



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023 No. 112



Saturday 26th November saw the welcome return of the popular Christmas lights switch-on event after a 3-year gap due to Covid. This year's event was held, for the first time, at the Jubilee Playing Field.



Entertainment on the night was provided by *'Through the Stage Door'*, a local drama group who meet at the Great Haywood Memorial Hall on a Saturday morning.

Next, we had our three primary schools: *Colwich Primary school's choir*; *St John the Baptist's school choir*; and finally, *Anson's school choir*.



Following the school choirs we arrived at the highlight of the evening, the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. As in

previous years, we asked our three primary schools to nominate a child each to assist us. We were delighted to welcome Alfie Brooks (Anson school); Harry Painter (Colwich Primary School) and Matilda Williams (St John the Baptist). The three children performed their task fantastically turning on not just the Christmas tree lights but also the lights above the play park.

The entertainment kept going. After the switch-on we were entertained by **Matt Rose**, who sang a number of Christmas songs.

Our final act of the night, who took us through to the closing of the festivities, was



Sounds Familiar.

Besides our wonderful entertainment, we are pleased to welcome some fantastic food

and drink stalls, including **Edd Carney's Bar**, providing an array of beer, wine and spirits; **WeCatering** selling pork baps, turkey rolls and hot dogs; **JMA Catering** Fish and Chip van. Tea, coffee and cakes were provided by the ladies from the Great Haywood Memorial Hall.

Finally, what is Christmas without a visit from the man himself. We were delighted to welcome Santa and Mrs Claus to our event, ably assisted by the Snowman.



In our Autumn newsletter we invited local businesses to help us decorate our Christmas tree by providing baubles. We are delighted that two businesses took up the offer and we would invite others to consider providing baubles for next year.

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

The teachers and drama leaders who coached the choirs; The caterers; Matthew who operated the sound system, in trying weather conditions; All our performers; and Everyone who turned up on the night, braving the rain, to help us begin the festive season in style.

We look forward to seeing you again on the 25th November for the 2023 Christmas lights switch-on event.



Santa

Monday 12th December saw a very special visitor to Great Haywood. Santa made space in his busy diary to return to the village, this time with the help of the Young Farmers. Starting from the Jubilee Playing Field,

he travelled through the Millers estate, Rockhouse estate, took time out to visit the Rainbows and Brownies who were having a Christmas party in the Memorial Hall, before visiting the children along Little Tixall Lane, the Uplands and the Oldfields estate.

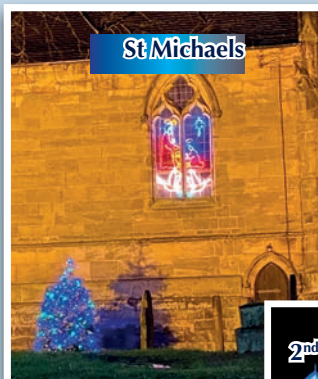
Thank you to everyone who popped out to say hello and generously donated over £200.



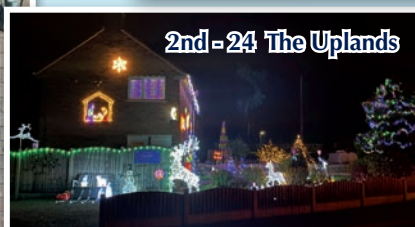
Christmas Lights Competition

Whilst we announced in the Autumn Newsletter that we had decided not to run a formal competition this year, due to the current financial situation, that does not mean we do not appreciate the wonderful displays across our many villages.

The Council did, however, run an informal competition. A total of 15 Individual Household displays and 3 Street displays were considered and voted on by Councillors and Officials. A very close vote ensued and we are delighted to announce that this year's individual and street display winners are:



Mike on behalf of



RIMBACH REVISITED

After an absence of 4 years, a group of intrepid travellers have finally made it back to Rimbach in the Odenwald area of Germany

Members of Colwich and the Haywoods Twinning Association were last in Rimbach in 2018 and were planning a return trip for October 2020 when the Covid pandemic struck and all possibilities of foreign travel were thwarted. We waved farewell to our friends from Rimbach as they left the Haywoods in August 2019 with the words 'See you next year' little knowing what was coming in our direction.



Time and Covid has taken its toll on the Twinning Association and the number of members able to travel is very limited. Nevertheless, a small group still had the will and the energy to make the trip. They were also aware that if no younger Twinners can be recruited this could be the last official trip to Rimbach. A party of 11 Twinners boosted by 7 members of the Stafford & Rugeley Lions Association (who have a link with the Rimbach Lions) signed up to make the journey.

In former years the exchange visit to Rimbach has been made by coach but as this group was small the decision was taken to make the journey by train. After an overnight in London we boarded the 9am train from St Pancras to Brussels and then by way of Cologne to Mannheim, where we were collected by our German hosts. Just to prove that it is not only British trains that get cancelled, we encountered a problem in Cologne

where our scheduled train failed to run but our hardened travellers rose to the challenge & after a long delay eventually descended from the train at Mannheim to be greeted with cheers and a glass of champagne. Our return journey was fortunately faultless.

