



Wolvey Parish Council Newsletter

Your Community Connection

Autumn 2008 Issue 3

Gold for Village Square Second for Wetland Reserve First for Village of the Year

Lit up for Christmas

Yes, Christmas is coming and the big 'Switch On' of the Village Square Christmas tree lights will be on Sunday December 7th this year. Help us to make it the same success that it has been for the past two years.

Could we ask the residents who live around The Square not to park there that afternoon and evening and to thank them once again for being so co-operative, as in the last two years.

We would like to invite a local resident to switch on the Christmas tree lights. If you know anyone who lives in Wolvey who would enjoy doing the honours, let the Clerk have their name and contact details. Please include a few sentences explaining why you feel they should be nominated. It will help the Parish Council choose should there be more than one name put forward.

We are looking for donations of wine and mince pies for the carol singing and get together in the Village Hall after the 'Switch On'. Again, please contact the Clerk if you can help.



The Wolvey Plan is now complete and will be ready for printing in the next few weeks.

A free copy will be delivered to households in the Parish but you will need to: either complete the enclosed slip and put it in the 'Wolvey The Plan' box in the Post Office and Stores, or email the Parish Clerk with your name and address and request a copy by October 19th please.

Alternatively you can download it from the Wolvey web site.

Winning Wolvey

Rugby in Bloom Competition

For the first time, Wolvey made two entries into the Rugby in Bloom Competition this year; the Village Square in the Community category and the Wetland Reserve in the Environment category.

We are very pleased to announce that we have been awarded Gold in the Community category and Second in the Environment category.



Councillor Buswell (left) receiving the award for Calor Gas Village of the Year

This is an amazing achievement for a first attempt and is real recognition of the commitment of all the volunteers who worked so hard clearing weeds, planting, supplying water, watering and feeding the plants and to all who generously donated towards the planters in the square.

Warwickshire Calor Village of the Year competition

We have also been awarded First in the Large Villages category of the Warwickshire Calor Village of the Year Competition.

The judges said they were:

"...pleased to hear about the continued involvement in the Wetland Project and improvements in the centre of the village. The new Parish Council newsletter and comprehensive website are good evidence of progress in communication".

It is good to know that our efforts are being recognised across the county.

We are still waiting to hear the results of another competition we have entered - the Warwickshire Best Village of the Year. The results of this will be announced at the AGM of the Warwickshire Rural Community Council which is being held in Wolvey Village Hall on November 1st. WRCC say all are welcome, but it will be by invitation only. So, if anyone would like to attend, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk

Margaret Cartwright 01455 220277
email: parishclerk@wolvey.org

Wolvey Parish Council Web site

Visit us at www.wolvey.org

Wolvey Parish Councillors

Ruth Buswell	01455 221324
Roy Elliott	01455 220491
John Hawkins	01455 220482
Bob Hilliard	01455 220631
Ben Kerrell-Vaughan	01455 882868
Bozena Kuncewicz	01455 220771
Jon Slee	01455 220322

Making your neighbourhood safer

The Wolvey Safer Neighbourhood Office is now open.

What are Safer Neighbourhood Teams about? One of the fundamental roles of each Safer Neighbourhood Team is the protection of the local community.

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team will work to prevent and detect crime and increase levels of confidence within the local community.

Teams are made up of Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers and Special Constables all dedicated to working locally.

We will meet with local people to identify specific issues that concern the community in order to set local priorities for action.

If you do have any comments or queries, and don't manage to catch us on patrol, call into the office which is now situated in the village hall or please contact a member of your local team:

Safer Neighbourhood Team

Rugby Police Station
Newbold Road,
Rugby, CV21 2DH
tel: 01788 541111
rrn.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

PC Dan Salt 1764
tel: 01788 541111
Voicemail: 11764
daniel.salt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Sharon Bailie 6152
tel: 01788 541111
Voicemail: 16152
sharon.bailie@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

To report a crime anywhere in Warwickshire call Warwickshire Police on 01926 415000.

