



# Wolvey Parish Council Newsletter

Your Community Connection

Winter 2009 Issue 8



## Wolvey Parish Councillors

Ruth Buswell	01455 221324
Roy Elliott	01455 220491
John Hawkins	01455 220482
Bozena Kuncewicz	01455 220771
Ron Podesta	01455 220608
Jon Slee	01455 220322

## Wolvey Parish Clerk

Margaret Cartwright  
The Old Post Office  
Wolds Lane Wolvey  
LE10 3LL

Tel: 01455 220277  
email: [parishclerk@wolvey.org](mailto:parishclerk@wolvey.org)

*The Council wishes all residents a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2010*

## Residents roll up for the fourth 'Switch On' of Christmas tree lights

A large and cheerful crowd of residents of all ages turned out to enjoy the switching on of the Christmas tree lights in the Village Square. The Council invited Kath Miller to throw the switch. She was nominated because of the time and energy she devotes to our over 60's Club. Her hard work and always cheerful demeanour was highly praised - so thank you Kath.

The Council could not run this event without the generous help of residents. The Woodward brothers erected the tree and the Lewis brothers provided the tractor and bucket to enable our band of intrepid tree decorators to reach the top. Residents around the Square yet again obliged by making sure that the area was

car free and the surgery allowed us to plug our arc light into their electricity supply. Children enjoyed the merry-go-round, candy floss and toffee apples and it was reported that business was the best it has ever been. The owners donated £30 to our chosen charity.

The Bulkington Silver Band accompanied the WI and Church choirs as they entertained us with carols around the tree and then inside the Village Hall. Here residents were welcomed with mulled wine and mince pies, all efficiently served by Sheila Podesta, Mary and Derek Powell and Hayley and John Adams. We were particularly delighted that the Brownies joined us this year; enthusiastically manning the mince pie tables.

Almost £300 was raised for 'Help for Heroes' and a big thank you again to all who contributed to making this event such a success.



## Farewell and thanks to Ben

Wolvey Parish Council is sorry to report the resignation of Ben Kerrel-Vaughan as a member of the Council. Ben is moving away from Wolvey and the Parish Council would like to thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the people of Wolvey and wish him every happiness and success in his new home.

Ben joined the Council at the Parish Council election in May 2008. His first aim was to assist the Parish Council in

attaining Quality Parish Council status which was achieved in February 2009.

Ben has been an active and enthusiastic member of the Environment Group, helping to set up the walking group and even taking holiday from work to help with the building of the boardwalk.

It was Ben who had the vision, and was the main driver, in the purchase of the wicker sculptures in the Wetland. These have proven to be a real success and will mean Ben's contribution will be long remembered.

## Wolvey Parish Plan



**We still have copies of the Wolvey Parish Plan available for any resident of the Parish. If anyone I would like to receive a copy, please contact the Parish Clerk.**



We are pleased to report that residents are continuing to volunteer for this worthwhile project but more are still needed.

**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.**

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 Responder 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 but, as the West Midlands Ambulance Service has had problems in providing the training, deadlines have been extended.

Community Responders can be anyone aged between 18 and 70, who is reasonably fit and healthy. No previous experience or medical knowledge is needed as training is provided.

## Recycling - check it, then bin it

Rugby residents are consistently beating the high recycling targets set before the new three bin system was introduced. Back in April, every household in the borough switched to the new system of a blue-lidded bin for dry recyclables, the green bin for garden and food waste and a black bin for residual waste. The scheme is going well, with residents regularly recycling more than 56 per cent of their rubbish.

However, a small minority - probably without realising - are jeopardising whole lorry loads of recyclables. They appear to be hiding ordinary waste at the bottom of their green bins.



## Reporting problems

Wolvey Parish Council is always willing to assist and support members of the community when problems are brought to its attention and will, of course, continue to do this.

However, many of the things reported to the Parish Council are actually the responsibility of either Rugby Borough Council or Warwickshire County Council and members of the public are able to report these directly to their relevant departments, without reference to the Parish Council.