Our German hosts provided us with four days of interesting activities which included a walk in the wonderful Odenwald countryside to a newly constructed tower in the forest (the Trommturm) which is the pride & joy of the Mayor of Rimbach. Other trips were to the old town centre of Frankfurt and a boat trip on the River Main, a walk with the Weinheim nightwatchman and a visit to the nearby town of Lorsch with its ancient Abbey, remnants of which still remain. As always, our visit culminated in a Farewell dinner in the local hostelry.

If this was to be our swan song of Twinning then we certainly went out

on a high. The weather was absolutely wonderful and we enjoyed 5 days of glorious Autumn sunshine in the stunning scenery of the Odenwald. As we descended from the train in our home town the heavens opened and we were in no doubt that we were back in dear old England.

2023 will mark the 40th year of the Twinning Association. Our German friends are very keen to come to England in October to celebrate this significant landmark in the friendship between our two communities. However, at the present we do not have enough people to arrange such an event. If anyone would be interested in helping to take the Twinning Association forward, contact **Annette Bloor** annette.bloor@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk or Emma Wood emmawood1977@gmail.com

Cllr Annette Bloor

Christmas Tree Festival



Visitors to the Christmas Tree Festival, at Stephen's, over the weekend of 26th/27th November, were met with an "Illumination" of Christmas Trees as they entered the church. There were a total of twenty-four trees together with the church's own Christmas tree. Each tree had a note naming the organization together with a description of the tree and what it represented.

The event was organised by a committee of volunteers from the congregation and was based on a similar format to the festival held in 2014.

The congregation of St. Stephen's wish to thank the contributors for the splendid effort they all made to support the event, without which it could not have succeeded. It was well attended by villagers and also from surrounding districts, the children and their parents showing their enthusiasm for the displays by their generosity which amounted to over £630. Thank you



WARM SPACES

The Parish Council is very grateful for the local businesses that have agreed to open their doors over the winter months to provide warm spaces.

The Great Haywood Memorial Hall will be open on:

Every Thursday 1pm – 3pm, plus

Tuesday 11am – 1pm on:

24th January; 14th February; 21st February; 14th March and 28th March.

Wednesday 10am – noon on:

1st February; 15th February; 1st March and 15th March

The Phoenix Group meets at the Little Haywood village hall every Wednesday 2pm – 4pm where they have a variety of games and crafts available. All over 50's welcome.

The Parish Office meeting room will be open between 10am and 3pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday up until the end of March, except for 22nd-24th February. Tea/Coffee and biscuits available.

Staffordshire Libraries provide safe, warm, and welcoming spaces with access to lots of great services, such as free books and electronic resources, Wi-Fi and desktop computers.

Rugeley Library Places of Welcome, every Friday 10am to 12 Noon.
Brereton Community Library Coffee Morning, every Thursday 9:30am to 12 Noon.

Other assistance is available from:

Trussell Trust Food Bank, Rugeley
07528 447504

House of Bread, Stafford
01785 243492

Samaritans 0330 094 5717

National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 2000 247

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2023. I also welcome our new Parish Councillors who joined us during 2022. We are now a full complement of 14 Parish Councillors from all areas of the community with diverse skills, expertise and experience. The one common factor is that we all love our community and want to 'give something back'.

We are also excited to receive delivery of our new purchases which should be coming in the New Year. We have purchased more equipment to aid our hard-working Lengthsmen with their endeavours to help make our lovely villages even better. You will soon see them on the new mower, particularly on the Jubilee Playing Field. However, the new van will allow them to move the mower around the parish. The more we can work 'in-house' the better for all of us. When Phil and Ian have the equipment, they can move their tasks around to fit around the unpredictable weather, which is always an issue when we sub-contract tasks out.

The new equipment also includes a leaf vacuum cleaner which they will be able to use to help keep the pavements clearer.

All the new equipment will need to be kept safe, dry and protected so you will notice new storage on the Jubilee Playing Feld in the spring.

We have a new Leisure Committee focussing, initially, on the Jubilee Playing Field and it is hoped that more work will take place during 2023.

As the autumn of 2022 brought the news of a cost-of-living crisis and energy bills predicted to increase, the Parish Council contacted many local facilities to co-ordinate and publicize the efforts and generosity of various committees as they rescheduled their diaries to offer support to anyone who needed it.

It is anticipated that the need for help will be required again during the winter 2023/2024. If you would like to get involved, please contact your nearest venue or contact me.

On behalf of the Council, I should like to **CONGRATULATE** Cllr Michael Allen of Haughton Parish Council who has been awarded an MBE for services to the community in Staffordshire. He was Chairman of Haughton PC for more than 20 years. If you have any suggestions or comments, please do get in touch with me. We can only be a successful Parish Council if we know what you want us to do.



CLLR LYNNE COLWILL

I have lived in Little Haywood for over 20 years with my husband, we are both retired Police Officers and I am currently working in the NHS. I have lived all of my life in Cannock Chase apart from a year spent policing the Isle of Skye! I love the area we live in, it's beautiful and the folk are friendly and easy going- like me. I'm looking forward to learning about the role and life of a Parish Councillor...