In an emergency, dial 999.

If you have information about crime or criminal activity in your neighbourhood, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 1111.

To find out more information about your local Safer Neighbourhood Team please visit:
www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk
Rugby Rural North.



Wolvey Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Interest is growing



Since the previous newsletter, I am pleased to confirm that we now have approximately 10 co-ordinators who have signed up to support this important scheme. We still need more people to get involved if this is to be a long term success. If you are interested in becoming a co-ordinator, or you just want to find out more, then please come along to the next meeting:

Date: Thursday 16th October
Location: The Millenium Building
Time: 7.30pm.

The meeting will last approx. 1 hour. If you cannot attend this meeting, but would like to get involved, or if you would just like to find out more, please contact Jon Wiggins on 01455 221212 or at: jonnywig@googlemail.co.uk.

Vandals - spot & stop

It is with great concern that we have to report repeated incidents of vandalism taking place in the Parish during the last two months. Two benches, one in Wolvey Heath (pictured) and the other in Piper's End were deliberately damaged. Extensive repairs were kindly carried out by Ted Buswell, a member of the Environment Group.



On Sunday, 21st September between 2.30 and 3.15pm the repaired bench in Wolvey Heath was vandalised again!! A few weeks ago the planter on Temple Hill was, strangely, half emptied of compost and plants which then had to be replaced. It is very sad that whilst volunteers willingly give time and effort to enhance the area some individuals seek to destroy it. Please stop!

If you do witness any vandalism, please report it to the police: immediately.

Wolvey Walks - Join in

Through the Environment Group meetings, a number of walks have been organised around Wolvey. To date 7 walks have been completed of varying length. A further 5 walks have been proposed, these will be extending further beyond the Parish boundary and taking in local pubs. Way markings and paths are also surveyed during these interesting and good-humoured strolls.

Participation in these walks can be arranged by attending the next Environment Group meeting. Details are also posted on the notice board and the Wolvey web site; do join us.

Community First Response Scheme

Around 85% of people who suffer a cardiac arrest have the potential to survive if they can be treated quickly with a defibrillator. Chances of survival decrease by 10% for every minute that defibrillation is delayed. There is an 80% chance of survival if stabilised in the first 2 mins. An ambulance was called to Wolvey 36 times in August, one of which was to a cardiac arrest. In Wolvey the average response time for an emergency ambulance to attend is 10 minutes.

To increase the chances of survival for sufferers within our community, the Parish Council is setting up a Community First Response team and has applied to Warwickshire County Council Rugby Area Medium Grant Scheme for the £2450 to buy the defibrillator and ancillary equipment.

Community Responders are volunteers, trained by the Ambulance Service, who use locally supplied equipment to respond to local emergencies. They will be alerted by Ambulance Control and can get to the patient while the ambulance is on the way. Once the ambulance arrives, responsibility is handed over to the paramedics. Community Responders can be anyone who is reasonably fit and healthy and 18 to 70 years of age. No previous experience or medical training is needed. Two volunteers have already come forward, but more are necessary to be able to provide 24/7 cover.

If you would consider volunteering for this very worthwhile venture, or if you want more information, please contact the Parish Clerk by October 19th.

Wolvey Wetland Reserve

(The Old Cricket Field)

Boardwalk Project

The importance of this site and our attempts to manage it has been recognised by various funding groups.

As a result, so far, grants and donations have covered all the costs of the project (purchase of the land, erection of gate, signs, benches and ongoing maintenance) and none has been paid from the local council tax.

