engineering design work substantially behind programme
- Direct debit problems
- Members use of social media !

District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

ANNUAL REPORT TO LEONARD STANLEY MAY 2017

As you are all aware by far the greatest concern over the last twelve months has been housing development. At present The Woodside Lane Development in King's Stanley nearing completion. The development of Stanley Mill is still expected and some remedial work has started. However, thieves have recently removed lead from the roof, causing considerable damage in the process and exposing the building to further weather damage. Similarly the Brunsdon's Yard Site is still seeking an acceptable development which does not compete with local shops in King's Stanley or with Stonehouse High Street.

The development of Mankley Field has caused considerable disruption, disturbance and inconvenience to a lot of people. In particular those living close to the Bath Road and Marsh Lane entrances to the site. Despite the best efforts of the Parish Council, District Council, County and District Councillors and goodwill from Developers and their Contractors it has not been possible to meet all the aspirations to achieve a hassle free construction process. I believe that Planning Inspectors should be instructed to pay particular attention to likely disruption before arriving at their decisions; particularly when overruling the local authorities.

It is perhaps worth repeating my comment from last year that County Council land disposal may put pressure on current local amenities. Whilst the need to "Balance the Books" is an understandable driving force; the retention of farms, sports fields, school grounds and parks owned by the County Authorities should surely take precedence for the benefit of future generations. A careful watch is needed for any proposed land disposal in the Stanleys.

1. I reported last year that the District Council had agreed to have a shared Audit and Risk Management service with Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucester City Council. This service has now been in place for a considerable time and had proved to work very well. It provides a check and assurance on the proper use of council funds i.e. your money.
2. I also reported that the District Council had agreed to enter a contract with Ubico Ltd to provide Refuse and Re-cycling, Street Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Building Cleaning. This arrangement commenced last November and included the recycling of waste food. A system similar to the trials conducted in The Stanleys some years ago. The new system appears to be working well with less waste going to landfill. The lower price of oil has reduced the value of material for recycling, particularly plastic, and the income from this is currently lower than predicted. Nevertheless the trend is improving and further progress is expected this year.
3. The Cotswold Canal. This project which the Council joined in 2000 is continuing. A second application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Phase B to join the Cotswold Canal to the Gloucester Sharpness Canal is to be applied for this autumn. A decision from the Heritage Lottery fund is not expected until April 2018
4. It is pleasing to see the completion of the Sandford Close Development which had been the subject of complimentary comments.

In conclusion I should like to record my thanks to the Parish Council for their help, and in particular my fellow District Councillor, Cllr Steve Lydon, for his willing co-operation in matters relating to the Stanleys Ward. I hope that between us our respective reports and actions have covered affairs of concern over the last year.

Footpath Wardens' Annual Report 2017

Parish footpaths are still well-used although temporary closure and access difficulties have concentrated usage to a reduced number of routes.

Our network of public footpaths is made easier by kissing gates that have been installed over a number of years. There have been no new kissing gates this year. The kissing gate on the Bath Road at Mankley Field has been removed and will be relocated to the entrance to the Bluebell wood near to the sewage works. This will enable the less able to see the best of the bluebells with less effort.

The last year has seen the closure of some of our most popular footpaths in Mankley Field. They will not reopen for a long time and this will no longer be a countryside walk but through a massive housing estate. This has resulted in walkers being confined to a few paths but has made for more social interaction and walks now take longer.

Footpaths are part of our history and heritage but some landowners seem to avoid including them on planning applications and we all have to remain vigilant.

We still have a few problem stiles which pose difficulties for some people. We hope they will ultimately be replaced by gates so everyone can enjoy the fields.

As always, we would like to encourage everyone in the village to continue to make use of and enjoy the footpaths network. It is a pleasant way of keeping fit and healthy.

Heather & Dave Longworth

LSFC Senior Football

2016/17 season has been a struggle for Robert Harkins first team that saw them finish second from bottom in Northern Senior 1, this was due to promotion last year and bleeding a number of youngsters into the first team during the season, however on a more positive note the first team did reach the county cup final unfortunately losing this, this is the highest cup competition that LSFC have even played in and the furthest they have got before.

The reserve team finished a respectable top half finish (5th) after struggling for most of the previous season, this was helped by new reserve team manager Dale Cordrey bringing with him a number of young players to the club that have also backed up the first team. We hope this to once again flourish next season with the two teams working closely together to support the club as a whole.

The Sunday team continue to support the whole club in maintaining their premier league status and winning the Don King cup, which was a first, the majority of the squad are involved in the club on Saturdays and these players are given priority over others. This team will continue next year, as discussed in previous meetings, the club had hoped to start up an under 18's to replace this team, unfortunately due to insufficient numbers that this will not be happening and any young player who is available on Sundays will be given priority over established members.

