



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021 No. 107

ALLOTMENTS

Late in 2020 two research papers issued by Sheffield University and Imperial College London both outlined the multitude of benefits that allotment gardening can offer, not only to health but also to the environment. Newspapers have also picked up on this theme, highlighting the huge increase in waiting lists. Our waiting list has increased three-fold over the last fifteen months.

Liz Bedford (plot 55) continues to find an innovative way of managing the many stones which are on the Allotments site. Liz collects these stones which she then paints as a hobby to raise funds for charity. As Liz wrote in the Spring Allotments Newsletter: "2020 was my third year of painting 'Poppy Stones' for Remembrance Sunday. As in previous years these were sent to the National Arboretum for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. I sent 70 stones at the



beginning of the October half-term and these managed to raise around £350 - fortunately just before the November lockdown was put in



place. I also painted some Christmas themed stones and made some pebble pictures for friends who kindly made donations which I will be forwarding to the local R N L I branch based in Great Haywood - about £50 so far which I hope to increase by painting some Valentine and Easter themed stones. However, as much as I enjoy painting stones, I can't wait to get planting up the allotment. Here's hoping for bumper crops for us all in 2021."

Unfortunately, last year the Association was unable to hold its Annual General Meeting. Hopefully this year, possibly in the Summer, it will be able to hold the 2021 AGM once there is a clearer idea of what the position is

regarding Covid rules for such meetings.

The Parish Council organised, and paid for, an arboriculturist to attend the site to assess the safety of the trees. The identified works took place in the Spring, at the same time as the JPF tree works, and included felling and pruning as well as removing ivy from trees alongside Coley Lane and also at the bottom of the site. This work removed dead/dangerous trees and branches and will help young growth to come through. The work was carried out by SWB Rural Services with the assistance of the Parish



Lengthsmen. The chipped wood of Oak, Ash, Maple and ornamental cherry were made available for the use of all plot holders. A big Thank You to the Parish Council for organising the tree surgery on site and for the professional way the team set about completing the job.

CROCHET POSTBOX TOPPERS

You may have seen the plethora of crochet items that have appeared around our villages, most notably atop the post-boxes and on various fences!

We spoke to Lisa Thompson, the mastermind behind this initiative.

"I have been supporting the Colwich Parish in Bloom (CPinB) team since moving to Great Haywood last summer. In that time, I have been trying to raise more awareness of what

the team do in keeping our 3 villages bright, clean and beautiful!

Alan Doehren, Chairman of CPinB, asked if I could reach out to anyone who

would be willing to crochet us some flowers to brighten up the villages and I have had an overwhelming response! From keen crochet enthusiasts right down to beginners, the ladies of Great Haywood, Little Haywood and Colwich have all pulled together to make this happen. I have even had a lady in a different county send me some through the post!

I also requested that if anyone was feeling adventurous, they could give the post box toppers a try, in which the lovely and talented Christine Goodwin was up for the challenge! Not only has this brightened up our villages, it has made people smile and has also brought villagers together with common interest and we've all made some new friends!

The post box toppers are located at the Jubilee Park and Main Road in Great Haywood."



PERMANENT WAY

The 'Haywoods Permanent Way' (HPW) is a local society for folk interested in railways. Pre-COVID restrictions, meetings were held on the last Wednesday of each month at the Sports and Social Club in Great Haywood. Once licensed premises can be reopened, we are hoping to resume our meetings. New members will be very welcome.

Despite the pandemic, a small group of volunteers including HPW members and friends have continued to maintain The Colwich Railway Memorial Garden. As many villagers will be aware this garden is at the site of the 1986 railway crash, and was originally established and maintained by Colwich resident and railwayman Alf Taylor. Over the last 12 months a lot of work has gone on at the garden: including new plants and roses being planted, replacement posts, the loco nameplates were repaired and repainted. New notices were also designed and erected to explain more about the garden.

For membership enquiries please contact Jenny Lowe (Treasurer) 01889 881561

www.haywoods-permanent-way.co.uk

THE HAYWOODS'



FLOWER AND VEG SHOW

If you are in need of something special to look forward to, as some Covid restrictions are being relaxed, then you need look no further! The Haywoods' Flower and Veg Show (aka Colwich Parish Produce Show) is back in town –or will be in September!!

This is a brief advance notice that the Flower and Veg show Committee is in the early stages of planning to hold an event in September. After last year's virtual show, it will be a welcome return to the more traditional format in Little Haywood Village Hall.

However, there will need to be some important changes to the usual arrangements for both exhibitors and visitors to ensure Covid security is maintained and to enable the show to go ahead at all. The details have yet to be finalised, but they are likely to include a single point of entry to the Hall, a one-way flow system for members of the public to view the entries and a greater use of the outdoor space.

There will be the usual entry fee for exhibitors, but no entry fee at the door for the afternoon visitors. Voluntary donations will of course be very welcome to help defray the cost of hiring the Hall and tables etc.

