



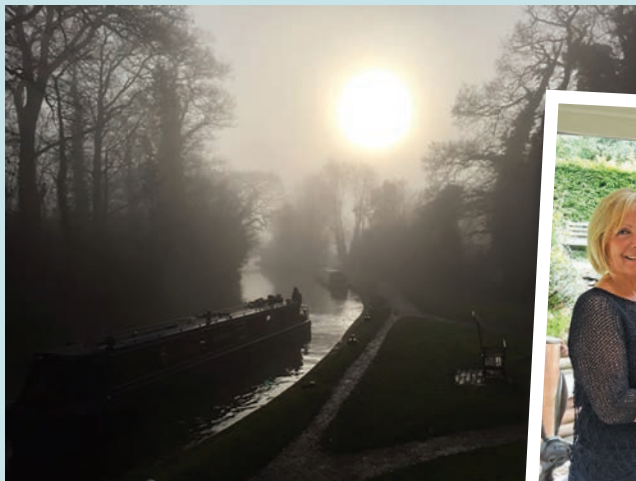
Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017 No. 93

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR



The Council received lots of wonderful entries for the inaugural Photograph of the Year, many of which were on display at the Parish Assembly held on 22nd May 2017 at Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall. These included numerous pictures of the wonderful natural environment in and around the villages, especially along the canal, Shugborough and Cannock Chase. These pictures will now be used on the Council's website.

The winning picture, by Gill Spencer, was a very atmospheric picture on the canal near the Great Haywood lock



Winner Gill Spencer with Councillor Andy Cooper

Second place was Jamie Smith's picture of the railway bridge near The Cliffs. Cassie Pinder's sunny winter scene on Cannock Chase came third.

The Council is very grateful for all those who sent in pictures and looks forward to receiving further pictures this year.

Pictures should be forwarded to the clerk@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

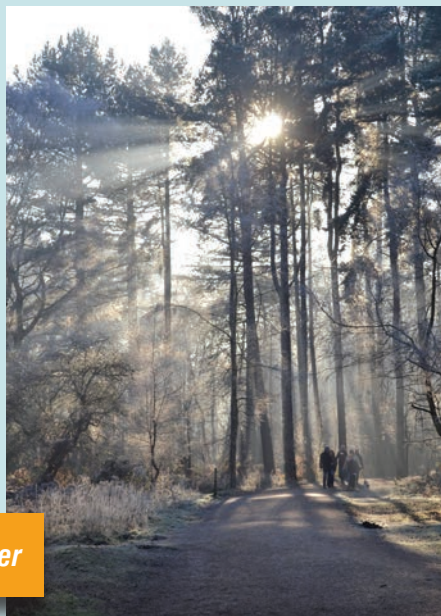
Cllr Andy Cooper, the Chairman of the Council announced, at the recent Parish Assembly, that Mr Dave Robbie was to be the inaugural recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award.

Dave is our local historian and is very active in village matters. He is Chair of the Colwich Parish Great War Commemoration Committee. He is responsible for investigating and promoting Great Haywood's association with JR Tolkien and is now recognized as the world's leading expert on Tolkien's time in Staffordshire during the Great War. David is also an active member of the Haywood Society and Treasurer of the Great Haywood Sports and Social Club.

Second place photo by Jamie Smith



Third place photo by Cassie Pinder



ST GILES

St Giles has unveiled a new five-year strategy, under the heading: "It's your life, and that's what matters". Their new strategy aims to help people better understand hospice care and sets out their aspirations for the next five years. The main aim is to dispel some of the misconceptions of hospice care that are held by some. St Giles Hospice is very anxious to receive comments or suggestions, and would welcome feedback. They can be e-mailed at: feedback@stgileshospice.com or telephoned on 01543 432 031.

COLWICH COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

When I last drafted an article for the 2016 Winter Newsletter the Community Speed Watch Group was in its infancy with: a total of six risk assessed sites in Great Haywood, Little Haywood, and Colwich; five volunteers; and the first event was planned for the 13 December 2016. Some 6 months on and the Group has welcomed three new volunteers with two more awaiting training. A further three locations have been assessed by the police including new sites on the A51 in Colwich and Bellamour Lane in Bishton.

