

ELECTION 2019

The Borough Council and Parish Council Election will take place on Thursday 2nd May 2019. We would encourage everyone in the parish to consider standing for election. Hopefully a poll will be required at which time we would encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote. You will have up to 7 votes.

What is a Parish Council?

The Council is the first rung of local government representing the concerns and aspirations of the local community. The majority of its funding comes through a charge on the council tax, known as the precept, collected on our behalf by Stafford Borough Council.

Colwich has 14 Councillors (7 from Great Haywood and 7 from Little Haywood/Colwich) with all seats to be contested. Once elected these Councillors represent the entire Parish.

What does a Parish Councillor do?

The duties of being a Councillor are many and varied with the day-to-day contact with local people as the most important. Yes, there are meetings, but these serve as an avenue for Councillors to bring matters to the attention of colleagues so as to agree a Council position.

How do I become a Parish Councillor?

Nomination papers are available from the Borough Council and must be returned no later than 4pm on 3rd April 2019. The names of candidates will be published on the parish noticeboards as soon after 4th April as possible. A 'Notice of Poll', if required, will be published on 24th April for polling day on 2nd May. The successful candidates take office on Tuesday 7th May (delayed because of the Bank Holiday) with the first meeting of the new Council taking place at 7:30 pm on Thursday 16th May. The first act of this Council will be to elect a Chairman.

Please ensure you have registered to Vote. If in doubt contact the Borough Council BEFORE 12th April.

VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

New telephone number:
07938 725066

The Scheme, which provides up to 5 lifts every day to the surgery, hospital or shops, is in need of more drivers. Could you spare some time each week to help local residents? If so, please call and leave your details on our new number above.

CLLR BARRIE BIRT

Thursday 8th November 2019 saw the Chairman, Cllr Sylvia Gibson, presenting cheques to St Giles Hospice and Stafford Ladies over 30s football team in memory of our late colleague Cllr Barrie Birt RIP.



LONDON TO PARIS CYCLE CHALLENGE

Ladies, after completing the 106 mile organised cycle ride from Wolverhampton to Aberdovey in 2016, realised all of their lives had been affected by one thing... CANCER. In September 2019, to support those who had helped them and their family and friends, Jan, Julie, Jen and Ann will be undertaking a 240 miles cycle challenge for Women v Cancer supporting Breast Cancer Now, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and Ovarian Cancer Trust.

Who are the Aberdovey Ladies?
Jan Hanwell: the only member of the group not living locally but a Clinical research nurse for cancer drug trials at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey. Jan became friends with Julie Smith having met her on holiday.

Julie Smith: A retired police officer now working as a painter and decorator. Cancer first touched Julie's life in 1994 when her dad passed away from a brain tumour. It was further impacted upon by the diagnosis of a very close friend with breast cancer in 2014.

Amanda Greaves: Julie's neighbour and very much the catalyst, with Julie, to the development of the group. Unfortunately, Amanda is unable to cycle at the moment due to injury. Her mum was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2016.

Jeanette Sims: A retired police officer now working for Staffordshire County Council. A colleague lost her fight with ovarian cancer in 2004 leaving a husband and two daughters aged 6 and 8. Jen was diagnosed with breast

KATHARINE HOUSE

Saturday 24th November saw a night filled with music from the 1960's, 1970's and even one or two songs from the 1980's. The Katharine House committee was extremely proud to present a cheque, sourced from the hard work and excellent fund raising of our community, by Mrs Pam Walton who worked very hard to organise the event.

The 1960's evening was an event that was very well attended, filled with people who were able to reminisce with the familiar music that had become synonymous with that decade - so many wonderful songs to choose from. A 'fish and chip' supper was served and then back for the second half and the audience keen to sing out with the wonderful tunes.

Again a very big, heartfelt "Well done" to our generous community for all their contributions to this and other fundraising events for The Katharine Hospice and a plea to our younger members of the community to continue to support this worthwhile cause for future generations. Maybe we could try a 1980's or 90's evening in the future... just imagine the fun that could be had with the great music from that time!

Helen Jenkinson



cancer in 2013 and during her treatment became friends with a young mother of one with breast cancer who lost her battle in 2014.

Ann Fullwood: A retired police officer who also now works for Staffordshire County Council. Ann's best friend was originally diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002, followed by bone cancer in her shoulder in 2004 and finally losing her battle in 2009 at the age of 42, leaving a husband and two daughters aged 8 and 11 years.

