



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023 No. 115

TWINNING

Whilst it seems a long time ago, the 24th October 2023 was a significant date for the Colwich & Haywoods Twinning Association as it saw the arrival of 15 visitors from Rimbach, Germany to mark the 40th Anniversary of the link between our two communities.

The Twinning Charter was signed at Shugborough Hall in October 1983 by the Chairman of Colwich Parish Council and the Burgermeister of Rimbach. In the ensuing years, many visits have taken place and life-long friendships formed.

To mark this 40th Anniversary, a programme of events was arranged including visits to the Dorothy Clive and Trentham Gardens, at our guests' request, as well as a day out in Derbyshire visiting Carsington Water and Cromford Mill.



Of particular significance to our villages was the planting of a commemorative tree on the field purchased by the Council to become a Community Garden of Remembrance.

At the same time, a tree was planted by Cllr Christine Hill in memory of her late husband, Francis, who farmed this field for many years.

The culmination of the visit was a Farewell Dinner held at the Memorial Hall with food provided by "Let's Cook Ukraine". Having food provided by a group from war-torn Ukraine was felt to reflect the spirit in which Twining was conceived: Peace, Friendship, Care for fellow human beings. The meal was enjoyed by all, especially our visitors who relished the Ukrainian sausage!



Sadly, the passage of 40 years has seen our numbers dwindle. As there are now insufficient volunteers to form an effective working committee, the administration of the Association has been passed back to the Parish Council for safekeeping until a younger generation comes forward to take over. Our links with Rimbach remain strong and the Charter, signed 40 years ago, still stands.

Anyone who is interested in taking the Association forward into a new era should contact the Parish Chief Officer. A warm welcome in Rimbach awaits whoever wishes to take up the reins.

SUSTAINABILITY IN COLWICH & THE HAYWOODS



Who are we?

SinCH is a growing voluntary group of local people aiming to make ecologically sustainable living in our community a reality.

What are our aims

- To find ways to pursue a more sustainable lifestyle.
- To reconnect with nature and enhance biodiversity.
- To connect, socialise and support each other.
- To be aware of the positive progress which is happening.

We hold monthly events, to which all are welcome.

Green Drinks

- First Tuesday 7:30pm - 9pm. Sports & Social Club
- 6th February: the Economics of Happiness film.
- 5th March: Natural Household Cleaning Products.
- 2nd April: Re-thinking Food focusing on local produce.

Coffee Morning

- Third Wednesday 10:30am - 12:30pm Lamb & Flag

Socialise and enjoy drinks & cakes.

Buy plastic free goods & refills from Roots Larder, Stafford.

Short talk on a range of "Sustainability" topics.

Recycle difficult items.

Swap information on reuse, repair and upcycle.

Local plants, vegetables & seeds to buy/swap.

We hold other events throughout the year to which all are welcome, including guided local walks, visits to nature reserves. This year we are planning a trip to the Centre for Alternative technology plus a tour of Veolia's recycling plant.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Saturday 25th November saw the annual Christmas lights switch-on event at the Jubilee Playing Field. In a change to 2022, the event started earlier in the late afternoon and culminated with switch-on of the main tree.



The evening commenced with some festive music provided by Marc from Mills and Son Stage Services who provide the sound system for the evening.



Lucky Lee, from Stafford, added a cheeky bit of magic and fun to the event, livening up the young children who gathered around the stage. You may remember Lee from the summer fete or even you might have seen him on The Apprentice.

Next saw the welcome return of crowd favourite The Mighty Jamma the winner of three National Steel Band Soloist Championships of Great Britain. Jamma entertained us with a selection of Christmas music in his unique style. The final hour of the evening was given over to our three primary schools who sang a medley of Christmas songs and carols.



We were delighted to welcome Isla Faragher (Anson Primary School); Sophia Piper (Colwich Primary School) and Celia Bould-Yates (St John the Baptist Primary School).

The three children performed their task fantastically turning on not just the Christmas tree lights but also the extended lights above the play park.

Besides our wonderful entertainment, we were pleased to welcome some fantastic food from JMA Catering Fish and Chip van; Hugo's Bar; Nelly's Delhi and WeCatering. Drinks were available from Edd Carney's bar and Hugo's Bar.

Finally, what is Christmas without a visit from the man himself. We were delighted, once again, to welcome Santa and Mrs Claus to our event and to their new Grotto with lots of Christmas Trees and decorations.



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

The teachers who coached the choirs.

The caterers.

Marc who operated the sound system.

All our performers.

Santa, Mrs Claus and all their helpers.

Last, but not least, each and every one of you who turned up on the night to help us begin the festive season in style and to raise money for our Charities: Little Laura and Blood Bikes.

A special Thank You goes to Ms Jarrett, Headteacher of Anson School, for the kind loan of the stage.

Please let us know if there are any changes or additions you would like to see to the event.

Do you know of other local food stalls we could approach? Are there any local bands or groups who could provide entertainment?

What other entertainment/rides should we consider? Is the timing of the event (4pm – 7pm) right?

We look forward to seeing you again on the 30th November for the 2024 Christmas lights switch-on event.

Finally, we arrived at the highlight of the evening, the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. This year saw the return of the much anticipated, by your Councillors, school poster competition. We invited the pupils of our three primary schools to draw and colour posters to advertise the Switch-on event.

The Council's Events Committee had the difficult, but very enjoyable, tasks of considering all of these wonderful entries and selecting one winner from each school to assist us with the switch-on.



