



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2024 No. 119

SCARECROW COMPETITION

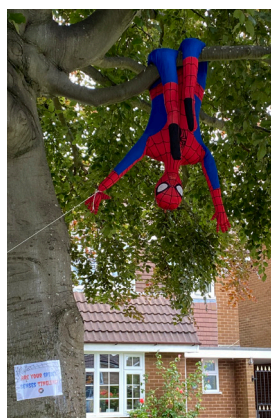


The ever-popular scarecrow competition returned for a fifth season over the summer. We received entries from across the parish in a close-run competition.

Thursday 3rd October saw the delayed prize giving evening with the winners of the Individual household and Street/Group competitions named and the trophies award by Cllr Annette Bloor (Vice Chairman, Colwich Parish Council).

HOUSEHOLD

Entrant	Average
Manor Farm Road	8.28
Shelley Cottage	7.94
The Moorings	7.56
Chestnut Cottage	7.22
St Marys Road	6.44



STREET/GROUP

Pam's Childminding	8.11
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Congratulations to Gemma and Lee Stanaway



Congratulations to Pam Osbourne and all the little ones who helped build the scarecrows.

Thank you to all who entered and all those who took the time to vote.

FUTURE COMPETITIONS

You will, by now, have received an entry form for the Council's latest community competition for Halloween. Judging will commence shortly with the winner being announced at the Full Council meeting in December.

You will see enclosed an entry form for the Christmas lights competition. Judging will take place in mid-December with the winners announced at the meeting on 9th January 2025.

As ever, all entry monies will be donated to the Council's chosen charities.

FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW



The 2024 Show went down a storm – almost literally. Despite the challenging weather, the entrants rose above it all and produced some fantastic exhibits!

As always, the Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who entered, visited and supported the Show. We certainly have some very talented people among us.

We would like to thank Colwich Parish Council who sponsored us and are always very supportive of the Show. We were also very grateful to Canalside and the Memorial Hall Ladies who so generously donated some amazing cakes for our refreshments. So many local businesses supported us by donating raffle prizes – we really felt honoured, and lots of people went home with prizes – whether that was a trophy, exhibit prize card or a gift from the raffle. It's always a pleasure to have SinCH with us on the day, and this year we were also proud to welcome the RNLI, so we hope you found time for a chat with them.

We hope you all enjoyed the day, picked up some ideas for next year or were even inspired to aim for a trophy in 2025. If you would like to join the team, or have any ideas for future Shows please let us know via email at haywoodsflowerandvegshow@outlook.com

A selection of winners on the day included:

The Stan Hopper Memorial Plate (Best Vegetable in Show) – T Minton (for runner beans)

The Bishton Hall Cup (Children 8-11 years) – M Tabernor

The Flower and Vegetable Show Trophy (Children 12-16 years) – K Hurley

Longest Runner Bean (16 years and under) – A Lycett

The Broome Junior Baking Cup (Junior Baking) – K Hurley

The Francis Hill Cup (most successful New Entrant) – J Upton

The Alan Fuller Perpetual Challenge Cup (Second overall runner up) – C Startin and J Tabernor – *Joint*

The Peter Handy Perpetual Challenge Cup (First overall runner up) – J Upton

The Earl of Lichfield Challenge Cup (Overall Winner) – T Minton

The full list of winners may be found on the Parish Council website.



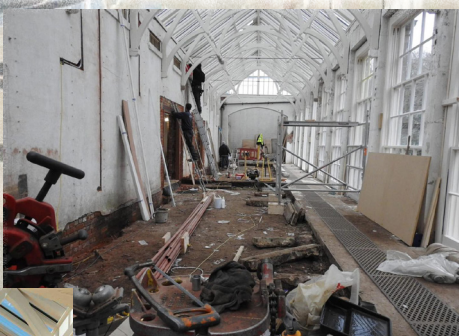
INGESTRE ORANGERY

Today, The Orangery is a beautiful venue, situated near St. Mary's Church at Ingestre, complimenting

the historic church designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1673. Couples often marry in the church and have their wedding party at The Orangery, enjoying the spacious, light, elegant venue and the stunning gardens.

This venue though may have easily been forgotten if Friends of the Ingestre Orangery (FOIO), a charity formed in 2012 did not start an initiative for its' restoration. They were supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Historic Houses foundation and other organisations and finally in 2019, The Orangery was transformed into a building for community use, a venue for weddings, art exhibitions, concerts and other functions. During this period volunteers were crucial in the process of transforming it.

Before the restoration started there was a fig tree going through the roof and a fox lived in The Orangery which had been closed off for the public due to safety reasons. It was volunteers who cleared the building and the gardens and



it is volunteers who still today plant flowers, cut the grass and maintain the gardens. Volunteers are currently working on transforming the Apple store building into a space for volunteers and a café that will host a variety of activities.

