



# Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024 No. 118

### PARISH ASSEMBLY

Thursday 23rd May 2024, saw the parish come together for the annual parish assembly. As in 2019, the event was held in St Michael and All Angels Church in Colwich.

The evening commenced with a presentation to Marnie, the baby born nearest to the King's Coronation last year, of "Arthur" the Coronation Bear.



The evening continued with a presentation from Cllr Wendy Plant, Chairman of Colwich Parish Council. She spoke about the history of parish councils dating back to their establishment in 1894. Recently recovered documents show that the first Colwich Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday 3rd January 1895 chaired by Major Stevenson with John Freakley as the original Clerk to the Council.

The Chairman's talk continued with an explanation of the process the Council follows each year to set its budget and the corresponding precept charge. The Chairman then provided an update on the Council's on-going projects and the work of the various Committees of the Council. Following the relaunch of the Picture of the Year competition, the Chairman and Chief Officer then took questions from the audience.

The evening continued with a lively presentation from Julie Lowton of AEDDonate, Stone on how to use a defibrillator, and an update from Hayley Mival of the National Trust, Shugborough on their plans to install a new entrance, car park and visitor centre.

The evening concluded with the announcement of Mr Alan Doehren as the Citizen of the Year. Alan was been the chairperson of the "In Bloom" group for many years, is on the management committee of the Haywood Memorial Hall, is a Trustee of the Sports and Social Club, part of the Community Speedwatch group, supports the Open Gardens, and is a voluntary driver. Alan is also involved with the new Tolkien Project.



### CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN

The Annual Meeting of the Council took place on Thursday 2nd May 2024, when the following were elected:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
Full Council	Cllr Plant	Cllr Bloor
Communications	Cllr Hardwick	Cllr Dunn
Employment	Cllr Bloor	Cllr Martin
Environment	Cllr Upton-Loach	Cllr Bloor
Events	Cllr Plant	Cllr Hardwick
Finance	Cllr Plant	Cllr Dunn
Leisure	Cllr Walters	Cllr Dunn
Planning	Cllr Bloor	Cllr M Forster
Policy	Cllr Hardwick	Cllr Plant



### FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW

This year's Show will be held on Sunday 8th September at Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall.

The schedule is now available on our website at [www.haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com](http://www.haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com) and will soon be available in local shops. Please have a look and see what you would like to enter this year to join in the fun. It's always so lovely to see what people have been growing and making and we hope that by displaying hidden talents we might help to inspire others to have a go at something new - whether that's productive or creative!

This year's photograph theme for adults is "Dusk or Dawn" and for under 18s the theme is "Farm Animal(s)". We ask for photos to be taken locally to showcase our amazing area. We also have some new Classes for you to enter - from a Black and White Photograph (any subject) to Children's Longest Runner Bean.

The deadline for entries is midday on Saturday 7th September. As always, staging of exhibits is between 9am and 11am on Show Day, and the Show opens to the public at 2.30pm with the presentation of trophies at 3.30pm.

We hope you have a lovely summer and see you in September!

### SCARECROW

You will find this year's entry form included with the Newsletter. We will publish the scoring sheet as soon as possible after the closing date.



## D-DAY BEACON

Thursday 6th June 2024, the village came together to remember the sacrifice of those who fought, and died, on the Normandy Beaches on 6th June 1944.

The evening, led by Cllr Bloor, Vice Chairman of the Council, commenced at 7pm with 1940s music. The national commemoration notice was read, and the beacon lit at 7:30pm.