Please show your support on their Just Giving pages:

Julie - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jessen?
Jen - www.justgiving.com/Jeanette-sims4
Ann - www.justgiving.com/ANN-FULLWOOD

Alternatively please feel free to stop the ladies when they are out cycling around the villages, but please don't throw money at them as we don't want them falling off!

Jeanette Sims

HARVEST SERVICE

Once again in October, the Baggott family at High Coley Farm held their annual Farmers' Harvest service in their barn. All proceeds this year went to Katharine House Hospice with over £3,000 raised in the collection and an estimated 300 folk attending with both figures being record breaking for this event.



and Nigel Dudley provided music, with additional entertainment by Paul & Sarah both before and after the service.

The Revd Geoffrey Staton officiated, Cllr Andy Cooper

FARMERS/ARTISAN CRAFT MARKET

For a number of years now my partner and I have been exhibiting and selling our wares at various farmers and artisan craft markets/events. We have met a significant number of traders selling stunning products, both food and craft, many of them from the Haywoods and Colwich. All of these traders are travelling to markets and events in other towns and villages. Why?

It is apparent that to get good traders these markets have to be well supported otherwise it is not cost effective for them to attend. To that end, on behalf of local traders, we would like to ask you if such a market were established in the Haywoods/Colwich would you support it as either a trader or customer?

To give you an idea, a market of between 15-20 stalls, with outside gazeebos or tables in a hall, would require a footfall of around 230 shoppers to make it viable.

If this is of interest to you please contact either the Parish Clerk or drop us an email at info@bridge76emporium.co.uk

Martin Mawbey

PLASTIC FREE COLWICH

We would like to thank everyone who came to the 'Plastic Free Colwich Event' on 29 October. We were very pleased the event received such widespread support - with nearly 50 people attending. It was good to get together with others sharing our concern to radically reduce plastic, particularly single-use plastic.

We are grateful to Colwich Parish Council for their support for the event and thank you for your donations, which helped towards the cost of refreshments.

Commitments made on the night, included encouraging others to make changes and/or build on the ideas in the Plastic Free Colwich Parish leaflet previously delivered to every household in the parish.

We are looking at getting a Repair Café off the ground in the Parish. The idea is that volunteers with skills in particular areas, (e.g. bikes, furniture, clothes and household linen, small mechanical items, electrical items from the kitchen or elsewhere, computers, phones,) endeavour to work with the owners to show them how to repair the item rather than throw it away. Three people have already volunteered their skills but we would love to hear from others. Can you offer a skill or maybe volunteer to help organise it?

These are informal gatherings, usually in a pub, to share ideas and develop local environmental projects such as plastic use reduction. The first COLWICH PARISH GREEN DRINKS was held in the Sports & Social Club, Main Road, Great Haywood on Tuesday 4 December 2018. Future dates will be advertised through the Parish Council website and Facebook pages.

Sally Collins and Rob Horton
Plastic Free Colwich

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FULL COUNCIL:
Parish Office 7:30 p.m.
7th February, 7th March
and 4th April, 2019

YOUTH COUNCIL:
Parish Office 6:30pm

16th January, 13th February, 13th March & 17th April, 2019

SURGERIES:
Great Haywood Memorial Hall
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
9th January & 6th March, 2019.

CIVIC AMENITY (SKIP) VISIT
J.P.F. 10:00-Noon
19th January & 9th March, 2019

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING
2nd January to 9th January

ORDINARY ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL
2nd May, 2019



Chairman: Cllr. Adam Billingsley E: adam.billingsley@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk: Michael Lennon E: clerk@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk
Parish Office: St Mary's Road, Little Haywood, ST18 0TX
T: 01889 882665 facebook WWW.facebook.com/Colwich Parish Council



www.colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018 No. 99

Christmas LIGHTS

The first of December 2018 saw the start of a new venture in the parish, which we hope runs for many years to come, with the official switch on of the Christmas Lights. The Parish Council has arranged for Christmas lights to be installed on the large conifer tree in Trent Square, Great Haywood, with the kind permission of Staffordshire County Council, and outside the parish office in Little Haywood. The official switch on, in Great Haywood, was undertaken with Lily, Josie and Isabelle, representing our three primary schools, in front of a crowd of nearly 400 residents and accompanied by a medley of traditional Christmas carols by the Haywood Community Choir. The lights will be on every day from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm until 6th January 2019.

The Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you for the invaluable assistance provided by Mrs Jo McDonald. Jo's efforts have resulted in very generous sponsorship for this project from local businesses and individuals. A total of nearly £1,700 has been received from the following:

- ACB Motors
- Adrian Beaty (Haywood Hair Studio)
- Canalside
- Cath Birt
- Chell Aircraft Spares
- Diana Child
- Emma Bebb (Haywood Hair Studio)
- Geocom Contracts Ltd
- Great Haywood Dental Practice
- Haywood Brickwork and Building
- Haywood Heating Services Ltd
- Haywood Window Cleaning
- Haywood Windows & Fascias Ltd
- High Chase Interiors
- Matt Pearce Carpentry
- Mitchell Pugh
- Oscar Pet Foods
- ROOTED (Little Haywood) Ltd
- Sam's Electrical Services Ltd
- Shimla Palace
- Station Garage, Colwich
- T Harris Property Care
- Twin & Earth
- Victoria Sweeps
- Village Retreat Salon Ltd

The Parish Council would also like to say a huge thank you to those businesses who have helped make this project happen:

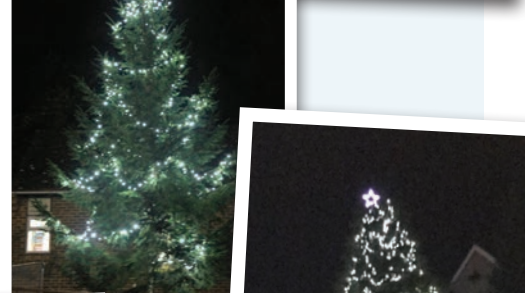
Jag Purewal and Micky Kundala at the Spar Post Office for allowing us free access to an electricity supply.

Sam Ranu of Sam's Electrical Services Ltd who installed the electrical works at both sites.

Glen Cowper, International Components Ltd, Hixon who supplied the lights; and Craig Hillman Tree and Garden Services who hung them on the two trees.

We hope you feel this first year has been a success and welcome suggestion on how to develop this initiative in 2019 and beyond.

Sincere thanks and a Merry Christmas to you all!



COLWICH IN BLOOM

Heart of England in Bloom competition at the awards ceremony in Burton upon Trent. The Red Lion Pub in Little Haywood also won a Gold Award in the public houses competition.

The Haywoods also entered the RHS "It's your Neighbourhood" scheme with great success again this year. The award scheme assesses entrants by rating them according to the following levels:

- Level 1 - Establishing
 - Level 2 - Improving
 - Level 3 - Advancing
 - Level 4 - Thriving
 - Level 5 - Outstanding
- Our entrants were rated as follows:
Level 1
Friends of Hunters Close.
Level 3
Queen's Sapphire Jubilee Community Orchard
Level 4
Marlborough Meadow
Level 5
Friends of Mill Lane and Mill Court
Friends of Crossheads
Friends of Shugborough Terrace
Our Annual General Meeting is Wednesday 6th February 2019, venue to be arranged.

Anne Clendon, Hon. Secretary



RIMBACH OCTOBER 2018

After long months of planning, the Twinning Association's biennial visit to Rimbach finally got underway at 5:45am on Saturday 27th October. 39 people travelled by coach (and one other joined us after a cycle ride) to our twin town in the Odenwald area of Germany. This year's party comprised 27 long-standing members of the Association, 5 youth members and 3 youth leaders together with 5 members of the Stafford and Rugeley Lions Associations. The Lions have formed a link with the Weschnitztal Lions Association of the Rimbach area. These additions added an extra dimension to the visit resulting in three programmes to suit the needs of the three sections, all combining for some of the visits or events.

After an overnight stop in Leuven, in Belgium, we arrived at Rimbach shortly after 4:00pm on Sunday to be greeted by our hosts with a champagne reception. Our hosts then took us to their homes for the five nights stay.

On Monday morning the adults visited Bensheim, the old capital of the District, where we had a conducted walking tour of the town and shown the old medieval buildings which have been rebuilt since the 1940s. In the

afternoon we moved on to Heppenheim, the present day capital of the District, (there is still much rivalry between the two towns), for a wine tasting at the local co-operative winery.

The young people had their own programme. The Lions were entertained by their local Lion hosts.

Tuesday involved a combined visit to Koblenz, the confluence of the rivers Rhine and Mosel, which featured a ride in a high wire gondola which crosses the rivers' junction, stepping foot on the famous "Deutsches Eck", the point where the two rivers meet, and time to wander around the town.

