



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022 No. 109

Christmas lights

It was with much sadness that we had no alternative but to cancel the much-anticipated Christmas lights switch-on fayre at the Jubilee Playing Field on Saturday 27th November. You may recall that storm Arwen blew in that weekend with very high winds coupled with snow and ice. We had hoped, even that morning, to be able to host the event as the wind had eased and the ice was melting. Unfortunately, as the day went on the temperature dropped and the winds picked up again. Upon inspecting the JPF we felt it was too dangerous to continue. Moreover, a number of the stall holders were having difficulty in attending due to the weather. Consequently, the decision was taken to cancel the event and switch-on the lights without any ceremony.

Whilst disappointing, we are still delighted with how our village Christmas Lights provision has grown over recent years from nothing to now include:



The tree at Colwich School



And our newest addition...



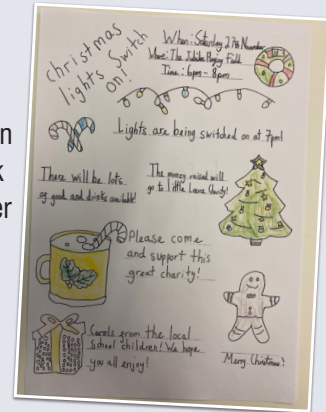
...the expanded lights at the JPF.

As announced in the Autumn Newsletter, we were looking forward to welcoming the Mini-Bloomers to this year's event. With a £250 grant from the Council, they had organised a stall for pocket money toys, Christmas lucky bags and all sorts of goodies for the children.

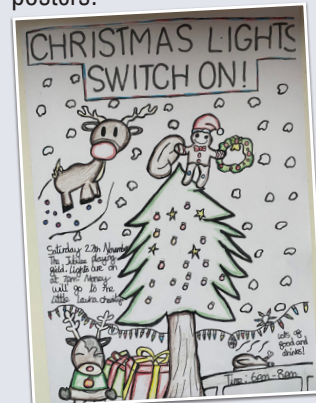
The bags also had a bauble in for the children to decorate and either keep or return back for our village Christmas trees. The resourcefulness of the group came through again as they managed to distribute the baubles around the various Nursery and After-school care providers in the villages. These decorated baubles were collected in the week before Christmas and added to our trees.

We are sure you agree these make a wonderful addition to the trees.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the children at Anson school who took part in our poster competition. Judging was very difficult as we received so many fantastic posters.



In the end, the winning posters were from **Charlie and Esme.**



POST BOX TOPPERS

Following on from her efforts as detailed in the Council's summer Newsletter, our favourite village crocheter has been a busy bee chasing an elf which appears to have fallen into the post-box outside the Jubilee Playing Field.

Thank you Christine Goodwin for cheering up our villages with your fabulous creations.



The In-Bloom team



The tree at Trent Square Great Haywood



The wall trees at the Sports and Social Club



The tree and other lights at the Parish Centre



Baubles decorated by children from the Great Haywood Under-5s and St John's nursery.



Baubles decorated by children from Colwich wrap-around care and Colwich Community Centre Playgroup.





CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

The Parish Council was delighted to host the third annual Christmas lights competition. Whilst the numbers entering were down on previous years the standard of displays most definitely were not. Indeed, travelling around the villages we notice that more homes than ever have either put up Christmas lights for the first time or have added to their previous displays. Did you decorate your home and not enter the competition? Was your street full of lights? Why not consider entering in 2022 and help us to raise much needed funds for our Charity of the Year.



The winner of the street competition was Devereux Gardens for the second year.



18 Green Close



Hillthwaite

The individual household competition was very close this year with entries from:

With Claire and Nick Cooper of Green Close winning by a narrow margin. {Claire Cooper}

Congratulations to our winners and a huge thank you to all those who entered and those who took the time to vote for their favourite.

We look forward to even more entries in 2022.



13 Manor Farm Road



The Laurels



13 Hawkesmore Drive

CHARITY OF THE YEAR

The Parish Council decided in 2019 that any funds raised through its events should be donated, in their entirety, to a local charity. We cover any administration costs for the events from our own funds.

Since that time, we have supported the Little Laura charity. Funds raised have included entry donations for the Scarecrow and Christmas Lights competitions as well as generous donations from the food and drink stall holders at the Christmas Lights switch-on event in 2019.

We are delighted to announce that in 2021 we raised a magnificent £291. Thank you to everyone who helped raise this much need money

We will be running both the Scarecrow and Christmas Lights competitions again in 2022.

CHARITY DATES FOR 2022

SCARECROW JUDGING
10th/11th & 17th/18th
September

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON
26th November

LIGHTS COMPETITION JUDGING
10th/11th & 17th/18th
December

SANTA'S VISIT TO GREAT HAYWOOD

Santa, Mrs Clause and the elves had a wonderful visit to Great Haywood this year. Santa said "it was fabulous to see so many children, and adults, lining the streets on this special cold winter's night"

The Elves were happy to hand out sweets, donated by Colwich Parish Council, to the excited children and to collect much needed funds for the Chase Young Farmers and the village.

On behalf of Santa, Mrs Clause and the elves we would like to thank the community for its generosity. We collected £197 which will be divided between the Young Farmers and the Parish Council.

Claire Wood



PLATINUM JUBILEE FETE

Although it is cold and dreary as we look out of the window, it will soon be summer and our exciting plans for the Platinum Jubilee Fete are taking shape.