## D-DAY POEM

It is D-Day, the Sixth of June Ninteen-Forty-Four.  
Operation Overlord commenced, leaving the world in awe.  
The planning started in Nineteen-Forty-three.  
Bringing Allies together, to make our World free.  
Deception was used, codenamed Operation Bodyguard.  
Making rubber tanks and wooden planes as a far;;ade.  
An American unit was formed for General Omar Bradley.  
Then a web of lies was spread, by his Ghost Army.  
Much more was done, to keep the Germans in the dark.  
Before the Allies on foreign shores, could disembark.  
Everything was Most Secret and kept Hush Hush.  
As Allies gathered resources, for their bigpush.  
The Allied Supreme Commander was General Dwight Eisenhower.  
With General (Monty)Montgomery as Temporary Ground Commander.  
Eleven Thousand Aircraft and Gliders with Paratroopers and Soldiers.  
Were dropped behind enemy lines to secure the area.  
More than Five-thousand ships, the biggest Armada ever seen.  
Sailed from British shores and our fields of green.  
Monty's battle plan was written, on one sheet of paper  
Set for June the Fifth, the Day of their departure.  
But bad weather, caused a Twenty-four-hour delay.  
Then conditions changed, and they got underway.  
British, American, Canadian and many other countries, were together thrown.  
Going to fight a War, something many had never known.  
Over One Hundred and Fifty-Thousand men of every creed.  
Will perform acts of courage, that must succeed.  
There were Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and the Merchant Navy.  
Many Civilians who volunteered to fight against Nazi tyranny.  
Over the English Channel and to Normandy, France will go.  
Toland on beaches called Sword, Gold, Utah, Omaha and Juno.  
Were they afraid? Yes! they most certainly were.  
But the world must be saved, that was their spur.  
The German defences were called, the Atlantic Wall.  
Hitler told Field-Marshal Rommel, he must, the Allies stall.  
The Allies landed Twenty-Four-Thousand troops on D-Day.  
Commencing at Six-Thirty, then things went into disarray.  
Wind and rough seas helped landing craft, miss their mark.  
Putting the plan in jeopardy from the start.  
Fierce resistance was put up, by Germans guarding the beaches.  
The time had come to fight, no further need for speeches.  
Beaches were Mined, Barbed wire laid, metal tripods and many hazards.  
Were set to kill, maim and make things awkward.  
Over Ten-Thousand casualties, the Allies had that first day.  
With over Four-Thousand dead, a heavy price to pay.  
D-Day made Heroes, in that hell unknown.  
Helping turn the Tide of War, as the Enemy were overthrown.

*Roy Palmer - Chelsea Pensioner and Herald Royal Hospita lChelsea.*

## D-DAY FETE

The third, annual, village fete took place at the Jubilee Playing Field on Saturday 8th June 2024 between 1:00pm and 11:00pm.

The afternoon began with a blessing from Revd Davies followed by a collection of songs from the Community Choir.

The entertainment continued with the first or two performances by the Stafford Morris Dancers either side of entertainment from local magician Lucky Lee.

The afternoon concluded with a set from Boat Band playing "folk music: Cajun, Cumbrian, blues, for listening and dancing too."

Throughout the afternoon there were a collection of local community and charity stalls to entertain the visitors as well as a selection of food and drink stands including Carney's Bar and Hog Roast; Cakes from the Memorial Hall ladies; Fish & Chips from JMA Catering; a selection of street food from Stafford Thai as well as desserts from Hugo's Bar; Donut Steve and Fallatta's ice creams.

There was lots of entertainment, away from the main stage, with Crazy Golf; Archery and a Climbing Wall all provided free of charge.

The Council ran a scavenger hunt throughout the afternoon with a D-Day theme. Entrants were challenged to find the 5 information points posted around the fete. All entrants received a "Freddo" upon returning their completed forms and were entered into a prize draw.

During the swap over period the crowd were entertained by a disco from Stafford FM who also acted as compare through the day.

The evening entertainment began at 6pm with the first of two sets from local star Lola Lamour.

Next on stage saw a welcome return from Cloudy Galvez.

*Cllr Bloor*



*Aerial view of Fete*



*Community Choir*



*Stafford Morris*



*Lucky Lee*



**"We had a great time at the Summer Fete on Saturday and the crowds seemed to be having a really good time."**

**Stafford Morris**

*Archery*



*Cloudy Galvez*



*Climbing Wall*



The final act of the evening, saw Skabucks, a tribute band to all things two-tone, get the crowd rocking through to the close.

Donations received from the day will be donated to our two charities of the year. In 2024 we have selected local charity Little Laura as well as Troop Aid.

Troop Aid was founded in 2006 by three ex-servicemen as a result of their visit to Selly Oak hospital's Alexandra Wing. When service personnel are injured on training exercise or combat operations, they are admitted to hospital without any of their personal effects or clothing. They receive a "Grab Bag" from Troop Aid containing a T-shirt and shorts, socks and underwear as well as a washing kit.

