



NEWSLETTER

Your Community Connection

Winter 2014 Issue 24

Switch On a Sparkling Success

Over 220 people turned out on a crisp, chilly Sunday evening to enjoy Wolvey's annual Big Switch On event. To help everyone get in a festive mood, Bulkington Silver Band played some Christmas carols and the Church choir led the singing.

At 6pm Mark Pawsey MP was invited to start the countdown encouraging all the children to join in. We all waited in anticipation, until a great cheer from the crowd greeted the appearance of the Christmas tree now festooned in glittering lights and baubles.

Activities then moved inside to the comforting warmth of the Village Hall where the music and singing continued accompanied by the much loved mulled

wine and mince pies. The children were offered a free dip in the bran tub and had fun digging deep into the barrel and tearing at the paper to reveal their surprise.

There were some wonderful local craft stalls that offered people the opportunity to purchase something a little different for the festive season ahead.

A great community evening was had by all who attended and £173.98 was raised for The British Legion – Thank you.

Finally a big thank you to all the volunteers and donations, without whose help and support this evening would not be possible.



What's in the Bran Tub?



Mark Pawsey with Keith his 'little helper'



Wolvey Parish Council wishes you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful 2015.

Clerk to the Council

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

Tel: 01455 246494
email: parishclerk@wolvey.org



Wolvey Parish Councillors

Ruth Buswell	01455 221324
Andrew Dixon	01455 220771
John Hardman	01455 220252
Dee Kenrick	01455 221782
Bozena Kuncewicz	01455 220771
Clare Nixon	01455 220639
Keith Orchard	01455 220688

Council Meetings

To facilitate our Youth Club, Council meetings will be held at 7.45 pm in the:

Wolvey Bowling Club

Monday	15th December	2014
Monday	19th January	2015
Monday	16th February	2015
Monday	16th March	2015

Councillor Surgeries

Councillor's surgeries will no longer be held on a regular basis. However, if any resident wishes to speak to the Council outside of Council meetings, then please contact either the Clerk or a Councillor and an appointment will be arranged.

Mobile Police Visits

From 1.15pm till 2.45pm
parked in The Square

Sunday	28th December	2014
Wednesday	14th January	2015
Wednesday	4th February	2015
Sunday	8th March	2015



YC Members Enjoy Darkness Challenge

Nine members of the Youth Club enjoyed an amazing 'Twilight Challenge' at the end of October at Beaumanor Hall Outdoor Activities Centre, Loughborough.

The evening was full of personal and team challenges, all conducted in the dark! It was a fun way to build self-confidence, team work and mutual support. This is what three of the girls wrote of their experience:

'We had lots of fun doing different activities - high wire, zip wire and orienteering. In the high wire we had to work as a team to save someone. In the zip wire we had to try and throw a bean bag into a hoop in the ground. For the the orienteering we had to work as a team, using a map to try and find different letters around the park and get to the end where we got

hot chocolate and a nice warm fire. The instructors that we had were lots of fun and made all of the activities a laugh and more interesting. We enjoyed it a lot and we would all like to go back for more'.

This opportunity was enabled by funding from The Heart of England Community Foundation, (to help develop the Club and membership) and also from the time given by our brilliant adult volunteers.

Wolvey Youth Club is always keen to find ways to better engage young people and is actively looking for another adult volunteer who might be interested in helping the Youth Club on these types of trips and at the monthly sessions where

members enjoy a range of activities which they plan together.

For more formation please contact:
Barbara Jones
tel: 01455 220081
mob: 07712 015232
email: bones.design@virgin.net



Be First to Provide Aid



One of the best ways you can be of value to your family, the local community and society in general is to become trained in first aid. Many of us feel that we should get around to doing so but never seem to find the right opportunity. Well, now's your chance!

The Parish Council is sponsoring a basic first aid course for local residents. The course will be held at the Millennium Building on Saturday 14th February between 10am and 1pm.

It will cover: acting safely in an emergency; dealing with an unconscious casualty - including CPR; dealing with choking and bleeding and signs and symptoms of stroke and heart attack. The Parish Council contacted several providers and decided to use the services of CPA Health and Safety to deliver the course.

There are twelve places available and these will be filled on a first come first served basis.

The cost is a very reasonable £5 per head and participants completing the course will receive a certificate. This is a great opportunity to do something you've been meaning to do for a long time.