This year, the Parish Council, along with the Environment Group are planning to improve access to the reserve, so that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it. We have been awarded grants of £10,000 from the BBC Breathing Places Big Lottery Fund and also a further £10,000 from the Rugby Rural Development Fund. We will also be using funding that has been kept in reserve from previous grants and a small amount from the Parish precept to buy the materials to construct a boardwalk through the site. The walk will be made from recycled plastic which has the advantage of needing little maintenance, being virtually non-slip and also of not leaching chemicals into this vulnerable habitat. To coordinate this exciting project the Parish Council is

setting up a committee and to make this money go further, most of the actual building of the boardwalk will be done by a team of local volunteers. We would like this project to be a real community effort. There will be many tasks with which people, of all ages and abilities, can get involved. These will include monitoring and recording plants and other wildlife, re-introducing local native plants, clearing dominant growth from parts of the site, erecting bird and bat boxes, log piles and other insect homes.

Of course, we will also welcome help from anyone with practical and woodworking skills who would be willing to lend a hand.

The project is part of the BBC's "Do One Thing for Nature" campaign and therefore, provides Wolvey people with an opportunity to take part in this.

The Wolvey Wetland Reserve is featured on the Breathing Places website www.breathingplaces.org/public and events related to the project will be posted on this site, as well as our own website www.wolvey.org

If you would like to be involved in this community project and /or join the committee please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Environment Group

How quickly time passes when you are having fun. The Wolvey Environment Group goes from strength to strength and we have been extremely busy since the last published newsletter. The Wetland Reserve fence has been repaired and repainted and looks fantastic. Clearing and tidying continues inside the reserve. Plants, animals and insects have been photographed and recorded for future reference.

The Village Square has had a facelift with weeding, clearing and extra planting, and a new notice board has been erected, making it a brighter, award winning space. In addition, the new bus shelter has been enhanced with a newly created flowerbed while the planters at the village gateways continue to welcome visitors and residents with flowery aplomb.

At the recent village Produce Show the group created a small exhibition to inform visitors of our activities over the last few

months. It was an impressive display with a myriad of photographs including insects, birds and plants spotted around the village, before and after pictures of the Wetland and the Square, and 'action shots' of work being carried out. The display was very well received with much interest shown.

It was a good opportunity for group members to impart newly gained knowledge to interested visitors and to inform them of our many plans for the future. We hope to replant the Axe and Compass roundabout with a design planned in conjunction with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College. Owl and bat boxes will be constructed this winter, street signage will be renovated but the biggest task of all will be helping, with expert guidance, to erect the boardwalk across the Wetland Reserve; a challenging but very exciting project. The Wolvey Environment Group meets on the second Monday each month in the Bull's Head at 7.15 pm. We would be delighted if you could join us. For more information, ring Ruth on 221324.

Amber Alert

That ever-growing grass and soggy ground which has made working in the garden such a trial this summer is great for the wildlife on the Wolvey Wetland Reserve.

The rushes and marshy plants provide good insect populations which, in turn, are an important food source for wading birds such as the snipe which will be arriving in October/November for the winter.

These medium sized, brown and buff wading birds with short legs and long straight bills feed by feeling prey deep in the soil. If the marshes and meadows are well drained — or not waterlogged at the end of the winter — then the ground may become dry and hard in summer and the birds would not be able to breed here. Does this matter? After all, the local snipe do breed elsewhere, they just move on in March to find a place where they can breed.

Well, the RSPB reports that the UK population of snipe has undergone steep decline in lowland wet grassland over the past twenty-five years, making it an Amber List species, as is our resident barn owl. For a look at the Amber List, which has lots of birds we often think of as being common see http://www.bto.org/bird-track/bird_recording/amber_list.htm. If the snipe could be persuaded to stay and breed, we would see aerial displays to rival the Red Arrows: each male, following a circular route, makes a series of power dives during which the outermost tail-feathers are held out almost at right-angles to the bird's body. Feather vibration in the slip-stream produces the remarkable throbbing known as 'drumming'.

Once a female snipe is attracted the male pursues her and dives with wings held above the body in a V-shape often rolling and turning upside-down.

Cross your fingers!!

