



Wolvey Parish Council Newsletter

Your Community Connection
Spring 2010 Issue 9



Wolvey Parish Councillors

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Thanks - but it's free

The Councillors have been very pleased with the compliments that they have received about the content and quality of the newsletter - it's about to get better!

As from this issue, all future newsletters will be printed in **COLOUR**. This is thanks to the competitive rates Derek Warren negotiated with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College. Also thanks to Derek for proof reading every issue.

A number of residents have wanted to pay for their newsletters. We would like to reassure readers that this publication is free and funded by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is looking for someone to take over preparing and laying out the newsletter. If you are interested, please contact our Clerk.

visit
www.wolvey.org

Wolvey Wetland Weekend

Breathing Places Weekend
Wolvey Old Cricket Field
Wetland Reserve
5th and 6th June.

Activities will include:
pond dipping, habitat construction,
bird, insect, and butterfly spotting
and identification.



Come along and see what the Old Cricket Field Wetland Reserve is all about, what the volunteers get up to and to enjoy the natural, unique surroundings Wolvey is so lucky to have!

More details to follow on the Wolvey Website, and on the noticeboards in the Village Square and Old Cricket Field Wetland Reserve, or ring Ruth on 01455 221324



New Councillor in focus

Following the notice placed in the last newsletter, the Parish Council was very pleased to receive two applications from residents wishing to join the Parish Council. However, following interviews and a vote the Council decided to co-opt Mr Roger Wickens to fill the vacancy. One of his main interests is the Environment, and as a member of the Environment Group for the last year he has spent many hours in the wetlands on a number of different projects.

Roger's passion is Photography, and as a member of Hinckley Ramblers, he also enjoys country walking. He has just taken retirement from the Jessop Group where he was Product Manager and now hopes to be able to contribute something back to the community.



Celebrate - at last! Community First Responders



It was December 2008 when funding was awarded to the Parish Council to purchase a defibrillator to enable volunteers to become Community First Responders. Names and details were forwarded to the Ambulance Service for consideration. In May 2009, two volunteers were interviewed, and after varying criteria were met, accepted for training, with six other people from Wolvey awaiting interviews.

Training was scheduled for October 2009, but was subsequently cancelled, a further date was set for January 2010. Unfortunately, heavy snowfall did not allow this session to take place, but finally in February, training commenced. A difficult and tiring training day was held at Stratford Ambulance Station, lots of theory and practical sessions on everything from chest compressions to

uniforms - a little scary, when realisation hit how much knowledge was needed and how little we knew!! Unfortunately, the follow up session the next day was once more snowed off and we began to wonder was training ever going to be completed? Well, yes, because on Thursday 4th March, follow up training was taken, exams, both practical and theory passed - 'Hurrah!' qualified at last!

The equipment needed to proceed has been ordered, so when delivery has been taken, two qualified, but I am sure, nervous volunteers, will be on call to give early help to people who require it in the village and surrounding areas, until the Ambulance Service arrive to take over. This has been a long drawn out process, but hopefully it will have been worth the wait, if just one life is saved or is less damaged by help from a Community First Responder, then that will be reward enough and cause for celebration.

Wolvey winter wonderland by night and day



Scoop or snoop, let's dump the poop

There are continuing reports of problems with dog mess on the streets of Wolvey. Irresponsible dog owners, who do not clean up after their dog, can be issued with fixed penalty notices of up to £1000. If you have a dog, please pick up the mess and either take it home or put it in the bins provided. If you see someone allowing their dog to foul a public place, take a note of the time, date and location (and a photo if you can) and report it to

Watch out for Wolvey!



The latest meeting of the Wolvey Neighbourhood Watch (February 17th) proved to be interesting and informative. PCSO Sharon Bailie provided reports of crime in the Wolvey area from October 2009 to February 2010. We are fortunate to have a low level of crime but any crime is very disturbing for the victims. A guest speaker from Rugby police explained how Wolvey's relative isolation is both its protection and its vulnerability. He gave suggestions about how people can make things as difficult as possible for would-be burglars. Most crime takes place during the day, so it is important to be alert to protect yourself, your property and your neighbours. We were provided with free samples of door chains for UPVC doors, and also screws which make it difficult to steal car number plates.

