



## NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2014

No. 84

### JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS UPDATE

#### PLAY EQUIPMENT

For some time, the Parish Council has been looking to develop the facilities on the Jubilee playing Fields (JPF) for additional play equipment to cater for an older age range of young people who have grown out of the existing play equipment.

Surveys and other communications have indicated a definite requirement within the Parish, so the council has actively sought to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), skateboard park and BMX racing track. The project has taken a lot longer than was originally anticipated, due to the input required from the ongoing Neighbourhood Plan, problems with the initial potential supplier, determining whether or not planning permission is needed (unbelievably difficult getting a definitive answer from the Borough's planning officials) as well as trying to determine what grant aid might be available! The good news is that hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel for this project, with a new supplier on board and construction work currently scheduled for the 1st November this year. If all goes to plan, then we should see the equipment in place by the end of the year and hence ready for serious use during 2015 as the seasons improve!

#### UNUSED BUILDING AND TOILET BLOCK

As has been suggested in previous editions of this Newsletter, the Parish Council has also been exploring the possibility of converting the existing unused JPF building into a more centrally located Parish Office and meeting room. An architect has been employed to submit drawings for the planning application which is now in process. Assuming this is successful, then working drawings will be produced to enable quotes for the work to be obtained.

**Cllr Cooper**



### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEY AWARDS

Three young parishioners were rewarded for their contribution to the Neighbourhood Plan at ceremonies at the Parish Centre. Jack Rivers won the £75 top award. The second prize of £50 of vouchers went to Oliver Share and the third prize of £25 vouchers went to Scott Rattray.

In spite of help from the Rangers and the schools the Parish Council had found it difficult to get much response to the Neighbourhood Plan from young people. This was a pity because they are the people who will grow up in a Parish that will be shaped by the Plan. The Parish Council's response was to distribute a survey around the Parish and offer awards to the first three contributors whose names were drawn from a hat.

Cllr. Gilbert said, 'We are most grateful to these enthusiastic young people for helping us to develop the activities they really want in the community. They have also added useful information to our Neighbourhood Plan which will be a long term benefit to the villages and hamlets throughout the whole parish'.



Colwich Neighbourhood Plan will set out how the Parish will develop, including how to preserve the character of the area, where new homes could be built, and how to protect local green spaces. Colwich Parish Council had asked local young people to fill in a survey about local recreation facilities.

Jack Rivers was awarded a £75 voucher by Council Chairman, Cllr Paul Gilbert.

Oliver Share received a £50 voucher whilst Ally Rattray accepted a £25 voucher on behalf of her brother Scott from Cllr Gilbert in a ceremony attended by Parish Councillors and volunteer members of the neighbourhood Plan Committee.

**Mr Blount**  
**Neighbourhood Plan Consultant**



# BEST KEPT VILLAGE

I should like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You Very Much" to the Committee and members of the public who have helped in this year's Competition. Great Haywood was awarded Third Prize in the large village category. 'Little Haywood and Colwich' was awarded a Highly Commended in the small village category. As we go to press, we are still awaiting the results of the Heart of England in Bloom Competition.

There will be a QUIZ NIGHT at Little Haywood Village Hall on Friday 10th October at 7.30 p.m.

Diana Scott has kindly agreed to come along again and show us her skills in a FLOWER ARRANGING evening on Friday 31st October at 7.30 p.m. Entitled "Forever England" there will also be some themed poetry from The Haywood Players.

Please contact me for tickets to either event.

**Cllr Mrs Clendon**



## BEST KEPT VILLAGE CHILDREN'S COMPETITION RESULTS:

### Pre-School

1st	James - Anson
2nd	Eloise - Gt Haywood
3rd	Zach - St John's

### Year 1&2

1st	Peter - St Bede's
2nd	Millie - St Bede's
3rd	Joey - St Bede's

### Year 3&4

1st	Freya - Colwich
2nd	Eve - St Bede's
3rd	Lily - Colwich

### Year 5&6

1st	Zara - Colwich
2nd	Grace - St John's
3rd	Eva - St Bede's



## GARDEN FIRES – A POLITE NOTICE

Some concern has been raised about the number of garden fires in Colwich Parish. Please don't stop your neighbours enjoying their gardens by lighting fires carelessly.

### This means:

- Burning damp or wet materials produces a lot of smoke
- Burning household rubbish or tyres
- Lighting a fire when weather conditions will cause a problem (smoke hangs in the air on damp, windless days and around sunset. Wind will carry smoke over another property or over roads)
- Leaving a fire to smoulder – remember to douse it with soil or water.

**Cllr Mrs Gibson**



## BUS SERVICES CHANGES

Regular bus users will now have noticed the changes – hopefully for the better - to the bus services connecting our Parish. The most obvious change is the additional red buses provided by D&G. The Parish Council were able to discuss the changes with Chris Almond of D&G at a meeting in July. The impression given to the Council by Chris was of a high level of commitment and customer focus from the new provider. *Key points Chris was able to highlight included:*

- The revamped 841 timetable was proving successful with Staffordshire County Council supporting a new route on school days.
- The 842 route will connect both ends of the Parish with Rugeley.
- A 'Joint Ticket' can be purchased connecting the new service with Midland Classic and Select services from September.
- New/improved vehicles with free Wi-Fi.
- More bus stops are being considered.
- D&G are happy to promote a service in rural areas where passengers can flag a bus down even when it is not at an official stop and, providing it is safe to do so, the bus will stop.

Another key point is the 'real-time' passenger information available via an 'app' for a smart phone, or by connecting to [www.dgbus.co.uk](http://www.dgbus.co.uk). Passengers can also call the company via 01270 252970.

