



Wolvey Parish Council Newsletter

Your Community Connection

Winter 2008 Issue 4

Third Wolvey Christmas Tree 'Switch On'

The eagerly awaited day was finally here, the large crowd gathered in the Village Square, (despite the bitter cold) in anticipation of the Christmas Tree 'Switch On'.

Bulkington Silver band played, the Church and WI Choirs sang while children enjoyed the merry-go round and candy floss. The countdown commenced and hey presto, a click from 4 year old Josh Simmons and the tree burst into brilliant life.

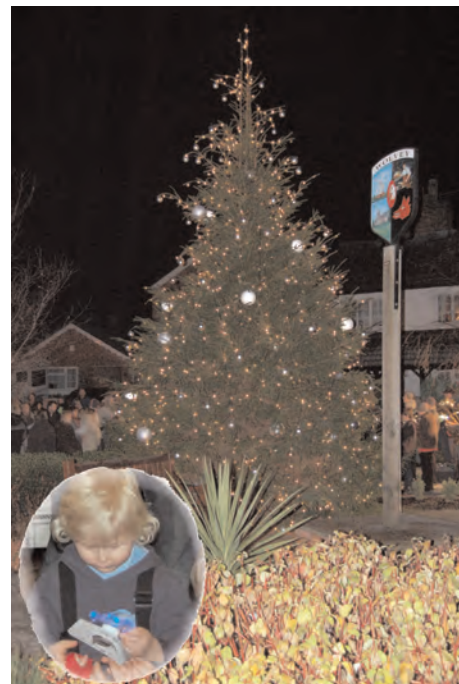
Josh was chosen from a number of wonderful nominations and thank you for them all. Josh's mum explained that he was involved in a serious road accident when just 4 months old. Consequently he has had numerous medical problems but has made amazing progress and sensory



lights played an important part in his recovery. His face was a real picture when the tree lights went on. What a star!

After a few more carols, all made for the mince pies and mulled wine on offer in the Village Hall, where the atmosphere was as warm and welcoming as the refreshments. There were displays of recent Parish Council achievements and initiatives and thanks were given to all involved in them. The event was a delightful coming together of the community, enjoyed by many villagers, who no doubt are already looking forward to next year!

£190 was raised for Air Ambulance and thanks again to everyone who helped make it another resounding success.



The Council wishes all residents a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous 2009.

The Plan is finally going to print and should be with all those who requested a copy early in the New Year!

It has been a process that took more time, energy and commitment than anyone had anticipated. However, the delay has not stopped the Parish Council responding to the findings and a number of initiatives are already in place.



The Environment Group, Neighbourhood Watch and the newsletter are gathering momentum and The Plan has given impetus to traffic calming and speeding restrictions. Most importantly the Parish Council is responding to identified needs and aspirations of our community.

More Glittering Prizes for Wolvey in Warwickshire Best Village of the Year Competition

Once more the village has been rewarded in a County competition.

Dignitaries and guests from all over Warwickshire attended the AGM of Warwickshire Rural Community Council and we were pleased to learn that Wolvey won both the Environment and the Communication categories. Wolvey was also placed second overall.

For this we received a silver cup and £550 in prize money.

The event was a celebration of village life with entries from other Warwickshire villages on display. Councillor Kuncewicz was invited to speak about our experience of this new competition and to encourage other villages to take part in the future.



Display and prizes for the Wolvey Entry

Guests were also treated to an exceptional buffet and the whole event hosted in the Village Hall was hailed as a success.

We have received letters of thanks and congratulations, saying:

"if you intended to show Wolvey in a positive light, you succeeded spectacularly well!"

Neighbourhood Watch Update

We are making steady progress with the number of people getting involved with the Wolvey Neighbourhood Watch Group and now have 12 co-ordinators/volunteers. We still need more people to get involved in this scheme. So, please come along and find out more at one of the following meetings in 2009:

Thursday 26th February

Thursday 21st May

in the Millennium Building, 7.30pm



If you would like to find out more contact:

Jon Wiggins
on 221212 or
jonnywig@googlemail.com.

Don't be blue this Christmas - protect yourself against crime!

In Warwickshire, the chances of you or your family being the victim of crime are already low. By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime even further especially during this Christmas period.

When Christmas Shopping get into the habit of not leaving any items on display in your car. If you have to return to your car to unload purchases, make sure that they are locked out of sight. If you carry your purse in a handbag, make sure that the zip or clasp is kept closed and kept out of the way of pick pockets

At Home keep presents out of sight until last thing on Christmas Eve. Try not to hide or store Christmas presents outside in the shed or garage. Keep receipts and instruction manuals separate so that, should the worst happen, you have evidence of what was taken. Dispose of packaging carefully as empty boxes left outside will indicate that these goods are available inside. Try not to position the Christmas tree or presents right in front of the window. This may attract attention from anyone passing. When out of the house make sure all windows are locked. After dark make it appear as though someone is at home by using timer switches on lights or leaving a radio playing. Once again, if you wish to report a crime call Warwickshire Police 01926 415000. In an emergency, if you are witnessing a crime in progress, call 999.

