April Parish Report

At the start of March I was able to take a holiday in Meribel, France, to visit my daughter who is working there. I managed to get some skiing in but mainly perfected the art of falling over although by the end of the week I was able to say I can ski! With mobile phones and technology it’s very easy to keep in touch whilst away and it does save coming back to a mountain of emails. It amazes me that some of the ‘better’ hotels charge £10.00 a day for the internet yet you can buy a beer in a bar with a good connection.

During the recent national apprenticeship week the County Council held its own apprentice awards. There have been over 200 young people in the Council, working in all areas from carers to highway technicians. It’s an ideal way for people to be able to learn whilst working.

There are some changes to the Health agenda from 1st April with Public Health becoming part of the County Council’s responsibility. This is a area that cuts across the council covering topics such as Childrens and Young People’s Health, Obesity, Winter deaths, Community Safety and Social Exclusion to name a few. This will mean closer working with the NHS and District Partners, it will be a challenge but the rewards will make it worthwhile.

Yet another winter has taken its toll on the road network. We have put extra money into highways maintenance with extra gangs out repairing the roads. During the bad weather temporary repairs have to be done and we will come back during the warmer weather (if we get any) for a permanent repair. If you see any defect then please contact us on 0845 310 1111 or email highwayenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

The County Elections are fast looming and with the changes to the boundaries, some villages are moving out of the Woodstock Division and I’ve enjoyed representing them for the last 8 years. There are some additions; my home village of Bladon, as well as Combe and Stonesfield. I look forward to meeting as many people as possible over the coming weeks during the campaign.