



NEWSLETTER

Your Community Connection

Winter 2013 Issue 24



Wolvey Parish Council wishes you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful 2014.

Eighth Successful Star Spangled 'Switch On'

December 1st 2013, date of the eighth Christmas Tree 'Switch On' Event to be held in Wolvey. The roundabout and stalls lit up the square, the Bulkington Silver Band and Wolvey Choirs duly arrived.

Parish Council Chair, Keith Orchard welcomed the crowd and the Rugby Mayor and Mayoress Tony and Jan Gillias, who had kindly agreed to switch on the tree lights. The magic moment arrived, the switch was pressed and the lights were resplendent on the tree, accompanied by a cheer and clapping from the crowd present in the square.

Inside the Village Hall, the aromatic smell of mulled wine welcomed our guests, the

band and choirs assembled to entertain with more carols and Christmas songs, the room was buzzing with laughter and conversations, whilst some visitors perused the many displays and craft stalls around the room.

Many thanks to Keith Orchard and Tom Scoffham who contributed to the purchase of the tree this year, and to Alan Cure for the fireworks.

Wolvey Parish Council appreciates their generosity and warmly thanks everyone else who helped make the event another wonderful success.



Councillors; (from l-r) Kenrick, Dixon, Buswell, Orchard, Hardman, Kunciewicz, Nixon and Clerk to Council, Margaret Cartwright with the Mayor of Rugby, Tony Gillias and his wife Jan.

Clerk to the Council

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The Councillors

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Dee Kenrick	01455 221782
Bozena Kunciewicz	01455 220771
Clare Nixon	01455 220639
Keith Orchard	01455 220688

For more information please visit

www.wolvey.org

One Year On, a Whole Lot's Going On

Wolvey Youth Club will be celebrating its first birthday in January. So, there's just got to be a party at the first session of 2014. There'll be music, games, food and fun – look out for the posters around the village.



Drawing with Simon and Laura the YC Leader looking on

Over the last couple of months, members have been getting really active and creative. Zumba with fitness expert Meg

Powers, drawing with illustrator/designer Simon Myers (who kindly volunteered his expertise) have been two of the highlights.

Touch Rugby is planned for the Christmas session on 16 December along with festive crafts and yummy Yuletide cookies.

There's usually around 14-18 young people regularly attending sessions. They continue to enjoy and improve at table tennis - kindly coached each month by our own local expert volunteer, Steve Hobley. Games such as dodge ball provide other opportunities to get physical.

We're also pleased that Matthew Spann has joined the group of young people who help plan the sessions based on ideas for activities suggested by members.

New members are very welcome - just come along. We meet on the third Monday



Young people testing the Club's new Beats Pill Speaker

in the month, 7.15-9.00pm at the Village Hall, or contact Barbara Jones, 01455 220081.

If any member of the community has a skill or expertise they think young people might enjoy, and can volunteer, the Club would be very pleased to learn more, e-mail: bjones.design@virgin.net.

Time to Reflect, Lest We Forget

World War I commenced on the 4th August 1914. One hundred years later, communities all over the country are making plans on how to commemorate the beginning of four years of conflict that cost the lives of men from every village.

The Parish Council has set aside a small budget and has invited ideas from representatives of local organisations on what Wolvey might do on this date in 2014.

No definite plans have been made yet, but current suggestions include a procession from the Church and an exhibition in the Village Hall.

The Village Hall was built as a war memorial.

So, it would be a fitting venue for the event. Of course, the feeling is that whatever is decided it should be respectful, interactive and able to inform, educate and engage people of all ages.

If you have any ideas, or you would like to get involved in these plans please contact the Parish Clerk.



PC Peruses Action Plan

It has been more than 5 years since the Wolvey Parish Plan was published and since that time there has been a change of government and a whole raft of new legislation. As a result, the Council has been discussing the best way to produce an updated Action Plan that will help influence the future of Wolvey. To this end they have been perusing the legislation relating to Neighbourhood Plans and if it can be used to the benefit of Wolvey residents.

As part of this process, the Council needs to identify local issues. It would therefore like to get ideas and suggestions from local people. We are hoping to organise an Open Day sometime in the spring and will invite residents to come along and give their opinion of the services on offer locally and suggest what improvements should be made.

It is likely that, due to cutbacks at Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council, services will continue to be reduced rural areas. This will put additional pressure on the Parish Council and its resources. Therefore, the Council will need to know which services are most valued by Wolvey people. All this will mean better informed decisions can be made on how the Council's limited budget can be spent as effectively as possible.

New to Wolvey's Pack?

The Parish Council has compiled a warm Welcome Pack for new residents. It has a host of useful information to help new arrivals to village life settle in. It has details of refuse collection days, doctor's surgery times, church service and a very user friendly village map.

So, if you know of residents moving in near you, please let the Clerk or a Councillor know and a pack will be winging its way to your new neighbour.



Standards in Public Life

The Council strives to uphold the seven principles of public life. These principles of conduct, set out by the Government appointed Committee on Standards in Public Life, should underpin the work of all public bodies including Councils and Charitable Trusts.

Selflessness: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

Integrity: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness: Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

All members of Wolvey Parish Council have declared that they agree to abide by a Code of Conduct which includes all these principles.

This Code of Conduct can be viewed on www.wolvey.org

Another Fruitful Year for WEG

Wolvey Environmental Group has had another fruitful year, two more awards were won from Rugby In Bloom, a Gold and Overall Winner for the Wetland and a Silver Award for the Village Square, a great result!!

