Solidarity with Ukraine

On 24th February 2022 we witnessed a devastating turn in world events with Russia launching a full-scale military attack on its former enclave of Ukraine. It had been under full Russian rule, effectively, since 1771 until Ukraine finally gained its independence in 1991 and adopted a new democratic constitution in 1996. However, Russian politics continued to darken this democratic progress. 2004 saw a mass protest campaign over rigged elections that gave victory to the pro-Russian candidate. The Supreme Court later annulled the poll result but a coalition with the communists continued to subsist. In 2013 tens of thousands again took to the streets with the government's sudden decision, under Russian pressure, to abandon plans to sign an association agreement with the EU. The following year NATO confirmed Russian troops had entered eastern Ukraine but, nevertheless, Parliamentary elections produced a convincing majority for pro-Western parties. Over the next few years Ukraine's fragile economy returned to growth, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople agreed to allow Ukraine to set up its own Orthodox Church independent of Russian ecclesiastical control and the association agreement with the EU was finally ratified by all signatories. Pro-western development has since continued under the truly charismatic leadership of President Zelensky.

We are all, now, too aware of the terrible cost to Ukraine of such admirable aspirations of political and economic freedom and our thoughts remain with them and in their brave struggle. To show our support and solidarity with their precious cause we will be flying both our Union and the Ukrainian Flag together on Trysull Green and we hope this indeed meets with everyone's approval.

'Slava Ukraine!'

A Time for Celebration?

These sombre thoughts are, perhaps, difficult to reconcile with any contemplation of celebration, however, the message is also one of hope and strength in unity. Hope that democracy and freedom will prevail through unity, solidarity and the support of all free nations. A time to reflect on our own constitutional freedoms too? We all, from time to time, complain about political direction and elements of social unfairness but we must also celebrate our system of political franchise that provides us the fundamental liberties of free speech and choice that empowers us all with the ability to challenge the status quo and advocate changes for the better.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend

The Queen, as figurehead of the 'Mother of all Parliaments', is the epitome of our own constitutional stability. The monarchy with its pageantry and symbolism is a true envy of the

world which should indeed be celebrated particularly so, in this, the Queen's glorious 70th year of her reign.

With this focus in mind the various organisations of the Parish have joined forces at the 'round table' to coordinate and plan events to take place over the extended Jubilee bank holiday weekend that commences on Thursday 2nd June. A very big thank you to all those who have attended both 'Parish Meeting' thus far and for bringing with them their wonderful ideas, personal resources and time to dedicate to what is hoped will be a very memorable occasion. It is intended that a fully detailed printed version of events will be circulated to all in the Parish once the completed program is approved. For anyone else interested in becoming more involved a third Parish Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 5th April at 7:00 p.m. All will be made most welcome.

A sneak preview of some activities already planned are: Jubilee Flag Raising, Afternoon Tea, Black-Tie Ball, Arts & Crafts Show Competition, Vintage Tractor & Car Rally, Bouncy Castle, Best Dressed House Competition, Sweet & Savoury Refreshments, King & Queen Doggy Competition, Ice Creams, Pig Roast and a Sunday Picnic complemented with 'Songs of Praise'. The Jubilee weekend's events will be hosted in the Village Hall, the Pavilion and Trysull Playing Fields adorned with a few Marquees and 'miles' of bunting being made by the primary school!

The only time sensitive issue to note, now, is that entries to the Art & Craft Show will have to be pre-determined prior to the Jubilee weekend for organisers to plan for the number of exhibits. Entry forms and details will be available shortly. Pick up a copy at the Bell in Trysull or The Village Stores in Seisdon or download a form from the Parish Council's web-site.

Further Parish Developments

Parish improvement programs have continued in development. New village signs have now been approved by the Highways Authority and the installation phase is now being discussed. Jubilee tree planting and new benches for the playing fields have been organised. One additional bench and a picnic table have also been very kindly donated by local benefactors. Following the success of the 2022 Calendar Art and Photo Competition the Parish Council have again launched a similar 2023 community event. Defibrillator (AED) training will also be advertised soon. Training places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis and more events may always be arranged to meet demand.

These topics really do deserve a separate narrative and so more detail will feature in later articles.

For now, kind regards from all on the Parish Council team and please remember if you have any ideas for parish improvement or wish to share any particular concern you may always contact any Councillor or our Clerk via e-mail at any time. Our details, Jubilee and Calendar competition entry forms may be found on our dedicated web-site at:

https://www.trysullandseisdonparishcouncil.org

P.C. Chair - Andrew