Look out for snipe



Louise Sutherland
Wetland Project Officer
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Sharing Successful Practice

Warwickshire Rural Community Council invited the Steering Group to take part in a workshop to encourage Parish Councils who have not yet written a Parish Action Plan to do so. The workshop took place on Saturday 20th September in Binley Woods Village Hall from 10am-1pm. Two members of the Steering Group attended, Councillor Kuncewicz and Margaret Cartwright. They put together a display and spent most of the time explaining how the Wolvey 85% return of completed questionnaires was achieved.

It was a very useful experience not only because they were able to share their success but also let other parishes know that Wolvey has a vibrant, cohesive community with a forward thinking spirit.



Margaret Cartwright and Councillor Kuncewicz at the Wolvey display.

Future Parish Council meetings:

Monday 20th October, 2008
Parish Council meeting

Monday 17th November, 2008
Parish Council meeting

Thursday 20th November, 2008
Budget meeting

In the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Clerks Report

The summer months are, in theory, the quietest time for a Parish Clerk, although I can't say that I have noticed that this year. The Parish Council has continued to be very busy planning for new projects and initiatives to improve life for the residents of Wolvey.

The improved appearance of the village square cannot have gone unnoticed. The new bus shelter is surrounded by flowers, and the hanging baskets and planters have survived well despite the battering by the wind and rain.

A new larger notice board has been erected in front of the village hall. This now incorporates a separate lockable section for statutory Parish Council notices. However, there is still a double section

which remains open for use by anyone in the community. Please take a look when you are passing as it can be very interesting and informative.

It is gratifying to learn recently that some of our efforts are being recognised at district and county level. Success in our first entry into the Rugby in Bloom competition (in two categories), a request for an article about the Wetland in the "County Matters" magazine and winner of the Warwickshire Calor Village of the Year in the large village category. We have also been awarded grants of £10,000 by both the BBC Breathing Places Big Lottery Fund and the Rugby Borough Council Rural Development Fund to provide a boardwalk in the Wolvey Wetland Reserve.

I am still working towards the clerk's qualification and have now passed the planning section. A qualified clerk is required for the Council if it is to be recognised as a quality Parish Council. In November, the Council holds its budget meeting to decide on how much funding it will need for the coming financial year. At this meeting, the Council decides on the precept, which is the contribution requested from the council tax. The Parish Council can allocate funding to organisations that offer benefit to its parishioners. As funds are limited, the Council asks that any local organisation who would like to be assisted in this way, completes a form for consideration by the Council. If you would like more information, please contact me.

The council are always willing to listen to the opinions and concerns of local residents and will try to assist with anything which is within their power. Unfortunately, there will, from time to time, inevitably be conflicting views by different sections of the community and there will be issues over which the Council has no power to act.

Please remember that the Council consists of volunteers who give their time for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Councillors contact details are available on the village notice board or on the web site www.wolvey.org.

I can be contacted by email on: parishclerk@wolvey.org or by telephone on: 01455 220277

Alternatively, you can put a letter through the black post box at the front of my house: The Old Post Office, Wolds Lane (opposite the entrance to Croft Close).

Wolvey Parish Council Grants and Donations 2009

Applications are invited from local organisations to be considered for a Parish Grant

For more information visit www.wolvey.org

Application forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk or an emailed version can be requested at parishclerk@wolvey.org

Please note that all applications must be accompanied by eight sets of the most recent accounts.

The deadline for receipt of applications is October 10th 2008 (please note change of date)

Please send your application to:
Margaret Cartwright, Parish Clerk
The Old Post Office, Wolds Lane
Wolvey, Hinckley, LE10 3LL
Tel: 01455 220277

HELP!

We need somebody, not just anybody - but you!

Why? To be an emergency community volunteer.

What's that? Someone who is a point of contact in the event of an emergency, like the village being snowbound.

How many do you need? For the new version of the Wolvey Community Emergency Plan, we need to list up to twelve names.

Where do I sign? Just contact Margaret Cartwright, the Parish Clerk, and she'll take your details.

Thanks, we'll all appreciate you being around in the event of an emergency.

