



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010



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www.barntgreen.org.uk



The new icicle lights gave a real festive feel to the Hewell Road shops.

Chairman's Message

We had a marvellous display of Christmas lights which gave the village a true festive feel. We plan to repeat and extend the display next Christmas

The Christmas tree lights were turned on as we sang carols with children from the village. The Council would like to thank Reverend Rob Fieldson for taking the annual carol service by the park. The Council would also like to thank Steve and Lesley Reed from Meadow Farm Butchers and Ed Killworth from Threshers for helping with the refreshments including mulled wine for those braving the cold.

Hewell Road had been scheduled to be resurfaced during January. Due to the bad weather this work has been delayed by Worcestershire County Council Highways Department until conditions improve. This work will take about three weeks with a one way road system operating to facilitate the ease and speed of the resurfacing. A Happy and Healthy New Year to you all.

Christmas Carol Service

There was a good turnout for the Carol Service held this year on December 11th at Millennium Park. The Council is keen to see this become a regular event and would encourage all parishioners to put a date in their diary for the 2010 service which will be held on December 10th.



Residents and Councillors get in to the festive spirit at Millennium Park.

Hewell Road

In the Spring Newsletter we outlined the problems around the shopping area where, as a result of double parking and parking on the pavement, there is often significant traffic congestion and the increasing risk of a serious accident happening. Regrettably, there have been a number of accidents since that time which underlines the need for some sort of action to minimize such risks. The Parish Council has been campaigning for the last 2-3 years for various changes to improve the situation. We had developed, with the police's cooperation, a series of proposals which involved redesigning the parking space in that area including a new lay-by and loading bays along with other measures to discourage parking on the pavement. Unfortunately, however, for cost and other reasons, these have not been supported by either the Highways Department or indeed our county councillor.

The good news, however, is that the Parish Council has recently been informed that Highways will be resurfacing Hewell Road early this year, from a point near Barnt Green Social Club all the way down to the mini-roundabout at the junction of Bittell Road. The work is scheduled to take place, weather permitting, towards the end of January and nearer the time specific details will be provided to all residents and businesses regarding parking and traffic management arrangements whilst this is taking place. At the same time, Highways are reviewing the location of the speed cushions along the road and whether any changes would be desirable.

As the parking situation is unlikely to be resolved for some time now, we can only ask for

residents to be a little more thoughtful in where they park. Parking either half or fully on the pavement is, frankly, anti-social behavior. At best it inconveniences pedestrians, in particular young children and old age pensioners and other road users passing along Hewell Road; at worst it leads to accidents. There are a number of car parks around the village including the one at the station which could be used. Please do use them – remember the next accident might involve you or one of your family!"

Parish Council thanks its helpers

The Council said a big thank you to its many volunteer helpers and contractors at a lunchtime party held at The Victoria before Christmas. Thanks to Scott and Alison for the festive spread they provided, and to all of those attending without whose help and professional expertise the village would not function.



Volunteers and contractors put on their party hats to enjoy the Council's Thank You Party.

Parish Precept Held at Same Level

For the fourth year in succession the Parish Council has maintained the precept – that portion of the Council tax that is paid over to enable the Parish Council to carry out its statutory duties – at the 2007 level. Through careful budgeting and keeping a close eye on its costs, the Council has managed to deliver on its obligations without any increase in its precept for the last four years.

Youth Council Chair on BBC Radio WM

Katy McCrossan, chairperson of Barnt Green Youth Parish Council, appeared on BBC Radio WM's Jo Malin Show in November. The show was looking at young people who are active in their local community and Katy explained the role of the Youth Parish Council and how it represents the views of the village's young people to the Parish Council. Katy commented: "My feelings ranged from being privileged to have the opportunity, as the chairperson, to represent our group to trepidation when I realised that the interview was going to be live on air to many thousands of listeners! I agreed to do this without really thinking about the scale of what it actually was, but I'm so glad I took on this wonderful experience." The studio was

much as I had imagined from the pictures I had seen, and when I arrived Joanne's researcher and producer were very friendly and put me at ease straight away. There was not much time to get to know Joanne before the interview as she was already live on air, but as soon as we started talking she made me feel so comfortable that all my nerves evaporated and I was able to speak confidently about our work as a council. "Joanne was particularly interested in the adventure trail project and the contributions we make to our local community. The half an hour scheduled for the interview sped by and afterwards Joanne offered me the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament with one of the BBC's political editors. I am really looking forward to this and then reporting back to the Barnt Green Youth Parish Council."