Since the first event in December 2016 the Group has undertaken a further eleven events at six different sites. During these events, and some 17hrs 30 mins of roadside activity, a total of 3,723 vehicles were recorded of which 126 vehicles (3.38%) were logged for excessive speed and one driver was also reported for using a mobile phone. The site with the highest percentage of vehicles reported for excessive speed is Bellamour Road, by the entrance to St Bede's School, at 15.84%, followed by: The Ring (3.37%); Mill Lane (3.26%); Red Lion (2.99%), and Main Road, Colwich (1.27%). The highest recorded speed was 52mph in Bellamour Lane, Bishton.

The Speed Watch initiative continues to grow in popularity among the communities within Staffordshire with circa 50 active Groups and a further 25-30 in the pipeline. In 2016 some 3317 warning letters were sent out by the police with 124 (4%) repeat offenders identified, a reduction from the 2015 figure which saw 5% of repeat offenders. Within the Colwich Community Speed Watch area we have seen only one repeat offender in the six month period. Hopefully, 2017 will see a further reduction in repeat offenders across the County confirming the Community Speed Watch Groups continue to make a difference.

More speed watch events are being planned and we are awaiting delivery of 30 mph wheelie bin stickers. Furthermore, with the Group now undertaking regular speed watch events we can apply for permanent speed camera signs to be displayed in the villages.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who have given up their time to monitor the speed of vehicles and who help raise the awareness of speed and change the mind-set of drivers and driver behaviour. If anyone would like more information about the CSW or would like to volunteer please contact me.

QUEEN ELIZABETH SAPPHIRE JUBILEE



On the 6th February this year, Her Majesty, The Queen, attained her Sapphire Jubilee making her the first British monarch to have reigned for 65 years. The Parish Council has been considering ways in which to mark this special occasion. One such suggestion is to establish a walk in the Parish similar to our successful Golden Jubilee walk.

Pat Crouziers, who is the leader of the popular Monday Walking Club in Little Haywood, and who also organised the recent Annual Rogation Walk, has been commissioned to devise a possible route for this new walk.

The proposal is for the walk to start at the Lamb and Flag in Little Haywood and by means of Coley Lane, Back Lane and public footpaths will pass close to Tithe Barn Farm. Then via Toldish Lane and public footpaths it will pass close to Swansmoor Farm, Moreton Barn Farm, Moreton Grange and Upper Moreton Farm with some fine views over the countryside. Next, following a bridle path and Bishton Lane the A51 is crossed and the return to the Lamb and Flag is achieved by following the canal footpath and Meadow Lane. The walk is approximately 11 km or just under 7 miles.

For the less energetic, residents on Cliff Road, Great Haywood have recently planted a Community Orchard to celebrate this Sapphire Jubilee.

The Council is interested in your views on this proposal and would also welcome other suggestions as to how we might mark this special occasion.

KILIMANJARO CLIMB

Three members of the Brass Family have recently returned from successfully climbing Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, in memory of their wonderful husband/dad Peter. Peter gave a lot of his time voluntarily to the local community as a Lead Fireman in the Auxiliary Fire Service in Rugeley, a Special Constable in Great Haywood, a former Colwich Parish Councillor and ran a local youth club.

The epic ascent using the Lemosho Route took 6½ days with 1½ days descent back to the park gate, a distance of 70km in total. The climb involved camping for 7 nights with 6 fellow adventurers and a wonderful team of 38 Tanzanian guides and porters who looked after the team exceptionally well. The days hiking and scrambling were long between camps on varying terrain through rainforest, heather zones, and alpine desert; culminating in a 13-hour gruelling overnight hike by head torch to the summit in the snow.

Hazel, David and Amanda had been training since July 2016 using the gym, walking and cycling and in the months leading up to the climb had been using an altitude training mask to simulate the thinner air on the mountain, where the oxygen level at the summit was 50% in comparison to sea level. The family were fortunate to not suffer any effects of altitude sickness and were able to adapt to the environment well.

The family self-funded their adventure but have raised money for two worthy local charities. Hazel and Amanda have supported the Midlands Air Ambulance and David has raised money for the Eclipse Child Bereavement Service in Stafford, between them raising £3000 for their causes and would like to thank most sincerely those who generously and kindly donated on their behalf.



