

Dear Resident

On the inside pages, you will see some details about the SmartWater scheme. Although crime is relatively low in Barnt Green, I am sure this is something we all wish to preserve.

I, therefore, encourage you to register. Some dates of drop in sessions are given on Page 3 when you will be able to do this. If you cannot make either of these dates, please get in touch with us so we can make alternative sign up arrangements for you.

Once again, Barnt Green is subject to inconvenience as infrastructure upgrades are made. This time it is to the water main along Hewell Road where we have had leaks in the past. The Parish Council has liaised with the contractors on this project and we hope that keeping access open to the shops and Station Approach is minimising the inconvenience to us all.

Work has finished on the new footbridge at Cofton. We hope that the footpath, which has now been closed for over 4 years, can be reopened before the end of September so our community walks can be routed over it.

We continue to lobby for lifts at the railway station. Network Rail failed to budget properly for lifts during the Bromsgrove Electrification Programme, knowingly breaching disability legislation. Now, Network Rail must apply to the Department for Transport (DfT) for approval of the budget to be used. The first application was declined by the DfT, so a further application is now being made using a different budget. There is little evidence that the need to comply with the law in a timely manner carries any weight with these Government bodies.

Robert Cholmondeley, Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council

MP and Councillors' contacts:

MP Sajid Javid – sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk

County Councillor Peter McDonald – pmcdonald2@worcestershire.gov.uk

District Councillor Charles Hotham – c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Parish Councillors: Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hotham, Judith Jagger, Joakim Nilsson, Philip Perry, Olivia Polton, Harrison Rone-Clarke and Susan Whitehand

Councillor contact details via www.barntgreen.org.uk

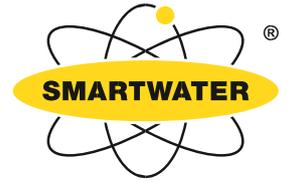
Chairman: Cllr Robert Cholmondeley robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com

Executive Officer: Tracy Bodley exec@barntgreen.org.uk
80 Hewell Road B45 8NF tel: 0121 447 9893 / 07410 906282

All information is correct at the time of printing. Views expressed in the newsletter are those of the contributors and may not be those of the Parish Council.

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INTRODUCING SMARTWATER® TO BARNT GREEN



WHAT IS SMARTWATER?

SmartWater is a sophisticated security system that protects property, deters thieves and helps the police to convict criminals. It can be directly applied to valuables or it can be used to spray criminals committing a crime.

SmartWater contains a unique forensic code that is registered to an address or location. Anything marked can be traced back to where it came from, allowing the police to identify stolen property and link criminals to crime scenes.

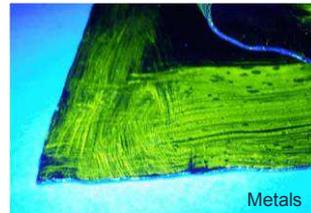
SmartWater is almost invisible in natural light but glows brightly under ultraviolet (UV) light.



Valuables



Criminal activation on skin



Metals

Photographs taken under UV light.

WHY DO CRIMINALS AVOID SMARTWATER?

If a criminal is marked with SmartWater or caught with SmartWater-marked property, they face an increased risk of prosecution. SmartWater has helped to convict hundreds of criminals and has a 100% conviction rate. Police Forces nationwide, along with many second-hand dealers, scrap merchants and recyclers are all looking for SmartWater. For further information, please go to www.smartwater.com or call: **0333 320 7797**

BARNT PARISH COUNCIL IS WORKING WITH WEST MERCIA POLICE TO OFFER SMARTWATER PACKS TO RESIDENTS AND TRADERS OF BARNT GREEN.

FULLY FUNDED BY BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL



Registered Company Office: SmartWater Technology Limited, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU, United Kingdom.
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 SmartWater Technology Limited is an ISO 9001, ISO 27001 & ISO/IEC 17025 accredited company.
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WHERE IS SMARTWATER USED?

- Homes use SmartWater to protect electrical goods, jewellery and other valuables.
- Many businesses protect IT equipment, infrastructure and tools.
- Shops and banks use it to deter robberies.
- Railways are marking trackside cable.
- Cars, vans, bikes, boats, and other vehicles can all use SmartWater.
- Farms and rural communities are protecting machinery and stoneware (including paving and dry-stone walls).
- Many schools protect their IT and sports equipment.
- Utility firms apply SmartWater to metals and cables.
- Thousands of Churches use SmartWater on lead roofing.
- Many Cash-in-transit cashboxes are fitted with SmartWater.
- Retail chains are using SmartWater to reduce pilferage and internal theft.

