



# Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

## NEWSLETTER DOGS ON JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD

The Parish Council is concerned about the dog mess on the playing field and elsewhere across the parish. Residents will be aware that Stafford Borough Council is equally concerned about inconsiderate owners who allow their dogs to foul without clearing up after them. The Borough Council has a dedicated email address where concerned residents may report incidents: [dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk) or you can telephone Streetscene on: 01785 619000 (option 3). The Parish Council has received numerous complaints from concerned parents whose children have walked dog mess into school especially on the footpath between the St Mary's estate and Colwich School. The Parish Council has installed numerous CCTV cameras at the JPF, to ensure the safety and security of the site and the new play equipment. These cameras will also record incidents of dog fouling and the Council will share these images with the Borough Council so that they may take action against those who do not clear up after their pets.

The field at the JPF is provided for informal sports and recreation. However, some inconsiderate dog owners are allowing their pets to foul in this area without clearing up after them. This presents a real threat, especially to younger members of the parish, from Toxocariasis. This is caused

by roundworm parasites found in infected faeces (dogs, cats & foxes). The condition is rare and there are usually no symptoms. However, some people experience symptoms such as a fever, stomach pain, a cough and/or headaches. In rare cases the roundworm larvae can infect organs such as the liver, lungs, eyes or brain and cause severe symptoms including: fatigue, loss of appetite/weight loss, skin rashes, wheezing/breathing difficulties, seizures, blurry or cloudy vision, usually affecting one eye, leaving it very red and painful.

Young children are most at risk as they are likely to come into contact with contaminated soil when they play and put their fingers/hands in their mouth.

Colwich Parish Council would like to gauge public opinion on the issue of dogs being allowed on the jubilee playing field.

### **The council would like your views on 3 options:**

1. The status quo: dogs allowed onto the field either on or off the lead.
2. Dogs allowed on the field but must be kept on the lead.
3. No dogs at all allowed on the JPF, including in the car park.

**Cllr Adam Billingsley**

Spring 2016

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## SPEEDING IN THE HAYWOODS

The Parish Council is concerned about the speed of vehicles through the villages, especially along Main Road and in the three main estates (St Mary's, Rockhouse and Oldfields). The Council undertook a series of speed checks in January 2015. These showed, for instance, that the majority of vehicles crossing The Butts do so above the 30 mph speed limit (for 85% of vehicles, the average speed was 38 mph and 5% of vehicles were driving above 41 mph with some exceeding 56 mph). The Council is sure you would agree that this is unacceptable and endangers lives.

### **Reducing speed would:**

- **Reduce the threat of death and injury on our roads.**
- **Improve the quality of life for everyone.**

The Council is, therefore, considering ways in which it may address the speed of vehicles. The Council is currently in discussion with Miller Homes and SBC/SCC regarding options for the construction of a new chicane in the area of the new development to help calm traffic for the new junction. Other options might include requesting that the limit in the built up areas e.g. from The Moorings to Coley Lane, including side streets and St Mary's, be reduced to 20 mph. This would be repeated from Rockhouse Drive through to Mill Lane and again on the Oldfields estate. Alternatively, residents might favour the introduction of a 40 mph limit between Shugborough Terrace and The Ring.

**Councillor Sylvia Gibson**

## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Linked to the above article, this is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community join together, with the support of the police, to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating the drivers to reduce their speeds.

Volunteers receive appropriate training, and are supported by neighbourhood policing team staff. Speed Watch activity is not about interfering with neighbours behaviour; it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community.

**Cllr John Coates**

*All responses to these consultations should be directed to the Clerk either by post or E-mail.*

*The Council will act on the views received to these important issues. Please, therefore, respond if you wish to have your opinion heard.*

# HAYWOODPLATZ SIGN - UNVEILING



Two years ago our Twinning Partners, “Partnerschaftsverein Rimbach”, in the Odenwald, Germany, told us that the area in their town known as the “Haywoodplatz” was to be renovated. They suggested that the customary gift to be given on the occasion of our next visit might take the form of a suitable enhancement for this renovation reflecting the spirit of Twinning.

