



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025 No.123

Full Council	Parish Centre	6 th November	7.30pm
Remembrance Service	St Stephen's Church	9 th November	3.00pm
Armistice Day	St Michael's Church	11 th November	11.00am
Christmas Lights Switch On	JPF	29 th November	4pm – 6.45pm
Full Council	Parish Centre	18 th December	7.30pm
Full Council	Parish Centre	5 th February	7.30pm
Parish Assembly	TBC	9 th March	7pm for a 7.30pm start.

FUTURE EVENTS

What would you like the Parish Council to host in 2026?

We would love to hear your ideas on what kinds of community events you would like to see in the future. Whether it's workshops, outdoor festivals, family-friendly gatherings, or something entirely new, your suggestions are invaluable in helping us create activities that bring everyone together. Please share your thoughts and let us know what events would make our community even more vibrant and welcoming!

We would also love to hear about any upcoming events your Community Group has planned. Send us details, in plenty of time, and we will add them to the Dates for the Diary. We are also happy to add small posters to the JPF Noticeboard and to the Council social media pages.

FITTEST FARMER OF GREAT BRITAIN AWARD

Recently, I competed in the Farmers Weekly Fittest Farmer of Britain Award.

After qualifying at the Great Yorkshire Show – where over 70 applicants entered – I made it through to the final 10 in my age group (under 40). The final was held at The Farmers Dog Pub (Jeremy Clarkson's pub in the Cotswolds).

Following five gruelling fitness events, I'm thrilled to say that I won the Under-40 category -Fittest Farmer in Britain – and the award was presented to me by Jeremy Clarkson himself.

This has been a huge achievement for me, as it brings together both farming and my passion for sport and fitness. Looking ahead, I would love to explore how we could bring similar fitness-focused events to our local area, to get more people involved and showcase the positive side of farming and wellbeing.

Cllr Emily Meakin



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A neighbourhood plan is a community-led planning document that provides residents with the ability to shape the development and growth of their area by setting out policies for where and how new homes, shops, and other developments should occur, and by identifying and protecting local assets like green spaces.

The first Neighbourhood Plan for Colwich was approved in November 2016, following a referendum of all residents in September 2016, and now needs to be updated. We are looking for residents to join us in updating and refreshing the document to better reflect the community.

This will be a temporary committee and once the document is completed, it will stand down.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the Chief Officer.

GREAT HAYWOOD MEMORIAL HALL COMMUNITY LUNCH



More than 60 people sat down to a delicious lunch in the Memorial Hall on 10 September – home cooked ham or vegetarian quiche with loads of different salads and potatoes, followed by even more choice of sweets.

It's so good for everyone to have plenty of time to chat and laugh over a meal of good food so many thanks to the Hall Catering Team for all the work they put in to make it such a successful event.

VJ DAY

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of VJ day, on Friday 15th August, the villages came together to light the beacon on the Jubilee Playing Field.

Cllr Wendy Plant, Chairman of the Council, opened the evening with a welcome and an explanation of the eastern front. Testimonials were then read by former-MP Jeremy Lefroy, Borough Councillor Andy Cooper, Revd Mark Davys, and Cllr Plant.

Revd Mark Davys gave a blessing.

After the blessing, the beacon was lit, and bugler, Anita Small played the last post and reveille, and a two-minute silence was held.

The night ended with the National Anthem, and 'I vow to thee my country.'

SCARECROW COMPETITION

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

Thursday 2nd October saw the prize giving evening with the winners of the Individual, Household and Street/Group competitions named and the trophies award by Cllr Wendy Plant (Chairman, Colwich Parish Council).

Household

Twixt Bridges	8.53
Marlborough Close	7.80
Manor Farm	7.40
Shelley Cottage	7.13



**Congratulations to the
Bullock Family.**

Street/Group

St Michael's Church	8.41
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**Congratulations to
St Michael's Church.**

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



Marlborough Close
2nd Place



Manor Farm Road
3rd Place



Shelley Cottage
Highly Commended

LENGTHSMEN

Over the last few months, the Lengthsmen have continued with their predominant summer task of maintaining the grass areas across the villages.

The Lengthsmen have also maintained the JPF, St Mary's play park, as well as the emerging Field Of Remembrance off Coley Lane. Several new trees have been planted, along with remembrance plaques, in the Field as the Council pursues a formal change of use as well as planning permission for a car park area. A pictorial plan of the site is now available to view on our website showing which trees and benches remain available for memorial plaques.

As summer has moved into autumn, the Lengthsmen's role changes to preparing the village for the winter, including, Armistice Day, and Christmas.

The areas of the verges that have been left to grow wild, to support insects and other wildlife, have now been trimmed down ready for next spring. The vegetation along the front of Miller's Croft has been cut back to provide additional space for the new hedge planted in 2022 with saplings purchased from Roseacre. Lengthsman are also cutting back the vegetation from the road leading down into Little Haywood. Unfortunately, a tree on the Oldfields green had to be felled as it was flagged in our tree survey.



DEFIBRILLATORS

Further to the article by Cllr Glenn Hall, in the Spring Parish Council Newsletter, my wife and I met with representatives of the Council to discuss ideas on how to fund replacement pads whenever a machine had been used in an emergency. Replacement of out-of-date pads are routinely by the Parish Council.

