



# Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

## NEWSLETTER OUR VICTORIA!

Winter 2015

No. 88

### *Our youngest Parish Councillor and a young woman who is going places!*

What a year Victoria Jenkinson is having! Victoria was elected to Colwich Parish Council for the Great Haywood ward at the May 2015 election.

In September, Victoria was in Parliament in her capacity as a Girlguiding Advocate. There are only twenty such Advocates in the U.K. who bring into prominence discussion about disability, race, discrimination and other issues of importance. All Advocates receive training in how to deal effectively with the media and are sent all over the U.K. to speak at conferences, talk to decision makers, create campaigns and represent girls and young women as part of Girlguiding. When I interviewed Councillor Jenkinson, she was keen to stress that the Advocate selection procedure was very rigorous. She found out about Girlguiding Advocates through Girlguiding in Colwich Parish. What girls want is at the forefront of what Victoria does, as well as looking after the concerns of young people in general. Also during September Cllr Jenkinson spoke at the pre-screening of the film "Suffragette" at the Twentieth Century Fox Studios in London.

In addition Victoria has been to dinner with our M.P. Jeremy Lefroy, in the Houses of Parliament. At this event she met other M.P.'s. I am sure that she found this fruitful as she is very interested in the way that people in positions of power (i.e. decision-makers) communicate with minority groups. Cllr Jenkinson was provided with the opportunity to express her disappointment to see that there was not a single male M.P. who attended the recent Action Aid conference which discussed issues affecting women and girls globally.

In terms of the Parish Council, Victoria has had a significant impact! We are now thinking in different ways. As a current serving Councillor and as someone who has served on the previous Council, I can say that we were having difficulties in being in touch with



the youth of our community. Cllr Jenkinson has given us a legitimate base from which to have a dialogue with local young people and was a driving force behind the formation of our new Youth Committee.

Cllr Jenkinson is obviously pleased with the way things have gone and she has other things in the pipe-line including further speaking events, a meeting with German M.P. Silvana Koch-Mehrin and a visit to many European cities with 1st Colwich Senior Section.

By participating in such events Victoria is making an impact as a young person with a passion for change and she is in an excellent position to go out and make a huge difference in the future! Victoria has also recently achieved her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award presented at St. James' Palace and illustrated a new book for children. I believe Victoria to be an inspirational figure. She is incredibly hard-working and she loves getting involved.

**Cllr Sylvia Gibson**

## TWINNING VISIT

A farewell dinner at Brocton Hall Golf Club was the climax of a Twinning visit by the Rimbach Partnerschaftsverein hosted by the Colwich & Haywoods Twinning Association. The visit started with two days spent touring the Lake District, including a steamboat outing on Coniston Water. The visitors arrived in the Haywoods on Sunday evening, 18th October, when they were greeted by their hosts who took them to their homes, which became the visitors' homes until Friday.

The Association had arranged a programme of visits for the week, though the Monday was a free day spent with their hosts as they wished.

Tuesday was the most active day, starting with a guided tour of Pugin's St. Giles' Church in Cheadle in the morning, before moving on for a factory tour of JCB's Rocester. The tour concluded with a very English "Afternoon Cream Tea". In the evening, the visitors were entertained with a Skittles Evening with a Fish and Chips supper plus Apple Pie and Cream at Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall.

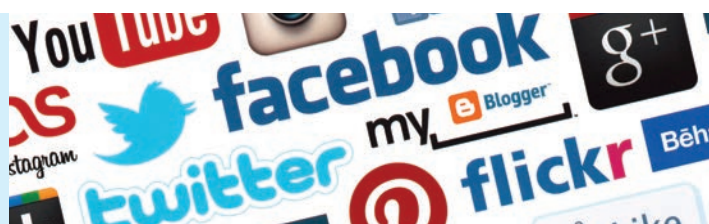
Wednesday saw our guests visit Chrich in Derbyshire for a visit to the Tramway Museum. A day in Birmingham on Thursday allowed our visitors to see our second city. The day concluded with the farewell dinner during which the speakers were Cllr Andy Cooper, Chairman of Colwich Parish Council, Markus Altendorf, Partnerschaftsverein Chairman and Keith Butler, Colwich & Haywoods Twinning Association.

