



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026 No.126

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Haywoods Repair Café	12 th July, 9 th August, 13 th September. 2.00pm-5.00pm	Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall
Scarecrow Competition	The weekends of the 8 th -9 th , 15 th -16 th August.	
Family Fun Day Climbing Wall, Activities, Ice Cream Van	12 th August, 10.00am – 2.30pm	Jubilee Playing Field
Civic Amenity Refuse Lorry	15 th August, 10am – 12noon	Jubilee Playing Field
Full Council Meeting Monthly meeting of Colwich Parish Council	3 rd September, 7.30pm start	Parish Office
Welfare Fayre	14 th September, 6.00pm-7.30pm	Colwich Primary School
Community Update Meeting - A chance to have your say.	14 th September 7.30pm-9.00pm	Colwich Primary School
Where Two Lines Cross - A talk to commemorate the 1986 Colwich Railway Accident	20 th September 4.00pm	St Michael's and All Angels Church

If local community groups have events that they would like to put in this section of the Newsletter, contact communications@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk

PHOTO OF THE YEAR & CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Applications for Photo of the Year, and Citizen of the Year are now open.

If you have a photograph to enter, or a nomination for Citizen of the year, please contact the Chief Officer: clerk@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Results will be announced at the Parish Assembly in September.

CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF COMMITTEES 2026/27

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
FULL COUNCIL	CLLR PLANT	CLLR BLOOR
COMMUNICATIONS	CLLR HARDWICK	CLLR DUNN
COMPLAINTS	CLLR BLOOR	CLLR B FORSTER
EMPLOYMENT	CLLR BLOOR	CLLR MARTIN
ENVIRONMENT	CLLR BLOOR	CLLR B FORSTER
EVENTS	CLLR PLANT	VACANCY
FINANCE	CLLR PLANT	CLLR DUNN
LEISURE	CLLR DUNN	VACANCY
N'HOOD PLAN	CLLR PLANT	CLLR BLOOR
PLANNING	CLLR BLOOR	CLLR M FORSTER
POLICY	CLLR HARDWICK	CLLR DUNN
YOUNG PEOPLE	CLLR M FORSTER	CLLR LOWBRIDGE

LENGTHSMEN'S DIARY

As Spring ended and Summer began, the warm and wet weather has been very good for the grassed areas around the Parish. This has meant that the usual fortnightly rota for cutting has had to be changed to weekly in order to keep up with the growth rate. The contrast between what the Lengthsmen manage and what the Borough Council still cut is very evident around the Parish. Hopefully everyone who uses the play park on St Mary's can see the difference the Lengthsmen have made since we took over the management of the site.

Colwich Parish has many miles of public footpaths, and we rely on walkers to let us know if any need clearing to keep them passable, as we don't have the time to regularly check them all. Although we are unable to cut hedges at this time of year, we can still cut back growth that is obstructing footpaths. If you are concerned with any of the footpaths, then please let us know.

The Memorial Garden, off Coley Lane, is progressing nicely. The new trees, which were obtained from the Woodland Trust, have all been planted and although still very small, appear to be taking well to their new home. If anyone would like to dedicate a tree, then please let us know. You can also purchase your own tree to be planted there, which many have done already. We do just ask that you choose a native species and speak to the Chief Officer or the Head Lengthsman first. The Garden is well used, especially with dog walkers, all of whom appear to be very responsible. Thank you all.

Phil Russell
Head Lengthsman



NEW COUNCILLOR MAURICE ANNETT

I have lived in Staffordshire since 1995 serving with Staffordshire Police, working as a Crime Reduction Sgt and Strategic Partnerships Inspector. I specialised in creating and delivering Community Safety initiatives and have gained National Awards for making Neighbourhoods safer and youth engagement projects.

I live in Little Haywood and wish to contribute to the fabulous community that I have the privilege of living amongst. I very much look forward to working with my fellow councillors to keep Our Parish great to live in, work in or visit

NEWS FROM HAYWOODS FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW



The team behind the Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show have just finalised this year's schedule with some old favourites and some interesting changes. Paper schedules will be printed very soon, and it will also be posted on the website www.haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com Keep an eye on the Facebook page "Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show" for news of when the schedule goes live on the website.

To get you started, the themes for this year's photographs are "Wildlife On Water" for Juniors – who are now 16 years and under in line with all the other junior classes, and "A Little Bit Of Red" for Adults.

Remember Show Day is a little bit earlier this year on Sunday 6th September, which will hopefully be before the weather dashes the roses! 🌻
Have a lovely Summer!



WHERE TWO LINES CROSS

To mark the 40th anniversary on 19 September 2026 of the Colwich train accident, a fully illustrated talk will be given in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Colwich on Sunday 20 September at 4.00pm. The presentation will tell the full story, including the role of local villagers in the aftermath and the Memorial Garden dedicated to Driver Eric Goode. Presented by the Memorial Garden volunteers.

OUR HISTORIC LAMP POST

Most people regularly walking past the Parish Office on St Mary's Road will be familiar with the lamp post standing on the grassed area. In fact, you could be forgiven for not even recognising it as a lamp post as it is badly rusted & bereft of its lantern, instead being crowned by a poppy. Nevertheless, a lamp post it is, with a somewhat obscure history.

