



INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025 No.122

CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN

The annual meeting of the Council took place on Thursday 1st May 2025, when the following were elected:

COMMITTEE

Full Council
Communications
Complaints
Employment
Environment
Events
Finance
Leisure
Planning
Policy
Young People

CHAIR

Cllr Plant
Cllr Hardwick
Cllr Bloor
Cllr Bloor
Cllr Upton-Loach
Cllr Plant
Cllr Plant
Cllr Dunn
Cllr Bloor
Cllr Hardwick
Cllr Upton-Loach

VICE CHAIR

Cllr Bloor
Cllr Boyce
Cllr B Forster
Cllr Martin
Cllr Bloor
Cllr Upton-Loach
Cllr Dunn
Cllr Walters
Cllr M Forster
Cllr Plant
Cllr B Forster



HEARTS FOR THE MEMORY

Following on from the article in the Spring newsletter, Craft & Chat have continued to supply crocheted items to be delivered to County Hospital.

The most recent bag was delivered in early June, full of more hearts, and donations to the premature baby ward, including toys, blankets, bonnets, and other clothing items.

SMALL GRANTS

Each year the council allocates a part of the precept to go back into funding local community groups and projects through the Small Grants Scheme.

So far in the 2025-26 period, a grant has been awarded to The Great Haywood Tolkien Trail Project.

Two grants have been awarded to Colwich Parish in Bloom for the purchase of Compost, and Winter bedding plants.

And finally, a grant was awarded to Anson PTFA for an outdoor trim trail. (As shown below)





VE-DAY BEACON LIGHTING

On Thursday 8th May 2025, the village came together to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE day, the end of the 2nd world war in Europe.

The formal evening commenced at 8.45pm, with a welcome from Cllr Wendy Plant, Chairman of the Council, which was followed by a blessing from Revd Mark Davys.

As per the guidance issued by the Royal Pageantmaster, Bruno Peek, the hymn 'I vow to thee my country' was sung. The beacon was lit at 9.15pm, after bugler Anita Small had played the last post and reveille, including the 2 minutes silence, and the National Anthem.

Throughout the evening, Fish & Chips (JMA catering) and Thai food (Thai2go) were available to purchase.

On Sunday 11th May, St Stephen's held a church service to commemorate the VE day anniversary.

There will be a similar event at the JPF on the 15th August to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VJ day.



SUMMER FETE

The fourth annual village fete took place at the Jubilee Playing Field on Saturday 21st June 2025 between 12.00 noon and 11.00 pm.

The afternoon was due to start with a dog show, but due to the heat forecast, it was determined to be too much of a risk and was cancelled. Instead, the fete began with a short speech by Chairman of the Council, Cllr Wendy Plant, and a blessing by Revd Davys followed by a collection of songs from the community choir.

The entertainment continued with performances by Delta Aces, a Staffordshire based blues duo, and Boat Band, an instrumental folk quartet. The afternoon concluded with a lively vintage set from local star Lola Lamour.

Throughout the afternoon there were a collection of local stalls, and activities.

This year, the council introduced a £3 children's entertainment wristband, allowing unlimited access to activities such as: spinning teacup ride, toy carousel ride, climbing wall, tomahawk throwing, and table football. The charge will help to offset some of the cost of hiring the activities for the event.

The Council also ran a music themed scavenger hunt throughout the event. Entrants were challenged to find the 9 number 1 hits from each decade between 1945 & 2025, which were posted at points around the fete. All entrants received a sweet upon returning their completed forms.

During the swap over period, Vibe1 hosted a disco. Vibe1's Stu Haycock, acted as compare for the day.

The evening entertainment was a mixture of new faces, and familiar friends. At 6pm, we began with a set from Captain Fantastic, an Elton John tribute act. Next was the Staffordshire Rock Choir, a group from all over the county. Our last act of the evening was Skabucks, a fan favourite ska and two-tone group. As the fete wound down, OSB (who provided the stage and sound system) played a set of Ibiza tunes.

Out of our original 5 food vendors, only two made it to the end of the fete. We had two cancellations with short notice, and the Fish and Chip van left early unexpectedly. La Piccola Pizzeria completely sold out of food by early evening, and Carney's hog roast was not far behind. The pitch fees for food vendors will be used to partly offset the cost of the music entertainment.

Money raised from community pitch fees and donations, will be donated to our two charities of the year. In 2025 we selected Troop Aid, and Hixon and Area Community First Responders, both of whom had stalls at the fete.

Throughout the year there will be more opportunities to raise funds for our charities, like the competitions we put on, and our Christmas Light Switch On.



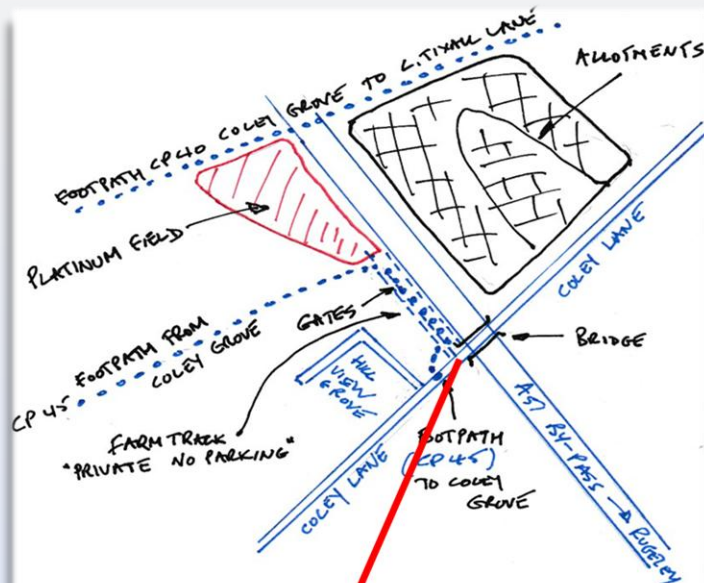
LEN GTHSMEN

The Lengthsmen have been very busy since our last Newsletter in the spring. Work moved from the usual winter maintenance works onto the annual grass cutting programme. The Lengthsmen manage the grass verges near Roseacre, Oldfields Crescent, Essex Drive, Abbeyfields, Elm Close, Trent Square, The Butts, Parish Office, Hawkesmore Drive, Haywood Grange, Dobree Close, A51 junction at Colwich and Kingfisher Drive. Additionally, the Lengthsmen maintain JPF field and the Garden of Remembrance. Following the completion of the refurbished St Marys play area, the Lengthsmen have begun looking after the grass areas under agreement with Stafford Borough Council. The early warm and wet weather meant that the grass grew quicker than usual in the spring. Consequently, the Lengthsmen reacted seamlessly to this increase by moving from fortnightly to weekly cuts. The Lengthsmen have also undertaken work on Essex Bridge to clear the vegetation and have now completed the task of cleaning the sandstone bank along Coley Lane.

During June, the Lengthsmen concentrated on preparing the JPF ahead of the annual village fete, reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. The Lengthsmen also assisted in stewarding the fete, working from early-morning to after 11pm, alongside Councillors, the Chief Officer, Events Officer and Nicki the cleaner.

Work continued on the Garden of Remembrance, off Coley Lane, especially in preparation for taking part in the Open Gardens event on 6th July. The Lengthsmen have installed numerous plaques and planted additional trees, including special ones purchased by residents to accompany their plaque. Additional plaques are under order from the manufacturers with lots of trees still available if you would like a plaque (costing about £95 plus carriage and VAT). The Lengthsmen have cut various routes through the grass giving straight pathways along the east and west of the field as well as gentle zig-zagging ones down the slope. The Lengthsmen have placed six benches in the field of which five are available for dedication plaques on contacting the Chief Officer. The Council is working with its architect seeking planning permission for a small carpark on the south-east of the site as well as provision to install a hardstanding pathway, in due course.

When visiting the field, we would ask you to respect the privacy of the residents of Hillview Grove, especially Mr & Mrs Green who own the land over which the public right of way, CP45, runs.



PLATINUM COMMUNITY & REMEMBRANCE GARDEN ACCESS PATH FROM COLEY LANE BEFORE THE A51 BRIDGE



COLWICH & THE HAYWOODS

SCARECROW COMPETITION

INDIVIDUAL/STREET ENTRY FORM

Name:

Address.....

.....

Post Code:.....

Contact Number:.....

Email:

Signed:

SATURDAY 2ND & SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST

SATUDAY 9TH & SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST

**Please return this entry form to the Parish Office by Monday 28th
July**

**Colwich Parish Council, Council Centre, St Mary's Road, Little Haywood
ST18 0TX**

By signing this entry form:

I/we agree to allow Colwich Parish Council to photograph my/our Scarecrows(s) and the presentation of any awards which may be used on the Council website, social media pages and for future advertising, including in the Council's newsletters.

I/We include a voluntary donation (suggestion of £5 per household)

Please make any donations by bank transfer.

Payment Details

Account Name: Colwich Parish Council

Sort Code: 60-83-01

Account Number: 20275967



Terms and conditions 2025

This competition is open to any household or business located within the civil parish of Colwich.

The non-refundable entry donation will be £5 per household

Streets should make an appropriate donation based on the number of households taking part.

All entry monies will be donated to the council's charities of the year: Troop Aid, and Hixon and Area Community first responders

Judging will take place by public vote during the weekends of the 2nd & 3rd and 9th & 10th August 2025

All votes to be received by the parish council by no later than Monday 25th August.

Entry details, including addresses for scarecrows and a voting form, will be made available via the parish website, social media pages and noticeboards on or before Friday 1st August

Photographs of scarecrows will be added before Friday 8th August.

Winners, with presentation of trophies, will be announced at the parish council meeting to be held on Thursday 2nd October 2025.

Details of the winners will be published via the parish website, social media pages, noticeboards, and within a future newsletter.

Entrants are reminded that it is their responsibility to comply with all safety matters and regulations. The council accepts no liability

All entries must be visible from the highway

Residents MUST NOT enter the curtilage of properties.

The security of displays remains the responsibility of entrants.

Colwich Parish Council accepts no liability or responsibility for any damage, injury or theft which may occur because of entry to this scarecrow competition.

Colwich Parish Council accepts no liability or responsibility for any actions, incidents, or injuries that occur at or near the property relating to entry in this Scarecrow competition.

By entering the Scarecrow competition entrants are giving Colwich Parish Council express permission to publicise their name, address and photographs in association with the event in any reasonable manner it sees fit.

THE COUNCIL'S DECISION WILL BE FINAL NO CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE ENTERED INTO

Properties within (enter name of street) :.....

Included in this entry are House Number(s):

INSURANCE – WHY HAVE IT?

Public Liability Insurance is a type of insurance that protects against claims for injury or property damage to third parties (members of the public, clients, or customers) caused by your activities. It covers legal fees and compensation costs if someone sues you for an incident occurring on your premises or related to your work or activity.

While not legally required, it's crucial for organisations that interact with the public, as it can safeguard against unforeseen costs and potential legal battles. If your organisation does not have public liability insurance, then the management group, e.g. Chairman; Vice Chairman; Secretary and Treasurer etc., will be personally responsible for covering legal fees and any compensation costs if a member of the public makes a claim against your organisation for injury or property damage. This could be a substantial financial burden.

The Council's insurance cover provides £10,000,000 Public and Products Liability Insurance.

Consequently, whenever we work with outside groups, e.g. contractors for works or stall holders for the village fete, we insist that they provide copies of their Public Liability Insurance.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations' (NCVO) website notes that employers in Great Britain have a duty under the [Employers' Liability \(Compulsory Insurance\) Act 1969](#) and [Employers' Liability \(Compulsory Insurance Regulations\) 1998](#) to

have employers' liability insurance for no less than £5m. This insurance must cover liability for accidents, disease or injury to an employee due to negligence or breach of health and safety law by the employer.

Employees, workers, apprentices and some trainees must be insured under this cover, but there is no duty to insure volunteers. If volunteers are found to be working under a contract they would be seen by law as employees and workers.

The NCVO accepts that this legislation doesn't force organisations to insure volunteers. However, they advise that they do so in case negligence cases are brought by volunteers. Consequently, they recommend that organisations make sure that volunteers are covered by their employers' liability insurance, or under similar terms in their public liability policy, and that they specifically notify their insurer that they work with volunteers.

Further details, for community and voluntary groups, may be found by contacting the National Council for Voluntary Organisations at www.ncvo.org.uk

The Council's insurance provides £10,000,000 Employer Liability Insurance.

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

It's happened! The 2025 Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show schedules have been printed, folded and stapled and are ready for action! as always we'll be hand delivering them to all of last year's entrants before putting them in local shops. Come and see what we've done to the Art and Photography Section!!

Despite the topsy turvy weather we'll apply our traditional grit and optimism – for a triumph of hope over experience, as they say.

So do join us and have a go at growing, baking, painting or making, then share it – in the original way – with your community on Sunday 14th September at the Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall. Of course, we will also be sharing it on Facebook so feel free to spread the joy on social media too!

As usual the deadline for entry forms and fees is midday on Saturday 13th September (entry forms and instructions are on the schedule and our website www.haywoodsflowerandvegshow.com), staging of exhibits is 9-11am on Sunday 14th September, the Show opens to the public at 2.30pm and the presentation of trophies and raffle draw is at around 3.30pm. Fees are 20p per exhibit, visitor entry fee is £1 per adult on the door, exhibitors and children are free. Raffle tickets will be £1 per ticket. All proceeds pay for the costs of staging the Show.

We can't wait to see you all there and if nothing else, come for the cake!

COLWICH PARISH IN BLOOM QUIZ NIGHT

September 26th 2025 at the Memorial Hall Great Haywood.

Doors open 7.00 pm

If you want to book a table of four ring Rob on 07885796162

or Email

Colwichparishbloomers@gmail.com

THE TOLKIEN PROJECT

The Tolkien Project aims to commemorate and celebrate the connection between the Parish of Colwich and the world-famous author, J. R. R. Tolkien. It is a joint enterprise by Colwich Parish Council, Great Haywood Memorial Hall, the Great War Commemoration Committee, and the Haywood Society. In 1916 Tolkien was stationed at Brocton Camp on Cannock Chase, from where he walked through Shugborough Park to visit his newly married wife, Edith, in Great Haywood. After the Battle of the Somme, Tolkien convalesced in Great Haywood for almost three months and here he wrote the first stories of his 'Mythology for England', *The Book of Lost Tales*, which led later to his much celebrated and much-loved *Lord of the Rings*.

While much attention has been given to the influences of his early life in Birmingham, Oxford and Warwick, his early writings were clearly influenced by this area – the walk from Little Haywood to Great Haywood (the arrival of Eriol in Tavrobel in *The Cottage of Lost Play*), the village of Great Haywood (*Tavrobel*), Essex Bridge (*the Grey Bridge of Tavrobel*), the rivers Trent and Sow (*the Guir and the Afros*) and Shugborough Hall (*the House of a Hundred Chimneys*), as well as several features of Cannock Chase.

It is planned to mark the connection with a prominent Information Board providing details of the Tolkiens' time here, a Direction Post indicating places where the Tolkiens stayed or that influenced the author's writings, Blue Plaques on buildings associated with the Tolkiens, and a booklet *The Tolkien Trail, Walks In and Around Great Haywood in the Footsteps of J. R. R. Tolkien*. It is hoped that the project will enhance the literary image and reputation of the Parish, promote Tolkien tourism in accordance with the Colwich Parish Neighbourhood Plan and attract people to local businesses and other visitor attractions.

More information and news about the project can be found on the website

www.tolkieningreathaywood.co.uk

David Robbie,
Chair, Tolkien Project

DATES FOR THE DIARY

August

2nd & 3rd – Scarecrow Competition Judging Weekend

9th & 10th – Scarecrow Competition Judging Weekend

15th - VJ day Commemoration – JPF, 8.45pm

16th – Civic Amenity Skip Visit – JPF, 10am – 12 noon

September

4th – Full Council Meeting – Parish Centre, 7.30pm

8th – Parish Assembly – Anson School 6.30pm

19th – The Haywood Society Meeting - Great Haywood Memorial Hall. 7.30pm

October

2nd – Full Council Meeting – Parish Centre, 7.30pm

17th – The Haywood Society AGM – Great Haywood Memorial Hall. Supper 6.30pm, AGM 7.30pm

18th - Civic Amenity Skip Visit – JPF, 10am – 12 noon

November

6th – Full Council Meeting – Parish Centre, 7.30pm

9th – Remembrance Sunday, St Stephen's Church

29th – Christmas Lights – JPF 4.00pm

December

6th - Civic Amenity Skip Visit – JPF, 10am – 12 noon

18th – Full Council Meeting – Parish Centre, 7.30pm



Open day, Sunday 20th July 10am-4pm

- Look round the plots and site
- Chat to our friendly plottolders
- Stop for refreshments
- Try our home grown fruit & veg
- Take home flowers
- Try our home made goodies
- And our Jams and chutneys
- Childrens competitions
- Parking available
- And much more
- Everyone welcome



ALL DONATIONS WILL BE SHARED EQUALLY BETWEEN
KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE AND THE ASSOCIATIONS
FUNDRAISING



Chairman: Wendy Plant

E: wendy.plant@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Michael Lennon

E: clerk@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk

Head Lengthsman: Phil Russell

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