

# Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



## Burbage says goodbye and thanks a million to Julie Perrin

**TRIBUTES have been paid to the work of Julie Perrin, a person who made a difference to Burbage.**

In the words of Burbage Parish Council leader Stan Rooney: "She has made a lasting contribution to the pleasure of living in Burbage."

The village council's former Principal Officer is leaving the area to set up home in a new location in Oxfordshire, ending a 17-year spell at the administrative helm of a local authority that has grown to answer the needs of an ever-expanding population.

When she was appointed at the start of a new millennium, originally as Parish Clerk, the Britannia Road hall had only recently been completed and commissioned. The parish team moved its meetings from a Methodist chapel (recently demolished), with admin occupying a small office in the new complex. As burgeoning housing development brought in scores of new families, the Millennium Hall was to become one of the busiest buildings in Burbage.

Julie Perrin believes the development of the centre and its emergence as a hub of community activities became a key factor in painting the picture of a place where people wanted to live, work and bring up families. It remains so – with plans to refurbish and redesign parts of it now under scrutiny.

Hundreds of people came to regard her as their first point of contact with a council made responsible for the biggest parish in Leicestershire and one of the largest in England. With 20 elected members, the council itself is one of the biggest of its kind, now looking after the parish needs of a population in excess of 17,000 and still growing.

The clerk's role initially covered bookings for hall facilities and sports pitches, the development and management of an award-winning cemetery, running allotments and supporting community initiatives. Burbage's famous street parties would never have happened without her organisational skills. Responsibility for the creation and maintenance of recreation grounds, play areas and green open spaces



**JULIE PERRIN:**  
Made a difference to Burbage

was absorbed and staffing increased to cover the workload, led by a clerk who later was made Principal Officer.

Council chairman Stan Rooney said: "Julie Perrin maintained best practices in every area of operation, achieving a standard of excellence year-on-year. She has been assiduous in keeping abreast of legislation, initiating new ideas appropriate for Burbage and managing community events, while commanding the respect of all who worked with her.

"We all wish her every success and happiness in the future. We'll miss her wise counsel and guidance. We have been extremely grateful for that."

Julie, who will make her new home in a small Thames-side village, strongly believes that increased public accessibility and involvement has been one of the most important aspects of the past 17 years. When the powers of internet technology unfolded, the possibilities were rapidly utilised, with a successful website backing up regular newsletters to keep people in touch with all things Burbage.

She said: "I will miss the many people I have had contact with over the years – and the office and grounds staff I have worked with. And, of course, I will miss Burbage."

• It's goodbye, also, to grounds maintenance operative Craig Wilson, who for the past four years has applied a sure touch in helping to keep the Burbage environment looking good. Craig is moving into a new role with the Environment Agency, where he will specialise in flood defence work. He takes with him the best wishes of the parish council team.

## Two new faces share a name on the teamsheet

**TWO new faces are welcomed to the Parish Office team that keeps Burbage Parish Council functioning smoothly.**

The new Principal Officer, taking up the reins of administration of one of the largest parish authorities in the country, is Debbie Perry. She has wide experience of local authority work and joins the Burbage set-up from Leicestershire County Council, where her most recent background has been in the highways department. Married with a grown-up family, Mrs Perry lives in the village and says she is greatly looking forward to helping the Burbage council and the community it looks after face the future with confidence. In a new appointment, Juliet Perry takes up the part-time post of Responsible Finance Officer. She comes to the Burbage council from a background of working in finance for many years. Juliet also lives in Burbage (the two Mrs Perrys are not related) and is also married with grown-up children. She says she is taking over a sound and responsible financial standing and aims to keep it that way.



**COUNCIL and committee meetings at the Millennium Hall in Britannia Road normally start at 7.30pm and follow this rota, subject to change if clashing with Bank Holidays: First Monday of month – Parish Council; second Monday, Planning Committee; third Monday, Finance & General Purposes Committee; fourth Monday, Planning Committee. Meetings in the weeks ahead: Monday, 10th April, Planning (6.30pm); Finance and General Purposes (7.30pm). Monday, 24th April, Planning. Monday, 8th May, Planning (6.30pm); Parish Council AGM (7.30pm). Monday, 15th May, Finance and General Purposes. Monday, 22nd May, Planning.**

## Treet barrels, boxes and baskets need your loving touch

**NOTHING brightens up the street scene more, in any town or village, than attractive roadside planting. It can bring wonderful splashes of living colour to all corners of the environment, admired and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. And Burbage has many locations where barrels, boxes, planters and hanging baskets improve the view the year round. They don't, obviously, look after themselves. Help is needed, from the community, to keep the displays going throughout the spring, summer, autumn and winter ahead. Over the years, various volunteers, organisations and individuals, have helped in the task - the Burbage in Bloom group of hard-working plant enthusiasts performed a sterling job, but sadly no longer functions. To provide ongoing planting and maintenance, the parish council is looking for volunteer gardening enthusiasts willing to help. Get in touch and we will explain what needs doing and where. The council takes care of some of the village's major features, like Burbage's spectacular basket umbrellas, while plants expert Graham Cook does a brilliant job at some other locations. The parish council can supply the greenery and planting materials and will take care of main watering duties. Planting up, dead-heading and keeping the displays looking their best is what we are seeking. Do contact the Parish Office if you are able to assist.**