

Councillor Chronicles No.9 - Get To Know You by Laura Kurton

"We are all one - or at least we should be - and it is our job, our duty, and our great challenge to fight the voices of division and seek the salve of reconciliation." - Roy Barnes



Last month I shared a story about Community Spirit and the importance of joining forces as individuals, to create something great together... The truth is, to have a network of support immediately around you can be a blessing, especially in the countryside... I felt this most when I moved to Bedchester in late 2020 and was keen to get to know my neighbours - but as you can imagine, moving in during lockdown didn't make it easy. I had been working on yachts for the last 10 years, so was desperately missing the simple pleasures of a close knit community with all the fun of social gatherings, support, friendship and familiar faces. So, I was just so grateful to those that passed by our cottage and stopped for a chat or just gave a nod and said hello - it was the warmest welcome I could have wished for, given the circumstances!

I wanted to actually make friends and get involved with my community in some way beyond my cottage garden though - but I had no idea how to go about it. I hadn't considered joining the Parish Council - in fact, I'm embarrassed to say that I didn't really even know what it was, what its purpose was and who it consisted of!

It was actually thanks to a nasty pothole outside of our cottage that created the divine intervention that led to me meeting with the Parish Council Chairman, Mike Humphreys. Mike shared the same interests as I do for the community - of course he would, but hearing my own thoughts being reflected through his words filled my heart with joy.

I was offered the opportunity to join the Parish Council and, as I love meeting people to learn and grow from them, always with the view that "we don't know what we don't know", I accepted the offer and was officially co-opted in September 2021.

It has provided me with so many fantastic experiences and moments to meet new people. One of which being the Village Hall Committee - this is a wonderful group of spectacular people who have put so much time and effort into organizing community events for all, many of which are free! Their hard work provides an extremely important, welcoming space for many residents to meet and enjoy each other's company, that otherwise wouldn't exist.

I continue to meet and make friends with more and more of my lovely neighbours and I must say, it's just amazing what we experience and learn when our hearts and minds are open. If we haven't already met, I look forward to the day that we do!

And watch this space to get to know more about my role on the Parish Council here in Fontmell Magna and how you can join us and get involved too! If you simply can't wait to find out though, reach out and drop me a bell! You can find my number below.

Until then, warm regards and well wishes,

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