FREE SIGN UP AND PACKS FOR BARNT GREEN RESIDENTS AND TRADERS

DROP-IN AND SIGN UP

SATURDAY 14
SEPTEMBER 2019,
10AM – 2PM

THURSDAY 3
OCTOBER 2019,
6PM – 8PM

Parish Council Office,
80 Hewell Road, B45 8NF
0121 447 9893 / exec@barntgreen.org.uk

Barnt Green Summer Treasure Hunt



The Treasure Hunt held at the beginning of July proved to be a great success with around 100 participants. The event received positive feedback from those who took part with villagers expressing that it was a great community event and interaction with fellow treasure seekers.



Music from Paul Edwards

The event even saw an impromptu visit from two horseback riders who kindly stopped in Millennium Park to let children stroke the horses and give accompanied rides for those who wished to take part.

Special thanks go to The Victoria, Tony's Handyman and Café Morso who donated prizes and to Acorn Dental who kindly put together goody bags to give to every participating child.

Supported by Bromsgrove District Council, Village Vineyards and Warwicks Butchers.

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS



The recent spring elections saw a change to Barnt Green Parish Council. Long serving councillor, Rosemary Briggs stood down to make way for a new face.

The Chairman and everyone at the Parish Council would like to extend a large thank you for contributions made over the years from Rosemary and would also like to welcome a newly co-opted councillor, Olivia Polton to the council.

Overhanging Hedges blocking pedestrian walkways

Concerns have been raised over the number of overhanging hedges partially blocking pedestrian footpaths causing obstruction for those most vulnerable and forcing them to walk in the road.

A request is made to households that have natural boundary features to please maintain your hedging to allow for full access to the pavement for pedestrians.

Contact details: Office at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

Open: Mon 1pm – 4pm, Tues & Wed 10am – 2.00pm

Land: 0121 447 9893 / Mob: 07410 906282 / email: exec@barntgreen.org.uk

Volunteering in 2019

Onside a local charity which works across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, is looking for people to take on the role of a Relevant Persons Representative (RPR).

As an RPR the volunteer would be visiting a person once every 6-8 weeks for no more than 1 hour. Volunteering would be local to where the volunteer lives. Volunteers as an RPR are safeguarding the rights of vulnerable people who don't have the mental capacity to consent to care or treatment.

Volunteers are ordinary people of all ages and backgrounds they just need to be good listeners and have some time to give. Further opportunities with advocacy, mentoring, café and book shop volunteering is also available.

If you can picture yourself in the role of an Onside volunteer please call Claire Watkins - Volunteer Manager on 01905 27525 or email claire.watkins@onside-advocacy.org.uk to find out more. This type of volunteering is flexible to fit with your life and circumstances. Free training (throughout the year) is provided and all expenses paid.

Eco-Church at St Michaels and St Andrews



The churches in Cofton Hackett and Barnt Green are part of an Eco-Church movement supported by the Diocese of Birmingham. We are focussing on key areas:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global environment
- Lifestyle

This autumn we will be holding 2 evening meetings open to anyone to attend:

An Evening with Tony Miller – Worcestershire Council Cabinet Member with Responsibility for the Environment. Tony will talk about the county's environmental activities including Waste (what we do with it and what the council does with it), Biodiversity, Pollinators and Partnership Working (e.g. Worcester Wildlife Trust).

Film Evening showing “Before the Flood”. This features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, travelling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change first-hand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction. He also discovers a calculated disinformation campaign orchestrated by powerful special interests while he searches for hope in a rising tide of catastrophic news.

The times and dates will be announced soon. Please keep an eye on the Parish Council website and the church website at <http://standrewscofe.org.uk/eco-church/>

**If you have any community news to share, please let us know.
This newsletter is issued each year in Spring and Autumn.**

Did you know wheelie bins can be used by burglars?

Please be aware that wheelie bins can be used by burglars to help gain access to your property. Make sure your wheelie bins are out of sight of burglars. Store or secure it away until collection day.

Did you know that wheelie bins can be used in the following ways by burglars and criminals?

As a climbing aid to help them gain access to your property to scale your garden wall or fence.