We came up with the suggestion (not communicated to Rimbach) that we take a new sign, in the style of a Stafford Borough street sign inscribed “HAYWOODPLATZ”. This was duly commissioned and presented to the Partnerschaftsverein during our visit in October 2014.

The Haywoodplatz was formerly the fairground of Rimbach and its refurbishment was designed to incorporate the sign which we had presented.

The formal inauguration ceremony and unveiling of the sign took place on Thursday 11th February, 2016, when the Burgermeister of Rimbach, Holger Schmitt, and the Chairman of the Partnerschaftsverein, Markus Altendorf, together performed the unveiling of the new sign.

The Colwich and Haywoods Twinning Association members will be able to view the refurbished Haywoodplatz when they visit Rimbach in October this year. Anyone interested in joining the Association should contact the Secretary, Christine Hill, 01889 808194, or the Chairman, Keith Butler, 01889 881690. We would particularly like to hear from younger members of our community, including newcomers to the villages.

**Keith Butler**

## CLLR JANE FEATONBY

I have been a resident of Little Haywood for 25 years, brought up two children here and have, during this time, taken a keen interest in village affairs. I have had a lengthy career as a Probation Officer, working in Crown Courts in Stoke and Stafford.

I participate in a number of local organisations and activities and as a regular dog walker, runner and cyclist I am always out and about and have got to know many people in the area. I love gardening, share an allotment with friends, have hens and grow my own fruit and veg.

## CLLR ANDY DUNN

I have lived in Great Haywood for 23 years and spent some time supporting the local community, predominantly via activities at Anson Primary School. I'm a chartered electrical engineer specialising in airfield engineering and I work in the public sector, predominantly in the UK, and occasionally have the opportunity to work overseas.



**Cllr  
Jane Featonby**



**Cllr  
Andy Dunn**

## JRR TOLKIEN IN STAFFORDSHIRE 1915-18 EXHIBITION

On 1st January 2016, the Haywood Society received £9,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project “*JRR Tolkien in Staffordshire 1915-1918*”.

2016 marks the centenary of the time that Tolkien lived in Great Haywood, during the First World War. It is therefore appropriate that we should commemorate and celebrate the connection that the Parish has with one of the world's greatest writers of the 20th century, certainly the most popular and commercially successful.

The Haywood Society is leading a project to create a touring Exhibition that will be launched officially at the Museum of Cannock Chase on 12th March 2016. During the year and into 2017 it will tour to various venues in the county, arriving at Great Haywood Memorial Hall from 5th to 10th July for a

‘Tolkien Week’. It is planned to include many additional activities during that week involving local schools and groups, including art and craft workshops, talks from Tolkien scholars, guided walks on the Staffordshire Tolkien Trail and village tours to Tolkien-related places.

One of the visiting speakers will be a Norwegian Tolkien scholar, Professor Nils Ivar Agøy, who visited Great Haywood in 1988, “in search of Tolkien’s roots”, when little was known about Tolkien’s time here. He was keen to discover why such a small village had played such an important part, not only in Tolkien’s personal life but also in his literary development. He discovered little, but later wrote, “*It does not seem unreasonable to me that Tolkien may have formed [a dramatic image] out of Great Haywood, of the river, the bridge, the trees, the big house with the many chimneys; not*



*because they were unique but because the place was attractive and at the same time the closest thing Tolkien had to a home in 1916-17, when he embarked upon his great literary odyssey.”* Perhaps on his next visit the Professor will learn more about Tolkien’s literary roots here.

**David Robbie, Project Leader.**



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Whether or not, you love or hate the snow, unless winter has another "sting" in its tail, it seems on reflection that this year our area has got off lightly from the threat of wintery conditions. Indeed there are all the signs of an early spring season upon us. In no time at all, our Best Kept Village stalwarts will be turning their attentions on how to make our villages look prize-worthy contenders for the coming year's competitions. If you can muck in with them please do so – I know they need all the help they can get and meanwhile, we can all contribute by keeping our own gardens and local areas looking good – which all helps.