On Wednesday, the adults and Lions visited Erbach where we had a conducted tour around the "Schloss Erbach" which houses the treasures collected by Count Franz I, 1754-1823. In the Chapel of St. Hubertus is a remarkable late Gothic altar triptych, measuring 4 metres in height, and 5 metres in length, depicting the genealogical tree of Christ, the Virgin Mary and 12 kings of the Old Testament, all three dimensional carvings. After lunch we proceeded to the nearby Schmucker brewery, visiting the beer making processes, followed by a tasting of many of their varied beers and the chance to buy!

Meanwhile, the young people visited Frankfurt, travelling by train.

In the evening there was a very moving service in the Rimbach Lutheran church which was a commemoration of 35 years of twinning and the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. The service included Wilfred Owen's poems, "At a calvary near the Anvre", and "Anthem for Doomed Youth" (read in English and German), organ music and a tribute to the past years of our Twinning Partnership and hopes for the future given by the Burgermeister, Holger Schmitt. The service concluded with the hymn "We shall overcome" ("Fried und Gerechtigkeit") sung in English, by Germans and English.



Following the service everyone crossed the road to the Old School, now a community centre, for a social evening.

Thursday saw the adults, and young people visit the Red House Museum, in nearby Zotzenbach which is typical of the locality having never been "modernised" and still featuring the 19th century furniture and kitchen (with its massive log burning range).

In the afternoon the youth had their own programme. whilst the adults toured a nearby private Motor Cycle Museum which featured a wide range of about 130 bikes from an old wooden boneshaker to modern racing bikes, with and without sidecars, together with a replica of the first Benz car.

In the evening we all met at the new Lutheran Kindergarten, a 2 million Euro project catering for 100 young children, incorporating all the latest ideas including a quiet room with a large waterbed. However, the main object of our visit was the rededication by Herr Olga Schmitt, Burgermeister of Rimbach, and Sylvia Gibson, Chairperson of Colwich Parish Council, of the old style British telephone box.

Following a tour of the Kindergarten we all repaired to the nearby Krone restaurant in Rimbach for the traditional "Farewell Dinner". Here we enjoyed an excellent meal, listened to more speeches with presentations being made between courses, and concluding with the Rimbach and Haywoods' youth entertaining with a song specially written for the occasion!

On Friday morning we started our return journey travelling through France, with an overnight stop in Boulogne, before taking the ferry from Calais on Saturday morning arriving back in the Haywoods by 4:30 pm.

Keith Butler



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello! My name is Sylvia Gibson and I will be the Colwich Parish Council Chairman until the Borough and Parish Elections next May. Very unfortunately, Adam Billingsley, had to step down as Chairman due to health issues which we hope are temporary. We wish him well and we say thank you for all the things he has done for the parish – I am sure that you have seen him about The Haywoods and I am guessing that you will continue to do so!

As usual the parish council is fighting on all fronts:

- We are making plans to improve conditions for pedestrians as they walk under the bridge on Mill Lane, just by the Canalside Farm Shop and Restaurant. We are hoping to deploy traffic calming methods either side of the bridge so that the road underneath the bridge will be single lane only, allowing enough room to gain a protected pavement so that pedestrians can walk underneath the bridge, comfortably and separated from the traffic. Both the Parish Council and the County Council are waiting for the go-ahead from Network Rail.
- Concerning the Jubilee Playing Field, we are discussing long term plans for this area as, even though we have a multi-use games area, skate park and children's play park, both the grounds and the building are under-used at present.
- This year the council has had a presence at many village events and will continue to do so – not just to tell you what we have been doing but also to listen to your views so that we can take them back to the council to discuss the issues fully.
- We have been talking to HS2 – finding out information concerning their slightly adapted new plans with a view to getting the best out of the situation for both residents and wildlife.
- We are now a Community Speedwatch Area and our thanks go to Vice-Chairman, Councillor Dunn and his team. I would like to extend a welcome to new residents. We hope that you are happy to be joining a pretty and thriving community and we hope that you enjoy Christmas in your new parish.

I recently attended the Remembrance Sunday Commemoration at St. Stephen's Church in Great Haywood and afterwards

at Great Haywood Memorial Hall. Both the church and the hall were packed with local residents. The service was very moving and there was a wonderful World War One display in the hall with a choir performing popular songs from that era and refreshments later. Great! So warm! So welcoming!

That was yet another example of the community coming together as they did also, at the Flower and Vegetable Show (which I understand was a great success with the Youth Council taking an active part as well) and recently, on the Twinning Association trip to Rimbach – a little town in south-west Germany. No less than forty people went from our community.