As a result of the extra measures to be taken, we shall need extra staff on the day, to supervise and direct visitors etc., so volunteers would be very welcome and can contact us via email at haywoodsflowerandvegshow@outlook.com In addition, if you have a pop-up gazebo that we could borrow for the day in case of inclement weather, then that would also be helpful.

Do please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.



IRONMAN® 70.3® STAFFORDSHIRE ENGLAND

This year's event has been rescheduled for 18th July. It comprises a 1.2 mile swim at Chasewater followed by a 56 mile bike ride and a 13.1 mile run around Stafford town centre, via the castle, giving a total of 70.3 miles.

After riding through the heart of Staffordshire the riders will cross Blithfield reservoir heading towards Rugeley Trent valley station. They will continue along the bypass to complete a lap up Bower Lane to the Cannock Chase. The riders will then rejoin the A51 to Wolseley Bridge where they will turn onto the A513. Upon reaching Milford, the competitors will turn along Holdiford Road to Tixall before going on to Riverway, Stafford

PLEASE NOTE: The route will be closed from the A51/B5013 (Station road, Rugeley) roundabout along the A513 Milford and along Holdiford Road/Tixall Road.

ACCESS ADVICE: There will be access to Wolseley Bridge at all times via the A51 from Weston.

The Wolseley Arms, the Garden Centre and all Wolseley Bridge businesses will be open as normal.

Course - IRONMAN 70.3 Staffordshire

HEDGES

Further to articles in the autumn and winter 2019 and summer 2020 newsletters, the Parish Council has forwarded details of 17 hedges to County Highways asking them to take action under section 154 of the Highways Act 1980. All of these hedges are growing over the highway, including pavements, with the majority also impacting severely on the visibility splay at a road junction. As a rule of thumb, if the lamp post, grit bin or street nameplate is within your hedge then your hedge needs cutting back to within your boundary. GDPR prevents us from naming the households. However, if you drive around the parish, especially the St Marys estate, it will not take you long to spot them.



On behalf of all our children, I would like to say a big thank you to the Parish Council for their donation of £1000 towards laptops. This donation is gratefully received, particularly in light of the current pandemic. It will make a real difference to our children's learning. The laptops will allow them to access on-line catch-up programmes in school and allow those children isolating at home to access remote learning. It is fantastic that we are able to access local grants to help secure our children's futures.

Miss Alison De Ste Croix (Headteacher)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I hope that as you read this, we are returning to normal following a challenging year. The Parish Council has continued to function, to the best of its ability, within the Government guidelines of the Pandemic. So, I want to use this opportunity to say Thank You. Firstly, thank you to our Clerk, Revd Michael Lennon and his Deputy Anthony Egan. They have both continued to work throughout, albeit from home. I know that working from home brings its own challenges, with a discipline of its own, not to mention finding a workspace and finding the equipment and resources, so well done for your continued efforts.

The next Thank You goes to our superb Lengthsmen, Ian & Phil. I know how many of you enjoy the benefit of their work and they do appreciate it when you stop and thank them and have a chat. Thank you both for all your hard work.

I must say Thank you to my fellow councillors who have continued to negotiate our Parish Council meetings via MS Teams. We have only seen each other's head and shoulders for the

last 12 months, but we have strived to develop our projects.

The focus of our efforts currently is the long-term development of the Jubilee Playing Field. There is a questionnaire in this Newsletter. Please take 5 minutes and let us know what you would like on the JPF.

The Parish Council has acquired a plot of land at the top of Coley Lane. The acquisition of the land was helped by a donation from CURB (Colwich Union of Remembrance & Burial). A Working Party is currently exploring how to provide an amenity for the whole community. The long-term aim will be to respect the vision and effort of CURB, so Thank You for your hard work. We will ensure that your aim will be realised. We have also established a Working Party to look at the Jubilee Playing Field which is seeking the views of all residents of the parish. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and Lisa Shephard who have taken the time to develop the enclosed questionnaire. We would be grateful if you would take the time to complete and return this form.

One project that has been held-up due to the communication issues caused by the Pandemic is the development a pathway from the Great Haywood Memorial Hall car park to

Hazeldene House surgery. This project has several strands to overcome before we can proceed any further, but I am hopeful that there is light at the end of that tunnel.

We are pursuing the long-held hope that we can acquire the play area on St Mary's estate so that we can develop it for the benefit of the village.

Our list of projects also includes the refurbishment of the Parish Centre so that we have a facility that the village can be proud of.

One aspect of lockdown life saw many of us walking more. I am proud of the work done by Parish Councillors, especially Annette Bloor, in identifying the many footpaths that weave through and around our village and for the efforts of the Lengthsmen in trying to make them good after many years of neglect. Please take a look and find some hidden gems around our village. There is information on the Parish Council website about the footpaths.

Lastly, I would like to say Thank You to my fellow councillors who voted for me to have the honour to continue as Chair of Colwich Parish Council.