Off the field matters, the club has continued to work on establishing new committee members that will be confirmed in the summers AGM, also forming closer connections with the council that have resulted in clear boundaries and established a positive relationship leading forward.

Thanks
Andy Roberts

Litter Pick by Maggi Mukasa

My 6th year as a litter picker never fails to surprise me.
I have never ever been out and picked less than 2 full sacks of rubbish.
This year has been no different from any other in that I have found the usual consumables along the

highway. Drink cans, cigarette packaging, take away containers, and many many hub caps!
I have had to change the system of depositing the litter as I can no longer leave bags in friends driveways as the new Council rubbish collection has become more restricted. The Council have however been very cooperative and allowed me to leave bags by the dog bin so they are collected at the same time as the bins are emptied.

I had a dreadful day in October when the foliage had died down. I picked Downton Road and filled 11 sacks from just the one road. I had to leave it by the side of the road and collect it later in the car.

This made me realise how much I miss during the summer months because you simply can't see it. I made a decision not to have a joint village Spring litter pick this year but instead coordinate an Autumn one when the summer hidden litter resurfaces.

Thank you to all those who pick up litter in the village. There are many people who care about the environment and long may it continue.

Police Report by PCSO Liz Ward

Leonard Stanley Incident Report

Feb1st 2017- May 7th 2017

Leonard Stanley

ASB x 2

Attempt Dwelling Burglary x1

Criminal damage x 1

Drugs, (Dealing / Smoking) x2

Looking at the figures above all the areas covered show a low volume of problems.

We will continue to work towards keeping the areas you live in safe and a pleasant place to live.

As you know we are going through a lot of changes within the Constabulary at this moment in time, I am still doing my regular patrols and community engagement throughout the villages to give you the best service that I can.

I was recently told about an abandoned vehicle in Eastington and after doing checks this vehicle had been used in a serious local crime. Without local members of the public passing on this sort of information these sorts of things can be missed.

This shows the importance of Police and Communities working together.

Many Thanks

PCSO 9081 Liz Ward

Police Station | Parliament Street | Stroud | GL5 1QQ

Force Control Room - 101

www.gloucestershire.police.uk

[Twitter page](#)

[Facebook page](#)

APM report for the Leonard Stanley Village Fair 2016 by Maggi Mukasa

2016 was another fantastic year for the fair and once again we were blessed with good weather. Our theme was an Olympic one. We had a garden competition for the Olympics and although we had few entries we had an interesting take on Olympic Rings, Gymnasts and Olympic torches. The primary school took part in a parade from the school to the playing fields. It was really quite heartening to cheer the children into the field in their costumes and carrying their instruments. The field was a hive of activity with our annual display of vintage vehicles, steam engines and tractors. Returning again was Juggling John who captivated the children with his juggling, escapology and stories. He is very expensive but he is worth the layout from our precious funds. New were the giant see through Zorb balls where children could step inside and roll around on water. I can't pretend it was much fun filling up the pool past midnight the night before. Firstly finding a tap took a while but we succeeded in the end. Instead of hiring musicians we had a buskers corner. Several musicians in the village came forward and my thanks especially goes to Jack Curtis who held a spot for a considerable time. Yet again the Leonard Stanley Scruffs dog show proved very popular and the Whitminster Dog group did us proud with their display of dog agility. Food wise certainly nobody starved. We had a pig roast, sausages and burgers thanks to Chris Connett and Steve Lacey, Charlie brought masses of curry, the WI filled us with yummy teas and the Church also provided refreshments of ploughman and other delicious treats. On the field there was an ice cream van and a bar run by the footballers for the thirsty. Staying on the food theme we had an interesting demonstration of a Thermomix machine, an all singing all dancing machine which I have to admit made me think about buying one. The Football club did " Beat the Goalie " and there was a queue at one time as eager children did their best to score goals. On a sports theme we had the wobbly bike which was a challenge to the adults. Even our Parish Clerk had a go!! On to the Church and the Produce Show was in full swing. We had fewer entries this year but there were some cracking cakes and vegetables . Also in the church there were stalls and a few games for children. We are so grateful to all the institutions who take part and involve themselves in the fair. Some actually work at the fair but there are many smaller groups who have stalls which gives people the opportunity to browse, bump into people and chat. My thanks go to everybody who makes the fair happen. Without the support of the village it would be a poorer event. I really believe it is an event which encompasses the whole village and it is lovely to see people enjoying themselves on the day. Also to the hardworking committee who spend many hours during the year at meetings and prepare for the event. Sadly this year due to personal circumstances I am stepping down from overseeing the fair. I am hoping that somebody else will rise to the challenges the fair brings. We have a healthy bank account and could be ready to go. Despite several requests in newsletters, Facebook and church magazine entries there has been no response but I am working on a few people so watch this space !!