**Keith Butler - Chairman, Twinning Association**

# WAR MEMORIAL

The WW1 Committee is investigating the possibility of establishing a single memorial that would commemorate those who have lost their lives as a result of conflicts from the whole of Colwich Parish. The plan was proposed at the Exhibition in August 2014. At present, there are four memorials, the Memorial Hall itself, which has two plaques, one in St Stephen's Church, one in St John's Church and one at Colwich lych gate. Only the last one is accessible at all hours to the public. Furthermore, research has found that not every fallen person connected with the Parish has been commemorated. The possible site could be in the Jubilee Playing Field area. Comments from residents as to siting and design would be welcomed. A single memorial would mean that the whole community could gather at one place on Remembrance Day.

**Cllr Amyas Stafford Northcote**



## SOCIAL MEDIA

For those who don't know there are two local Facebook Groups, "Great Haywood", and "Colwich and Little Haywood" all you need to do to find them is search for them in the Facebook search area at the top of the Facebook page. When the page opens, press the "ask to join the group" button and you are away. It is a great way to keep in touch with local friends, local businesses and what's going on in the community. You do need to sign up to Facebook to join but it only takes a few moments.

## CANNOCK CHASE

The county council is seeking out new and affordable ways to manage its countryside estate including Cannock Chase. As part of this, they are inviting residents of Staffordshire and visitors to the sites to take part in a 12 week public consultation which looks at four options on the future management of Staffordshire County Council's countryside estate.

You can share your views either by completing the online survey or by downloading a paper version of the survey and returning to:

Countryside Consultation, Staffordshire County Council,  
2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH.

**The consultation will close on 24th January 2016.**

## BICYCLES

It has come to our attention that people are riding bicycles at night with dark clothing, no lights and no reflective strips. Please, wear something white when riding at night. And PLEASE have lights on your bikes. You might be able to see the cars but they can't see you.

# BEST KEPT VILLAGE



The Best Kept Village (BKV) Committee is looking for new volunteers. If you live in a village you might want to help contribute to village life which includes keeping the area looking clean and tidy, with a great community spirit and lots of lovely flowers.

The BKV are very proud of the Joint Third place received for Great Haywood in the Stafford Best Kept Village Competition together with the 2 GOLD AWARDS we have received from the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom competition in 2015. This year we entered the RHS Neighbourhood Awards scheme for the first time with excellent results for Mill Lane and Shugborough Terrace (Level 5); Cliff Road (Level 4) and Marlborough Close (Level 3). These have been achieved by a small band of dedicated volunteers. Imagine how successful we could be if we all joined in, even if only in a small way. Perhaps you might like to sponsor a small flower tub, be responsible for watering some flowers once a week, tidy up a grass verge or just be aware of dropping litter. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated.

***Our Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 26th January 2016, 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre, St. Marys Road, Little Haywood. Please come along.***

**Anne Clendon (Secretary) 808214  
arclendon@gmail.com**

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

**You can take your Christmas trees to be composted between Monday 4th January and Monday 11th January 2016 at either:  
The Jubilee Playing Field, Little Haywood or  
Wyevale Garden Centre, Wolseley Bridge.**



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – WINTER 2015

On September 24th, I had great pleasure in meeting Borough Councillor Frances Beatty at Stafford Borough Council's offices to formally handover Colwich's Neighbourhood Plan for final SBC consultation. By the time this Newsletter reaches you, we should have had the conclusions from that stage and be preparing to forward our Plan to the Government Inspector. At each stage, it is carrying more weight when it comes to planning decisions at the Borough and of course for any proposed plans that are subsequently taken on to appeal. Indeed, it has already been cited as the "Emerging Neighbourhood Plan" as part of the objections used by the SBC Planning Dept. against unwanted developments. One such rejected proposal was the re-submission of the development of the land around Shenley Cottage. The developer/owner now has the option to appeal again and we will have to wait and see whether this happens and then what the result would be. Either way, I'm pleased to say that it is quite clear our emerging Plan has been used to great effect in recent decisions.