*Enjoying the entertainment*



*Stu Haycock  
Stafford FM*



**"My wife and myself would like to thank the Parish Office for the excellent summer fete at the Jubilee Playing Field Saturday the 8th June in memory of the D-Day landings 80yrs ago"**

**Mr & Mrs Crow**



*Boat Band*

*Conga with Lola*

*Lola Lamour*

*Skabucks gets them on their feet*



*Partygoers*



*D-Day*



*In Bloomers*



*Blood Bikes*





## GREAT HAYWOOD, PAST AND PRESENT, PEOPLE AND PLACE - DAVID ROBBIE

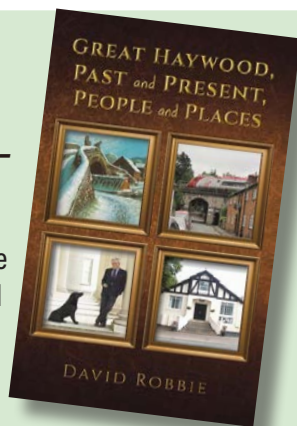
After many months of waiting Dave Robbie's book has arrived. This local history book has been published by international publishers Austin Macauley of Canada House, Canary Wharf, London.

It is the result of over 30 years of research and writing by David Robbie, who was Head of History at Rugeley Grammar School and Fair Oak School, Rugeley.

Having lived in Great Haywood for over 50 years, Dave's interest in history obviously spread to research that of his locality and years of painstaking work has resulted in the production of a lofty tome that covers many aspects of the history of our area.

The official local launch, with signings by the author, took place in Great Haywood Memorial Hall on 22nd June 2024. As its title implies, the book consists of four parts. The first is a history of the village, including Shugborough, from earliest times, the second a guided tour of the village today, including its transport systems. The third part contains biographies of prominent or interesting people who have lived in the village, while the final part consists of descriptions of important buildings and other places of interest. The sections on J. R. R. Tolkien provides the most detailed accounts ever published of the author's life in the area during the Great War.

It is worthy of note that Dave will be making no vast profit for himself despite all his hours of labour. Once costs are covered, he has decreed that any profits due to the author will be shared among certain village organisations.



## STONE, PENKRIDGE & GREAT WYRLEY

The Boundary Commission for England, which is an independent and impartial body, have a number of factors that they must consider including geographical considerations, boundaries of existing constituencies and local ties. During the course of the 2023 Review, the Commission received over 60,000 representations in total.

English constituencies must be within 5% of the electoral quota i.e. each constituency in England must have between 69,724 and 77,062 registered voters. The West Midlands region saw a reduction of 2 to 57 constituencies.

Herefordshire has 2 constituencies; Shropshire 5; Worcestershire and Warwickshire have 6 each; Coventry has 3 with Birmingham and Solihull having a combined 12. The Black Country and Staffordshire was combined into a single sub-region with 23 constituencies.

The Commission considered the concerns expressed in consultation regarding the distance and lack of ties between Stone and Great Wyrley. While recognising the geographic length of the constituency, and that transport routes from one end to another were not particularly strong, they noted that many settlements throughout the constituency shared a common character, and that those who commented on the pattern of constituencies across the region as a whole had either accepted the constituency as initially proposed, or proposed a similarly extensive Mid Staffordshire constituency as integral to a wider pattern of constituencies across the area. The Commission also considered swapping Rugeley for Great Wyrley but felt this would be at the cost of changing a constituency that would otherwise be completely unchanged from the existing, and also coterminous with the local authority boundary.

The constituency covers 17 district council wards:

Brewood & Coven; Cheslyn Hay North & Saredon; Cheslyn Hay South; Essington; Featherstone & Sharesill Landywood; Great Wyrley; Great Wyrley Town; Haywood & Hixon; Huntington & Hatherton; Milford; Milwich; Penkridge North East & Acton Trussell; Penkridge South East; Penkridge West; St. Michael's & Stonefield; Walton, Stone and Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MOBILE LIBRARY

10:10 AM TO 10:30AM

8TH JULY AND 22ND JULY  
THEN EVERY OTHER MONDAY.

### CIVIC AMENITY VISITS

10:00 – NOON, JPF  
17TH AUGUST; 19TH OCTOBER  
AND 7TH DECEMBER.

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

4PM – 7PM, JPF  
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER.

Chairman: Wendy Plant  
Clerk: Michael Lennon

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