Back in the autumn of last year, the Parish Council took time out to look at some of the projects we could aspire to that would be for the benefit of our neighbourhood. The list will never be exhaustive, as there will always be something that needs doing. Therefore we need to prioritise projects and of course not forgetting there will always be 'events' that force us to change course from other aspirations!

An immediate requirement is to look to the replacement of the JPF play equipment for smaller children which is deteriorating beyond the point of reasonable maintainability. In this newsletter, there is another article about the possibility of a small scale local facility on the Green near Oldfields Crescent.

Another major opportunity which is being given serious consideration is the improvement of the Memorial Hall car park and a link pathway between that, St John's school grounds and the surgery car park. St John's is applying for a grant to enhance play provision in the school field. In return for gaining access to the Hall, with its stage facility etc., for school plays, they have agreed to allow folk using the Hall access to the school playing fields. A major bonus will be the link to the surgery carpark providing some relief to the congestion there.

Additional focus will be given to public footpath improvements where we can work with local walking groups to enhance the countryside access in our Parish. Remember, if you are aware of any footpath issues such as blocked or constrained access, broken styles, missing signs, etc.) then please contact the clerk so that it can be added to the list.

Proposals for the names of the new roads in the development adjacent The Ring were



Councillor Andy Cooper

submitted via the Borough Council and in the opinion of the Parish Council had little or no connection with our area. After consulting with local historian and Tolkien expert, Dave Robbie, we realised for legal reasons, we couldn't use names directly associated with Tolkien, which would have been ideal given the location of the development between The Ring and Rock Cottage. However, Dave was able to provide us with a range of notable folk who lived in our villages at the same time as the Tolkiens, and following some discussion with the developer the names of:

#### ■ EMERY DRIVE

after Fr Augustin Emery, the Parish Priest at St John's in Great Haywood (1914-1927) and with whom the Tolkiens lodged for a short time

#### ■ BRUTON GARDENS

after Rev George Bruton, Vicar at St Stephen's Church, Great Haywood (1895-1920)

#### ■ YELLAND WALK

after Teresa Mary Yelland, the Postmistress (1909-1974)

I'm sure you will agree with me that it is fitting that we are able to use this opportunity to commemorate these folk who were such an active part of our Parish around 100 years ago!

You may have already heard that our Neighbourhood Plan has passed the Independent Examination. It has now been submitted to the Borough Council requesting that they arrange for a local referendum at which all residents will be asked if they support the plan or not. Whichever way you choose to vote, **it is important that you do vote** because this plan (based on feedback from residents and other stakeholders) will

## BEST KEPT VILLAGE

The BEST KEPT VILLAGE Committee held its Annual General Meeting on 2nd February. The Chairman, Amyas Stafford Northcote, congratulated everyone as the Parish can boast two R.H.S. Gold Medals and one Joint 3rd Place in the Best Kept Village Competition for 2015. The Committee agreed to enter both Competitions again this year, as well as entering the R.H.S. Neighbourhood Awards – this means we need YOUR HELP; anything you can do, just picking up a bit of litter, keeping front gardens well-tended, picking up after your dogs and NOT throwing the full bag into the nearby hedge!

We are all very proud of our villages, and continually try to improve things, so please join us, we NEED YOU.

Contact Anne Clendon  
on 01889 808214  
or arclendon@gmail.com

dictate how our area will be managed for a whole range of issues over the coming decades. The current intention is to hold the referendum at the same time as the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May. There will be plenty of publicity to remind you about the event, though it is obviously your choice which way you choose to vote.

In this report, I'd also like to publically welcome our two new councillors who have been co-opted on to the council to fill two casual vacancies in the Little Haywood Ward. They are **Cllr Andrew Dunn** from Great Haywood and **Cllr Jane Featonby** from Little Haywood. I hope they enjoy their time with the rest of the team and I look forward to them being able to contribute in a positive manner to the work of your Council.

Finally, let me wish you all a Happy Easter and an uplifting springtime.

Councillor Andy Cooper



# OLDFIELDS CRESCENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Green by Oldfields Crescent is land that is owned by Colwich Parish Council. The Council has, in recent months, learnt that it is also responsible for the unsightly hedge along the A51 the other side of the metal fence.

