



# Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023 No. 113



### FLOWER & VEG SHOW 2023

This year's Show will be held on Sunday 10th September at Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall. The schedules have now been released so please feel free to pick one up from one of the local shops, or visit our website at [www.haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com](http://www.haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com) where you will find all the details.

We have been giving away Sunflower kits consisting of peat free compost and bamboo cups and used seeds saved from one of our members' prize-winning sunflowers! It's amazing what can be re-used in a garden so you can get started on your growing journey without buying a lot of kit.

It's not all about gardening though – we also have Sections for Preserves, Baking, Bread making, Flower Arranging, Handicraft, Art and Photography, along with the expanded Children's Section and Junior Baking. The Photography themes this year (to be taken locally) are "Fungi" for adults, and "Buildings" for under 18s. The Village Hall looks so uplifting and inspiring when it's full of exhibits so please help us to keep this lovely village tradition alive. Whether you are giving something a go for the first time, are a serious amateur enthusiast or are anywhere in-between you will be most welcome to join in.

Deadline for entries is 12 noon Saturday 9th September, staging of exhibits 9-11am Sunday 10th September. The Show opens to the public at 2.30pm, presentation of trophies and raffle draw is at 3.30pm. 20p entry fee per exhibit. Afternoon door entry £1, exhibitors and children are free. Refreshments will be provided by the WI.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The local elections were held in the first week of May but on this occasion the Parish Council elections did not require a ballot. At the first meeting of the new Colwich Parish Council, we sat down as a group of nine councillors and were fortunate to co-opt 3 new members onto the Council. I have been elected to serve as Chairman for 2023/24 and I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for their support in re-electing me to this role. I will strive to be worthy of their backing. By the time that you read this, we hope to have co-opted 2 new members so as to reach our full complement of 14 Councillors.

The first task of the new Council was to host the Coronation Fete. We had great weather and welcomed families and friends from the local villages and some visitors from further afield. The stalls, the food vans, the bar and range of music and entertainment ensured that there was something for everyone. It was lovely to see the community coming together. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the day, too many to mention, but all were important in helping - **THANK YOU**



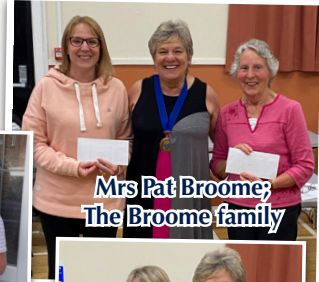
I was pleased to see a good turnout at the annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday 31st May 2023. The Parish Assembly is an opportunity to feedback to the community about the work and efforts of the Parish Council. If you have any issues which you would like your Parish Council to consider, please let me know.

I had the privilege, during the Assembly, of announcing the winners of the Fete competitions as well as the Citizen of the year 2023.

### SCAVENGER HUNT

The seven hidden letters spelt **CHARLES**.

The winning entries were:



Mrs Pat Broome;  
The Broome family



Bev Roberts



Annette Phillips

### CORONATION BEAR



The name of the Teddy Bear was "Arthur" being HM King Charles III's third name. The winning guess was by Mrs Shirley Navin, who

asked that the Council donate the bear to a local baby. We are working with Hazeldene House Surgery to identify the recipient of this generous act.

### CITIZEN of the YEAR

The Parish Council are delighted to acknowledge the work carried out during lockdown by one resident. She worked tirelessly to ensure that the vulnerable could access medicines and other needs by heading a team of volunteers.

**Well Done Mrs. Anne-Marie Rattray.**



# Coronation Water Bottles

The Council, as part of its celebrations for the Coronation of HM King Charles III, purchased water bottles for every child attending either one of our primary schools, pre-school groups or registered childminders in the parish. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council visited the primary schools and pre-school groups during the week commencing 24th April to distribute the bottles.



St. John's



Colwich Playgroup



Great Haywood Under-5s



Anson Primary



Colwich Primary

# Coronation Fete

On Sunday 7th May 2023, the village gathered at the Jubilee Playing Field to celebrate the Coronation of HM King Charles III with a day long fete and music festival. Taking the lead from last year's successful fete, to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee, we arranged fun activities for the younger residents, stalls from local groups and lots of food and drink vans. We managed to arrange a fly over!