The Orangery is always looking for volunteers, so if you have skills in maintenance, love gardening or wish to join us at the Board of Trustees of

FOIO come and see us, we'd love to work with you. Or you can send us an email a volunteers@ingestreorangery.co.uk

Volunteering is a great way to become a part of a community, share your knowledge, learn new skills and maintain a healthy lifestyle. We have great plans for The Orangery for 2025 and beyond, so we look forward to meeting new volunteers. If you have never been to The Orangery, you can bring a picnic any day and enjoy the gardens, you will probably run into some of our existing volunteers.

Maja Trajkovska
Fundraising Trustee

MOTHERS' UNION

During the past year the Mothers' Union have set up a "Rise Up Campaign" against abuse and gender-based violence. The campaign awards certificates, bronze, silver and gold to MU branches who have given assistance to those who have been abused and find themselves without anywhere to live through no fault of their own.



Since the Pathway project was started over 25 years ago St Stephen's Mothers' Union has supported this project and over the years we have reached out to the school and to all three villages for added support which as usual the people have turned up trumps. At the recent AGM for the whole Diocese of the Mothers' Union held in Doxey, St Stephen's along with Penkridge where awarded the Bronze certificate for the assistance given and for trying to make people aware of the abuse which women, men and children suffer. I do not know if other branches had been awarded certificates as some branches were not represented.

Although we collected the award really it is for everyone, Anson School, Great Haywood, Colwich and Little Haywood. Without this support we would not have achieved this award.

A very big thank you and let us work together to support charities such as these.

Claire Hunt - Branch Leader

ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

The Allotments Association entered the Royal Horticultural Society "In Your Neighbourhood" for the first time this year. The awards lunch was held on 14th September in Hereford. I am pleased to report that Colwich Allotments were awarded level 5 'outstanding, with a score of 91 out

of 100. Additionally, we also received one of the six discretionary trophies (within Heart of England) for Gardening Excellence. It goes without saying that myself, the committee and all our members are extremely proud of this achievement.



Helen Betts, the RHS Assessor noted:

"Whilst this is their first year as an IYN entry they have demonstrated total commitment to the three elements of the RHS judging criteria enabling them to achieve a very high standard in all areas."

Chris Johnson
Chairman, Colwich Allotments Association



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Summer has been and gone, and the long nights are drawing in. However, before we look ahead, congratulations to the winning entry for the annual scarecrow competition; the designs are always charming and the community spirit around this event continues to be incredibly wholesome. The scarecrow connoisseurs amongst us will have noticed that the Parish Council chose to hold this year's competition in July rather than September, this was done to complement the judging season for the Royal Horticultural Society "Britain in Bloom" campaign. Also, it was determined that a pre-summer holiday competition would avoid adding to the pressures felt in September – when the new school term kicks into full swing. For these reasons, we intend on keeping the competition in July.

Parish activities will resume in October, when the first parish-wide Halloween decoration competition will be held from Saturday 26th October until Sunday 3rd November. Please note – the Parish Council discourages the use of fake spider webs on the outside of their homes, as these have been shown to be hazardous to the local wildlife. Nevertheless, we look forward to seeing how the villages embrace the spirit of the season.

Further ahead, we look forward to hosting our annual Christmas lights switch-on event on Saturday 30th November at the Jubilee Playing Field (JPF), an afternoon/evening of food, fun and festivities that is everchanging. For those who have recently moved into the parish, this event serves as the parish's annual finale. As always, further information on upcoming events can be found in this newsletter.

On the topic of information, the Parish Council utilises seasonal newsletters, noticeboards, social media websites and has a dedicated website of its own. The Communications Committee oversees improvements to these methods of communication. To date, the Council's website has seen some restructuring, and the Parish Council Facebook page has increased its activity. One change that is coming to the newsletters is the addition of a rolling "Parish History" article – whereby residents are invited to submit photos and/or historical information on the area; we feel this will help educate younger generations on how the parish has evolved. This initiative was inspired by the recent works of local historian Mr David Robbie – author of Great Haywood: Past & Present, People and Places.

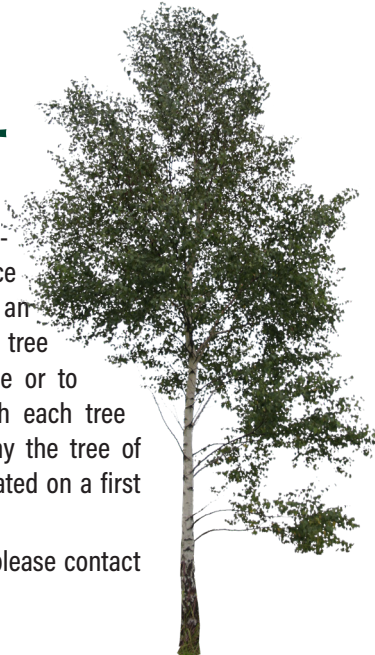
We appreciate that there are residents who do not use social media websites such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). With that in mind, we would be interested in hearing how we can improve our methods of communication further.

Cllr Steve Hardwick
Communications Committee Chair

MEMORIAL TREES

Colwich Parish Council has 12 trees on-hand to plant at the Garden of Remembrance located off Coley Lane. This presents an opportunity for residents to dedicate a tree in the memory of a departed loved one or to commemorate a local organisation, with each tree having a plaque produced to accompany the tree of choice. Please note – trees will be dedicated on a first come first serve basis.

For queries relating to tree dedications, please contact the Parish Chief Officer.



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD



Volunteers required to help improve and maintain the grounds of our beautiful Colwich St Michael's Church. A work party will meet 10.30 – 12.00 on the 1st Saturday every month, with the next meeting being 2nd November and so on.

There are a variety of tasks to choose from with all help much appreciated. Please bring any equipment you think would be useful. Thank you.

Martin Yule

Stay and Play Session



**Parents, Grandparents, Carers,
Toddlers, Babies and Bumps.
All Welcome.**

**Join us for a cup of tea, coffee, chat,
snack whilst the little ones play.
Every Thursday (Term Time) 9am – 11am
Great Haywood Memorial Hall
Pay as you go: £4 per session.**

Find us on Facebook: Coffee Babes and Bumps

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS



These marvellous people are volunteers who have been selected and trained by

West Midlands Ambulance Service, to provide a rapid response to 999 calls passed to them by WMAS. The idea is that they operate in a radius of approximately 5 miles and can get to a possible life-threatening situation in the vital first few minutes of an incident, before the paramedics arrive

The scheme has been initiated by Hixon Memorial Hall, with the plan that when the Community First Responders (CFRs) are financially self-sufficient they will become a standalone charity. When the scheme goes live during the summer, we will start with two qualified CFRs with two more waiting training.

The area which will benefit from the scheme stretches from Colwich, through the Haywoods, Hixon, Weston and Salt, to Sandon and all the rural communities in between.

We were very fortunate that as we were starting to put the project together in December 2023, Keele CFRs were in the process of buying a new emergency vehicle and needed to sell the old one, so the Memorial Hall stepped in and organised the purchase!

The financial forecast for the setting up in the first year, which included buying the car, insurance, uniforms and equipment, was £11,000. We started fundraising in February, with some events in Hixon Memorial Hall. With generous donations from local businesses, private individuals and the additional support of some of the village halls in the area, we are approximately three quarters of the way to our target, which is an excellent achievement in such a short time.

The whole basis of the scheme is that it really is a genuine community project, manned, run and financed by the community that it serves, so a massive thank you to all those kind people who have supported us so far.

If you would like more information or to donate, please contact Mark Farrington on 07814453326 or you can use the QR code which takes you straight to our Just Giving page.



WE WANT YOU TO MAKE 'CONTACT' WITH US

'Contact', the monthly parish magazine covering Colwich, Little Haywood and Great Haywood, is looking for volunteers to help produce and manage the magazine.

If you have the time and skills to help us with production of the magazine, selling advertising space, looking after the finances, distributing the magazine to subscribers, or even writing articles to appear in the magazine, we would love to hear from you.

You would work from home and give as much or as little time as you want to at a time to suit yourself. You would be working as part of an established experienced team who would give you all the support you need.

If you are interested in finding out about any of the roles and becoming part of the magazine, please email contactmagazinecolwich@gmail.com and we will get back to you.

GREAT HAYWOOD MEMORIAL HALL

As well as the Christmas Tree Festival in St Stephens over the weekend of 30 November/1 December, The Memorial Hall, just opposite the church, is having one of its craft fairs, showcasing local artists and crafters, where you can find that special and unique present for friends (or yourself!) between 10.00am and 3.00pm on 30th November.

At 7.30pm on Friday 6th December, we have our Christmas feel-good film - Harvey.

If you are looking for somewhere to hold a special party in the heart of Great Haywood, contact our booking secretary, Lindy Tel: 01889 881611; email lindyjarrett@gmail.com

YOUTH COUNCIL

THE YOUTH COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS. ANY YOUNG PERSON, LIVING IN THE PARISH, WITHIN YEAR 6 TO YEAR 13 IS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH COUNCIL'S CHIEF OFFICER SO A MEETING MAY BE ARRANGED TO AGREE NEW PLAY PROVISION AT THE JPF.



Chairman: Wendy Plant

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