Their websites contain forms which enable reports to be made on-line and links to these websites are available on the Wolvey website. Alternatively, **residents can telephone directly on the numbers that are given on the sheet enclosed in this newsletter.** We have also added contact details of the police and our 'Safer Neighbourhoods' team.



This means that when the load is tipped into the collection vehicle, the bagged waste contaminates a whole load which can not be sent for recycling. Instead the load must be sent to landfill. Some residents are also collecting their dry recycling in plastic bags and putting them into their blue-lid bins.

Councillor Heather Timms, portfolio holder for the Sustainable Environment, said: "We are really grateful to the vast majority of people across Rugby who are really helping us smash our recycling targets. Unfortunately, there are a few people who are putting non-recyclable waste into their green bins and rendering not just their own recyclable waste - but potentially a whole lorry load unsuitable. We would urge people to contact us if they need help with their waste, rather than contaminate good recyclable loads."

Rugby Borough Council's waste and recycling team can be contacted on **(01788)533335.**

**Keep up the good work!**

## Clean up - or land yourself in it!

Dog owners who fail to clean up after their pet pooches are being warned they could be nabbed. Rugby Borough Council is set to tackle the dirty problem in a targeted campaign against dog waste later this year. From December, the dog warden and other members of the Council's environmental protection team will be going on a crusade to catch repeat offenders. Officers will be patrolling some of the borough's dirtiest grotspots in an attempt to catch errant owners in the act. If caught owners face shelling £80 for a fixed penalty notice or going to court and receiving a fine of up to £1,000 and a criminal record.

Councillor Heather Timms, portfolio holder for the sustainable environment, said: "This is a problem all over the borough and is not confined to just the town or the countryside. It is disgraceful that people think it is acceptable to walk their dogs and let them foul in public and walk off without cleaning up. It may not be the most rewarding aspect of dog ownership, but it is the owner's responsibility to clean up after their pet and put the bags in waste bins or take it home, and those that do not are committing a criminal act." Waste bags need not be expensive - they can be purchased quite inexpensively from supermarkets. In fact, nappy sacks are often a lot cheaper than proprietary doggie bags and just as convenient.



"I would urge all dog owners to carry scoop bags with them whenever they leave the house with their dogs. After all, dogs are not robots and you never know when they might embarrass you".

## Wolvey Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is the best known and most effective example of the community working together to prevent crime, reduce the fear of crime and improve the quality of life.



In addition to making your home safer and a more secure place to live, you could also help to make your neighbourhood a safer place for everyone. Statistics from leading insurance companies show that houses in active Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have a 1 in 344 chance of being burgled compared to the national average of 1 in 45. As a result, many insurance companies offer reduced premiums to people who are actively involved in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme,

The next meeting of the Wolvey Neighbourhood Watch will be held on **Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm** in the **Millennium Building**. The police provide information about recent problems and successes and offer advice on simple measures to improve home security.

You are also invited to join the Warwickshire Police Community Alert Scheme. This is a new free service where the Police will send you messages to keep you updated about any relevant criminal or suspicious activity in your area.

**Everyone is welcome to come along.**

### Youth Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who returned the questionnaire that we put into Autumn's newsletter.

We are currently processing the results and will be inviting you all to a meeting in the New Year with a view to setting up a Forum that could work at responding to the needs of the youngsters in Wolvey.



## Boardwalk extended by busy group

2009 is almost over, but what a successful year it was for the Environment Group. Many awards were won, endless tasks, both large and small were tackled and completed, but most importantly the group stayed intact and friendly.

**Wolvey Parish Council was awarded a grant of £3762 from the Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) COMMA fund, the Community Aggregates Fund** (more details can be found on [www.wolvey.org](http://www.wolvey.org)). As a result of this grant, it has been possible for a new **extension of the boardwalk** to be constructed by volunteers of the Wolvey Environment Group. The boardwalk extension over the cattle bridge in the wetland has now been constructed, funded by the **Comma Aggregate Fund**. It opens up a whole new area for our delight. A shaded woodland path, with superb views across open fields; a magical place, with fungi, woodland flowers, and where in summer a myriad of insect life is present, completed by a background of trickling water from the tributary.