Cllr Plant opening the event



Visitors enjoying the day



Blood Bikes



Hugo's Bar



VTS Stall



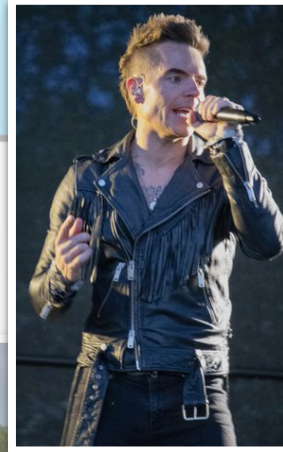
Memorial Hall Ladies



We Cater!

Music during the day was provided by local talent, including the Community Choir, Sounds Familiar and Matt Rose and concluded with Mighty Jamma the three-time Great Britain Steel Band Soloist Champion. Entertainment was provided throughout the day by Stu Haycock from Stafford FM which included live broadcasts from the event. Dragons Den magician Lucky Lee kept us entertained during the late afternoon interval whilst the local stall holders/community groups were packing away.

The evening kicked off with music from Cloudy Galvez, a young artist from Lichfield who has performed around the country. Local celebrity Tom Vaughan and Jason Grey then sang us through to the finish at 10:30pm.



The Council's Events Committee would like to thank everyone who made the day so special, especially the volunteer Stewards.

# JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

The Council's Leisure Committee met on 1st June 2023, to review the work undertaken to date on the development of the facilities at the JPF and to put in place measures to realise those improvements.

In response to the request for community events the Parish Council has organized, with help from the community, a fete to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, and a second one this year to commemorate the King's Coronation. Further events are planned.

The Leisure Committee agreed that Aaron Chetwynd Architect Studios, based in Ingestre, be appointed to assist in supporting the development of the JPF including the car park area and the toilets.

Discussions have been held with local physical trainers to determine the preferred types of green gym equipment and a small facility is planned. Consideration is being given to reprofiling the BMX and perhaps convert it into a 'pedal and play' type facility as feedback suggests it is used primarily to enable young children to learn to ride their bicycles.

The Council commissioned a report, in conjunction with Staffordshire FA, to determine how best to improve the field surface and this will form the basis of the work with the objective of commencing in mid-2024 after the proposed fete to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Consideration is being given to develop the unfenced area with facilities suitable for the 10-16yr age group and feedback on this proposal is sought.

To realise these improvements significant funding is required. Discussions are ongoing with Stafford Borough Council for the release of section106 funding from the many developments in the Parish which was earmarked for green spaces and the JPF.

Hopefully, you will see from this article that plans are progressing for the JPF, and you are encouraged to contact me, or any other Parish Councillor, should you wish to discuss these plans, or perhaps have ideas that you wish to be considered and we look forward to hearing from you.

*Cllr Andy Dunn  
Leisure Committee Chairman*



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## CLLR GLENN HALL

I was born and bred in Great Haywood. I was a special constable working from Great Haywood police station until its closure. I was a forensic crime scene manager with Staffs Police for 29 years, and after my retirement, I drove non-emergency ambulances throughout the Covid pandemic. One of my passions is walking around our local walkways. My ambition is to achieve a safe and peaceful place to live and bring up our children. I'm looking forward to serving our community.



## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

We are very fortunate to live in a wonderful part of Staffordshire with a large section of Cannock Chase AONB within our parish as well as the river and canal corridors and the open fields between the villages. It was to protect and enhance these that the Green Infrastructure Plan evolved from the Neighbourhood Plan. Natural England's definition of Green Infrastructure states: 'Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high-quality green spaces and other environmental features. It includes established green spaces and new sites and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban to its wider rural hinterland.'

The Council established the "River of Flowers" as a way of linking open spaces through the parish and providing a sustainable habitat for pollinators. In working towards achieving this aim the Council amended its grass cutting programme to leave "wild" areas within the verges. The Council has also provided additional financial support to the In Bloomers to assist them in planting pollinator friendly native species where possible.



The Council is now working with volunteers from SinCH who are trying to map the plants and animals we have locally using the iNaturalist app. We would encourage everyone to download and start using this app to help in the setting of priorities to support nature in the parish. This group is looking at enhancing the nature corridors in the village beginning with the area along and to the north of Coley Lane. They are keen to investigate other possible green corridors and would welcome suggestions. Finally, the small group of enthusiasts would welcome new volunteers.