**Cllr Cooper**

# CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTIONS

## The Seabridge Scourge is Back

Mr Seabridge has resubmitted a planning application for the land situated off Little Tixall Lane and lies at the rear of Marlborough Close.

The Leader of the Borough Council Cllr. Heenan, after failing to file his interests earlier this year has found time, through his company Inglewood Investments, to conduct a consultation exercise for a housing development on land adjoining the A51 off Little Tixall Lane. I am still waiting for the howls of opposition from his fellow councillors about this proposal - we may have to wait some time. I have no doubt that the planning committee vote it through.

To add insult to injury, the "Greenacres" developer has submitted a revised plan to include additional houses to the original application. With the HS2 viaduct virtually in the back gardens of this development the private sales on this development could be non-existent and the area will be turned into a social housing ghetto.

The developers have been assisted in their ambitions by Stafford Borough Council's planning department and its councillors. Developers are allowed to build anything and anywhere within KSVs (Key Service Villages) regardless of the destruction to the established village way of life within those communities.

### ***At present we have had the following developments to contend with:***

The land adjacent to Greenacres – courtesy of the Deakins and the Mynors, Nursery Way, who will be content to bring about more problems by allowing the sewage from the Greenacres site to be pumped through the existing Nursery Way station increasing the capacity by 150%.

Land behind The Ring – courtesy of Mr Seabridge.

Land at Little Tixall Lane and at the rear of Marlborough Close – courtesy of Mr Seabridge and Mr Astle, Dobree Close. Some people can never have enough.

Shenley Cottage and land surrounding it – courtesy of the Moore Family Trust, we know that these people have been spending thousands to develop this land. Jeremy Lefroy has written a letter of objection supporting our efforts to prevent this development. Thank you and well done Jeremy!

Land adjacent to the A51 and adjoining Little Tixall Lane – courtesy of Borough Council Leader, Mike Heenan, through his company Inglewood Investments.

As we all know, from past experience, financial gain supersedes conscience and integrity which is a true reflection of all those above.

I have no alternative agenda or any financial interests in these proposed and approved planning applications and I shall endeavour to safeguard your interests both now and in the future.

I shall shortly be having a meeting with our legal advisors to discuss the way forward on all the planning applications previously referred to. The council is seeking to co-opt representatives from the immediate areas affected by these planning proposals in order to exchange views and disseminate information quickly and accurately. Representatives will also be invited to attend meetings with our legal team.

We have co-opted one representative, to stand against the Seabridge Development on the land behind The Ring, and would invite requests/nominations from representatives opposing the other development areas.



**Cllr. Paul Gilbert**

## PLEASE NOMINATE THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR YOUR AREA NOW!

### **Jubilee Playing Field**

I am delighted with the progress we are starting to make for the installation of sports facilities at the Jubilee Playing Field (front page).

If you have seen recent TV advertisements for walking football we would be interested in exploring this facility on the JPF with the pitch providing the additional facility for 5-a-side football. If anyone is interested in setting up these teams please contact the office and we will provide whatever support we can.



# SPEEDING

The Parish Council is very concerned about the number of cars speeding in the villages. Staffordshire Police undertook two separate deployments recently in Little Haywood. Regrettably, 15 motorists were reported for speeding offences, with the vast majority coming from our villages. In response, the Parish Council is considering supporting those residents who might like to set-up a Community Speedwatch. Please contact either myself or the Clerk if you would be interested in setting-up or joining this group. [arclendon@gmail.com](mailto:arclendon@gmail.com)

**Cllr Mrs Clendon**

# ACCESS TO THE CANAL

The Parish Council is in discussion with the National Trust, Shugborough, to improve access to the Canal along the path between St Stephen's Church and Anson School. The Council has funds to provide the hard material and is looking for volunteers to assist with this project. If you would like to help, please contact the Clerk.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Next World War  
One meeting: Sports  
and Social Club, 20<sup>th</sup>  
November 2014.**

**Skip: 11<sup>th</sup> October;  
8<sup>th</sup> November and  
29<sup>th</sup> November.**

**Bag Collection:  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October.**

# DRIVING WHILST USING A PHONE

Many residents will be aware of the tragic accident when local woman Laura Thomas was killed in a road traffic collision in July 2013 at the age of 20. Laura's friends called her TINK and TINKERBELL due to her tiny frame and sparkly character. Sadly, Laura was the victim of a lorry driver who has been convicted and imprisoned as a result of driving whilst using the internet services on several mobile phones.

Those of us who knew her have all been saddened by the loss and the horrific waste of a life as a result of one man's careless, thoughtless and illegal actions. Needless to say, it is with some anger that her family regularly witnesses other drivers using their phones whilst driving! Next time you are tempted to answer that text or call whilst driving – remember Laura and don't! Better still why not turn your phone off or to silent whilst driving to remove the temptation. Don't be part of another tragedy – don't risk your own as well as the lives of others.

In Laura's memory, her family and friends are actively raising funds for various connected charities through a range of activities and the sale of various items. You can find a whole lot more and how to support or get involved by visiting [www.littlelaura.net](http://www.littlelaura.net)

**Cllr Cooper**

# WW1 COMMEMORATION

There was an excellent Exhibition in the Great Haywood Memorial Hall on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd August, to commemorate the start of World War One. The Exhibition was masterminded by a Committee headed by Dave Robbie.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford, Mr and Mrs Ray Sutherland attended the 4.00 p.m. Vigil Service at St. Stephens C of E. Church, together with many other local Councillors and Parishioners.

For further details, please visit the Parish Council website.

**Cllr Mrs Clendon**



**Chairman:**

**Cllr. Paul Gilbert**

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