Katy McCrossan (seated) at BBC Radio WM's studios in Birmingham with Jo Malin (right) and Cllr Susan Whitehand who is the liaison point between the Youth Council and the full Parish Council.

New Year's Day Walk

Many thanks to the Parish footpaths officer Simon Richards who organised an enjoyable seven mile walk on New Year's Day around Bittell Reservoir and over the Lickey Hills.



Residents (and their dogs) took advantage of the New Year's Day walk to blow away the Christmas cobwebs.

Kind Hearted Residents

A big thank you to all those residents who have helped to clear roads and footpaths during the recent bad weather. We heard that Fiery Hill Road became impassable just before Xmas and there were some very helpful residents who spent quite some time gritting and salting the road so people could get up the hill. We are sure there are many other examples of similar good deeds and the Parish Council would like to thank everyone who went out of their way to help.

Spotlight on Barnt Green Scout and Guide Field Trust

In this issue we look at the work of the Barnt Green Scout and Guide Field Trust. The Scout Field Trust came into being in 1977 when the late Marion Cadbury and Harry Riley gifted the field, which had previously been rented by the Barnt Green Scout Group, to the organisation. It was not legal for Scout Groups to directly own land so the Trust was formed with a mandate to provide and maintain facilities for the local Scouts. In the late 1990's both the Scout HQ and The Guide Hut in Hewell Lane were in need of extensive repair or replacement and a decision was made to combine forces and develop one building on the then Scout Field for the use of both organisations. From this decision the Trust decided to rename itself the Scout and Guide Field Trust. In 2004 disaster struck when the Scout HQ was attacked by arsonists and burnt to the ground. With the present Guide Hut – which is a First World War army building – showing its age, the Trust decided to raise funds to provide a substantial Centre, not only for Scouting and Guiding, but also for the use of the Barnt Green community as a whole.



Building and Fundraising Committees were formed under the umbrella of the Trust but progress has been slow. Many of the main fund providers have been unable to help for a variety of reasons and the main burden has fallen on a variety of local organisations including Barnt Green Parish Council, Barnt Green traders and local running group the Barnt Green Chuggers.

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Some of the smaller trusts have also helped as have the local public and parents. So far more than £165,000 has been raised towards the total cost of the Centre of £320,000. This figure includes all the legal and planning requirements needed for a community building. The Guide Hut and associated land in Hewell Lane is for sale at a price around £100,000 – a figure which would take the Trust a long way towards its target and completion of the Centre. Many professionals have given their services and advice free of charge to the Building Committee and the

contractors commenced work in January 2009 on a staged basis, working as and when funds are available. A Buy a Brick Campaign has been launched and a number of other fundraising events have been planned. The Trust would like to express its thanks to everyone who has helped over the last five years, but still more is needed. If anyone would like more details on the work of the Trust or can offer help in fundraising and donations, please contact Michael Docherty, Chairman Barnt Green Scout and Guide Field Trust, on 0121 445 3907.

Dates for your diary....

Monday January 25 th	Parish Council Meeting
Monday February 22 nd	Parish Council Meeting
Monday March 29 th	Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meetings

These are usually held on the last Monday in each month at the Parish Centre in Sandhills Road at 7.00pm. You are welcome to attend and observe, 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 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	
Susan Whitehand	0121 445 3530	
Rachel Banner	0121 445 4479	
Chris Jenkins	0121 445 1034	
Alun Davies	0121 445 5085	
Executive Officer: Roger Westbury	0121 447 7455	exec@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: 0300 3333000. Local police contact Sgt Millwood Rubery Police station.

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

If a copy in larger print or in Braille or an audio version is required, please contact the Executive Officer