



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008



Issue No.17

www.barntgreen.org.uk



The newly planted daffodils on the Twatling Road triangle make their first Spring appearance. The council has planted more than 5000 bulbs around the village over the last few months.

Chairman's Introduction

Playing Field Bittell Road

Many years ago when we acquired this playing field for the village the Parish Council had two small areas of trees planted. Most of the trees have thrived but some of the smaller trees needed felling to allow the rest to continue growing successfully. We arranged a village action day on Wednesday 27th February asking for the help of residents and councillors. We were delighted with the response from the village and under the guidance of Wade Muggleton, Countryside Officer with Worcestershire County Council, we had a very successful day clearing up these areas. All the helpers and councillors enjoyed a well earned sausage and bacon B.B.Q at the end of the work. A big thank you to all our helpers who proved that many hands make light work.

Parish Council Premises.

We are still pursuing suitable premises in the village for a Parish Council office but this seems to be a very slow process. The plan to move into the former Lloyds TSB premises has not come to fruition. We will keep you informed of developments.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Parish Centre in Sandhills Road on Wednesday 30th April at 8.pm. All residents are invited to attend.

Judith Jagger

Who's Responsible for What?

With the "Three Tier" system of local government in much of Worcestershire - Parish Council, District Council and County Council – it is not always easy to work out who is responsible for which function. As a simple guide, the Parish Council is responsible for open spaces (the park and playing field), for street lighting except for Bittell Road and Fiery Hill Road which are maintained by the County Council, and for the general village environment. Bromsgrove District Council is responsible for refuse collection and for all planning matters, although the Parish Council is a consultee on planning applications, and the County Council looks after all highways matters. If you have any doubts about who to contact, get in touch with the executive officer.

New Welcome Signs and Fingerposts

The Parish Council is working with Worcestershire Highways to install new welcome signs on the approach roads to Barnt Green and on new "fingerposts" to point the way to our neighbouring villages. You should see these being installed over the course of the summer. The County Council has also agreed to the installation of bollards on the Twatling Road triangle and on the corner of Bittell Road at the junction with Bittell Farm Road. It is hoped that these will solve the problem of vehicles damaging the grass verges at these two locations.

Make Barnt Green "Green"

Many shops and businesses in Barnt Green have agreed to stop using plastic bags. Modbury in Devon was the first village to ban plastic bags from its high street and many towns and villages are now following their example. Did you know that :

- 1) The world uses more than 1.2 trillion plastic bags per year.
- 2) 47% of windborne litter escaping from landfills is plastic – much of it plastic bags (just take a look at the trees and hedgerows along the M42!)
- 3) 80% of marine rubbish comes from the land – most of which is plastic.
- 4) Plastic bag litter is lethal killing at least 100,000 birds, seals, whales etc every year.

There are many alternatives such as cloth reusable bags, vegetable starch bags, paper bags and recycled boxes etc. The Parish Council has offered to help in any way it can and so has the local school. We would encourage all residents to work together in trying to encourage this venture by using reusable bags and refusing plastic. Every little helps!

Rogue Traders

There have been several instances reported recently of rogue traders or "con men" operating in the local area. A typical trick is to claim that work needs doing on someone's roof and that the cost can be reclaimed from the householder's insurance company. If anyone comes across such tactics, they are advised not to hand over any money in the form of a cheque, or to agree to be accompanied to the Post Office or bank to get the cash out. If you have any doubts, contact the police at Rubery Police Station. PC Jayne Willetts is well aware of these tactics and can offer help and advice.

Barnt Green Garden Society

In this issue we are beginning a series of articles on the various clubs and organisations that thrive in Barnt Green. First to be featured is the Barnt Green Garden Society. If you would like your organisation to be featured in future newsletters, please contact the executive officer.

Barnt Green Garden Society meets on the second Thursday of every month at the Friends Meeting House. There is a varied programme of speakers and demonstrations in all aspects of gardening and related subjects. The meetings are generally informal and friendly with light refreshments and of course the usual raffle. Members are always eager to help one another with any queries or problems they may encounter and over the years the Society has established many contacts in the horticultural world.

The Society supports local activities through the Parish Council and takes part in the village festivals and is currently invited to participate with local issues.

Programme for 2008:

April 10 Philip Aubrey 'Hanging Baskets'
May 8 AGM
June 12 Trevor Bell 'Composting' (Very topical in light of recent announcements in the press)
July 10 John Spires 'Orchids'
August 14 Frank Davies 'Streptocarpus'
September 11 Anita & John Ruffell 'Seasons'
October 9 Reg Moule 'An Evening with'
November 13 Brian Draper 'Slide Show'
December 11 Christmas Party & Quiz

The Society welcomes new members throughout the year. However non-members can attend for particular meetings of interest.

Why not go along and meet other local folk with a common interest. Meetings commence at 7.30pm at the Friends Meeting House. Barnt Green Garden Society looks forward to seeing you.

Barnt Green Youth Parish Council

Included with this newsletter is a questionnaire which has been put together by the Youth Parish Council. If you have young people in your household, please ask them to take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire as it will help the Youth Parish Council to develop better facilities for the youth of the village.

Spring Walk

Simon Richards, our intrepid Parish footpaths officer, has organised a Spring walk to The Tardebigge Cider Farm. This is a repeat of last year's successful event and will take place on Saturday May 10th. Places are limited to 20 so you are recommended to book early. There will be a charge of £6 for adults and £3 for children including a buffet lunch at the Cider Farm. The walk will start at 10.30 in the village and the duration is about 8 miles. Further details are available on the Barnt Green Club website at <http://www.barntgreenclub.co.uk/>. There is also a map of the route at <http://www.mapmyrun.com/run/united-kingdom/barnt-green/209053875> To book your place ring Roger Westbury on 0121 447 7455 or e-mail him at exec@barntgreen.org.uk

Bromsgrove Rural Rides

Bromsgrove Rural Rides provides a travel service to those people who are unable to find transport due to personal limited mobility or the unavailability of a public transport service. For more details of the scheme, call 01527 879290 or write to WRVS Bromsgrove Rural Rides, 9 Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove B61 7JU. The service is always looking for volunteer drivers who, using their own cars, may be able to spare a few hours to help. More details for potential volunteers are also available from the above number.

Playing Field Working Party



Cllrs Susan Whitehand (above) and Diane Carr show their skills as tree surgeons at the recent playing field working party.



Elaine's Marathon Run

Former Parish Council Chairman Elaine Buckett is due to run the London Marathon on Sunday April 13. Elaine will be running in aid of the Parkinson's Disease Society and there is still time to sponsor her. You can do this by filling in one of the forms at Meadow Farms Butchers or the Deli on the Green, or online at www.justgiving.com/elainebuckett

Neighbourhood Watch and PACT

The Barnt Green Neighbourhood Watch scheme continues to grow, although more co-ordinators are urgently needed. If you would like to offer your services, please contact Mel Clarke at Bromsgrove Police Station.

The next PACT meeting for the Hillside area will take place on Thursday April 17th at 7.00pm at Lickey Primary School. If there are any issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Police and your local councillors, why not come along and have your say.

Dates for your diary....

Thursday April 17	PACT Meeting 7.0pm Lickey Primary School
Monday April 28	Parish Council Meeting 7.0pm Parish Centre
Wednesday April 30	Annual Parish Meeting 8.0pm Parish Centre
Saturday May 10	Spring Walk. Contact executive officer for details
Monday May 19	Parish Council Meeting 7.0pm Parish Centre

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.

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 Council Executive Officer.

Your Parish Councillors are:

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

Useful Telephone Numbers:

District Councillors:

Mrs Ann Doyle 0121 445 4184
Richard Deeming 0121 445 3114

County Councillor

Peter McDonald 0121 453 9267

Anti-Social Behaviour Officer: 01527 881423

Police: 08457 444888. Local police contact PC 2138 Jayne Willetts Rubery Police station.

Hall Bookings: Parish Centre
Baptist Church Hall
Friends Meeting House

Edna Whitehouse 445 4696
Beverley Bennett 445 1551
Peter Wastenev 447 7355