The Colwich Neighbourhood Plan

As Chairman of the Parish Council, I'm occasionally invited to a variety of events to represent our Council and residents. As we head deeper into the Christmas season, Remembrance Sunday seems a long time ago and after attending the service and parade in Stafford during the morning, I joined our own afternoon Parish Service, which this year was held in St Stephen's, Great Haywood. A good number of my fellow Councillors, and our MP Jeremy Lefroy and his wife joined with residents to help fill the church to capacity. This year was special, as research carried out mainly by Dave Robbie enabled several new names of local men lost

in the conflicts to be read out for the first time along with all the others previously known. Dave has also prepared a number of new Memorial Books listing not only the names of all the men, but also details about their life histories, thereby adding depth to the reality that these were real people with lives just as full as our own. The three local Churches will each retain a copy of the book as will the Parish Council and Memorial Hall. I'm sure that I echo all our sentiments in passing our heartfelt thanks to Dave for this outstanding and lasting contribution to the historical record of our communities.

The Council has, once again, been able to assist many of our Community Groups through its small grants programme. Over £2,000 has been distributed this year and we will be looking to provide even greater support in 2016.

On a more serious note, I'm sad to report a recent incident on the JPF where a fire was started using scrap out of the recycling bins. Although no substantial damage was caused, there was a lot of mess leaving others to clear it up. The Council has decided to invest in extending the CCTV equipment already in place to include additional coverage and strategically placed night vision. Perpetrators who are intent on spoiling this facility and the enjoyment of others will be identified, the police informed and action taken. Sadly, we have also had reports from the BKV team that there have been attempted thefts of the 'flower towers' which have been used to enhance the appearance of our villages and aid us in the competitions. If you see any such unlawful activity, please contact the police as soon as possible.

I'd also like to take the opportunity in this Newsletter to clarify the meaning of "public participation time" which appears on the agenda of our Council meetings. Please bear in mind that these are **Parish Council Meetings** and not Public Meetings which are used and managed in quite a different way. As Councillors, we were elected by you to make certain decisions on behalf of the Parish, and we cannot be seen to have our thinking unduly influenced by (say) one or two more persuasive members of the public. There is also a legal requirement to publish an agenda a number of days



Councillor Andy Cooper

before a meeting in order to allow Councillors to consider the issues in good time – and of course enable the public to see what is coming up. (This is the reason why there can never be an AOB. section!) As we also have a tight time schedule to try and cover the Council's business, this Council chooses to restrict the Public Question time to enable members of the public to ask questions or raise points in an orderly manner that relate to the published agenda for that meeting. If a none-agenda issue is raised, it simply cannot be considered as it has not been published in advance! Consequently, if you have an issue that you believe should be brought before the Council, please contact the Clerk or your local Parish Councillor who will look to have it added to an appropriate meeting. Understandably some may see this procedure as too restrictive, so to counter any perceived negativity, and subject to approval by the Council, we are looking to hold "Council Surgeries" – probably starting in the New Year, where people can drop in to an arranged location in the Parish to informally discuss issues of concern or otherwise. Further information on these surgeries will be published as soon as any plans are made.

Finally, it only remains for me on behalf of the Clerks and all of us on the Parish Council to wish you all a joyful Christmas time and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Councillor Andy Cooper



Small grants to the local community



## CRAFT FAIR

Great Haywood Memorial Hall, organised by Diane Kinvig and the GHMH committee. The fair was well attended with stalls by many local residents and a wide range of items were for sale including hand crafted gifts, textiles, artwork, ceramics, jewellery, jams and cakes. There were 25 stalls plus a raffle and book stall and both the main and back rooms were used. There were local groups represented by the Haywood Made With Love craft circle, the Guides & Rangers and the Donna Louise Children's Hospital Trust.

