



Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council Newsletter

December 2005, Issue 1.



Welcome to the first Newsletter!

Welcome to the first of what we hope is many issues of the Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council Newsletter.

We are hoping the Newsletter will become a quarterly publication for our village and, hopefully, made up of articles, news items and reminiscences, by the villagers!

Why have we decided to publish a Parish Newsletter? Well, first of all this is an initiative that is already being undertaken by other South Staffordshire Parish Councils. Secondly, we as a Parish Council believe that our parishioners have a right to know what the Parish Council are doing to improve the village. Thirdly, the Parish Council are determined to become a 'Quality Parish'!

The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme was launched by the Minister of State for Rural Affairs and Urban Quality of Life back in March 2003.

The Quality Parish Council Scheme ensures that all qualifying parishes will play an enhanced role in their communities and in partnership with principal authorities. This will be achieved by parish councils negotiating charters with principal authorities.

County and District Councils are to be strongly encouraged to enter into agreement with Quality Parish Councils.

There are several tests that a parish council must pass to become a Quality Parish. Most of the tests, Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council already meet. There are two areas that we as a council must improve. The first one is to have a qualified Clerk who holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) or a certificate in Higher Education in Local Policy or Local Council Administration. The Clerk to Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council, Becky Hodgetts, is currently working towards the CiLCA.

Effective communication must also be demonstrated. Although a Clerk's report is put in the Parish Council notice board by the shops, the results of the recent parish

plan highlighted that communication can be improved. It was decided that a newsletter to all parish households was the most effective way of the council meeting this requirement. If any one requires further information on the Quality Parish Scheme please contact the Clerk, Becky Hodgetts.

We need articles, good news and items of interest for our next issue! If anybody would like to contribute to the next issue of the Pattingham and Patshull Newsletter, would you please submit your news item to Becky Hodgetts, by email to:

council@pattingham.com

Or, by post to Becky at:
23 Windsor Road,
Pattingham,
South Staffordshire,
WV6 7DR

Any queries, please contact
Becky on 01902-700269

Pattingham's Christmas Lights

The new lights, purchased and lit by the Parish Council, were switched on at the beginning of December by Don Goodman, along with the children and Rotary's 'Santa's Sleigh'.

The new lights have been put up on the Churchyard trees and on the Village Green in Pattingham. They will stay up for the next five years, as they have done in Stafford. The bulbs last 20,000 hours and change to four different colours. They have cost £5,000, but we will save £2,000 annually, which has been the cost to put them up and take them down.

We are hoping to buy more lights each year for both Villages, but this will have to be phased, due to cost.

The lights this year outside the Pattingham shops have been loaned by the manufacturers and are with the compliments of Kenneth Clive.

Rising to the Sunflower Challenge!

Green fingered residents had extra reason to tend their gardens during the Summer as they competed for a new annual village prize for the Tallest Sunflower Cup.

Although the competition was open to all ages, it was delightful to see from the interest shown that there are some very keen younger gardeners in the parish.

First place went to Benjamin Phillips who impressed judges with a 121 inch tall specimen, and was awarded a £10 cash prize and his name will be engraved on the trophy. Runners-up were Beryl Sargeant (115 inches) and Ellie Pinches (108). Both picked up a cash prize and a medal for their excellent efforts!

Pictured above are Sunflower winner Benjamin Phillips, with Ellie, Harry and Ben Pinches receiving their prizes from Chairman of the Parish Council, Harry Stiles, in the background.

The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring



Again this year, South Staffordshire Council has given the Village 75kg of mixed daffodils and a large box of crocus to help make South Staffordshire a lovely place to live. The bulbs have been divided into small quantities and have been planted by volunteers in the hedgerows and front gardens in Pattingham and Patshull.

We are grateful to all the people who do this planting, and would request that when they flower next spring, people do not pick them, but leave them for other people to enjoy.

Walking from Land's End to John o'Groats? - Then Stop off in Pattingham!

Walking from Land's End to John o'Groats? – Then Stop off in Pattingham! After stopping in the pretty Shropshire village of Claverley for a lunchtime pint of Timothy Taylor's Landlord, a refreshingly bitter brew, I finally reached the Staffordshire border. The rest of the walk followed a long, straight road, for which I was thankful after my blast of 'Landlord!' On reaching Pattingham, I was rudely shaken out of my plodding reverie by two huge black dogs who shot out into the road and barked menacingly at my approach! The owner wasn't impressed and yelled at the dogs to get back inside, but this just set off the rest of Pattingham's dogs off on a howling spree that followed me all the way to the Post Office. With that I arrived in Pattingham!

I didn't realise it at the time, but Pattingham would turn out to be one of the friendliest places on my route so far! Terry and Sue, the couple who ran the farmhouse B&B where I stayed, were wonderful hosts, and even though I was only there for one night, I warmed to them hugely. Terry even drove me down to the Pigot Arms for a couple of pints, a sure-fire way of getting in my good books, and I counted myself lucky to have found them.

The Pigot turned out to be much more than a pleasant place to while away an evening meal and a few beers. After a hearty Steak and Chips I pulled out my computer and started typing away, oblivious to the Friday buzz around me. It wasn't to be, though, because a few minutes after I'd started hacking away, a

young guy wandered over and pointed at my keyboard.

'Is that a computer?' he asked, so I showed him the folding keyboard and launched into the usual spiel about me walking from Land's End to John o'Groats and writing about it on the way. 'No way!' he cried, and insisted that I come outside for a drink with him and his mates. It turned out to be a great move; outside was a big group of Pattingham's finest party animals, their cars pulled up to the pub and pumping out the guitar riffs of the Wildhearts at a healthy volume, while everyone got themselves geared up for what was obviously going to be a long night.

I was welcomed into the group with open arms. They couldn't quite believe what I was doing, and they insisted that I come to the party they were about to go to; I was very tempted – but despite the promise of endless beer and a curry at 2.00am, I stuck to my guns and insisted that I had to go walking in the morning, something I clearly wouldn't manage after a night on the town with this lot! Instead I promised to send them a postcard from John o'Groats and waved them goodnight. Without a doubt, Pattingham is the friendliest place I've been since Oakhampton. It's always the least likely places that surprise you....

Mark Moxon - The Web's Favourite Travel Writer

www.moxon.net

www.longdistancewalks.com

www.landsendjohnogroats.info

A Big Thank you to Trevor Davies!

A Big Thank you to Trevor Davies!

After serving as treasurer of Pattingham Playing Fields Committee for nearly 40 years, Trevor Davies has decided to hand over responsibilities to Becky Hodgetts. We are most grateful to Becky, who is also the current secretary, for taking on this role, and wish her well.

The committee would particularly like to express its gratitude to Trevor for all his hard work over the past four decades. At every meeting, the Treasurer's report is presented accurately and without fuss, and always ends with the announcement that the financial status of the Playing Fields Committee is healthy. But Trevor's contribution to this extends beyond just balancing the books. When large sums of money have been involved, most recently with the Skatepark and the Changing Rooms, