



# BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2007



Issue No.15

[www.barntgreen.org.uk](http://www.barntgreen.org.uk)



The Parish Council is pleased to see that more motorists are using the station car park following the recent price reductions

#### **Chairman's Introduction**

The Parish Council has been successful in its negotiations with Central Trains regarding a reduction in the car parking charges at the station. The council has been concerned for some time that the car park is not fully used whilst the roads around the village are clogged with commuter's cars. It is hoped that, by reducing the station parking charges, more commuters and shoppers will be encouraged to park in a secure and well lit car park.

The council had a meeting with Sergeant Gray of West Mercia Police when many parishioners' concerns were raised. Starting on Saturday October 13, the Police community support officers are holding monthly drop-in surgeries at the Friends Meeting House commencing at 2.00pm.

During the next month the Parish Council will be planting spring bulbs on the verges of Fiery Hill Road and Bittell Road, and trees and bulbs will be planted on the triangle of grass on the junction of Twatling Road.

The council has expressed its concern to Worcestershire County Council's Highways Department about the poor state of the roads in the village. Although their reaction until now has been very disappointing – in part as a result of them having to deal with the aftermath of the floods earlier this summer – we will continue to press them for action.

**Judith Jagger**

### **Station Car Parking Charges Reduced**

Barnt Green Parish Council has welcomed the reduced car parking charges at Barnt Green Station which took effect from Monday September 10. The new charges are the result of lengthy discussions between the Parish Council and Central Trains who operate the cross-city line which runs from Redditch to Lichfield.

From September 10 the cost of a daily ticket was reduced from £2.00 to £1.50 and a weekly season ticket from £6.00 to £4.50 – a 25 per cent reduction in both prices. For a commuter using the station car park five days a week, the new price represents a daily charge of 90 pence. A monthly season ticket is also available at £16.00 which reduces the daily charge still further to 80 pence. Monthly and annual season tickets for Barnt Green can be purchased at University, Five Ways and Birmingham New Street ticket offices.

The lower prices represent a vote of confidence by Central Trains in its well maintained, well lit and secure car park at Barnt Green station. If the car park is not well used however it is likely that the company will have to review the charges. Initial monitoring of the number of cars parking at the station suggests that usage has increased, but the council would still like to see more cars moving off Fiery Hill Road and the other roads in the village onto the station facility.

### **Christmas Recycling and Refuse Collection Dates**

See page 4 for details of Christmas refuse collection arrangements. Bromsgrove District Council has again decided to suspend green bin collections from the end of November 2007 until April 2008. The Parish Council has expressed its disappointment at this decision and continues to lobby the District Council to reinstate, as a minimum, a monthly green bin collection during the winter period.

### **Barnt Green Festival**

The 2007 Barnt Green Festival raised a total of £1610 for local charities and this has been split equally between the Barnt Green Scout and Guide Rebuild Fund and the Acorns Children's Hospice Trust. The Parish Council has received letters of thanks from both organisations. Michael Docherty, chairman of the Barnt Green

Scout and Guide Field Trust, advised us that the Rebuild Fund now stands at £112,000 and that the final plan for the new facility has been passed by Bromsgrove District Council. However the Fund still needs to raise in excess of £100,000 and continues to explore all sources.

Jo Linforth of Acorns Children's Hospice Trust thanked the Parish Council for its "magnificent donation" and described it as a wonderful reflection of the hard work that was put in to make the Festival such a success. She added that the donation had come at a most critical time for Acorns, as it has recently been able to re-open all the hospice beds which it was forced to close last year due to funding difficulties.

### **The 'Village Green'**

Barnt Green is a commuter settlement that came with the railway and does not have its origins as a medieval village. However, we still have "a green" near the centre of the settlement which was part of the heathland from which Barnt Green derived its name. Millennium Park now occupies this. From time to time there have been suggestions concerning the return of that part of the park adjacent to Sandhills Road to an open "green". The intention would be to remove the beech hedge and open up this area to greater use by the people of the village. It is felt that many residents barely notice the green is there, and more often walk round it than through it. We would like it to be more used and to become a central feature and part of village life.

We are interested, therefore, in how you feel about this proposal. Please let your views – for and against – be known. Contact the executive officer with your comments.

### **Halloween Walk**

Simon Richards, the Parish footpaths officer, has organised a Halloween Walk on Wednesday October 31. Meet at the Millennium Arch in Hewell Road, Barnt Green at 7pm. The walk is planned to last for about 1 ½ hours and the route will take you over the Lickey Hills to see the gothic statues on the scariest night of the year. All are welcome. Good footwear essential.