It was, however, disappointing that only 5 village residents attended the meeting! In the Parish Plan questionnaire, 407 people said that there was a need for a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Wolvey, and 247 people said they would join if one was formed. As a result, the Parish Council agreed to help set up a scheme. But it is part of the Rugby Neighbourhood Watch and is, therefore, independent of the Parish Council. Unfortunately, 2 years on, there is still no-one to manage it and meetings are only sparsely attended. There will need to be more interest shown soon, if the scheme is going to continue.

There are only four meetings a year which are very informal. They are well advertised, so if you do think it is important to keep crime in Wolvey to a minimum and want to learn more about how this can be achieved, please come along to the next meeting - and bring your neighbours too!

Rugby Borough Council. The Parish Clerk has copies of a witness form for this purpose, or you can ring the contact centre on 01788 533533.



Plotting out the Future on the Old Cricket Field Wetland Reserve

Any environment group is going to want to plant trees. The irony is, that but for the impact of man, trees would establish themselves. Our ancestors probably cleared the Old Cricket Field quite a while ago since it is close to the village. The field is now reverting to its pre-drainage status. Watch that Alder grow (by the bridge entrance). Much of the appeal of the field stems from the stand of mature trees which occupy its southern and eastern boundaries. These trees beautifully frame our splendid Parish church. So where do we plant and what do we plant?

The corner of the field, where the old pavillion stood is relatively well drained but in the shadows of the existing trees, not the best place for meadow species. This area is mostly occupied by nettles and bramble. After a bit of clearing of

overhanging willow, this is the area which was planted with native species. An improved visual effect is probably achieved by planting in small groups rather than randomly. Also insects and other animals benefit from having a not too dispersed food source. The larger (well eventually) subjects were Oak, Ash, Birch, Wild Cherry and Beech.

All these species can be found locally in abundance. These were planted towards the ditch in a north south line. Next were the slightly shorter intermediates including Field Maple, Hawthorn, Crab Apple and Alder Buckthorn. The latter in one of the preferred feed plants of the Brimstone butterfly (named after its sulphury yellow colour) and one of the first butterflies to brave the spring weather. The front edge of the little plantation is populated by wayfaring bush, dogwood

dog-rose and the shorter subjects. The aim is to achieve a diverse and sloping canopy. Obviously the existing mature trees which border two sides of the planting will exert an influence. The rather unsightly black polythene squares which occupy the bases of the whips are necessary to control the existing nettles and grass and allow our little trees a fighting chance! Also they allow the new trees to have easier access to moisture and nutrients. Rabbits are always a problem when tree planting. They like some species in preference to others and we hope we have protected our vulnerable trees.

In the coming autumn, the group hopes to complete the planting up to the boardwalk spur. In years to come this little planting of trees and shrubs will hopefully improve the appearance and diversity of the Old Cricket Field reserve.



Young trees planted on wetland



Planters taking a rest

What a winter for the Environment Group

The activities of the Environment Group have been seriously curtailed by the constant, extreme cold and snowy weather, however the last few days have given respite from the cold, so at last, some tasks have been completed in the wetland.

120 assorted native trees have been planted and gravel has been laid at the tributary end of the boardwalk spur to ensure a dry entry into the woodland walk. A grass grid is to be purchased and laid, to give a solid pathway for safe walking conditions in that area, which will also minimize erosion, and protect the precious woodland soil.

Despite the weather, snowdrops are looking gorgeous on Temple Hill, swelling in numbers every year, birds of all kinds are nest building, caterpillars are already around searching for new homes, trees and shrubs are showing new growth, as Mother Nature weaves her magic. The group have many plans for the next

few weeks, metal grids will be placed on the sides of the tributary bridge, to ensure privacy for Gallifords, and safety for people crossing the bridge. Replacement bolts are to be fixed to the toerails of the boardwalk, to firm up the structure, and keep the rails solidly in place. A donated bench is to be placed beside the boardwalk spur, facing the church, in just the right place to sit and survey the lovely view, hopefully in the sunshine.

Training courses will be undertaken by some members of the group this Spring at Brandon Marsh, to enhance knowledge and skills and will include a vole workshop, amphibian recognition, and the ever popular pond dipping. The volunteers met recently for a somewhat belated Christmas celebration, which was good fun, a great evening was had by all. Why not come along to one of our meetings, see what happens, you would be very welcome. For more information, ring Ruth on 01455221324

Wolvey Litter Pick
Saturday 17th April

Would you like to make a difference to the look of your village?
If you do, please come and join us.

