



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER Winter 2024 No. 120



Heart and Hands was initially set up to help people affected by the COVID-19 crisis. They now assist people on zero-hour contracts, full time work, reduced hours, part time workers, retired, blue light workers, ex and current serving armed forces and self-employed who find themselves in financial stress. They are managed solely by volunteers & give free food parcels, and excess food from local supermarkets, out every week.

Food Parcels

Food parcels are entirely community funded & consist of a week's food for all the family, children's packed lunch items, pet food and toiletries.

Community Support

Hearts and Hands has several surplus food tables in the area outside volunteers' homes which saves food going into landfill. These food tables are for anyone on a first come first served basis. Our local food table may be found on Haywood Grange on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 10:00am.

Local supermarkets providing excess stock to Hearts and Hands include M&S; Tesco; Spar; Waitrose; Lidl and Greggs.

Local Events

Hearts and Hands run stalls at local events to help pay for their running costs.

Online Fundraising Store.

Hearts and Hands has an Ebay outlet for donated goods. All the proceeds go towards helping people in the Stafford area.

Donations

Hearts and Hands relies on the generosity of supporters to help people in the community. If you have items you would like to donate, or you would like to make a one-off or regular donation, please contact Hearts and Hands on:

Tel: 07398 544116

Email: admin@heartshands.uk

October saw the inaugural Halloween competition. This is the third charity fund raising competition run by the Council. THE RESULT OF THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION WAS:

Winner- Hari and Jasmine Grewal with their display at 18 Haywood Grange, Little Haywood.

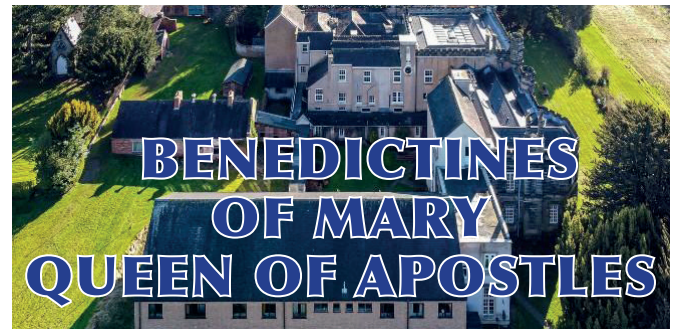
Second- Nina Clinton, 1 Amyas Mews, Gt. Haywood.

Third- Duncan-Muller, Shelley Cottage, Main Road, Little Haywood.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Nominations are open for the Citizen of the Year, to be announced at the Parish Assembly on Monday 10th March 2025 at Anson School. Please send nominations to the Chief Officer by Thursday 27th February 2025.



The Order is based in Missouri, USA. They had been considering a new House, as they continued to receive many vocations from both within America and elsewhere. Unfortunately, some visas, for overseas sisters, were placed in jeopardy by new US regulations. Thankfully, the international sisters were offered temporary accommodation in South Staffordshire where they heard about Colwich Abbey being up for sale.

The founders of the Colwich Abbey community included three great-great-granddaughters of St. Thomas More, who gathered in 1623 at Cambrai, Flanders after the dissolution of the English monasteries. They then re-established themselves in Paris under Dame Bridget More, where they suffered through the French Revolution. They were deported back to England where they settled in the 18th Century house at the edge of Cannock Chase. Due to dwindling numbers, the Abbey was put up for sale in 2020.

A formal invitation was received from Archbishop Bernard Longley in Birmingham and so began the process of purchasing and restoring the Abbey to its former glory. The intention is to revive monastic life in this beautiful and historic monastery.

In August they moved into a portion of the Abbey to resume the long tradition of Benedictine life there and began the task of restoring and refurbishing the empty monastery. It was with great joy that the Holy Mass and the Divine Office are once again offered in this sanctuary.

PARISH ASSEMBLY

We extend a warm welcome to all those who wish to attend the annual Parish Assembly which this year will be held at Anson School, Great Haywood on Monday 10th March at 6:00pm. This is your opportunity to meet with and hear from the Chairman of the Parish Council on the Council's plans for 2025/26.

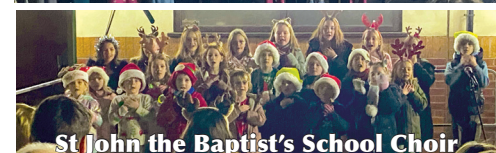


Saturday 30th November saw the annual Christmas lights switch-on event at the Jubilee Playing Field. As per the new schedule introduced in 2023, the event started at 4pm and culminated with the switch-on of the main tree. Over the course of the evening, we were joined by over 500 visitors.

