

# Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023 No. 113

### SPACE FOR NATURE



- Delivering Colwich Parish Council's Green Infrastructure Plan -

Space for Nature is a new and exciting community venture taking place across the Colwich parish area. It's open to everyone and is going to make a real difference to our local environment and our quality of life.

#### What's it all about?

We are working to protect and enhance our local green spaces and to give nature a helping hand. Local people have banded together to help

this process and we are asking for your involvement too!

#### What can I do?

Nature needs you to do your bit – there are lots of ways to get involved:

- Garden at home with nature in mind.
- Join up with neighbours to make your street greener and more wildlife-friendly.
- Help us map the wildlife we already have – we are especially interested in birds, hedgehogs, bats, trees, hedgerows and more.
- Help provide more nesting boxes, bug hotels and hedgehog homes.
- Join us in planting and sowing areas of land.

- Help us look after these nature-friendly sites.

Please let us know what you're already doing, we're keen to build up a knowledge base of nature friendly spaces in the area, this helps to map nature corridors too!

#### How do I get involved?

Please get in touch using one of these routes and we'll make sure you are in the loop: e-mail any of the following:

[info@sinch.earth](mailto:info@sinch.earth) or  
[cpinbloom2@gmail.com](mailto:cpinbloom2@gmail.com)



### A HISTORY OF LIFE IN YOUR VILLAGE

Within the next few months, David (Dave) Robbie, one of our most significant local historians, will be launching his new book entitled–

#### Great Haywood, Past, Present, People and Places.

Dave moved to the area to take up the post of Head of History at Rugeley Grammar School in 1966. His interest in the history of the area grew. His book has been a labour of love long in the making. It started life as a series of articles for the church Contact magazine that just grew and grew.

As Dave's historical interests are many and varied, getting his book to the stage when it could go off to the publisher has suffered several delays. Dave was a key person in the villages' commemoration of the centenary of the First World War. He also created an impressive exhibition about JRR Tolkien, which travelled to a variety of venues around the county.



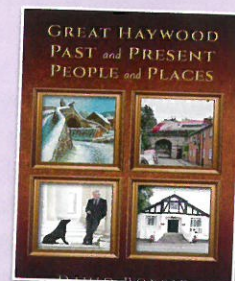
However, further distractions have been resisted and the manuscript has now been accepted, and gone through its first proof reading, by a publisher of considerable international reach. The publisher considers it to be a 'comprehensive and impressive read' that 'will intrigue and fascinate its target audience' so we are obviously in for a great treat.

The contents of the book are wide and varied and of course include Dave's fascination with the life and works of JRR Tolkien and the close connection that he had with our villages & Cannock Chase. The articles written on this topic have passed the scrutiny of the Tolkien Estate and the Tolkien Archivist at the Bodleian Library, Oxford – impressive indeed!

The date of the book launch can't be predicted precisely. It is hoped, however, for a launch on the weekend of 24th/25th June 2023, at the Great Haywood Memorial Hall. The event will consist of displays of items of local interest and will involve local schools and societies. You will be able to meet the author and purchase your very own copy of his work.

Dave wishes the proceeds from his book to be donated to village organisations.

Look out for further information announcing the launch date.



We have been offered the opportunity for two one hour shows for 200 guests per performance at the Jubilee Playing Field in 2024.

There are currently no confirmed dates but keep a look out. There will be advertising and the ticket sales will be directly with the National Festival Circus. The National Festival Circus is animal free.

Website–  
[National Festival Circus](http://www.nationalfestivalcircus.com)

# Great Haywood Memorial Hall



Among the many regular events we hold at the Memorial Hall, the Committee provided a 3-course post-Christmas feast for nearly 60 local people on 27th January 2023. Our community lunches have been popular for many years, with the

inevitable break over the lockdown years. We decided to broaden our scope and moved from catering for around 25 people to as many as wanted to come. We issued invitations to all those who come to our regular coffee mornings and saw an increase of more than double the previous numbers.

After lunch, we welcomed Anson School Choir who entertained us beautifully and made a perfect end to the time together.

## Coffee mornings

10:00am – Noon second Tuesday in each month.

## Tasty Treats

10:00am – Noon fourth Tuesday in every month

*Both events are open to everyone, so why not come along and enjoy getting together.*

# THE HAYWOODS' FLOWER AND VEG SHOW SEPTEMBER 2023



This year's show will be held in the Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall on **Sunday September 10th**. Everybody is welcome either to exhibit the results of their efforts or simply to admire the variety and quality of the exhibits. The many Classes include flowers, vegetables, fruit, baking, preserves, art and photography and handicrafts. Remember it is just a local village show and newcomers should not be apprehensive about entering. There is even a special trophy just for you to win. It really is a fun day!

As a result of generous sponsorship from Colwich and Little Haywood Community Association, particular emphasis this year is being placed on the Classes for children and young people to enter.