Meet at the Blue Pig at 11am.
Refreshments and equipment provided.
All welcome.

Residents, organisations, groups and businesses

Can you sponsor a hanging basket for £50?

There will be 7 baskets planted professionally to look great all summer in The Square.



Interested?
Please contact the Parish Clerk.

Clerk's Corner

We are fast approaching the end of the financial year for the Parish Council so this is a very busy time for the Parish Clerk, making sure that everything is in order for the audit. The Council must ensure that all the necessary financial regulations are in place and being followed correctly. It is a time to review how all the funds for the current year have been spent and make sure that funding is in place for any future plans.

The new Precept is due to be sent from Rugby during April. This is the Parish Council's portion of the council tax, which is decided by the Parish Council at its budget meeting in November. Parish and Town Councils are the only tier of government which can decide for themselves what funds they need for the year, without any capping by central government. Therefore, the amount received by Wolvey is decided by the Parish Council, based on local needs, and not by Rugby Borough Council.

One interesting aspect of the role of Parish Clerk is to oversee the historical documents for Wolvey. Minutes of Parish Council meetings must be kept in perpetuity and so we have records going back to when the Parish Council was first formed in 1894. I have been looking through them before some of them are sent to be stored at the County Records office. The minutes from some of the early meetings include discussions about the state of footpaths and highways in the Parish - nothing much changes there then!

I have recently sent a report about the state of some of the footpaths in Wolvey to the Warwickshire County Council Rugby Area Committee. As a result, we have been told that the footpaths in Croft Close and Hall Lane are due to be resurfaced this year, and that the footpath on Hinckley Road will be put onto plans for when budget allows in the future. The Parish Council has asked me to keep reminding the Highways department until this work has been completed.

The Parish Council also shares residents concern about the speed of traffic on our roads. After a lengthy review and consultation, Warwickshire County Council has agreed to reduce the speed limit on Leicester Road and Mill Lane to 40mph. There will be new entry signs saying "Wolvey Heath" and a speed activated sign erected near to Gallifords. We are now waiting for a date when the work will be carried out. We have been warned this can take some time but it should be completed before the end of the summer. The Parish Council is also investigating ways to try to solve the problem in other areas.

For any information relating to the Parish Council, please contact me by email on parishclerk@wolvey.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

Future Meetings of Wolvey Parish Council

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

Monday 12th April

Wednesday 28th April
Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 17th May

Monday 21st June

Monday 20th July

Wolvey Parish Council

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Wolvey, Hinckley, Leics LE10 3LL

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Vacancy for a Councillor

There is a vacancy on the above Council following the resignation of Councillor B. Kuncewicz.

A bye-election to fill the vacancy will be held, if by 14th April 2010, ten electors of the Parish give notice in writing to the Returning Officer claiming an election.

The address of the Returning Officer is: The Chief Executives Office, Town Hall, Evereux Way, Rugby CV21 2LB

If no such notice is given, the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

Dated: 22 March 2010

Signed: Margaret Cartwright
Parish Clerk

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is not a meeting of the Parish Council but is a meeting for the people of Wolvey Parish to discuss ideas about their village.

At this meeting the Parish Council will make a report on its activities and achievements during the past year, including a financial report.

This year's meeting will be held on

Wednesday April 28th at 7.30pm in Wolvey Village Hall.

Speakers have been invited to present information and displays on:
Renewable Energy Sources Energy Saving Products The Environment
Neighbourhood Watch Speed Aware Community First Responders

All electors of the Parish are invited to attend this meeting.

So why not come along to what should be a very interesting meeting and refreshments will be served.

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 at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of every month.

Dates of Councillor surgeries:

Wednesday 7th April

Wednesday 5th May

Wednesday 2nd June

Wednesday 7th July

Are you interested in your local community? Do you have enthusiasm and lots of ideas on how to improve the area in which you live? Would you like to help make a difference? Why not consider joining the Wolvey Parish Council? There is now a

Vacancy for a Councillor

Speak to any of the Councillors or the Clerk for more information.