The evening commenced with some festive music provided by Mills and Son Stage Services who provide the sound system for the evening.

In a change from previous years, the school choirs were asked to entertain the crowds through-out the event.

The live entertainment opened with the choir from Colwich Primary School.



After a short interlude with more music from Mills and Son., next up was Anson school choir, including the use of sign language. The final choir to entertain us was provided by St John the Baptist's school choir. Unfortunately, we had hoped to include two further choirs, but these had to withdraw at the last minute. We are always open to suggestions of other groups of bands we could approach to provide entertainment. Please contact the Chief Officer with ideas.

Finally, we arrived at the highlight of the evening, the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. We were delighted to receive so many entries for the school poster competition. We were especially delighted to receive entries from the little ones at Anson school, a sample of which were laminated and attached to the railing at the Jubilee.

As in previous years, we invited the pupils of our three primary schools to draw and

colour posters to advertise the Switch-on event.

The Full Council meeting, held on 7th November, had the difficult, but very enjoyable, tasks of considering all these wonderful entries and selecting one winner from each school to assist us with the switch-on.

We were delighted to welcome Isla Freeman (Anson Primary School); Matthew Plimmer (Colwich Primary School) and Aiva Brooke (St John the Baptist Primary School). The three children performed their task fantastically turning on not just the Christmas tree lights but also the extended lights above the play park.

Besides our wonderful entertainment, we were pleased to welcome new food stalls. Food Folks provided Popcorn Chicken; Halloumi Fries and Hashbrown Bites.



Ritual Brew provided an array of freshly cooked crepes.

Solo Pizza is the partner company of the usual pizza stall who attends the JPF. Both companies cook wonderful fire baked Neapolitan pizzas. We also introduced a new stall, with sweets provided by All Things Nice.



Drinks were available from Edd Carney's bar.



A huge thank you to everyone who helped us put on this special event:

The teachers who coached the choirs. The caterers. Matt who operated the sound system. All our performers. Santa, Mrs Claus and all their helpers. Last, but not least, each and every one of you who turned up on the night to help us begin the festive season in style and to raise money for our Charities.

Please let us know if there are any changes or additions you would like to see to the event. Do you know of other local food stalls we could approach? Are there any local bands or groups who could provide entertainment? What other entertainment/rides should we consider? Is the timing of the event (4pm – 7pm) right?

We look forward to seeing you again on the 29th November for the 2025 Christmas Lights switch-on event.

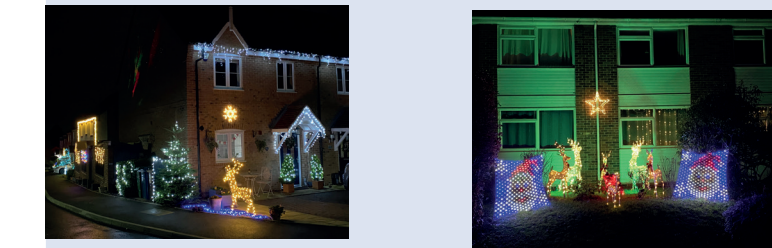


We were delighted to be joined by The Rt Hon Sir Gavin Williamson CBE MP at our presentation evening on Thursday 9th January 2025. This year's individual and street display winners are:

INDIVIDUAL WINNER -
Mr & Mrs Hildreth, 13 Hawkesmore Drive, Lt. Haywood



SECOND- 51 Devereux Gardens, Gt. Haywood



Highly Commended
18,16 & 34 Devereux Gardens, Great Haywood and 30 Clifford Place, Great Haywood
STREET WINNER - Devereux Gardens.



POSITION	ADDRESS	AVERAGE
WINNER	13 Hawkesmore Drive	8.95
RUNNER UP	51 Devereux Gardens	8.42
THIRD	1 High Chase Rise	7.89
HIGHLY COMMENDED	18 Devereux Gardens	7.68
	16 Devereux Gardens	7.58
	34 Devereux Gardens	7.32
	30 Clifford Place	7.21



The popular civic amenity (skip) visits will continue again in 2025, following a decision by the Parish Council at its 19th December.

DATES
SAT. 15TH FEBRUARY, SAT. 12TH APRIL, SAT. 14TH JUNE, SAT. 16TH AUGUST, SAT. 18TH OCTOBER, SAT. 6TH DECEMBER.