Unfortunately, the metal fence is not preventing children from accessing the A51. Consequently, the Council arranged for the existing hedgerow to be 'laid' in the traditional manner by a specialist landscaping company. This is good ecological practice which will ultimately provide an impenetrable barrier. After a few years, once the hedgerow is suitably established, it should be possible to remove the old metal fence and integrate the area into the Green thus providing better protection for children and a considerably enhanced appearance to the area.

*We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that, under a local byelaw,*

**Ball games are not allowed on the Green.**

Many issues were raised by residents during the surveys for the Neighbourhood Plan. One of these was the lack of play area provision in Great Haywood. Currently, there are two play areas in Little Haywood – one at the JPF and the other (owned by the Borough



**Before**

Council) in the middle of the St Mary's estate. Whilst it may be reasonable to expect older children to be able to make their own way to the JPF, that cannot be said for younger children. Therefore access to the JPF equipment is generally by children brought by parents or grandparents in cars.

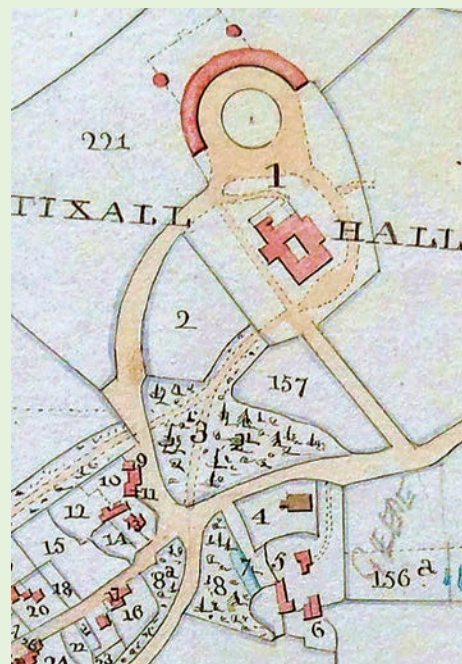
In order to meet this identified need the Council is investigating the feasibility of providing a small play area (excluding swings etc.) on the Oldfields Crescent Green. This would be designed specifically for very small children/toddlers.

In order to gauge residents' opinions, we will be holding a consultation event on the Green initially to investigate whether residents would support the concept of a play area for toddlers and small children. The Council will also have illustrations, from potential suppliers, showing the type of play equipment that could be erected. The Clerk has met with about 20 play equipment providers and obtained details of potential layouts. This consultation event will be held during late March to early April, once the weather has improved. We will then make an informed decision based on responses received.

**Cllr Andy Cooper**



**After**



## DIGITISATION OF COLWICH TITHE MAPS

The Haywood Society's first meeting of 2016 featured a talk by Mr Richard Totty, the Chairman of the Friends of Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Archives, about the project to digitize all of Staffordshire's Tithe Maps.

The Tithe Maps are carefully surveyed, hand-drawn maps showing the shapes and locations of each property in relation to other features such as roads, footpaths, buildings, trees and water-courses as they were in about 1836. The ownership, tenancy and use of the land, its area and the amount of the annual tithe (tax) due, is also available. Together they provide an invaluable 'snapshot' in the first half of the nineteenth century, of great use to both local and family historians.

The estimated cost of digitising the two Colwich maps is £120 for Colwich Township and £60 for Fradswell Township (now part of Colwich). The Parish Council has contributed £100 towards this work and an anonymous donor has given £20. The Haywood Society presented Mr Totty with a cheque for £160 to support those maps which, so far, have no sponsors.

**Dr. Alan Bloor**



**Chairman:**

**Cllr. Andy Cooper**

**E: andy.cooper@colwich.staffslc.gov.uk**

**Clerk:**

**Michael Lennon**

**E: clerk@colwich.staffslc.gov.uk**

**Parish Office:**

**St Mary's Road, Little Haywood, ST18 0TX**

**T: 01889 882665**

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**[www.colwich.info](http://www.colwich.info)**