Isla



Sophia



Celia

christmas lights competition

The full Christmas Lights competition returned this year with many returning entries as well as some new displays. We decided this year to include all those who had entered the street competition into the individual house competition as well.

A total of 20 Individual Household displays were considered and voted on. A very close vote ensued, and we are delighted to announce that this year's individual and street display winners are:

INDIVIDUAL

48 The Uplands, Great Haywood



WINNER

Amy and William Davies Hill.

13 Hawkesmore Drive, Little Haywood



Second
Mr & Mrs Hildreth.

Joint Third

Ava & Paul, 1 High Chase Rise



Jack & Thomas
16 Devereux Gardens



Highly Commended

Jones Family, The Laurels, Coley Lane



Mr & Mrs Tams, 31 Devereux Gardens



Lee & Hannah,
51 Devereux Gardens



THE WINNERS



STREET WINNER

Catherine Stevenson



Devereux Gardens

POSITION	ADDRESS	AVERAGE
WINNER	48 The Uplands	9.42
RUNNER UP	13 Hawesmore Drive	8.67
RUNNER UP	16 Devereux Gardens	7.92
	1 High Chase Rise	7.92
HIGHLY COMMENDED	The Laurels, Coley Lane	7.58
	31 Devereux Gardens	7.58
	51 Devereux Gardens	7.58

SANTA

Santa visiting Great Haywood



Santa's Helpers

Monday 11th December saw a very special visitor to Great Haywood. Santa made space in his busy diary to visit us for a second time, after his visit for the switch-on event. Starting from the Jubilee Playing Field he travelled through the Millers Croft and Rockhouse estates before visiting the children along Little Tixall Lane, the Uplands and then onto the Oldfields estate and the streets off Main Road.

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

CIVIC AMENITY VISITS

The popular civic amenity (skip) visits will continue again in 2024, following a decision by the Parish Council at its 21st December 2023 meeting.

Dates

Saturday 17 February 2024
Saturday 27 April 2024
Saturday 22 June 2024
Saturday 17 August 2024
Saturday 19 October 2024
Saturday 7 December 2024

What can be collected?

These visits are for excess general waste that cannot be disposed of using the usual Blue, Green and Brown bins or through the household waste recycling centres in Rugeley, Uttoxeter, Stafford or Stone.

When?

10:00am to Noon.

Where?

Jubilee Playing Field carpark

Items collected on these Civic Amenity visits are not recycled or reused due to contamination issues caused by the unknown composition of waste deposited on each visit.

Please note - sofas and armchairs are not accepted.

This service is not for business/commercial waste.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"There is nothing magical about the flip of the calendar, but it represents a clean break, a new hope and a blank canvas."
Jason Soroki

Whether you celebrate the New Year with a party or pyjamas and a good book, the New Year is a symbol for all of us. We plan new beginnings and make resolutions to improve our health of activities. With that in mind, I would like to put out a request to anyone linked with a group or club in our community. Please let us know what you're doing and if you have any events coming up. We can put it in the quarterly newsletter and help spread the word for you.

If you have any issues around our community, and you are not certain which authority to approach, there is information available via the Colwich Parish Council website or by contacting the Chief Officer to the Council (details below)

Stafford Borough Council website
www.staffordbc.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council website
www.staffordshire.gov.uk

There is a lot of information on all these websites, so do have a look.



If you do not have a computer or cannot find the answer to your question, please contact the Parish Office so that you can be signposted to the correct authority. This will ensure your issue is addressed in a timely manner.

I would encourage you, if you have a smart phone, to download the Borough and County Council apps in order to report matters.

If you need to report an issue to the Borough Council the app is called: "Stafford BC". I enclose a screenshot from the Home Page.



If you need to report an issue to the County Council, including Highways, the app is called "MyStaffs". I enclose a screenshot of the Home Page and Report It page.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you all a safe and contented New Year.

Cllr Wendy Plant

STAFFING

"The title "Clerk", for the Council's Chief Executive Officer, is honourable, short and familiar"
[Arnold-Baker para 9.16 (13th Edition, page 70)].

This position is mirrored in Erskine May on Parliamentary Authority where it notes that the Clerk of the Parliaments is "the Head of the House Administration, consisting of the permanent staff of the House. The Clerk of the Parliaments is ex officio Chairman of the Management Board and is in effect the House's 'Chief Executive' [erskinemay.parliament.uk/section/6413/the-clerk-of-the-parliaments/].

The dictionary definition of a Clerk is "a person employed in an office or bank to keep records, accounts, and undertake other routine administrative duties." Consequently, the term is open to misunderstanding and does not convey the true nature of the role. To avoid this misunderstanding the Magistrate's Courts Service, for instance, uses the term "Legal Advisor" to distinguish between the legally qualified nature of their "Clerks" compared to those in the Crown Court.

The Council decided, at its 21st December 2023 meeting, to change the title of its officers and to move away from the archaic ambiguous term of Clerk. The Council considered various titles for the "Clerk" and decided that many of these had connotations not in line with what it was trying to achieve e.g. Chief Executive Officer did not sound correct as such a title is often perceived as aimed at a large private sector organisation.

The Council decided to opt for Chief Officer, for the Clerk, and to retitle the Deputy Clerk as Deputy Chief Officer.

The Council also decided to establish, in due course, the position of Head Groundsman, answering directly to the Chief Officer, to oversee the work of the Lengthsmen.

CLEANER

The Council wishes to employ 2 part time cleaners (4 hours per week each) to clean the JPF toilets every evening, so they may remain open longer each day, lock the gates and clean the Parish Office.

Please contact the Chief Officer for further information.



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