

Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council

Biopic

Alison Guinevere Hugo Bunyan

After attending Maidstone Girls Grammar School, I went to secretarial college in London and took a job with Decca Navigator as secretary to the sales director. I then went to live and work in Germany to learn German (successfully). Gerry and I married in Sissinghurst where my grandparents lived and moved back to Kent in 1981. We brought up our 5 children all of whom attended local schools – Sissinghurst, Angley and/or Cranbrook. I was a school governor at Sissinghurst and then Angley between 1985 and 2010.

I was on the Sissinghurst Millennium Committee and part of the group that drew the map – of which I am very proud. When a mid-term vacancy for the Parish Council occurred I was invited to apply and was then co-opted. The following year I took on the chairmanship of the Properties Committee and the PC undertook a great deal of maintenance of the Vestry Hall. It was decorated internally and externally, the roof overhauled, the stone windows stripped of unsuitable paintwork, the kitchen was moved, a disabled WC installed and more.

In 2004 (I think) the chairman and vice chairman of the planning committee both resigned due to ill health and I became chairman. It was a steep learning curve and I was hugely helped by Coral, our clerk.

I am very pleased to have helped to achieve the affordable housing at Cobnut Close and very sad to have failed get the 30 affordable homes for Cranbrook.

In the future I would hope to see the two ‘grot spots’ in Stone Street tidied up and developed and also to do my bit in getting the Community Centre approved, built, occupied and successful. I am also looking forward to helping with the production of a neighbourhood plan for the parish.