Bus Stop - at your request

The Parish Council has completed a consultation on the opinion of local residents with regard to an official bus stop in Wolvey. 73.4%, of those who replied, identified the lay-by on Coventry Road as their site of choice for an official bus stop. Also, the majority of residents within the immediate location of the lay-by were in favour of this location. As a result, the Parish Council resolved to request that Warwickshire County Council make an official bus stop at this location.

As an action point within the Parish Plan, the Parish Council has also agreed to continue investigating an improvement to bus routes and additional bus stops. However, this is unlikely to succeed, unless we can demonstrate that people actually need and will use any additional bus services.

Hop on - or it might be gone!

It was expected that, with the introduction of the national bus concession scheme, there would be a significant increase in the use of public transport. This has not happened around Wolvey. If we are going to be able to keep and improve public transport in Wolvey, it is vital that we can show that existing buses are well used. This really is a case of "use it or lose it". So, dust off those bus passes and make use of the free transport available!



New ways to 'bin it' from April 2009

Rugby Borough Council are making improvements to the way in which your recyclables and refuse is collected, which means it will be easier to recycle more materials from the kerbside.

The new services will consist of 3 bins, the green bin for garden waste and food



waste, and a blue lid bin for 'dry' recycling which will replace red boxes. The original black bin will be used for anything that can't either be recycled or composted. Blue lidded

bins will be delivered to residents during February and March in time for the start of the scheme in April 2009.

Residents frequently request that plastics and card be collected from the kerbside and this new service will enable us to collect a much wider range of materials including cooked and uncooked food waste, cardboard, plastic bottles, plastic food containers such as margarine tubs and yoghurt pots, glass bottles and jars, tins and cans, foil, aerosols and mixed papers.

Want to know more?

Before the new services start residents will receive two leaflets; one an introduction to the service and second delivered nearer to the start date - will give more detailed instructions.

Come and meet the team at road shows and drop-in sessions at Parish Councils - throughout the district. You can also contact the recycling team on 01788 533 328. All details of locations and times will be posted on the recycling and refuse web pages and advertised in the local press.

Smartwater

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, via registration on the Smartwater list. It can be used on electrical items, jewellery, bicycles and garden tools etc. It is invisible to the naked eye.

At this time, Smartwater can be purchased for £15, as opposed to the regular cost of £15, from our P.C.S.O Sharon Baillie, through Jon Wiggins, our Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

When Smartwater is purchased within an area, signage will be provided, stating this is a Smartwater area. Consequently statistics show that local crime figures are likely to fall significantly.

To purchase, contact Jon Wiggins on 221212



Have you visited the Wetland Boardwalk yet?

If not, you should, it is fabulous. What's more it's even easier to access following the installation of the new boardwalk by members of the Environment Working Party. Here's how it happened.

Saturday October 18th

Momentous day, the materials for installation of our long awaited boardwalk had arrived, which meant that the huge task, discussed so often and at great length, had finally become a reality. The assembled members of the Environmental Working Party were in great form and raring to go. With some trepidation we proceeded in our usual humorous way, to install posts opposite to those previously installed by Secure-a-field, the supplier of the materials (all recycled plastic) for the project. To our delight, we made great progress, work went quickly and successfully, and by the end of the first day (some seven hours later) our confidence was boosted and we knew, that although the construction would be hard work, we could do it!

Work continues at an amazing pace - every day was a learning curve, new skills to be tackled and implemented; new knowledge gleaned, but with very few problems incurred. Conditions for working were pretty grim most of the time, the ground was very boggy and wet, and despite our best efforts most of us had a dousing in the mud (not a nice experience) but a boon for the washing powder manufacturers whose sales in the Wolvey area must have increased by 100%.

Saturday October 25th

Posts are now all in place; side rails are beginning to be fitted. This is a tricky, skilful task requiring heavy lifting, drilling through posts, bolting into place (all to be done whilst trying not to sink too deeply into the mire), and keeping the rails level to ensure the treads will be even and flat when placed on top of the rails. This is difficult but rewarding when, shortly afterwards, treads were screwed in place and we could actually walk on the boardwalk- A Happy Day!



Monday November 3rd

First of the passing places installed today. There will be five in total, another triumph. Many more side rails and treads fitted and progress is amazing. The working party celebrated with a well earned evening meal at "TheBull"



Monday November 10th

Last of the treads delivered today, which must mean we have nearly completed the job. None of us can comprehend how quickly this boardwalk has been erected. Everyone is euphoric and has thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.



Sunday November 23rd

Treads are all fitted, toe rails are being installed and tidying up of the site has been done. What a pleasure it is to stroll across the wetland without sinking in the mud or wading through puddles. This is the beginning of a new era for the 'Old Cricket Field' Wetland Reserve.