So, if you are interested please get in touch with
Cllr Andrew Dixon
by phone: 01455 220771
or email: dixon@me.com



Watch Out for Wolvey

The new Wolvey Neighbourhood Watch scheme was launched in November. At its first meeting, the aims and objectives of the group were discussed.

PCSO Sharon Bailie Crabtree will be attending the next meeting on Tuesday 6th January at 7.30pm in the Millennium Building. She will advise the group on its next steps, answer questions and provide ideas on effective deterrents.

So, why not come along to hear what Sharon has to say. It will be a very interesting evening and give you the chance to ask questions about what interests you.

We hope to see you there, for more

information ring Cllr Ruth Buswell on 01455 221324.

Together we can keep Wolvey safe and free from crime.



Boardwalk Blues

You may have noticed that the boardwalk at the Wolvey Wetland has been closed to the public for some weeks now. The closure is necessary because some of the treads have been damaged and made unsafe by water seepage.

The Parish Council is calling upon expert advice in attempting to resolve the matter. Unfortunately, it is likely that the boardwalk will have to remain closed for a further number of weeks.

We apologise for any disappointment and inconvenience the closure is causing. Information on further developments will be included in the next newsletter.

Lift Off for Lengthsman Scheme

Final discussions have taken place with Warwickshire County Council to finalise the details of the Lengthsman Scheme which is due to start on January 5th.

The works of the scheme include maintaining footways, cleaning gully grates and road signs, weed spraying, snow clearance and gritting where appropriate.

Funding is limited of course, so the Parish Council will need to be selective as to

which works are to be included but it will enable them to prioritise works that need to be carried out quickly. This should lead to improved satisfaction levels amongst residents.

The scheme is a two year trial funded by the County Council. After the trial period, there will be an evaluation to decide if the scheme should continue.

The Parish Council have appointed WS Gardens to undertake Lengthsman

Scheme works during the trial period. They will also undertake similar programmed works for other Parish Councils and by doing so operational costs will be kept to a minimum ensuring that the limited funding is spread as far as possible.

If you consider there is something that can be dealt with under the Lengthsman Scheme, then please contact the Parish Clerk, preferably by e-mail at parishclerk@wolvey.org, if this is not possible, telephone on 01455 246494.

2014 – A Calendar of Contrasts for WEG

Another diverse, interesting and busy year for the Environment Group is almost over. Each month has brought challenges such as the closure of the Wetland but also many highlights.

The first quarter of the year involved mending fences, a litter pick, new flower beds and planting poppies for the WWI commemoration, preparing hanging baskets and a moth watch.

Throughout the summer the Christmas tree support was installed – made by Graham Lole. WEG attended the Village School Fete, refurbished the eco table and coated the decking. A successful Open Day was also held and there was a visit from BBC Wildlife who filmed the water voles.

The group's work in preparing for Rugby in Bloom paid off in September: two Awards won; Gold for both the Wetland Reserve

and Gold for the Village Square. Hurrah!

Throughout autumn daffodils and fritillary bulbs were planted and the lights put on the Christmas tree ready for the December Switch On event.

A full year's cycle, diverse and interesting, why not come join us, ring Cllr Ruth Buswell on 221324.

Request for new stops?

Responding to villager's views that the frequency and destinations of local buses do not match passenger needs, we will be speaking to the companies to explore possible improvements.

Average passenger numbers appear to confirm that current routes are not heavily used. In July 2014, boardings for Nuneaton

averaged seven people a day from Wolvey and two from Bramcote and were no better travelling towards Coventry where the average was six a day from Wolvey and only one from Bramcote.

The sort of thing we might suggest is Wolvey being included in the Hinckley - Lutterworth timetable. Likewise, we could

request that some of the buses that go to Hinckley take a detour to Wolvey; this could help residents who have to go to the Doctor's Surgery at Hinckley.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions on bus routes, please speak to one of the Parish Councillors.

Brake Applied

The proposed Dial-a-Ride car scheme to transport villagers to Burbage Surgery and return did not attract as much support as envisaged. Response to the survey in the last Newsletter was very poor - only four replies being received. The Council is therefore unable to proceed any further with this scheme at this time.

We thank those who came forward as volunteers for their input.

Similarly, because of low numbers, the Council has decided to put the proposed community buddy scheme on hold for the present time.