Some of you may remember my story in the November 2020 edition of 'Contact'. It is now over five years since my life was saved by a defibrillator in the hands of the Burntwood and District Community First Responders. They were about to give a talk to a men's group who meet at Chasetown Methodist church about how to give CPR and use a defib. I had gone to that meeting, not knowing who was giving the talk that evening, and had a massive heart attack and cardiac arrest in front of them. Following a 'Blue light' journey to New Cross Hospital and quadruple heart bypass surgery I was able to return home a couple of weeks later. The rest, as they say, is history. Suffice to say I am still around to tell the tale, and I want to emphasise the importance of these machines being available to the general public when an emergency arises.

We live in a wonderful part of Staffordshire and are fortunate that the Parish Council, together with local businesses, have done much to promote and provide defibrillators in our villages. However, there is a need for a defibrillator in the Colwich area. These machines are not cheap to supply and fit and have some ongoing costs too, as Cllr Hall stated. It is understood that funding is available for another defibrillator once a suitable site is found – is there a business/property in Colwich willing to house a lifesaving machine?

As one who has first-hand experience of the value of these defibrillators I cannot impress upon you enough the need for these machines and their ongoing upkeep. You might be thinking that it can't happen to you – the stark truth is that it could! Age is no barrier, I know, personally, of a 19-year-old whose life was also saved by using a defibrillator.

Please don't leave it for others to act and don't leave it until it is too late.

Martyn Bourne

TWINNING – THE FUTURE FOR HAYWOODS AND RIMBACH, ODENWALD

The Twinning Association alliance was set up in 1983 to promote and foster the friendship and understanding between the people of Colwich and The Haywoods and those of Rimbach in Germany

Although we have not had a Twinning Committee for the last 2 years, friendships live on. The Association fell into abeyance in 2023, after celebrating 40 years of Twinning, due to dwindling numbers and the advancing years of many of the members. However, contacts continue amongst the remaining ex-Twinners and opportunities to meet up with old friends are always readily taken up.



Over the May Day weekend a small group of the Rimbach (Weschnitzal) Lions Club came to England at the invitation of the Stafford Lions. Eager to grab the opportunity to revisit Colwich & the Haywoods, eight old friends from Rimbach joined them and a happy weekend was spent by all remembering old times. En route to Birmingham airport on their return journey, a morning visit was made to Tamworth Castle followed by lunch before waving them goodbye, as we have done so many times in the past. Long may our contacts continue, be they formal or informal and maybe, sometime in the future, a young generation will be enthused to take up the reins of Twinning.

Over the past 40 years, many visits have taken place, and many people have enjoyed the experiences and friendship which have been formed. As time moves on, the association now needs to change and adapt to meet the needs of our communities.

It has been suggested that in the future, a community group would like to meet with a similar community group in Germany to share a joint passion. If you are in a gardening group, a choir or a member of a craft group, would you like to visit Germany as a group?

They would enjoy meeting up with a walking group, a sports group or a church group. There are many activities in our community. Please discuss this idea at your next meeting. If you want some guidance and support, please contact the Parish Office and we can advise you.

The possibilities are endless.

HAZELDENE HOUSE SURGERY

Hazeldene House Surgery has a Patient Participation Group which holds meetings every quarter, and a few items were raised at the last meeting, which may be of wider interest.

Dispensary

Unfortunately, patients have experienced a backlog with the service. This has mainly been due to delayed deliveries and some medications becoming unavailable from suppliers along with staff absences. To support this, we have advised patients, by text message and posters in the surgery, that we have extended the turnaround time to 5 working days for ordering their repeat medications. No one should be without medication, therefore if you have any issues please contact the surgery.

There has also been an increase in prescription home deliveries, which is a service the surgery can only offer to the housebound patients on their dispensing list. The surgery will be reviewing this and coordinating the days for set areas. Patients have been informed.

Winter vaccine plans

Covid and Seasonal Influenza Vaccines are now available to book for clinics from 1st October.

The NHS has restricted the autumn Covid vaccine to patients over 75 and/or immunosuppressed or in care homes. If you are eligible and have not booked yet, please contact the surgery to arrange an appointment. We are holding clinics at Little Haywood Village Hall on the 7th October; 21st October and 28th October.

Patients under the age of 65 but considered to have an at-risk condition, will be also invited for the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine.

Nasal Flu vaccines can be given to 2-3 yr olds and those at risk under 18 will be offered vaccines at school in the first place with surgery provision only if this is not possible.

Improvement Grant

The practice has been given a grant to expand its provision with 2 extra treatment rooms. Plans to convert the garage behind the surgery have been submitted to Stafford Borough Council for approval (Reference: 25/40921/FUL).

Car Parking

The Surgery car park is for the use of patients who are attending the surgery, for an appointment or collecting medication from Dispensary. Sadly, this facility has been abused by people who are not attending the surgery and making this very difficult for patients to park. Please do not park at the surgery during open hours unless you are attending the surgery.

Hazeldene House Surgery has approved the use of the car park for out-of-hours periods when the surgery is not being used.

Cllr Andy Cooper

Chairman – Hazeldene House Surgery PPG

HEARTS FOR THE MEMORY

The Council has now arranged for further deliveries of knitwear to County Hospital on behalf of Craft & Chat. Following the latest delivery we have received the following message from the Fundraiser Officer:

“My colleague, Sarah, from the main reception desk at County Hospital, has passed on your information with regards to the knitted donations you often drop at County in support of the departments within University Hospitals of North Midlands.

Across both County Hospital and Royal Stoke Hospital we often have items donated from kind and generous knitters in the community. These items consist of hats, blankets, knitted hearts, twiddle knits and often cardigans for the babies too. Each item we receive from you and others is very much welcomed and goes on to make an ever-lasting impact; especially the hearts and items people get to take home.

Thank you again for the recent donations, and those before.

Kindest regards, Tash Brown (Fundraiser Officer)”

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