For further details, contact Simon – ring 07813 164745 or Email [sr6424@hotmail.com](mailto:sr6424@hotmail.com)

### **Village Environment**

The Parish Council is instigating a number of initiatives which, it is hoped, will improve the general environment of the village.

- Spring flowering bulbs will be planted along Fiery Hill Road and Bittell Road and on the grass triangle at the Twatling Road junction
- New trees will be planted on the triangle and on Fiery Hill Road
- All of the lamp posts and speed limit signs in the village are being painted
- New “gateway” welcome signs for the village boundaries, and fingerposts signs have been ordered
- Additional lighting is to be installed on Hewell Road adjacent to Millennium Park so that this area will be more visible on the CCTV camera monitors.

### **Youth Parish Council**

An open meeting for all 11-19 year olds in the village has been arranged for Monday November 12 at 7.00pm in the Baptist Church Hall, Bittell Road.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to:

- **PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU.**
- **VOICE YOUR OPINION ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO YOU.**
- **PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING.**

- **WORK TOGETHER WITH YOUR YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL TO TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION AND TO MAKE CHANGES YOU THINK ARE NEEDED.**

### **County Comput@bus**



The Comput@bus pictured on the car park at The Victoria.

The third beginners computer course began on October 2 and is fully subscribed. The Parish Council is talking to Worcestershire County Council about a follow-on course to take parishioners' skills a stage further and it is hoped that this can be arranged for the new year. There would be a small charge for this course. If anyone is interested, please contact the executive officer.

### **Council Budget 2008-09**

The Parish Council is now gathering information to enable it to set its budget for the next financial year. All residents are welcome to contribute to this process and to attend council meetings to have their say on what are the priority expenditure areas

### **Dates for your diary....**

Monday October 29	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday November 13	Neighbourhood Watch meeting. 7.30pm Baptist Church Hall
Monday November 26	Parish Council Meeting - budget is set and precept agreed
Friday December 7	Carol Service, Millennium Park

### **Parish Council Meetings**

These are usually held on the last Monday in each month at the Parish Centre in Sandhills Road at 7.00pm. The Parish Council does not meet in August or December. You are welcome to attend and observe Parish Council meetings, and an opportunity is given at each meeting for members of the public to speak.

# Christmas Recycling & Refuse Collection Dates

## IMPORTANT

- On weeks starting 17, 24 & 31 December your **GREY** bin will be collected every week.
- Your **RECYCLING** collections will continue on alternating weeks as normal.

**There will be no collections on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> December and the 1<sup>st</sup> January.** Therefore, collections for the weeks of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January will be a few days behind – see below.

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan

Remember, **there will be no green bin collections** from December 2007; they will start again in April 2008. Please use you household waste site to dispose of garden waste.

### How to Contact the Parish Council

If you would like to get in touch with the Parish Council about anything at all, please contact either one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Executive Officer. Your Parish Councillors are:

<b>Judith Jagger (Chairman)</b>	<b>0121 445 2437</b> <a href="mailto:chair@barntgreen.org.uk">chair@barntgreen.org.uk</a>
<b>David Gilburn (Vice Chairman)</b>	<b>0121 445 1456</b>
<b>Diane Carr</b>	<b>0121 445 1220</b>
<b>Tom Gray</b>	<b>0121 445 4424</b>
<b>David Harding</b>	<a href="mailto:dah@daharding.co.uk">dah@daharding.co.uk</a>
<b>Rick Main</b>	<b>0121 445 3349</b> <a href="mailto:bqpcarchivist@barntgreen.org.uk">bqpcarchivist@barntgreen.org.uk</a>
<b>Martin Peyton</b>	<b>0121 453 7212</b>
<b>Susan Whitehand</b>	<b>0121 445 3530</b>
<b>Executive Officer: Roger Westbury</b>	<b>0121 447 7455</b> <a href="mailto:clerk@barntgreen.org.uk">clerk@barntgreen.org.uk</a>

### Useful Telephone Numbers:

<b>District Councillors:</b>	<b>County Councillor</b>
Mrs Ann Doyle 0121 445 4184	Peter McDonald 0121 453 9267
Richard Deeming 0121 445 3114	
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour Officer:</b> 01527 881423	
<b>Police:</b> 08457 444888. Local police contact PC 2138 Jayne Willetts Rubery Police station.	
<b>Hall Bookings:</b> Parish Centre	Edna Whitehouse 445 4696
Baptist Church Hall	Beverley Bennett 445 1551
Friends Meeting House	Peter Wastenev 447 7355