The hanging baskets, troughs and flower tower have looked lovely again this year, a testament to the thrice weekly watering regime that all WEG members commit to. This helps to extend the life of the flowers.

A cairn has been built in the Reserve to house a time capsule, containing information of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Village life, and the success of the WEG.

We had a positive response to our display, at the Burbage Show, at Wolvey School, and also at the Produce Show where we hoped to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our beautiful surroundings, we are so lucky to have in Wolvey.

The Open Day at the Wetland had a disappointing attendance, but WEG members enjoyed the sunshine and the time together to chat and relax.

A Bee Group has been formed, land is being cleared in the Wetland and on the Axe and Compass roundabout to house bee friendly plants and shrubs, an ongoing project, which should become more evident in the coming year.

The group hosted an evening with the Wolvey Brownies in the Wetland this summer, we had a lovely time informing a very receptive group of the importance of preserving nature.

We had hoped to build a return bridge across the tributary in the Reserve this year, to create a circular walk, but funding has proven difficult, but we will keep trying and hope to be able to complete the task next year.

After seven years the group is still strong, the many small tasks around the village are often not noted, but without the WEG, for example, there would not be any 'Switch On' Event at Christmas or flowers in the summer, so a big thank you to all of you, who help to make this village a great place to live in.

Square Becomes Base for Mosaic Medley

You'll soon notice a new glow at the heart of the village. The plinth at the base of the village sign has been reconstructed to receive mosaic plaques that reflect Wolvey and its people. The mosaics were created by youth club members and village people who attended various village events during the summer months.



WEG members Ted Buswell and Bob Lakin building the plinth

The idea for the mosaics came from the members of the new Youth Club. They were funded by a grant from the Central Warwickshire Village LEADER project. They are striking and relevant pieces of artwork that reflect every colourful shade of the village and the interests of its people.



Sections of the mosaic



A detail of the mosaic

Clerk's Corner

Now that all the seats on the Parish Council have been filled, it is good to hear new ideas being brought forward at meetings which reflect the interests, experience and skills of Councillors.

It is very important that all Councillors keep up to date with all the changing legislation relating to Parish Councils to ensure the Council continues to operate lawfully. All members of the Council recently attended a training session specially arranged for them. A second session is being planned in the New Year.

The speed of traffic through the village is a continuing concern. New signs will soon be erected on Wolds Lane and then regular speed monitoring can begin on Church Hill. At the Joint Community forum for the Fosse area in November, the Council successfully asked for one of the Police priorities to be a minimum of five speed detection operations to be conducted on Coventry Road, Wolvey.

We are expecting to receive a report of the recent Housing Needs Survey at the

December meeting of the Council. It will be interesting to discover the results of this survey and the Council can then investigate ways to act on its findings.

The Parish Council has set aside some funding to assist with a commemoration of the centenary of the start of World War I. The Council will be pleased to hear any ideas for what might be done in Wolvey to mark this anniversary.

For any information about the Parish Council, please contact me by email on parishclerk@wolvey.org or by telephone on 01455 246494. Please note this is a new telephone number for Parish Council calls. However, please remember that I only work part-time. The best time to call is Monday, Tuesday or Thursday mornings between 10am -1pm. If I am not available, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Margaret Cartwright

Clerk to the Council



Diary Dates

Council Meetings

To facilitate our Youth Club, Council meetings will be held in the Bowling Club until further notice on:

Monday	20th January 2014
Monday	17th February 2014
Monday	17th March 2014

Council Surgeries

The purpose of the surgery is to enable local residents to raise issues or concerns with Councillors informally outside of Parish Council meetings.

Surgeries will be held in the back room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on:

Wednesday	8th January 2014
Wednesday	5th February 2014
Wednesday	5th March 2014
Wednesday	2nd April 2014

Mobile Police Station dates:

Sunday	12th January 2014
Wednesday	29th January 2014
Wednesday	19th February 2014
Sunday	23rd March 2014
Wednesday	9th April 2014

**Times are 1.15 pm - 2.45pm
in The Square**



Council Considers Costs at Budget Meeting

At this time of year, the Parish Council is busy looking at projects and initiatives that will benefit Wolvey residents in the coming year and in future years. To implement these plans, the Council needs to find funding for them from its overall budget.

Unfortunately, the decision on allocating monies for next year is being made very difficult for all parish and town councils by uncertainty about Government policy. Parish Councils are funded by a proportion of the Council Tax, called a 'precept'. Last year, the Government changed the way that Council Tax is collected with respect to people who are eligible for Council Tax benefit. A consequence of this is that, even if the Parish Council were to request the same amount of Council tax as in the previous year, the amount paid by Wolvey residents will still rise. Last year, a government grant was paid to offset the effect of this on the Council's budget, however, it is not yet certain whether this grant will be paid to the same extent this year.

At the recent Budget meeting therefore, the Parish Council attempted to establish how much funding it will need next year to fulfil its statutory obligations and continue funding projects that meet the needs of the Wolvey community.

In total, the Parish Council agreed to pay £6,385 of its current year's budget to local voluntary organisations and charities.

Nine organisations and groups were the direct beneficiaries of the Council's decision:

Warwickshire Air Ambulance	£500
Rugby Citizens Advice Bureau	£75
Vitalise	£50
Wolvey Church	£2000
Wolvey Baptist Chapel	£650
Wolvey Playing Fields Trust	£2000
Wolvey Over 60's Group	£450
Wolvey Brownies	£300
Wolvey Junior Cricket Club	£360