The full Schedule of Classes and entry forms will be available soon.

Further information or how to join the organising team can be found on our website–

[www.haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com](http://www.haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com)  
or email us at–  
[haywoodsflowerandvegshow@outlook.com](mailto:haywoodsflowerandvegshow@outlook.com)

Also keep an eye on our Facebook page 'Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show'.

**Jim Sarjant, Chairman**



# KING CHARLES III CORONATION

It will soon be here. The parish of Colwich is getting ready to celebrate so come and join us to celebrate in a truly Royal way.

Following last year's successful Platinum Jubilee event, there will be a traditional village Fete to be held on the Jubilee Playing Field. The Fete will be on Sunday 7 May 2023 starting a 2 pm. The opening ceremony will include the Haywood Community Choir and then we can enjoy a variety of stalls, food and refreshments. There will be live music, entertainment for the children and we hope that you will support our stall holders who are local independent business owners and our local voluntary groups who support a variety of different charities and enterprises.

In the evening we are pleased to welcome back our own Tom Vaughan with the food vans and bar running through the evening.

If you would like a stall at the Fete, please contact the Clerk

Please note: The Beacon will not be lit following guidance from the Pageant Master in consultation with His Majesty.



# SCARECROW COMPETITION

In recent years, we have supported a Scarecrow competition bringing colour and joy to the community. This year, the competition will be held on the weekends of 8th/9th and 15th/16th July.

Have you entered before, if so, please enter again. Have you thought about entering, but never got around to it. Now is your chance. If you haven't thought about it, why not give it a go? Now is your chance to get your thinking caps on, encourage your family and start gathering your props.

The application form will be in the next copy of the Newsletter.

The more scarecrows, the more colourful the village and the more joy spread



## COUNCIL TAX

Colwich Parish Council must avoid setting a budget which might breach the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Council has, therefore, applied a cost-of-living increase across its budget heads for 2023/24 as well as an allowance for the revised pay scales issued by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC).

Further funds have been allocated towards a number of ongoing as well as medium to long-term projects.

The Council has moved Reserves around to free up £100,000 to install a new car park and drainage solution at the Jubilee Playing Field. Works will not commence until we receive confirmation from Stafford Borough Council that it will make section 106 (house builders' contribution) available to the Council to reimburse these Reserves.

The Council has upgraded its two existing defibrillators and added a further two this year, one at the JPF and one on the Colwich & Little Haywood village hall. The Council has allocated a further £3,000 to install additional defibrillators in Great Haywood and Colwich, once appropriate sites are identified.

In total, the budget for 2023/24 has been set at £322,263.52 including £6,042.71 local Council tax Support Government Grant, £43,994.52 carried forward for preliminary works to the JPF and £100,000 moved from Reserves to be reimbursed from section 106. The final charge to you, the local taxpayers, will be £176,226.29. This equates to an annual charge of £92.39 per Band D property; £82.12 per Band C and £71.86 per Band B or a 2.9% increase on the 2022/23 level.

Oldfields Lane - before



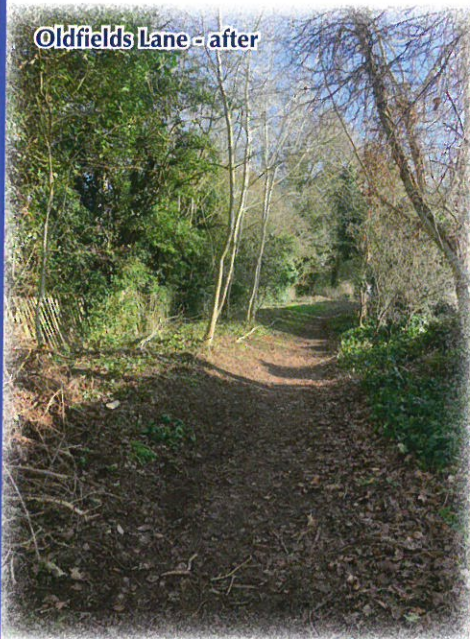
## BLUEBELLS

A huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who turned out this morning to plant the Bluebells and work on the Oldfields bridleway.

One thousand Bluebells in the green were planted throughout the three villages.

*Peter Rothwell-Jackson  
Secretary, Colwich Parish in  
Bloom*

Oldfields Lane - after



## FUTURE PLANS FOR SHUGBOROUGH

Since opening as a National Trust property in 2017, a continuing programme of conservation and visitor facility improvements have been taking place across the estate at Shugborough. The programme has included conservation work on the Tower of the Winds, Walled Garden walls, and refurbishment of the tearoom and café. This year there will be lime washing, timber repairs and redecoration of the servants' wing of the Mansion, and Midden Yard.