The Brass family at the top of Kilimanjaro

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Skip: 15th July & 9th September

This year, the Annual Parish Assembly was held with a slightly different format in the Village Hall in Little Haywood. The Parish Assembly is a requirement of Part III of the Local Government Act 1972 and has to be called by the Chair of the Parish Council and carried out between 1st of March and 1st June. In previous years, attendance has been variable but lower than we would have liked, so we changed the format/content to hopefully give greater appeal. Numerous voluntary groups in the Parish provided open top table displays in the first part of the evening, enabling them to show their activities in a far more practical way. The formal part of the meeting included presentations from Hayley Mival (Project Manager) and Mark Agnew (Area Manager) for the National Trust at Shugborough. It was fascinating to hear how much progress was being made on what is essentially a ten-year plan for the Hall and grounds. The NT was having to resolve many unexpected issues such as the stair banisters leading from the private apartments being found to be in a dangerous state requiring that area to be restricted until repairs are carried out.

Next, PCSO Richard Owen was able to introduce himself to the audience and explain some of the key policing issues in our Parish and how to contact him.

This was followed by a brief presentation by Archie Billingsley (Chair of Colwich Parish Youth Council) and Tom Dunn (Vice Chair) about the work of the Youth Council, how it was set up and what its hopes and aims are.

The last part of the formal presentation was by myself as Chair of the Parish Council presenting the Annual Report as well as reviewing the achievements of the last year and plans for the coming year.

Some of the more significant achievements included:

- The Neighbourhood Plan being formally made on 22nd November,
- Lengthsmen Ian Deans & Phil Russell being appointed and set up with appropriate equipment and van to start working around the Parish.
- New toddler play area on the JPF

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Andy Cooper

- Great Haywood Memorial Hall Car Park surfaced
- Youth Council set up and running
- CCTV installed on the JPF
- Community Speed Watch Team
- Defibrillators installed around the Parish
- A new website
- And CPC achieving "Quality Council – Foundation Level" status.

I personally would like to thank our Clerk and Deputy Clerk for the enormous effort put into achieving the QC-FL status. When our auditor gives praise in his report for the standard of work and accounts in the Parish, then I think that is something we should all be proud of.

A copy of the annual report can be found on our website.

As for the coming year, there are a number of challenges we are continuing to work on including:

- Provision of new Burial / Memorial ground
- Working with developers to secure the best deals for the Parish
- Investigating the possibility of a pathway between the GHMH and the surgery car park.
- Developing a Green Infrastructure Plan
- Getting the JPF Playing Field and changing rooms to a usable standard
- Seeking a way to commemorate the Queen's Sapphire Jubilee
- Work with walking groups to maintain footpaths
- Looking to improve pedestrian safety along Mill Lane and under the railway bridge.

The evening concluded with the announcement of the 2017 Citizen of the Year and the 2017 Photograph of the Year.

Hopefully we can build on what appears to have been a successful format in future years.

Cllr Andy Cooper



TEAM SPIRIT

In June, our local cycling heroes "Team Spirit" spent 10 days riding from the Eiffel Tower to the Tower of Pisa, climbing a total of 44,075 feet over 900 miles! The highest point was Mont Ventoux at a height of over 5,000 feet requiring a 13-mile climb with an average gradient of 7.5%.

The Team Spirit riders were brothers Richard & David Weals and Peter Corbett, and the support drivers were Jason Petillo and Tony Jacques. The lads funded the event out of their own pockets and the total sponsorship raised so far is around £8,830 to be split between Katherine House Hospice and Birmingham Children's Hospital. If you want to help Team Spirit hit the £10,000 target, then here is the link www.richardweals.co.uk/teamspiritchallenge.



The "Team Spirit" Team

COLWICH PARISH RECYCLING SCHEME

There are clothes collection bins at the Parish Centre, and the Jubilee Playing Field. The money collected from them goes directly to voluntary organisations in the Parish. Before the children's play area at the JPF was refurbished, we paid for the summer activities during the school holidays. We are still collecting clothes and distributing money to voluntary organization in Colwich Parish.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Anne Clendon, Hon. Secretary to the Bag Collection Scheme, arclendon@gmail.com or telephone 01889 808214.

