**Parish Council News**

**New Councillor**

At the last meeting of the PC we were pleased to co-opt a new member to the Council, Mr David McKenzie. David moved to the village six months ago and is keen to help with local issues. He was a teacher for 30 years and has been actively involved in a number of charitable organisations. David brings vast experience of working with young people which we are sure will prove invaluable to the Council.

**Riding Mill Edible Garden Volunteers**
Many thanks to the 10 volunteers who turned out and did a magnificent job on stage 1 of the Edible Garden Project, to prepare half the land and plant screening bushes. Stage 2, to prepare the other half and plant fruit trees and bushes and do some turfing, will take place on **Tuesday 19th April** from 9am to 1pm with an 11am tea break. Anyone who can spare 1 or 2 hours to help on that occasion will be more than welcome.

**Annual Parish Meeting**

The annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Thursday 12th May** at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

This is a meeting for all the electors of the Parish – it is **not** a Parish Council meeting. Reports will be received from the Parish Council, the Village Hall Trust, the School and from the County Councillor and it will enable members of the village to raise any questions or concerns - or maybe come forward with suggestions to improve life in the village. After the formal reports we have invited representatives from the sports clubs in the village to come and talk about what they offer and their future plans. ***Everyone is most welcome***

**Spring Clean**

Thank you to all the residents who helped with this year’s village litter pick. We have a fairly tidy village but we were amazed to recover eleven bags of rubbish from the area below the station platform, mostly bottles and cans. After making the village tidy please help us keep it this way and if you see litter lying around please dispose of it in the nearest bin.

**Dog Fouling**

The PC continues to receive reports of dog owners not clearing up after their dogs. Dog waste can be disposed of in any public bin found throughout the village, not just the one labelled for dog waste by the Parish Hall. As requested by residents, a new bin was recently installed at the entrance to the cricket field. If there are other areas that you feel would benefit from the installation of a bin please contact the Clerk but bear in mind that the bin needs to be accessible for the County Council to empty. We appreciate that most dog owners clear up after their dog and that we are only really addressing an inconsiderate few.