I would like to focus on that trip, a little. I know that there are other contributions concerning the trip, elsewhere in this newsletter. But I would like to say that the people in Rimbach were so welcoming and "pleased as punch" that the Chairman of Colwich Parish Council was accompanying the trip – in fact, one of the German exchange organisers greeted me as I got off the coach and referred to me as "Your Royal Highness!" I think that he got that wrong somehow but as I know that his English is very good, I think that we can assume that he was having a little joke at my expense!

During one evening on the exchange, there was a re-dedication of a red telephone box that the Haywoodians had sent to the Rimbachians in the 1990's. It had just been refurbished and placed outside a brand new, "state of the art" Kindergarten/Primary School and is now being used to house gardening equipment with tiny, tiny wellington boots and gardening gloves. If you look at the pictures, you might just spot a Union flag! The Kindergarten looks very ordinary from the outside but inside is a different story. I have been a teacher all of my life but I have never been in a school that is so clean, streamlined and innovative. They even have a waterbed so that people that are stressed out (teachers and pupils) can go and relax – as did the Mayor of Rimbach, just prior to hosting the farewell dinner where there was an excellent meal, speeches and songs. Just to let you know, all participants pay for themselves – it is not a "jolly" as it has been recently described. It is a genuine cultural exchange that I would wholeheartedly recommend to anyone.

Let us hope that 2019 is a success for the parish and that everyone in the parish



Councillor Cllr Sylvia Gibson

experiences a sense of fulfilment next year. I know that life can be very tough, at times, but I can assure you that there is a very welcoming and close-knit community in Colwich Parish so that, if you are in trouble and need help, I am sure that you would find solace in joining in our many events.

Cllr Sylvia Gibson

P.S. If you look at the blue and white sticker which also features in this newsletter, you will see the words: "Rimbach tut gut" which means "Rimbach is doing well". Let us hope that we can say the same at the end of 2019 and probably come up with our own sticker as well!

REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND



RIMBACH VISIT: YOUTH GROUP REPORT

The 2018 twinning trip to Rimbach was a fantastic success and now that we are unpacked, we have taken the time to recall the highlights of the first, of hopefully many, trips for the Rimbach Youth group.

The week was packed full of activities and events planned by the group in Germany. This ensured all members had fun within a new culture. We all experienced Kochkäse, a local cheese delicacy in an unusual clock restaurant, spent a relaxing morning in the swimming pool and visited a local museum, where we made waffles and soup using old, German cooking appliances.

A highlight of the week was travelling to the town of Koblenz and taking a cable car with a glass floor over the River Rhine. This allowed us to take in the beautiful views and see clearly where both the Rivers Rhine and Moselle join. During the week, we had time to explore Leuven in Belgium and Frankfurt, it was fantastic to visit new shops and try new foods. As one member of the Youth group said: 'it was a fantastic experience to take part in and one that will stay with us forever. We were able to make wonderful memories with new friends.'

On Wednesday, we attended a church service to commemorate a hundred years since the end of the First World War and thirty-five years of the Colwich-Haywood Twinning link with Rimbach. The church

service provided us with a lot of interesting facts and information about the local area and outlined the importance of global friendships, like those created within the Twinning association. On the Thursday night, we attended the re-dedication of the re-furbished red telephone box, which was gifted by Colwich and the Haywoods in 1992. A member of the Youth group said: 'one of my favourite parts of this trip was meeting new people and being able to spend time with the Rimbach Youth group. The social evening gave us all time to bond, and teach our new friends the rules to the card game Spoons!'

Getting younger people involved is vital in order to keep the strong links between the Haywood and Rimbach Twinning Associations. The bonds that have been formed over 35 years and the stories that have been shared over the week, have really highlighted to the group how many amazing opportunities are available. We have all made lifelong friendships with the Youth group from Germany and it will be an absolute pleasure to welcome them all to England again next year.



As we look back at our time in Rimbach, it is impossible not to feel excited about the future and the stories that the next trip will bring, as more new people join in the adventure.

Katie Reed

their participation in the conflict, age and how they lost their lives. A truly emotional moment of reflection. Amongst others wreaths were laid on behalf of the Parish Council, the Parish Youth Council and Jeremy Lefroy MP. At the conclusion of the service the congregation adjourned across the road to the Memorial Hall where Councillor Sylvia Gibson laid a further wreath at the hall's war memorial.

In addition to the service, Dave Robbie and the Great Haywood Memorial Hall committee put on an exhibition of artefacts, illustrations and old photos from around our Parish from the time. This was open to the public over remembrance weekend. After the Sunday service refreshments were laid on and the Community Choir sang a selection of songs to a packed hall.