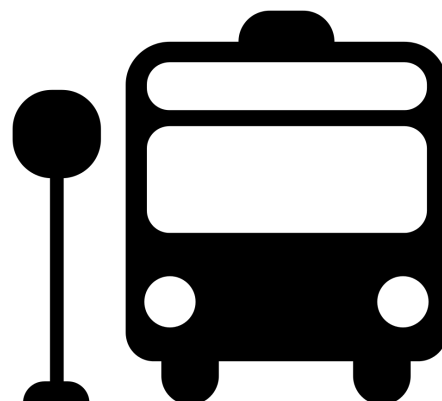
Gotta Go?

Get Away with Community Minibuses

Hinckley & Bosworth Community Transport have agreed that all Wolvey Groups and Clubs can use their 7 and 16 seater Community Minibuses.

These vehicles can be used for days out; eg Derbyshire; Stratford-On-Avon; National Arboretum; Oxford and for short trips. The cost is very reasonable and includes a driver.

Just ring 01455 250462, provide details of your group and enjoy a day out.



Clerk's Corner

The Council's Budget Review in November is an important part of the Council's year. The Council must ensure that adequate funds are available for the current year and decide on what money is needed in the year ahead (2015-16).

The Parish Council is funded by the **Parish Precept**, which is part of the Council Tax paid by Wolvey households. In 2012 the Government changed the way this is calculated, which meant a reduction in the Precept received. A grant was given to district councils to partially compensate affected Parish Councils. But, this grant is discretionary, we are not told how much it will be until very late in the decision making process, and it reduces every year! This makes it more difficult for the Parish Council to make Budget decisions. Unless the Parish Council increases its Precept (which a corresponding increase in your Council Tax), there is less money available. The Parish Council will need to decide the priorities for Wolvey in order to balance the limited funds available for local projects.

Grants to local groups has always been an important part of the Council's Budget consideration in the past. But, unfortunately, these changes are likely to have an impact on the level of grants that can be awarded to local organizations in the future.

Vacancy for a Clerk: Although Wolvey is a relatively small Parish Council it must still abide by current legislation and it is vital that the Council acts in a professional manner. This means that meetings are conducted lawfully, its finances are properly managed and it conforms to high standards of behaviour. In order to do this it is necessary to employ a Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer to carry out the administration of the Council and to advise on legal matters. I have been Clerk for the past eight years and have found the job to be very varied and interesting, involving many aspects of life in Wolvey. It is satisfying to know that the work helps to improve life for the local community. However, I have decided that it is time for me to retire. So, if you might be interested in working locally and being at the centre of life in Wolvey, please get in touch for more information.

For any **information about the Parish Council**, please contact me by email on parishclerk@wolvey.org or by telephone on 01455 246494. 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.

Margaret Cartwright
Clerk to the Council

Vacancy for a Part-time Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Wolvey Parish Council (Warwickshire)

Salary: £9.900 to £12.317 per hour (spinal column points 20-27) dependent on qualifications and experience.

Due to the retirement of the present Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, the Council seeks to employ a replacement Clerk on a part-time basis for 12 hours per week. There is some flexibility in the management of the hours and additional hours may be necessary to manage the administration during busy times. These will be paid at the normal hourly rate.

The Council does not have an office so the Clerk will be expected to work from home and provide some document storage, for which an allowance will be paid. A computer, hard drive, printer and office sundries will be provided, as will a telephone.

The post will combine the roles of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, requiring a good knowledge of local government administration, legislation and accounting practices. Entry salary point will depend on qualifications and experience.

Ideally, the successful candidate will already hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) or equivalent qualification. But, consideration will be given to candidates willing to undertake study for this qualification, to enable the Council to apply for re-accreditation for Quality Status.

Application Procedure:

Closing date for application is 17.00 hours on Friday, 16th January 2015.

To commence on 1st March with a 3 month overlap with the present incumbent. For more information please contact the Parish Clerk.

To apply please send:

- * Your CV outlining experience and qualifications
- * Your name and contact details of 2 referees
- * Covering letter explaining why you are interested in the post and the skills you will bring to the post

To: Margaret Cartwright (Parish Clerk)

The Old Post Office, Wolds Lane, Wolvey, Hinckley, Leics. LE10 3LL

Email: parishclerk@wolvey.org Tel 01455 246494

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 settle in to village life.

It has details of refuse collection days, doctor's surgery times, church services 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.



Merry
Christmas



This newsletter is published by Wolvey Parish Council. The term "Parish" refers to an ancient administrative unit. Its original boundaries were based on those of the church, but today's Parish Council deals only with civil and not church matters. The Council is the lowest tier of local government, elected by the people of Wolvey.