Wendy Plant

COLWICH IN BLOOM LITTER PICK



On Saturday 5 June, Colwich Parish in Bloom organised a grand litter picking event to mark the Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean fortnight. Representatives of Sustainability in Colwich and the Haywoods group (SinCH) and the Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows also attended.

The In Bloom group and SinCH regularly litter pick in the Parish with individual members taking responsibility for certain areas

**A NEW
YOGA
CLASS
HAS
OPENED**



**1st Position:
DOWNWARD
DOG POSITION**



**Start:
BEND
DOWN**

**Then:
PICK UP
YOUR DOG
POO**



**Finally:
PUT IT IN A BIN**

COLEY LANE GREEN SPACE & MEMORIAL GARDEN

As announced in our Spring Newsletter, the Parish Council has purchased a piece of land off Coley Lane for the purpose of providing a green area for Parishioners to enjoy, with an emphasis on memorial and remembrance. It is hoped that this land can become a focal point for villagers to rest as part of a walk through the fields or to visit so as to sit peacefully and remember loved ones.

There will be a definite emphasis on maintaining our green environment with the planting of trees & the conservation of the wildlife and natural vegetation of the area. The Memorial aspect of the project needs careful planning as to where we will locate the Memorial Garden and what form this will take.

This is a big project and it will take time to achieve its full potential but work is beginning towards meeting our aims. We have had two meetings and a third will have been held by the time this Newsletter is distributed. We have so far included Parish Councillors, local residents and members of the Colwich Parish in Bloom group on our working party. This is not an exclusive group and all ideas and opinions are welcome

Our meetings have discussed the hedges forming the boundaries to the site and plans

are underway for these to be appropriately cut back and tidied in the autumn, after the bird-nesting season. The surface of much of the field is rutted due to the previous use of the land. Consequently, this area has been fenced off to prevent public access until the ground can be made safe for walking across. A trailer had been left on the land which needed removal. With the kind assistance of the local farmer & previous owner this item has been towed away and an offer to mow and level the field made. We are most grateful for this help. Unfortunately, our unpredictable climate has slowed down the mowing process, the land having been too soggy in early April, too dry & hard in late April and too soggy again during May.

The Parish Lengthsmen have overseen the tidying up of the area of the field nearest to Coley Lane, mainly removing scrub vegetation & litter. There is still much work to be done, but a start has been made.

As planning progresses, we hope to make further advances during the year in preparing the field to make paths, plant flowers and shrubs. Finally, as part of the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, communities around the country are being encouraged to plant trees. It would be a wonderful launch to our Green Space and Memorial Garden to be able to contribute to this gesture to mark 70 years of Queen Elizabeth II being our Monarch.



A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest. This high energy shock is called defibrillation and it is an essential part in trying to save the life of someone who is in cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrests can happen to anyone, at any time. The following steps give someone the best chance of survival. If you come across someone whom you believe to be in cardiac arrest: Call 999

When instructed by the 999-handler, ask someone to collect a nearby defibrillator. You will be given the location of the nearest defibrillator and the code to access the cabinet. Do not leave the person unattended and do not use a defibrillator unless instructed to do so.

Once collected, turn on the defibrillator and follow its instructions. You don't need to be trained as there are clear instructions on how to attach the defibrillator pads. It then assesses the heart rhythm and will only deliver a shock if needed. You cannot deliver a shock accidentally.

Defibrillators are normally located in workplaces and public spaces like airports, shopping centres, community centres, and train stations. These defibrillators are known as public access defibrillators (PADs) as anyone can use them.

Colwich Parish Council currently has two defibrillators. One is located on the wall by the front door of the Parish Office and the other is on the side wall at the Sports and Social Club.

THE JPF NEEDS YOU!

The previous Newsletter reported that work has begun on investigations to improve the JPF amenities, car park area and the access to the field. Since then, a Working Group, comprising Cllrs and residents, has been established to consider potential improvements and to make recommendations to the Full Council. If you are interested in joining the Working Group or supporting its work, please get in touch with me or another Councillor.

Feedback from residents on the existing facilities at the JPF and future improvements is vital to enable the Working Group and the Parish Council to make informed decisions. Previously, several ideas have been received by Councillors or highlighted on social media pages. To expand on these suggestions, and to give everyone the opportunity to provide their experiences, thoughts, and suggestions for the JPF, a short questionnaire is included

within this Newsletter; there is also an on-line version.

The questionnaire comprises both multiple choice and free space questions and should take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. All residents, including children, are encouraged to complete the questionnaire so that feedback is taken from as wide a demographic of the villages as possible. Copies of the questionnaire will also be located around the villages and members of the Working Group will be visiting the JPF with questionnaires asking those using the facilities if they would complete one. Questionnaires should be returned to the Parish Centre with a return date of 31st July 2021. Other drop off points are being arranged. Your feedback is important to help shape the future of the JPF.

Should you wish to discuss your ideas for the JPF please contact one of the Parish Councillors or perhaps stop them in the street and have a chat. Your feedback is valued.

Cllr Andy Dunn

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