Originally the lamp post stood in Trent Lane, Great Haywood, the only streetlight in that lane leading up to the railway bridge & then on to Shugborough. In 2008 ABB (the company responsible for street lighting columns) decided that the old lamp post was unsafe and needed to be replaced by a more modern version. Needless to say, the residents of Trent Lane disagreed with this decision, not least because a modern lamp post was totally out of keeping with the character of such a significant street in the village. It is said that one resident of Trent Lane, the late Peter Emberton (Chairman of the Haywood Society) was incandescent with rage at the prospect of the old lamp post being loaded onto a lorry and removed from our villages for ever.

As a result of the concerns expressed, Peter Emberton entered into negotiations with ABB to ensure that the old lamp post was replaced by a replica that would maintain the character of Trent Lane. He also liaised with the Parish Council for the old post to be retained in the village in a suitable safe place. Parish Council Minutes for March 2008 stated that 'the Clerk is in negotiations with ABB who are replacing all lighting columns to try and acquire the lamp post for outside the Parish Office'. The negotiations were obviously successful as the post is still situated outside the Parish Office as an ornamental feature with a strict provision that it can not be used as a streetlamp.

The current situation is that the lamp post is desperately in need of renovation and the Parish Council are currently looking into how this can be best achieved. In the process of discussing the project it was felt that a little more of the history of the post would be helpful and interesting and here begins the mystery. On close examination the initials CUDC are embossed on the front of the post, and it is guessed that this probably stands for Cannock Urban District Council.

How come we have a Cannock lamp post when we aren't in the Cannock area?

The question begins to arise that the post may have had a former life.

On further investigation old photographs of Trent Lane show no sign of a lamp post. A 1937 photograph of Main Road, Great Haywood shows that there was no street lighting in the village at that time. A Francis Frith postcard dated 1955 shows no sign of a lamp-post in Trent Lane. Two modern photographs show a lamp-post in its present position, one from 1977 shows the original cast-iron post, the other in 2008 shows the old post being removed in order that the replacement post can be erected in the same position.

Herein remains the mystery. It is generally thought that the lamp post must have arrived in Trent Lane in the late 1960s, being the first streetlight that the lane had ever had and that this older style post had been acquired from elsewhere to fit in aesthetically with the character of the area.

However, there is no documented evidence about the acquisition of the post or its erection in Great Haywood.

If there is anybody who was living in Great Haywood in the 1960s who can remember the arrival of the lamp post in Trent Lane, please let the Parish Council know. In the meantime, it is hoped that arrangements can be made for the refurbishment of the post including re-uniting it with its lantern at a reasonable cost. It is a pleasant feature outside the Parish Office and deserves better than its present fate. Moreover, it would be a fitting memorial to the late Peter Emberton who committed much of his time to preserving the character of our villages and succeeded in saving the lamp post from being carted off for scrap back in 2008.



GRIT BINS

It seems an unusual topic to broach as we have just come out of a heatwave, but these matters must be planned ahead. In May, Staffordshire County Council sent out a proposal to enhance the provisions of grit bins across the county.

Currently Staffordshire County Council provide and maintain around 3000 grit bins across Staffordshire comprising of approximately:

- 1800 strategic bins that are filled at the start of the winter season and refilled in the middle of the season.
- 1200 community bins that are only filled at the beginning of the season.

In addition to these grit bins, there are other provided and managed by other authorities. These grit bins are provided against a defined set of criteria. Colwich Parish Council has previously attempted to get additional grit bins but were unsuccessful as we did not meet the criteria.

All of the grit bins within the parish are managed by Staffordshire County Council.

The SCC explains that to accept all of the additional requests for grit bins would put a significant strain on their budget.

To properly maintain current bins, and to provide extra bins, without this financial pressure, they have proposed a way forward comprising of an exercise to properly identify and record all external grit bins in the county and confirm maintenance requirements with the relevant authorities. They will also be identifying future bins.

The associated SCC costs are as follows:

- Provision of a new bin – £250
- Annual pre-season grit fill - £100
- Additional grit fill (single bin)- £200
- Additional grit fill (multiple bins) – £100/bin
- Public liability insurance - £10/bin/year

Grit bins are located at pertinent locations throughout the parish e.g. Manor Farm Road, St Mary's Road, Orchard Crescent, etc. and the Lengthsmen do regularly spread grit when needed during the winter months. If you think that there is somewhere in the parish that could benefit from an extra grit bin, please forward details to the Chief Officer for the Council to consider. No funding has been identified within the parish budget for additional grit bins or their ongoing maintenance, so extra provision would need to be considered alongside available funding.

WOLSELEY CANAL BRIDGE, A51, LITTLE HAYWOOD, STAFFORD

Staffordshire County Council together with Amey will be carrying out bridge refurbishment works at Wolseley Canal Bridge, A51.

The bridge is a single span filler beam structure constructed in the 1955 and refurbishment works are proposed to maintain its structural performance and integrity. This phase of works will include: Installation of new VRS and ground beam. Re-waterproofing of the deck. Parapet improvements and resurfacing.

The work will commence on the 7th July 2026, taking place for 24 weeks.

Temporary traffic lights will be used on the A51 from 6 July 2026 to 20 November 2026.

Bishton Lane will be fully closed from 6 July 2026 to 18 December 2026. People will still be able to get to homes and businesses along the closed section.

To enable surfacing and lining works a small number of overnight full road closures of the A51 (near to the junction with Bishton Lane) will be required.



Chairman: Wendy Plant

E: wendy.plant@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Michael Lennon

E: clerk@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk

T: 07378145397

Head Lengthsman: Phil Russell

E: lengthsman@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk

T: 07378177241

Parish Office: St Mary's Road, Little Haywood, ST18 0TX

T: 01889 882665



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@colwich.parish.council

www.colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk