



Wolvey Parish Council Newsletter

Your Community Connection

Autumn 2009 Issue 7



Wolvey Parish Councillors

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
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Wolvey Parish Clerk

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Wolds Lane Wolvey
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One click away Wolvey's new website

A new Wolvey Parish Council website has now been launched.

It will retain the same domain name of www.wolvey.org and a similar simple design, but it has a new host and the site will now be managed and administered locally. There have already been some improvements, but it is still evolving and will continue to develop over the coming weeks.

We are hoping to make the website an interesting source of information, both for people in Wolvey and beyond. But, it can only be really successful if it is kept up to date with events that are taking place.

Local voluntary groups are invited to put information about their group meetings and events onto the site. If you are

Top Dogs -Wolvey wins again!

Wolvey has entered three competitions this year and once again has been successful in all three!

Warwickshire Village of the Year Competition

This is a new competition to enable individual groups within rural communities to each make their own separate entry to celebrate their achievements. It is no longer intended simply for parish councils to enter. The judges looked for well-balanced, pro-active, caring communities, which enhance the quality of life for all inhabitants. Judges commented that entries were of a consistently high standard, which made it very difficult to choose winners. Many village entries offer similar facilities and services and in order to be able to distinguish between these, judges are looking for outstanding, interesting and innovative projects. The best entries are inevitably made by individual groups, as they know their own project best.

Margaret, Ruth, Sid and David receiving awards from Rugby's Mayor

Wolvey was awarded first prize in the Environmental Projects section and received £150 prize money. The judges praised the boardwalk project and all the efforts of the volunteers of the environment group. Wolvey was also placed third in the Best Kept Village category.

Calor Village of the Year Competition

Each entrant must complete all four categories: Community; Business; Sustainability & Communication and judging is based entirely on the information provided in the form. For the 2009 competition in Warwickshire, Wolvey was awarded first prize for Business in the community and received prize money of £100.

Rugby in Bloom Competition

Entries for this competition can be made by groups, businesses or individuals in a number of different categories. This year Wolvey entered two categories and was successful in each. In the Communities section the Parish Council were awarded a **silver** for The Square In the Environment category, the environment group were awarded a **gold** for the Wetland reserve



arranging a future event and would like details to be included, please let us know.

If you are a group, society, organization or business either based in, or have links to Wolvey and you would like a page or your details to be included on the website, please get in touch:

Email: websiteadmin@wolvey.org
Or parishclerk@wolvey.org

Wolvey Parish Council would like to thank Mr Peter Hopkins very much for all the time and expertise he has put into the creation of the new website, and for agreeing to commit to its ongoing management. Also, thanks to Mr Adrian Flynn for all his advice, freely given.

Visit us at
www.wolvey.org

Wolvey Mobile Police Station Visits

Parked in The Square,
Wolds Lane 1.45pm till
3.15pm

Tuesday 22nd September 2009
Tuesday 13th October 2009 Tuesday
3rd November 2009 Tuesday 24th
November 2009 Tuesday 15th
December 2009

Wolvey Safer Neighbourhoods Police Surgeries

Held in the Village Hall
The Square, Wolds Lane
7.00pm - 9.00pm

Tuesday 6th October 2009 |
Tuesday 27th October 2009
Tuesday 17th November 2009
Tuesday 8th December 2009



To report crime happening in your area contact Warwickshire Police on 01926 415000.
In an emergency dial 999.

Under 18? What do you think?
Enclosed is a questionnaire that we would like all of our 7-18 age group to complete. We are hoping that it will help the Parish Council identify some of the needs of this age group and go some way to meeting them.

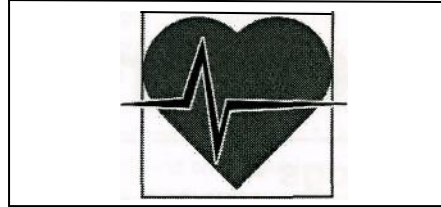
Get Smarter with Neighbourhood Watch

We would still like more of our residents to come along to the meetings to keep informed about what is happening in our area. It will also be an opportunity to find out more about Smartwater and the advantages of using it to safeguard your property and possessions. This is a clear liquid which carries a DNA profile exclusive to the purchaser. One spot on each possession will link the item to the owner.

In Burbage, 70% of households are protected by Smartwater and, since its use started 7 years ago, not a single burglary has occurred at any of the protected sites. This surely proves that purchase and use of this substance is worthwhile, particularly when the cost is substantially reduced to members of Neighbourhood Watch!



Community Responders urgently needed



Around 85% of people who suffer a cardiac arrest could survive if they are treated quickly with a defibrillator. But their chances of survival decrease by 10% for every minute that defibrillation is delayed.

Community First Responders schemes operate very successfully in many places and can save the lives of sufferers by bridging the gap between a 999 call and the arrival of paramedics. Therefore, the Parish Council has obtained a grant to purchase the necessary equipment to set up a Community Responder scheme in Wolvey.

Community Responders can be anyone, aged between 18 and 70, who is reasonably fit & healthy. No previous experience or medical training is needed as volunteers will be trained by the Ambulance Service. Volunteers can choose the times they are available.

Unfortunately, despite previous requests we still do not have enough volunteers to set up a Community Responders team in Wolvey. *If we do not get more volunteers by the end of the month the grant will have to be returned and the scheme abandoned.*

So, if you would like to help save the lives of your friends and neighbours, please ring Ruth Buswell on 01455 221324 for more information.

A big thank you to;

Mr & Mrs Ogden
Mr P M Duffy
North Warwickshire
& Hinckley College
Mrs T Edge
Mr T Scoffham
Mr P Johnson
Mr H Doyle

for their donations towards
our summer display of
hanging baskets and
planters

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Consultation

Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Authority are currently holding a public consultation on proposals to modernise the Service. The aim is to create a "fitter, stronger Fire and Rescue Service" to improve the services delivered to the communities of Warwickshire and that can meet the needs of the 21st century. The consultation is about how to improve the service and your views and ideas are extremely important. The consultation will close on Tuesday 8th December 2009.

More information can be obtained on the Warwickshire County Council web-site at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/firan-

The survey is available to download or can be completed online. Or you can send your response and any ideas to:

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Improvement Plan Consultation Service headquarters
Warwick Street
Leamington Spa
CV32 5LH



Bottom dogs Fouling - Let's end it!

Most dog owners are responsible and pick up after their dog, but despite the provision of dog bins there are still regular reports of dog fouling on our village streets. Under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 people can now be required to pay a fixed penalty or fined up to £1000 for allowing their dog to foul the streets.

If we are to stop this practice, offences need to be reported to Rugby Borough Council on 01788 533 859. A witness report form can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, or can be downloaded from the Rugby BC website. Any evidence is confidential and will not be shared with any third party unless required as evidence in court. The form asks for details of when and where the offence took place and the name of the alleged offender, if known. The best evidence to present is a picture if available, but a witness report can be acted upon.

So, keep a watch out and report offenders so we can keep our streets clean.

Honour for Environment Group

This summer has, as usual, been a busy time for the group:- The boardwalk was officially opened at the summer festival, by David Lowe, from Warwickshire Museum, who was very complimentary about the Wetland and the volunteers who built it.

On June 30th the Local Biodiversity Action Plan meeting was held in our Village Hall, a great honour, given that last year it was Ragley Hall that hosted the conference.

Group members attended and hosted tours around the reserve, churchyard and meadows, which showcased our beautiful surroundings and highlighted the work in progress to enhance and preserve them.

The rest of the summer has been given to watering tubs and planters, clearing gutters, weeding and generally sprucing up the village environment for competition judging. We were as you can see on the

first page very successful, so the hard work was worthwhile!!

Work is almost completed on the spur from the boardwalk to the cattle bridge, to allow access to the woodland walk, progress has been swift and efficient, so thanks to all involved.

As Summer closes and we look back on our successes, we must pay tribute to the wildlife within the reserve, spectacular caterpillars, beautiful butterflies, colourful moths, many bird and bee species, waving purple tinged grasses, endless wild flowers, duck and moorhen chicks, all on show for our delight, we are so lucky!

A big thank you to group members, who, with their varying skills and talents make Wolvey a pleasanter place to live, and without whom these projects could not take place.

Next meeting of the Environment Group will be on Monday 9th November at 7.30 in the Blue Pig/ do join us.

Get lit up for Christmas

The big 'Switch On' of the Village Square Christmas tree lights will be on Sunday December 6th this year. If you know anyone who lives in Wolvey who would enjoy doing the honours, please let the Clerk have their name and contact details with a few sentences explaining why you feel they should be nominated.

We would also be very grateful for any volunteers to help serve refreshments.

Be part of a Guinness World Record

Breathing Places brings you Tree O'clock as part of National Tree Week

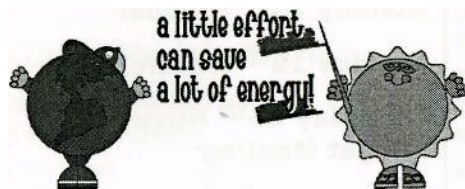


Can we help BBC Breathing Places plant the most trees in one hour on **Saturday 5th December 2009, 11am-12noon?**

If we can find suitable space for a tree planting event, we need to let Breathing Places know by 31st October 2009. Breathing Places will help and guide us through the whole process to make it as easy as possible for completing the challenge. This will be great fun and another way of enhancing our environment. If the idea appeals, and you would like to do some of the planting, please let Margaret our Clerk know; either email or phone her as soon as you can, so we can get registered in good time.

The Big Switch Off - Let's do it!

Switch It Off week 2009 - Starts Monday 9 November



The Switch It Off campaign, which is taking place across Warwickshire, Coventry and Worcestershire, aims to encourage everyone to Switch Off non essential appliances which are left on when they're not needed.

The Big Switch Off 2009 will be on Friday November 13th from 4.30-6.30pm

E.on Central Networks will monitor electricity usage at the Bulk Supply Points during the Big Switch Off to report how much has been saved on expected peak demand.

Summer Festival a hit

On June 20th 2009, Wolvey held a very successful Summer Festival.

The Festival came about because Wolvey Church asked the Council to consider a community festival. Members of the Parish Council had previously discussed a summer event of some kind so this seemed an excellent idea. The aim was to bring the whole community together in a fun day, to showcase and celebrate all the varied activities that take place in Wolvey.

Again, at the suggestion of the church, it was agreed to incorporate the festival with the planned church Flower Festival. Much discussion took place to ensure that the events complemented and enhanced each other. All village groups were invited to

take part and a small committee was formed.

The plan was for each individual group to decide what they wanted to do and also when and where they would do it. The role of the committee was simply to co-ordinate the day. This turned out to be a resounding success with many village groups taking part. The official opening of the boardwalk was on BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire, and there was a full page article on the festival in the Nuneaton News so it certainly helped to advertise all that goes on in Wolvey.

The festival included many other activities including pond dipping, a children's merry-go round, bouncy castles, henna painting, cricket and bowling, displays of

crafts, history and the environment, sheep shearing and of course the excellent church flower festival. The Square looked a treat and the village came alive.

We received letters of thanks and congratulations and the majority of feedback was very positive. The responses show that it was the most enthusiastic groups who enjoyed the day and were most successful. Of course, this was a first attempt, so there were things that could be improved, but the majority opinion was that the event should be repeated every other year.

The whole day proved what a strong community can achieve when people work together as a whole.

Clerk's corner

What is a Parish Clerk? The Clerk is not a member of the Parish Council but is an employee of the Council. The name is a bit misleading because it implies that the role is merely secretarial. In fact, according to the guidelines, the Clerk should be a hands-on multi-skilled manager (who may have to double-up as a secretary/typist on occasion). As well as Council administration and the management of the Council's finances, it is the Clerk's job to advise and guide the Council on policy and procedure. It is also the duty of the Clerk to help councillors to understand the law so that council decisions comply with relevant rules and regulations.

At a recent meeting of local clerks, I was interested to learn that there has been more changes in law relating to the local government sector in the past 10 years than there was for the previous 100 years. This does not surprise me, as, since I became Clerk 3 years ago, it has not been easy for the Council to keep up with all the changes in legislation. If the Council had continued to function as it did even a few years ago, then it would be in danger of operating unlawfully. As a result, the Parish Council needs to rely on the Clerk to provide the necessary information for them to deal with any given situation.

The changing role of the council means that it is now important for the Clerk to be a qualified professional. Since achieving the Clerk's qualification in January, I have joined the 'Institute of Local Council Management', which requires clerks to commit to ongoing training, research and networking with other

professionals. It is good to share the Council's recent achievements with other clerks and to have confirmation that we are doing things correctly. The Council's successes are also being recognised elsewhere and I am increasingly being asked to explain to other Councils about the completion of the boardwalk. I have given two presentations on the subject- one to the Warwickshire Biodiversity conference which was held in Wolvey and also to the Rugby Grants Forum.

The external audit was completed without difficulties and we received congratulations from the auditor for attaining my qualification and Quality Parish Council status. As a result of being a Quality Council we have been awarded a grant of £500 to purchase computer equipment. This will be very useful as planning applications reports and consultations from other authorities are increasingly being provided in digital form. The Council will soon be considering the budget for next year and deciding on any new projects. Improved facilities for our younger residents is one suggestion and we hope that the enclosed youth questionnaire will give some ideas on the best way to do this.

For any information relating to the Parish Council, please contact me by email on parishclerk@wolvev.org or by telephone on 01455 220277. However, please remember that I only work part time. The best time to call is weekday mornings. If I am not available, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Margaret Cartwright
Wolvey Parish Clerk

The Parish Council and the Gypsy and Traveller Debate

Wolvey has been designated in the 'Rugby Core Strategy Document' as a major rural settlement that could support a Gypsy and Traveller site. Since this was announced there has been some misunderstanding about the role of the Parish Council in this process.

Government in Whitehall is responding to the identified need for legal Gypsy and Traveller sites as more members of this community look for areas where they can site their caravans, rather than buy houses; usually for the duration of their children attending a local school. Greenbelt sites are a preferred location. The idea is that increasing the number of small, legal sites for Gypsy and Travellers will reduce the likelihood that large illegal sites (such as the one we experi-

enced in Bulkington) will be set up. Rugby Borough Council has a total of 48 pitches to find and is looking to accommodate 12 legal sites of 5-6 pitches. Each family will occupy one pitch.

The process of establishing a site in Wolvey can only begin if a local landowner sells a plot of land to a Gypsy and Traveller who would like to set up a site. The Parish Council would not have any control over such a transaction. To make the site legal, the new owner then has to seek planning permission. It is only at this stage that we as a Parish Council can have an input. We are, as in all planning applications, part of the **consultation** process and are only able to make recommendations. We do not take the final decision - that is the role of the Planning Department in Rugby.

As the lowest tier of elected government, we sign up to a Code of Conduct and so by

Parish Council Surgeries

Wolvey Parish Council now provides a **Councillor Surgery** once a month. The purpose of the surgery is to enable local residents to raise issues or concerns with Councillors informally outside of Parish Council meetings.

This will take place in the back room of the **Village Hall from 7.30pm to 8.30pm on the first Wednesday of every month.**

Dates of Councillor surgeries: 2009 & 2010

Wednesday 7th October

Wednesday 4th November

Wednesday 2nd December

Wednesday 6th January

Future Meetings of Wolvey Parish Council

Meetings are held in the back room of the Village Hall at 7.45pm:

Monday 19th October

Monday 16th November

Thursday 26th November
Budget Meeting

Monday 21st December

Monday 18th January 2010

law are directed to treat the Gypsy and Traveller communities as ethnic minorities. Should we be asked to comment on an application for a Gypsy and Traveller site, the only objections we could make would be in relation to normal 'material planning considerations', such as opposition to a building on a Greenfield site. However, as Wolvey has been identified by Rugby Borough Council as a settlement that could support a site, it is feasible that our objections could be overruled by their Planning Department.

Should it be that a site is established in Wolvey, the Parish Council would expect Rugby Council to ensure its effective management. We are assured by Rugby that there are legal sites accommodating a small number of Gypsy and Traveller families in Warwickshire and surrounding counties, where the occupiers successfully co-exist in harmony with the settled communities in which they live.