The boardwalk extension



Building the extension



Managing the wetland; digging out reeds



Decorating the Christmas tree



2010, I am sure, will provide many challenges for the group. A fence is needed to replace the broken one adjacent to the woodland walk. Management of the reserve, as planned, will be implemented, as will the introduction of native, suitable, wild flower species. Seeds will be sown to fill summer baskets and tubs around the village square, village gateways etc. There will be training courses to attend, displays of our work to present plus any other tasks that come our way!

Wolvey Parish Council acknowledges and thanks **Defra, ACRE** and the **Warwickshire Rural Community Council** for their assistance in increasing the benefit of this special place for the whole community.

So, once more, a big thank you to the Wolvey Environment Group for the hard work and time, willingly and freely given, to help preserve this wonderful green space we are so lucky to live in.

New members are always welcome, just ring Ruth on **221324**.

## Clerk's Corner

It seems that people do not always understand the role of the Parish Council. The Parish Council must abide by the law and obey a strict set of rules called Standing Orders (these are available to view on the Parish Council. This is important because it gives the Parish Council credibility and therefore, hopefully, more influence with the principal authorities when necessary. The Quality Parish Council award adds additional weight to this and means that people can be assured that the council is acting properly.

But much of the work of the Parish Council is really to encourage and support the efforts of local volunteers. The Parish Council's role is to take a lead and make it possible for local groups to carry out their activities. The Council can do this by setting up working parties of volunteers (such as the Environment Group and the Summer Festival committee) so that events can take place for the whole community. The entry to the Best Village Competition is an opportunity for local groups to celebrate and promote the work they do. The Christmas tree is intended to bring people together and provide a focus during the dark winter nights. It is all part of helping to maintain a caring and active community. \*

One of the most important things the Parish Council can do to help local groups is to provide financial assistance. The Parish Council has the power to request funds, called the Parish Precept, from Rugby Borough Council. Every year in November, the Parish Council holds a budget meeting when it decides on how

## You're one click away from Wolvey's new website

A new Wolvey Parish Council website has been launched.

Local voluntary groups are invited to put information about their group meetings and events onto the site. If you are 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](mailto:websiteadmin@wolvey.org)  
or [parishclerk@wolvey.org](mailto:parishclerk@wolvey.org)

much money it will need to perform its statutory functions and also to provide for the needs and wishes of local residents. The amount requested is then divided between all the households in the Parish and added to the council tax. The Parish Council is always very conscious of its responsibility to provide value for the money it receives. Much debate takes place in order to balance the needs of the community whilst keeping the precept to a minimum. **At this year's budget meeting it was decided that, for the second year running, there will be no increase in the Parish Precept for 2010-11.**

However, the Parish Council recognises the importance of local community groups so it has been careful to maintain the financial assistance it provides to them. These include the maintenance of the burial grounds of Wolvey Church, Wolds Lane cemetery and the Baptist Chapel as well as a contribution towards the running costs of the Village Hall and Playing Fields, Baby & Toddlers, Wolvey Scouts, Wolvey Brownies and the Over 60's Club. It is hoped that, in this way, the Parish Council is providing a valuable contribution to maintaining these important aspects of community life.

For any information relating to the Parish Council, please contact me by email on [parishclerk@wolvey.org](mailto: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

## 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: 2010**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

## Future Meetings of Wolvey Parish Council

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

**Monday 21st December 2009**

**Monday 18th January 2010**

**Monday 15th February 2010**

**Monday 15th March 2010**

**Monday 19th April 2010**

**Wednesday 28th April 2010**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**

(NB. This is not a meeting of the Parish Council, but is a meeting for the electors of the Parish.)

**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 by  
**Friday 8th January 2010**