

Gargrave Parish Council

I can positively report that, by any measure, the Traveller Gypsy Roma (TGR) Plan for Gargrave was a success and is evidenced by:

- the orderly procession of TGR through Gargrave to and from Appleby Fair
- the absence of friction between TGR and residents
- the lack of material damage to the fabric of the village

Most notably, there was no negative feedback from residents at the final Public Meeting on Thursday 26th June; the fact that only 18 residents attended, as opposed to the 60 that attended last year's chaotic meeting, is also testament. While a resounding success there are lessons to be learned for next year, which the Parish Council (PC), North Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire Police will need to address.

And finally goodbye:

I indicated at the July PC meeting that I would be stepping down at the end of the August meeting. As a consequence, this will be my final report, but I very much hope that this column will continue.

As a leaving thought I'd like to reflect on something I wrote in my first Parish Magazine offering in April 2024:

'the Parish Council doesn't exist in a vacuum for the entertainment of its 9 councillors; it is rooted in the community for the community'

During my tenure I've witnessed fabulous community activities such as the Gargrave Show, the Art Show, Gargrave Open Gardens, the Duck Race, Children's Christmas Party, Film Night, the work of the Gargrave Wildlife Working Group and everything that St Andrew's does. All of these activities are linked by committed and able volunteers taking responsibility. There is much talent, professional expertise and goodwill across Gargrave, which the Parish Council also needs. If you are reading this, please consider becoming a councillor when a vacancy occurs; you can make a difference by taking responsibility.

Please note that the PC Clerk, Jayne Dunlop, can be contacted on gargravepc@yahoo.com. Jayne's office hours are:

Tuesdays: 10 am -3 pm

Wednesdays: 10 am – 12 noon

Thursdays: 12 noon – 3 pm

Gregory L Butt MBE

Chair

Gargrave Parish Council