It will now be more accessible for everyone to enjoy. The scars of our intrusion there will soon heal, in fact, shoots are already reappearing and robins and wrens are taking full advantage of the new shelter provided.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication, commitment and sheer hard work of the volunteers involved. They have donated many, many hours to this project and will continue to do so in the near future. So a huge thank you to them. Also, many thanks to Secure-a-field for a great product, and to Mark Bass for his sound advice and willingness to deliver materials on demand. We do appreciate all the help and support given.



Thursday December 3rd

In the recent frosty weather the reserve has looked magical, with starry spiders webs and sparkling grasses - even the boardwalk itself has a frosty glitter. After consultation with the Highways Department and discussions for specifications we have now ordered the materials to construct the entrance pathways. So, the plan is to have the reserve fully open by Christmas. It will be just the place to go for a walk after that filling Christmas lunch.

New volunteers are always welcome to join our group. Just ring Ruth on 221324 for more information.

Festival Fling to open Boardwalk?

One of the conditions that was attached to our grants for the Boardwalk was to hold an event to celebrate its opening.

Some residents have already expressed an interest in having some sort of 'summer festival' in Wolvey involving local groups and organisations. The PC feel that this may be a good way to start. We are going to hold a 'Brainstorming Workshop' to share ideas and decide on a format.

This will take place on Monday 26th January 2009 in the Millenium Building at 7.30 pm.

Anyone interested will be very welcome.

Democracy at its most local level

Do you sometimes think that government is remote and does not understand your needs at a local level? The parish council is the tier of local government closest to the people and it has an overall responsibility for the well-being of the local community. There are over 8,700 parish and town councils in England which are elected by local people to represent local interests, provide local services and to be accessible to the local population.

Wolvey Parish Council is made up of seven councillors who are elected to represent and serve the residents of Wolvey. Councillors are community leaders whose role is to establish policies and make decisions on how money should be raised and spent for the benefit of the local community. Councillors must behave in an ethical way and they must agree to abide by a Code of Conduct. This means that residents can have confidence that their needs are represented efficiently and effectively.

To demonstrate this Wolvey Parish Council is working towards achieving Quality Parish Council status. There is a list of criteria which must be achieved to attain this and we are very close to reaching the required standard.

An active parish council should facilitate and enable local action by getting involved with local organisations and listening to its community. To do this it needs a good balance of committed members which represents all sections of the community.

The role of individual councillors is to attend meetings, suggest ideas and engage in constructive debate to respond to the needs and views of the community. It might sound as if it is all very formal, but the rules have been developed in law over more than a hundred years to ensure that meetings are conducted fairly and the actions of the council are open and transparent.

Future meetings of Wolvey Parish Council

Monday 15th December, 2008

Monday 19th January, 2009

Monday 16th February, 2009

Monday 16th March, 2009

[Boardwalk committee meeting](#)

Monday 5th January

Millennium Building at 7.30pm

But, being a councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

Often councillors say their duties occupy about 3 hours a week. Of course this varies, with some councillors spending more time than this and some less. The only real commitment is to attend the monthly meeting, but ideally councillors should be prepared and willing to get involved and take part in community events and organisations. They should have lots of ideas, drive and enthusiasm for the area in which they live. Would you like to see what difference you can make to your local community?

There is currently a vacancy for a councillor on Wolvey Parish Council.

Most British citizens, over the age of 18, are eligible for election as a parish councillor. The current vacancy is due to be filled by co-option.

All nominations must be received by the clerk before 16th January and must include a short explanation of why you would like to join the council and what you can offer the role.

Nominations will then be considered by the council at the January parish council meeting when councillors will take a vote to decide on who should fill the vacancy. If you would like more information about the council and the role of councillors or on how to apply for consideration, please speak to any of the councillors or contact: Margaret Cartwright (Parish Clerk)
Tel 01455 220277
Email: parishclerk@wolvey.org

Wolvey Parish Council Web site

Visit us at www.wolvey.org

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:

January 3rd

February 4th

March 4th

Thanks Bob

The parish council is sorry to report that Bob Hilliard has decided to step down from his position as a councillor.

Bob has been an active member of the council for more than two years and has had a leading role in the production of the parish council website. He has also been much in evidence in the setting up of the village Christmas tree and particularly in putting the lights on the tree - going up in the bucket to reach the uppermost branches!

His efforts on behalf of the residents of Wolvey have been very much appreciated, so thank you very much Bob.

Wolvey Parish Councillors

Ruth Buswell 01455 221324

Roy Elliott 01455 220491

John Hawkins 01455 220482

Ben Kerrell-Vaughan 01455 882868

Bozena Kuncewicz 01455 220771

Jon Slee 01455 220322

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 a **Vacancy for a Councillor** right now

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

If you would like to be considered for this position, please send your details giving the reasons why you wish to become a Councillor and what you think you can bring to the role.

Please send these to the Clerk at the above address (or e mail) by
Friday 16th January 2009