

PARSON DROVE STREET PRIDE GROUP CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009

Our second year of existence has proved to be just as busy as our inauguration year and I should like to extend a vote of thanks to all members for their hard work, dedication and commitment.

In June 2008 we said farewell to Lotti Peeters, our Street Pride co-coordinator, but at our meeting on 27th Aug 2008 warmly welcomed her successor Jeanette Milner, who continues to give us much appreciated and valuable support.

We held little picks on the 5th Aug, 14th Sept, 4th Oct, and the 15th Nov which were all well attended.

One of our major tasks of the year was the clearing of the church grounds of weeds before laying a deep coat of bark, resulting in a much neater and tidier appearance. This was back breaking work and our appreciation and thanks go to the probation service and all young volunteers who joined us.

I must also mention here that one of our policies is to work in conjunction with other organisations for the improvement of the environment. To this end the probation service has been extremely helpful and have just completed the clearing, cutting back and removal of weeds, gorse and dead wood from the left side of the playing field. A need which was identified at the November litter pick.

The next project we undertook was improving the appearance of the four gateways to the village. A grant of £750 was successfully applied for (Yvonne) to purchase the plants and Continental Landscapes prepared the ground at each site. Planting took place on 14th and 15th March, fulfilling one of grant criteria's of spending the £750 by the 31st March.

We continue with our monthly rota of maintenance and upkeep of the War Memorial.

Finally I am happy to report that our Street Pride group entered the Cambridge-shire Acre Village of the Year (Environmental Section) Competition and in September 2008 Roger, Yvonne, Pete and Mike attended a dinner where they accepted a Highly Commended Community Life Award which is now on display in the village hall.

I have no doubt that as we enter our third year there will still be plenty of work and new projects to keep us busy, in particular the purchase of four Welcome Signs for each of the gateways, for which a new source of funding needs to be identified.

It is my hope we will continue to grow and develop in the future, attracting new members of the way.

John Cook
March 2009