With growing numbers of visitors to Shugborough the latest stage in the programme of work has been to investigate options for improving the car parking, vehicle entrance, Visitor Welcome point, and associated facilities. Due to planning restrictions and the impact on the Grade 1 listed landscape the current car park cannot be extended.

The National Trust is proposing to relocate the entrance, car park and Visitor Welcome to the eastern side of the estate, to conserve, protect and open up more access to Shugborough, for everyone, for ever. The work is intended to take place over the next few years with an anticipated opening of the new entrance and car park in Spring 2025.

A planning application is being submitted for the work which also includes reinstating historic paths and routes on the estate to open up more access for visitors. The planning application will be submitted to Stafford Borough Council.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to call into the community information sessions that took place at the Great Haywood Memorial Hall at the start of February to find out more about the proposals.

We will be holding further information sessions throughout the year for local communities around Shugborough to find out more about the proposals and hear more about the conservation work taking place at the estate.

## No Mow May

It's that time of year again. Did you know that not mowing your lawn for a month can create a tenfold increase in nectar available to bees and other pollinators? Between 1980 and 2013 every square kilometre in the UK lost an average of 11 species of bee and hoverfly. Now we can make a difference by leaving longer gaps between cuts or even leaving a patch in your garden to grow wildflowers can make such a difference. So why not leave the mower in the shed for a month.

Find out more at [www.gardensillustrated.com](http://www.gardensillustrated.com) or [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk).

# ELECTION

## 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023



**If in doubt contact the Borough Council BEFORE 17th April.**

**Voter ID** has been introduced from the May elections. Acceptable ID includes: Passport; Driving Licence; certain Bus Passes; Proof of Age card; National ID card from an EEA state. If you do not have an accepted form of ID you may apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate either through the Borough Council on 01785 619424 or [elections@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@staffordbc.gov.uk) or through the Government website:

[www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)

### What is the Parish Council?

The Council, formed following the 1894 Local Government Act, is the first rung of local government. The majority of its funding comes through a charge on the council tax, known as the Precept, which it uses to improve the environment across the villages and to support local groups. Fuller details of the 2023/24 proposals are elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Colwich Parish has 14 Councillors (7 from Great Haywood and 7 from Little Haywood/Colwich). Once elected these Councillors represent the entire Parish.

### Why should you vote?

Democracy works best when the community gets to vote for whom it wants to be its representatives. Simply by voting sends a clear message of your opinion to the Council.

It is said 'people get the local council they deserve'. Do you know who in your community is standing for election and what they hope to achieve? The names of candidates will be published in the parish noticeboards and website. Speak to them to help you decide for whom to vote.

The Council spends your council tax so be sure that you have voted for the people you want. If you do not vote, others will and their views may change your life.

**Please ensure you have registered to Vote.**

### What does a Parish Councillor do?

Day-to-day contact with local people so as to bring their concerns to the Council. Yes, there are meetings, but these serve as an avenue for Councillors to bring matters to the attention of colleagues so as to agree a Council position. A Parish Council email will be provided along with access to the Council's MStTeams account for sharing of ideas.

### Why should you stand?

Becoming a Parish Councillor provides you with a real opportunity to influence what happens in our villages and to make a difference to the lives of the people who live and work here. Democracy requires involvement from all corners of the community.

By becoming a Parish Councillor, you will be the person to whom the community will look to for help, guidance and support. Your main qualification is that you care about our villages. There is no one size fits all and indeed there is real strength in having Councillors with diverse backgrounds and interests. The 2019-23 Council, for instance, saw an age range of early 20s to 80. A final Council consisting of 8 women, including the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to 6 men. The national figure shows only 35% female representation to 65% male.

### How do I become a Parish Councillor?

All 14 seats are to be contested on 4th May. Nomination papers will be available from the Borough Council,

or the Parish Office, from 27th March and MUST be returned to the Civic Offices, in person, by no later than 4pm on Tuesday 4th April. You will need to satisfy certain criteria as will those who propose and second your nomination. The Statement of Persons Nominated will be published on Wednesday 5th April with the 'Notice of Poll', should one be required, being published on Tuesday 25th April for polling day on 4th May. The current Councillors will all retire on Tuesday 9th May, delayed due to the Coronation bank holiday, when the successful candidates take office.

### What happens after I am elected?

During the week commencing Tuesday 9th May, all successful candidates MUST attend the Parish Centre on St Mary's Road to complete their Acceptance of Office. Failure to complete this declaration before the Annual Meeting will automatically mean that the seat becomes vacant. The first, Annual, meeting of the new Council will take place at 7:30pm on Thursday 18th May. The first item will be to elect a Chairman for 2023/24. The current Chairman and Vice Chairman will remain in post until their successors are appointed, even if not re-elected, as per Local Government Act 1972 section 15(4), (7) and (8).

The Electoral Commission

You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID. Find out more at [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call 0800 328 0280



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