Village Hall Management Committee

Secretary Report - Leonard Stanley Village Hall 2017

The Village Hall Management Committee continue to work toward maintaining and improving the hall for all who wish to use it within the village and surrounding areas. We are constantly updating and maintaining the hall to improve its general appearance and to provide the users of the hall with a safe and pleasant space. Presently our regular users are Yoga, Toddlers, Art Workshop, Wine Circle, W.I., Women's Fellowship, Parish Council, School of Canine and between October and March Boot Camp.

Our total income has increased on last year, mainly due to increased rent from the Social Club following the transfer of responsibility for Garry Walker's wage payment to the Village Hall. However, as a direct result of paying the wages our expenditure has also increased, and we have a deficit of income to expenditure compared to last year. We are extremely grateful to the groups and individuals who have supported the hall through donations, and their support is invaluable to us. Fundraising, as ever, continues to be important as presently we still want to update the toilets with a complete overhaul. We are aware of the standard several local halls have achieved over the last couple of years, and especially with Frocester Cricket Club recently reopening, and we are concerned that we are losing bookings to them. We are also very concerned

about the impact that the renovation of the former Saxon Church (on Pullin's farm, Leonard Stanley) into an event space for weddings and funeral wakes will have on our bookings.

We consider the toilets to be a high priority project because at present they let the unique beauty of the hall down. We are in the process of obtaining quotes for this work and hope that we can achieve a grant to help with some of this cost. We are also aware of some areas of the flooring which needs replacing.

The large window in the main hall has had its glass replaced and also secondary glazing installed inside in an effort to increase the energy efficiency of the building. The windows in the Social Club have also had secondary glazing installed. The remaining windows in the village hall also need refurbishing.

Fundraising events have included regular coffee mornings and a nearly new sale.

Thank you to Lovell Homes, the builders of Mankley Road, who have tarmacked part of our car park, this has made it much safer and therefore more accessible for all hall users.

There have been a few further car park issues on football days however the village hall and football club, specifically Robert Harkins, have been working together to improve this and we have seen an overall improvement.

Lastly I would like to thank the committee who continue to work hard and remain committed to ensuring the future of the village hall. We also would like to say thank you to De Walker, who whilst letting us know that she would like to step down from the role of Treasurer, has agreed to continue for the short term until we find a replacement. Unfortunately we have had no luck in an appeal with the village and ask if anyone attending today may have the desire to take on this role or know someone who would.

Village Hall Management Committee

Report on Leonard Stanley Village website for Leonard Stanley APM (9th May 2017).

www.leonardstanley.org.uk

The cost of hosting the website with 1&1 (around £100 per year) is met by the Parish Council.

The website aims to be an electronic focus for Leonard Stanley by:

- ❖ Providing information on the history and geography of the village
- ❖ Providing news, reviews and information
- ❖ Offering a web presence to village organisations so they may advertise, inform and entertain
- ❖ Publishing Parish Council documents
- ❖ Publishing (electronically) the fortnightly "Leonard Stanley News"

The use of the website remains consistent, with around 6,400 hits per year i.e. 530 individuals viewing the site every month. The Leonard Stanley website hit counter is currently at 63,485.

The increased use of Facebook and Twitter as a communicating medium makes aspects of the village website slightly redundant but the site remains a repository of Parish Council documentation.

Current Facebook pages worth looking at includes "Love The Stanleys" and "The White Hart". Many more pages will inevitably follow.

Steve Watson 2nd May 2017

Leonard Stanley Welfare Trust & Rishton Education Foundation

Annual Parish Report 2017

The Welfare Trust during 2016 has been able to continue to let all the land it has in trust, all the non allotment fields are let on a 11 month grass keep agreements. and we now have 107 plots all with the exception of 5 are occupied by 79 allotment holders, and there is no waiting list. The trustees like last year had to employ a tree surgeon to remove another tree and that reduced our surplus funds however we were aiming to sell the timber and recover some of the costs but someone had other ideas and decided their needs were greater than ours and took the usable firewood and left behind the large bits that they were unable to lift.

The trust was able to make various grants in 2016 totalling £600 for 3 youngsters entering tertiary education, and in addition a further £600 shared between the PCC, VHMC and Toddlers to assist in the spiritual and social needs of the Village.

