



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2008



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www.barntgreen.org.uk



Residents stride out on the Parish Spring Walk in May which again included a stop at the Taredebige Cider Farm.

Chairman's Introduction

After considering several alternative plans, we are now ready to start our improvements to Millennium Park. The new paths should be in place within the next couple of months closely followed by new benches. The cost of two of the benches has been kindly donated by Mrs Rose Wilson in memory of her parents Mr & Mrs Blunt who lived in Sandhills Road overlooking the park. New planting will take place later in the year. (See page 3 for more details)

We have ordered replacement fingerpost signs for Bittell Road /Bittell Lane, Sandhills Green and a new finger post sign for the junction of Twatling Road/Fiery Hill Road and new 'Welcome to Barnt Green' signs for all of the roads coming into the village. These signs have to be installed by Worcestershire County Council so unfortunately we have to slot into their timetable of work, but we hope to have them in place by the end of the summer.

We have again supplied all of the shops in Hewell Road with hanging baskets for the summer. The Parish Council will be awarding a prize for the three best maintained baskets.

Judith Jagger

Parish Council Spring Walk

The Spring Walk again proved to be a popular event with more than 20 residents joining the 8 mile round trip to the Tardebidge Cider Farm where owner Steve Cooper was a genial host. He gave the party a guided tour of his orchard and production process before sitting them down for a buffet lunch and cider tasting. Thanks go to the Parish Council's footpaths officer Simon Richards who organised the event. Simon has also developed a website on the Parish's footpaths which can be found at <http://www.barntgreenclub.co.uk/>. The site lists all of the rights of way in the Parish and a number of walks will also be added. There is also a gallery of photographs from this year's Spring Walk.



Walkers listen intently to Steve Cooper's presentation on the Tardebidge Cider Farm.

Neighbourhood Watch

A meeting of Barnt Green Neighbourhood Watch was held in June when it was reported that around ten of the streets in then village are now covered by the scheme. More co-ordinators are still needed and anyone who is able to contribute a small amount of their time to this worthwhile scheme is urged to contact Mel Clarke at Bromsgrove Police Station. The scheme is also in the process of introducing "Smartwater" property identifying technology. This process has reduced opportunist crime in the trial area by up to 38 per cent and the Council is keen to work with Neighbourhood Watch to see it introduced and publicised throughout the village.

Adopt a Station

Parish Council chairman Judith Jagger and some local residents met with London

Midland's station access manager to discuss ways of improving the appearance of Barnt Green Station. The group hopes to start by installing planters on platforms 1 and 2, and to improve the appearance of the station car park. Anyone interested in joining the Adopt a Station scheme should contact Judith or John Jagger on 0121 445 2437.

Barnt Green Youth Community Group and FLOSS!

You might be forgiven for thinking this was something to do with improving the dental hygiene of young people! However, **FLOSS** stands for **Funding Lots of Stuff**. The final 'S' standing for whatever you wish – special, super, smashing, etc. Barnt Green Youth Community Group has successfully bid for a grant from FLOSS that will enable a start to be made on installing an **Adventure Trail** on the Bittell Road playing field. The choice of equipment has been made through consultation with the youth of Barnt Green. Thank you to all of you who took the time and trouble to complete the questionnaire (we had almost 100 replies) and thank you to *The Locker Room* who agreed to act as a collection centre.

Several providers of Adventure Trails have been consulted and equipment will shortly be ordered through *Playdale*. This company specialises in producing eco-friendly equipment that will blend with the site. *Playdale* is a British company based in Haverthwaite in Cumbria. The money awarded by FLOSS has to be spent by March 2009 and it is hoped to start installing some items of equipment within the next few months. Further applications for funding are in the pipeline and it is hoped that the Adventure Trail, and eventually a Nature Trail, will be completed in 2009.

Speed Signs for Bittell Road

After many months of campaigning, Worcestershire County Council has agreed to the installation of two vehicle activated speed signs on Bittell Road. It is hoped that these will lead to a reduction in traffic speed along this busy stretch of road.

Barnt Green Sports Club

The second organisation to be featured in our spotlight on local clubs and organisations is the Barnt Green Sports Club in Margesson Drive. Described by its members as the best kept secret in the Midlands, Barnt Green Sports Club provides facilities for tennis, with four all weather and four grass courts, squash, with two recently refurbished courts, badminton, with two of the best and most popular courts in the County and table tennis. It caters for players and spectators from all ages and backgrounds, has competitive teams in all sports but also encourages social playing. The club is open to its members 364 days a year.

The clubhouse has full free kitchen facilities in order to cater for its teams or members who just want to have a picnic on the lawns. It features a full Bar, Lounge and TV room, which is open 7 days a week and is available to hire to members for private functions. One of the highlights of the year is Wimbledon Finals weekend which is celebrated in style, with of course strawberries and cream!!



It is safe to say that Dr William Cole Ambrose was the founder of the club. About 1909 or 1910 the Lady Isobel Margesson, whose husband was then private secretary to the Earl of Plymouth, came to reside at Barnt Green House. She felt that there was a great need for a meeting place for the village community and she persuaded the late Mr John Gibbins to build the original wooden structure, consisting of one badminton court, two dressing rooms and a kitchen with a small stage.

Owing to lack of support, or the fact that Lady Isobel was too busy with further schemes by the time the court was built, the

idea never took root in the village and so the court was likely to become derelict.

Dr Ambrose, who was keen on badminton, seeing that he could easily find a dozen or more players who would be glad to have a badminton court, approached Mr Gibbins with the idea of renting the building from him to which he agreed. Shortly afterwards, on calling a meeting of those interested in badminton and other local affairs, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of the late Mr John Sheldon with Dr Ambrose as Hon. Secretary. Mr Gibbins was approached with the proposition that if he would build a second court, enlarge the stage and add a supper room the committee would guarantee him 4 per cent interest on his money by way of rent. Twenty-seven guarantors put their names down and entered into an undertaking to pay up to £5 in any one year if called upon to do so and a thriving club was formed. In 1922 Dr Ambrose succeeded Mr Sheldon as Chairman.

About 1925 Mr Gibbins expressed a wish to give the Club to the members but as the building was found to be unsafe gave them the land and £500 towards rebuilding and a sum of money was raised sufficient to re-erect the building as it is at present.

Anyone interested in joining the club should contact the steward, Nick, on 0121 445 1978. For more details visit the club's website at

<http://www.barntgreensportsclub.co.uk/index.php>

Millennium Park Refurbishment

Plans are well advanced for the refurbishment of Millennium Park and work should commence shortly on the resurfacing of the pathway. This will be followed by the installation of new benches similar to the one recently installed at the junction of Bittell Road and Bittell Farm Road. Re-placement swings with a new safety surface for the play area have been ordered and the self-closing mechanism on the gate will either be repaired, or a complete new gate will be installed.

This will be followed by the installation of additional lighting and planting so that by the autumn the whole of the park area should be looking fresh and welcoming.

Dates for your diary....

Monday July 28 Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm Parish Centre
Monday September 29 Parish Council Meeting, 7.00pm Parish Centre
Sunday December 7 Barnt Green Christmas Festival, 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.

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	bgpcarchivist@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:		County Councillor	
Mrs Ann Doyle	0121 445 4184	Peter McDonald	0121 453 9267
Richard Deeming	0121 445 3114		

Anti-Social Behaviour Officer: 01527 881423

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

Hall Bookings: Parish Centre	Edna Whitehouse 445 4696
Baptist Church Hall	Beverley Bennett 445 1551
Friends Meeting House	Peter Wastenev 447 7355