WHEN? – 10:00AM TO NOON.
WHERE? – JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD CAR PARK
WHAT CAN BE COLLECTED?

These visits are for excess general waste that cannot be disposed of using the usual Blue, Green and Brown bins or through the household waste recycling centres in Rugeley, Uttoxeter, Stafford or Stone.

Items collected on these Civic Amenity visits are not recycled or reused due to contamination issues caused by the unknown composition of waste deposited on each visit.

PLEASE NOTE – SOFAS & ARMCHAIRS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.
THIS SERVICE IS NOT FOR BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL WASTE.

SMALL GRANTS
The Council offers small grants to local organisations and charities. Be sure to include lots of information so we know exactly how the money would be used. Specific project costs, rather than rolling costs are more likely to be successful. For an application form please call in to the Parish office or email the Chief Officer.

LENGTHSMEN

As ever, our expanded team of Lengthsmen have been very busy with numerous tasks across the parish with monthly checks of the Council owned benches, noticeboards and defibrillators.

In the autumn, they completed the final grass cuts for the year, meaning each area had received 15+ cuts during the growing season. Areas covered include:

A51/Main Road Great Haywood • Oldfields Crescent to Shepherd Close • Essex Drive • Abbeyfields • Elm Close • Trent Square • JPF • The Butts • Parish Centre Coley Lane Garden of Remembrance • Hawkesmore Drive • Haywood Grange • Dobree Close • Wolseley Close • Kingfisher Drive • A51/Main Road Colwich

They then, seamlessly, moved on to preparing the parish to commemorate Remembrance Sunday, with poppies installed on lampposts starting at the border with Rugeley, Wolseley Bridge and Bishton, Main Road from Colwich to Great Haywood, Meadow Lane, Little Tixall Lane, Mill Lane and various estate roads. Poppies were also attached on the two A51 road bridges.

Following, Remembrance Sunday the Lengthsmen began preparing the parish for Christmas. As usual this included installing the two main trees at the JPF and Colwich Primary school as well as the smaller trees on the parish office. They helped set up the JPF for the Christmas Lights switch-on event and stewarded the event. On returning to work after the Christmas break the Lengthsmen removed and chopped up the two main trees ready for recycling.

In September, the Council bought a new machine for the Lengthsmen to use on footpaths and kerbs to clear weeds and moss. Over the next few weeks this will be used to get ahead of the game before the grass cutting season starts up again.

You may have noticed a start has been made in some areas; The machine was effective at clearing the footpaths around the Oldfields Green and Essex Drive/Oldfields



Crescent junction which were particularly mossy.

The Lengthsmen also used the machine to assist in clearing the footpath outside the Lamb and Flag of weeds as well as the pavement alongside the Abbey Wall and the wall across The Butts, the Parish Centre & JPF car parks.



With the help of the machine the Lengthsmen made light work of the kerbside along Meadow Lane all the way from Weetman's Bridge.

In early January, the Lengthsmen took advantage of Meadow Lane



being closed for flooding to clear Weetman's Bridge.

It is planned, during the next few weeks, to use the machine at each junction of the A51, to clear the footpaths and kerbs and make the entrances to the villages more attractive.

The Lengthsmen will also be concentrating on cleaning the children's play equipment at the Jubilee Playing Fields along with the outdoor gym equipment, before the start of Spring. The road signs within the Parish will also be cleaned.

There are numerous public footpaths through the Parish which will need to be checked for obstructions, particularly following the adverse weather conditions. Overgrown foliage will need to be cut back.

Speaking of overgrown foliage, Coley Lane has long been a problem in this matter. The Lengthsmen again attended this area in the autumn to clear the path from Manor Farm Road to Main Road. They also assisted a resident when a branch came down on the Coley Lane embankment near St Benedict's Drive.

An assessment of what the Lengthsmen can legally remove will be made and dealt with in the coming months. This will take some time as it is not a quick job but hopefully, decent progress will be made by the start of Summer.

MARLBOROUGH MEADOW

After discussion with Officers at Stafford Borough Council (SBC) regarding ownership of Marlborough Meadow, it has been agreed that they will carry out works to improve the meadow, managing the boundary and moving some trees to enable better machinery access. The central area will be kept as a managed wild area for improved bio-diversity following an agreement with the Biodiversity Officer. Thanks go to the work by residents who have enhanced the meadow over many years."

Cllr Andy Cooper

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