

I have been watching Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' again. Suddenly I was at Lacock in Wiltshire, the village that has been almost completely unaltered over the years, used as the setting for so many period dramas...

It is about ten miles from my home town of Trowbridge, the county town of Wiltshire. So few of the features of the village have been changed over the centuries.

It made me think about my home town. Much has changed but the layout and street names remain although it is now a 'market town'. I am reminded that once it had been dominated by a large castle some centuries back.

The three main features of the town are still there. The Town Hall, centre for administration since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, although County Hall now seems to take up half the town. The extremely well placed and well used People's Park, a centre for recreation. And the Parish Church remains dominant. Looking back on the town over the years, there is a centre for administration and business, a centre for relaxation, and the church which fulfils other needs for many.

Of course, the way in which we do things and share things changes but this year we are doing things basically the same as years ago. We will want recreation and social life. There will be a need for central administration and in whatever way you look at it, guidance on what life is all about.

As I have shared in the last few weeks at the beginning of a new year, not a lot has changed.

It is Coronation Year so that brightens us all up a bit, but we still need to be here so that we do our part in maintaining daily life and supporting each other.