The trusts are administered by 5 trustees (2 Church appointees 2 Parish Council appointees and one co-opted allotment holder) They are at the moment Mr. John Hanvey and Mrs Ann Connett both for the church, Mrs Sue Davies and Mr. Chris Connett for the Parish Council and myself to represent the allotment holders at this point I would like to thank Cllr. Sue Davies for assisting me in the collection of the annual rents this year, I found it of great help due to my personal situation. I would also ask that the trustees thanks be recorded for the work and time given by Sue Davies during her appointment of trustee and we shall no doubt miss her following her resignation.

Should anyone living in Leonard Stanley or King's Stanley like an allotment please contact any of the trustees, similarly if any youngster residing in Leonard Stanley and is about to enter tertiary education or an apprenticeship this year and would like to apply for some financial assistance please let me have their details in a sealed envelope and I will present it to the allocations meeting in September so that the trustees can decide on its merits for financial help.

Dave Camm

REPORT FROM SECRETARY OF LEONARD STANLEY WI - FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 9TH MAY 2017

Leonard Stanley WI meets the second Monday afternoon in the Village Hall and currently have 28 members and 2 dual members. Like most WI's, we lose some due to age and illness and gain a few new ones. We try to have an interesting programme every year to cater for all tastes and also some in-house activities to help keep the cost of speakers down and our bank balance healthy. I won't bore you listing our programme but would mention two that were particularly enjoyed over the year were The Art of Belly Dancing and Humorous Readings and monologues. Also in July we have a popular Ploughman's lunch organised by the committee for member instead of a speaker. At Christmas, the committee produced a Party based on a Christmas Tea at the Ritz theme, a photograph of which was in the Gloucestershire News and Stroud News and Journal. We were really pleased with the effect and comments and will do it again.

Living in a village we think we are lucky to have the facility of the village hall and as a WI being able to help the community and its activities. This year we hosted a Lent Lunch with the profit of £235.00 being raised for the Willow Trust and every year we provide teas at the village fair, help with the annual Plant Sale and involve ourselves in the Macmillan Coffee morning and support other activities in the village. We are hosted the County Quiz on 11th April and came 4th and through to the next round. Occasionally we get called on to provide funeral teas for past members, help with teas for other groups etc.. One of our deceased members left a sum of money to the WI and out of this we purchased and installed the wooden seat in front of the village hall which is engraved in the memory of Dorothy Clarke and is already being used by villagers.

We run a monthly pub lunch which is well supported, a Craft group and hold the occasional whist and scrabble afternoons and weather permitting croquet on the lawn. Last year members made copious yarn bombing for the village tree, 100 poppies for the British Legion, partook in the WI exercise week and proud to say that we filled 59 shoe boxes with gifts for Operation Christmas Child, including many handcrafted by members and we aim to beat that number this year! We also continue to collect for the Crack Cancer campaign.

The WI are very pleased that we are going to be able to display our hand sewn and embroidered WI banner permanently in the village hall and would take this opportunity of complimenting the village hall committee on replacing the large window in the hall and organizing the cleaning of the other window frames, for which some of our WI ladies assisted.

Chris Phillips -Secretary of Leonard Stanley WI

REPORT FROM SECRETARY OF WINE CIRCLE FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 9TH MAY 2017

Due to age and some of our members unfortunate deaths, our membership now stands at 39 which includes one new member. Its not easy trying to recruit new members but those of us who are members enjoy a varied and interesting programme with something to interest everyone. This year David Price has been an excellent Chairman with Eric Winnington taking on the role of Vice Chairman and who will take over as President at the AGM in October. I continue as Secretary and Press Secretary but have handed over the organization of the 2018 programme to Margaret Wheeler and Julia Winnington which has taken some of my workload. Sue Bischler continues as Treasurer. As usual we held our annual Christmas dinner in the village hall which was well attended and enjoyed some 60 's style music for entertainment. In January the ever popular Burns night took place which we cook ourselves and we had maximum attendance. Amongst the speakers we have had, a few of note that everyone enjoyed was the Life of a Professional Toastmaster and Master of Ceremonies, Riding around Britain on Horseback and a talk and demonstration on Egyptian Spirit Dancing, i.e. Belly dancing. Unfortunately the June Garden Party was cancelled due to bad weather so we are hoping that this year, the sun will favour us.

We all enjoyed a trip on the Avon and Kennett canal on a narrow boat complete with Jazz Band and excellent supper in July and it's a toss up this year whether we go Greyhound Racing at Swindon or to a Brewery in Longhope., with the former now frim favourite., . This year, we have also decided to change our venue for the Christmas Dinner as members felt it was getting a bit stale, and we have booked to go to the George at Frocester and having Stroud Uke as entertainment. We still enjoy a glass or two of wine at meetings and partake of an excellent supper provided by members. Every month people excel themselves to provide something different to eat. Visitors will be given a warm welcome and it's a good venue to make new friends.

*Chris Phillips
Secretary*