As an indicator as to whether you are at home... Wheelie bins left out in the street can be an indication that you have not yet returned home from work. Consider asking a trusted neighbour if they would be kind enough to collect your wheelie bins from off the side of the road after they have been emptied.

As a removal aid to help take the items away that they have stolen... Burglars and thieves can use any insecure and accessible wheelie bins as a carrying cart to take away any items they have stolen from your property.

To find out information about you... Criminal can search through your wheelie bins looking for any personal information which may be contained in discarded letters and documents. This information can then be used to aid in identity theft. Ensure you destroy all discarded personal documentation, ideally by shredding it.

To start small fires... Criminals and vandals can use wheelie bins to help set small fires which can easily spread out of control and cause damage to your property and in extreme cases endanger life.



BARNT GREEN SUPPORTING THE 'WE DON'T BUY CRIME' CAMPAIGN

At a recent event Parish Council Chairman, Robert Cholmondeley and Executive Officer, Tracy Bodley promote the introduction of SmartWater to the village.

'It's a brilliant initiative and I am proud that not only is the parish council supporting the scheme, but it is fully funding the cost of the SmartWater kits.' Reports the Executive Officer.

'Barnt Green Parish Council has earmarked reserves to budget for the project and it is hoped for 100% take up from Villagers.'

Villagers are urged to come to one of the drop-in sessions to sign up for their kit.

All parish council meetings are usually held on 3rd Monday of each month and from September 2019 will be held at Barnt Green Parish Council Office.

Meetings start at 7pm and are open to the public to attend, with an opportunity to speak during the Open Forum section.

All agendas are published at least 3 clear days before the meeting and can be found on the notice board next to the bus shelter and on our website.



COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR 2019

Community Walk, Saturday 28 September

There will be 3 planned routes of 3, 5 and 8 miles with all walks starting and ending at Millennium Park, Hewell Road.

The 8 Mile Walk will commence at 1pm, the 5 Mile Walk commencing at 2pm and the 3 Mile

Walk commencing at 3pm.

All guided walks will return at around 5pm for music in Millennium Park with a display of electric bikes for anyone who wishes to try one out. There is also an opportunity to purchase refreshments following your walk.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Lights Switch On, Saturday 30 November, 4pm – 7pm

Taking place in Millennium Park, performers, food and fun for all ages.



Wassail Walk, Between Christmas and New Year

Consisting of a 3 and 5 mile walk, starting in Millennium Park, the round trip includes wassail at the local orchard for mulled cider in front of a warming bonfire.

TROOP AID

Pam Eves, the Troop Aid co-ordinator for this area, writes:

Very many thanks to the residents of Barnt Green for all the contributions of various toiletries donated to Troop Aid for the QE and troop hospitals.

We would also like to thank the Parish Council Office for providing the drop-in facility to receive welcome donations.

All your continued support is greatly appreciated and enables us to carry on supporting our injured troops. We are mostly in need of shower gel, stick deodorants and single toothbrushes for our grab bags serving over 25 countries.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

UPGRADE TO BARNT GREEN STREET LIGHTS

Barnt Green Parish Council is responsible for 68 streetlights within the village.

To improve the current lighting scheme, the council has earmarked reserves to upgrade the current lighting to the more energy efficient LED Lamps.

Tenders have been sent to street lighting contractors with each lantern being cleaned prior to being fitted with a new LED lamp.

Tenders are due in early September with a view to work being carried out following evaluation and award of contract.

Please be assured that the lighting columns will remain, and every care is being taken to ensure that disruption for villagers is kept to a minimum during the street lighting improvements.

WILDFLOWER POLLINATORS

As a first pilot, the Parish Council has adopted a small area of land near the school, on the corner of Green Bank. This has been planted with wildflowers during the spring with mixed results.

Quotations have been sought for knee rail fencing and it is hoped that possible grant funding will allow the council to continue to improve the site further.

The Parish Council would like to extend a large thank you to both Rachel Banner and Alun Davies who have worked tirelessly on planting and sowing wildflower seed.



Road Works

The Parish Council is notified of planned road works and publishes the relevant information on its website and Facebook page. There is also a very useful interactive national website that shows what's going on locally. It shows future planned works as well as current, see - <https://www.roadworks.org/>



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OF ANY OF DETAILS
WITHIN THE PAGES OF THE BULLETIN PLEASE
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

www.barntgreen.org.uk