Wish me luck.

COUNCIL APPS

If you want services or information that are provided by Staffordshire County Council, the quickest way is to use the 'MyStaffs' app.



Equally, Stafford Borough Council services may be accessed via the 'Stafford BC' app.



'MyStaffs' and 'Stafford BC' are available for free on iOS and Android devices and can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.



**11TH MARCH &
27TH MAY
10:00 - 12:00**

**EXCESS DOMESTIC
WASTE WHICH WILL
NOT BE RECYCLED**

**SOFAS AND ARMCHAIRS
ARE NOT ACCEPTED**



CONGRATULATIONS to Anson Primary School who have ranked 30th in The Times' 2023 Parent Power league table for small state primary schools. Well done to Miss Jarrett, all the staff and pupils on this fantastic achievement.

CIVIC SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 2022

It was an honour to attend the Civic Service of Remembrance at St. Stephen's Church alongside fellow Parish Councillors, former and present members of the Armed Forces, local groups, and members of the public. Those who organise this event each year should be incredibly proud of their efforts as the service ran smoothly and with great care. Our community's everlasting gratitude for those who laid down their lives highlights just how important their actions were and remain today.

Having been born in 1998, fifty-three years following the conclusion of WWII, and eighty

years following the conclusion of The Great War, the impact of these historic events has remained palpable throughout my life, and the lives of all who had family serve at the time. I speak with certainty when I say that the youngest members of our community will never forget the sacrifices of those who came before, as we all live in the world that they defended and continue to defend today.

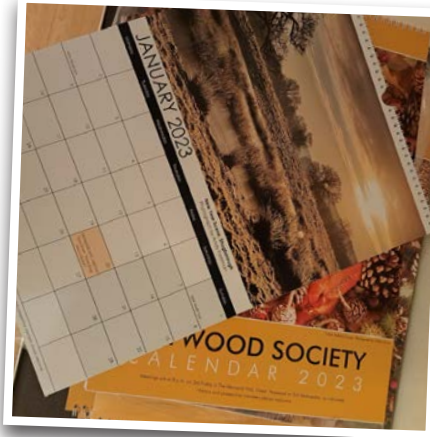
We Will Remember Them

Cllr Steve Hardwick

The Haywood Society



Gothic window



Churchyard Cottage

The Haywood Society was formed in 1974 at the suggestion of Colwich Parish Council as the Local Amenity Society for the Parish. A registered charity, with a current membership of 40 – 50 residents, its objectives include the stimulation of public interest in the Civil Parish of Colwich.

We achieve these objectives by:

- Holding **monthly meetings** with either:
 - an illustrated talk by an invited speaker at the Memorial Hall, Great Haywood,
 - a visit to a local historical/historical feature
 - or a Social Event.
- Researching local history, publishing the results (3 books) and managing 2 Heritage Lottery

Projects ("The Beautiful Gothic Window" and "Tolkien in Staffordshire");

- Supporting the conservation of local architectural and historical features
- Monitoring and commenting on Local Planning Applications and contributing to the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Producing a Haywood Society Calendar using the 12 best photographs of the area taken each year by residents. Proceeds from calendar sales go to local charities.

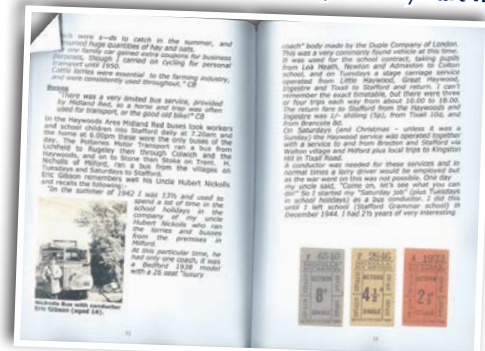
Our next meeting will be 7:30pm on Friday 17th February in the Great Haywood Memorial Hall.

Speaker: Robin Mathams – "The Trent Valley Railway and Shugborough"

Visitors and prospective members welcome. Annual Membership: £5.00
Further details from Alan Bloor (Chair) 01889 881 749 or alansbloor@hotmail.co.uk

Liz McAulay (Vice Chair) 881168 or Christine Hill (Treasurer/Secretary) 808194.

Hearsay History Part II





**CORONATION
FETE
— AT THE —
JUBILEE
PLAYING
FIELD**



**SUNDAY
7TH MAY
2023**

**FROM
2:00 PM**

CORONATION KING CHARLES III

As we start to plan the Coronation celebrations, if you want to consider holding a street party, you will need to notify Stafford Borough Council

Road Closures for Events | Stafford Borough Council (staffordbc.gov.uk)

The form needs to be completed at least 4 weeks prior to the event.

We are planning to mark the occasion of HM King Charles' coronation in May 2023. Plans are in the early stages so at the moment, please mark in your diary: Sunday 7th May 2023 – Coronation Village Fete, Jubilee Playing Field.

If you would like to be involved, or have any suggestions, please let the Chairman, Cllr Plant, know.



Chairman: Wendy Plant
Clerk: Michael Lennon

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