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

The annual Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show will be held this year on Sunday 10th September, and opens to the public at 2:30 pm with prizes being announced from 3:30 pm. It takes place in the Little Haywood Village Hall, Chilwell Avenue, and promises to be bigger and better than ever this year with a revitalised Schedule! New for 2017 are the Junior Baking Section, the junior Photography Class, and Spud in a Bucket is back with free choice of potato variety! Please see our website for full details of what to enter and how at: haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com or find us on Facebook at: Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show. Schedules and entry forms can be printed from the website, although paper copies will be circulated in June. So take a look and join in the fun!

OLDHAM COTTAGES BELLAMOUR WAY COLTON - NOTICE OF VACANCY

One of the almshouses is available for a single person or a couple. All applicants must be resident in one of the parishes of Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Colwich or Mavesyn Ridware. Ideally the applicant should be over 55 although consideration might be given for someone younger.

Details can be obtained from the clerk and trustee of the Elizabeth Harland Almshouse Charity - **Ann Nunn, 39 High Street, Colton, WS15 3LG whizzkid1339@gmail.com**

Closing date for applications – Saturday 1 July 2017

GREAT HAYWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

Great Haywood Football Club played in the Sunday Bowl Final. Great Haywood FC played well and fought hard against a team (Strollers 82) who were in the league above. Unfortunately they lost 2-1. But with play like this - we can look forward to great things next season. A big thanks to all those who were there to support and cheer them on.



FAREWELLS

On behalf of the Council I should like to thank Mr David Evans for looking after the locking and unlocking of the JPF gates and toilet block on a daily basis for several years. Mr Evans also managed the hedge on the Council's behalf.

I should also like to thank Mr Walter Miles, and his late wife Irene, for the 30+ years of service he gave to the Council. Walter looked after the toilet block and the JPF site, making sure they were in pristine condition. Walter also undertook various grounds works and handyman jobs around the village on behalf of the Council. We wish Walter all the best in his retirement.

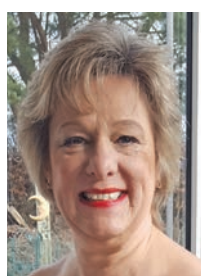
Cllr Barrie Birt

CLLR WENDY WELLS

I moved to Little Haywood from London in 1987 having moved several times in my life, but I have been here now for nearly 30 years. I worked as a Community Midwife and then as a Health Visitor. I was based mainly in Stafford but I have also worked with Hazeldene House surgery in Great Haywood.

I have two daughters who were born here and began their education at Colwich School and St Johns School. As a family we have participated in many village events from Rainbows to pub quizzes. We all enjoy the beauty of living in a village and I am an ardent supporter of village life and the importance of living in a community.

As the new girl on the Parish Council, I have a lot to learn but I hope that I can offer my enthusiasm and time to the community that has been my home for so long.



COLWICH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Allotments are small parcels of land rented to individuals for the purpose of growing their own food. There is no standard size but the most common is 10 rods, equivalent to 302 square yards or 253 square metres.

Parish Councils' have a statutory duty to provide allotments for their parishioners, if there is sufficient demand. The Parish Council purchased land off Coley Lane in 1983 and the Colwich Allotment Association was born.

The site now hosts 68 plots with a rental cost of £20 per year, including insurance, which is very favourable compared to elsewhere. There is currently a short waiting list and the Parish Council is looking for land elsewhere in the parish for a further allotment site.

The site is run by a management committee of 12 elected members, responsible to the parish council. The committee are co-opted members of the Council's Environment and Leisure Committee. The site now includes two wildlife gardens to promote biodiversity. Organic management is encouraged on the site.

The Association participates in the villages' annual Open Gardens Day in aid of Katherine House Hospice and encourages members to enter the Colwich and Haywoods annual Flower and Vegetable Show (see above).

Our allotments represent a valuable amenity, providing a healthy lifestyle, good physical exercise and a great spirit of comradeship, as well as providing a regular supply of fresh, wholesome and tasty vegetables for local families.

Any parishioner interested in renting and cultivating an allotment should contact the membership secretary, Chris Johnson, on 881632.

**Roy Hill-Baldwin - Chairman,
Colwich Allotment Association.**



Chairman: Cllr. Andy Cooper

Clerk: Michael Lennon

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