Refreshments (teas, coffees, biscuits) were served by Jenny and Andy Lowe and Lindy Jarrett, who also helped in the setting up of the Hall.

Despite the bad weather the public turnout was very good and there was a warm and friendly atmosphere. The public feedback received was extremely positive. The event raised approximately £350 from table fees, raffle, book stall and refreshments and all proceeds shall go towards the upkeep of the hall. There is another fair planned for the 5th March next year and there are still places/stalls available.

As a foot note, the Memorial Hall is now available to take bookings on Tuesday and Friday evenings as well as Sundays, contact details can be found on the Great Haywood Memorial Hall's web site at [www.greathaywoodmemorialhall.com](http://www.greathaywoodmemorialhall.com)

**Cllr Adam Billingsley**

## SKIP DATES IN 2016

16<sup>th</sup> January,

13<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March.

# HAYWOODS FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

The Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show was held on Sunday 13th September 2015 in the Little Haywood Village Hall, and once again hosted some superb entries. The Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show Society would like to thank everyone who entered, as without you we wouldn't have a Show and we would miss seeing such a wonderful display of productivity, skill and achievement. We would also like to thank everyone who visited the event to support the tradition of the annual Village Show.

Every entry is important and symbolises a desire and ability to produce something, whether it is a piece of artwork, a jar of preserve, a monster marrow, a floral art display, tasty baking or five potatoes that are anywhere near the same size and shape! Whilst exhibitors rightfully take great care in producing, preparing and staging their entries, as it all takes valuable time and attention, we hope that it is also fun to take part. The excited anticipation to see if you've been awarded a prize is all part of the experience, as well as having a nosey at what everyone else has entered! Of course you can also take a look at what prizes were awarded to see if you can pick up any tips for next year!

We are considering making some changes to the Show to make it even better, so if you have any suggestions, or ideas of different categories you would like to see in the schedule, please do let us know via email: [enquiries@haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com](mailto:enquiries@haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com)



We also have a new website: [haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com](http://haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com) which you can visit for details of the Show, including the schedule of Classes. The number of entries was a bit down this year, so please do take a look and think about entering next year. It would be lovely to see you there!

### **Congratulations to all of our trophy winners for 2015:**

**Flowers – Mrs D Mountford**

**Roses – Chris Jones**

**Best Rose – Chris Jones**

**Pot Plants – Peta Collier**

**Vegetables – Ted Minton**

**Best Veg (Shallots) – Ted Minton**

**Longest Runner Bean – Stephen Morrall**

**Fruit – Ted Minton**

**Preserves – Jean Tabernor**

**Baking – Chris Jones**

**Bread – Andy Broome**

**Floral Art – Hannah Clendon**

**Best Floral Exhibit – Hannah Clendon**

**Handicraft – Gerry Freeman**

**Art & Photography – Angela Moody**

**Wine – Russell Maingay & Hannah Clendon**

**5-7yrs – Alice Jones**

**8-11yrs – Lily Hurley**

**12-16yrs – Kate Souster**

**Over-all Lady Runner-up – Chris Jones**

**Over-all Gent Runner-up – Martyn Tabernor**

**Over-all Winner – Ted Minton**



**Chairman:**

**Clerk:**

**Parish Office:**

**Cllr. Andy Cooper**

**Michael Lennon**

**St Mary's Road, Little Haywood, ST18 0TX**

**T: 01889 882665**

**E: [andy.cooper@colwich.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:andy.cooper@colwich.staffslc.gov.uk)**

**E: [clerk@colwich.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@colwich.staffslc.gov.uk)**

**facebook [www.facebook.com/colwich.clerk](http://www.facebook.com/colwich.clerk)**

**[www.colwich.info](http://www.colwich.info)**