If you are a local business or private resident, would you like to contribute to the preparations in any way.

Would you like to donate some money, your time or a prize, raffle donation? Would you like a stall to display your voluntary group, your business or your charity?

Do you have any suggestions or requests?

This is your village Fete, let us know what you would like, how you want to contribute or how you can help?

Get in touch with us. Look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Wendy Plant

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter. We have put lots of photographs showing our village shining bright in the darkness. The Christmas lights competition is a favourite with many of us, so here is an opportunity to see the beautiful homes lit up, once again. Have you thought about entering this year? The small entry fee goes to the Parish Council's nominated charity, so everyone benefits. Our Christmas lights event will be Saturday 26 November 2022, so put that in your diaries ready.

The Parish Council are starting our plans for 2022. We will be holding the Scarecrow competition in September so get your thinking caps on ready for that. If you have not entered before, why not have a go. It is great fun thinking of your ideas and then building the scarecrow.

However, the major event before all that will be the Colwich & Haywood Platinum Jubilee Fete to be held on Saturday 4 June 2022 on the Jubilee Playing Field. Make sure that you do not miss that. Watch out for more news on the event as Spring unfolds.

The Parish Council are working hard to provide the community with the quality of life which village life should offer. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact me. We can only work on your behalf if we know what you want.

At the beginning of a New Year, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous 2022.

Cllr Wendy Plant

8 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Remembrance Sunday November 2021 was a return to the traditional commemoration, apart from the wearing of face masks.

The day began with the ceremony in Stafford town. A procession, led by the Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Stafford, Councillor Tony Nixon, moved from the Gatehouse Theatre through the market square, passed St Mary's church to the town war memorial outside the Stafford Combined Courts on Earl Street. There was a short, non-denominational, service followed by the wreath laying. All aspects of service were represented and honoured. The procession then moved to the County war memorial on Victoria Road, opposite Stafford railway station, for a shorter service.

Finally, the procession then turned back to the Market Square and the Mayor took the salute from the armed services as they marched past.

The ceremony was colourful, moving, poignant and uplifting. It was a joy to see many people bring their children to see the ceremony and learn that we must never forget.

In the afternoon, there was our traditional local service, this year held at St Michael and All Angels church, Colwich. Following the service, wreaths were laid by the lychgate.

Covid-19 restrictions prevented the usual cup of coffee and cake but



nevertheless, those who attended agreed that it had been heart-warming and worth attending on a cold November afternoon.



The Parish Council had displayed memorials by the Parish Office, Little Haywood and in the main square in Great Haywood. We also had poppy displays at the JPF and at the junction of the A51 and Colwich.

I hope that you appreciated our tribute to the memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Cllr Wendy Plant

LOCAL SHOP OWNER ELECTED RETAILERS' LEADER



Narinder Randhawa, the owner of the Great Haywood Spar and a retailer for more than 35 years, was elected as the National President of the Federation of Independent Retailers (NFRN) by fellow retailers at the NFRN's Annual Conference in Bournemouth in October 2021. Narinder will lead the Federation until 21st June 2022.

The Federation is the trade association which represents convenience stores and newsagents across the UK and Ireland.



Narinder said: *"It is a huge honour to lead the NFRN and to be at the forefront of such passionate, enthusiastic and committed members. Independent newsagents and convenience stores are at the very heart of their communities and their survival is vital. I believe that the future for independent retailers is bright and everything I do will be to ensure that the NFRN represents its 11,500 members as effectively as possible."*

Outside the Federation, Narinder is very active in his local community. He is a founder member of Mahal Warriors FC in Walsall and is still heavily involved in the running of the club. Narinder is currently the Club's child welfare officer, CRB officer and has an FA Level 1 football coaching qualification.

Anne Bingham

Head of Communications
NFRN Federation of Independent Retailers

Congratulations Narinder and all the staff at Great Haywood Spar from everyone at Colwich Parish Council.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



Lucas Briggs and Rebecca Bell, from the Red Lion, have asked me, through the Parish Council, to share the following statement:

"The Red Lion held a MacMillan coffee morning on the 24th October 2021, which was nothing short of a massive success raising an amazing £4,746.07!!

This achievement belongs to all of those involved and could not have been achieved without their support and generosity, including:

Everyone at the Red Lion; The bakers who baked up a delicious storm; Those who gifted some fantastic prizes and items; Local businesses who made such valued donations; The anonymous donator who matched what was raised; and finally... ..Everyone who attended the event and really got into the spirit of the day and gave so generously.

All of these people went above and beyond and did our community proud. Thank you all for making the day what it



was. The money raised is going to make a REAL difference to so many people living with cancer and their families."

Myself and Cllr Rattray were there, it was a pleasure to be a part of the day,

raising a huge amount of money from locals getting together, donating prizes and contributing in any way they could.

Cllr Walters



WHAT3WORDS

What3words is now used by 80% of emergency services in the UK and has helped to locate nearly 4000 incidents since it first started being used. The system has given every 3m square in the world a unique identifier making the location of any emergency or incident very easy to describe and share.



For example–

Tortoises.swarm.announce will take you to the location on Ben Nevis where, in February 2020, a group of hikers were rescued.

Outcasts.code.outlooks takes you to the front door of the Parish Office.

Download the what3words app onto your phone to be prepared.



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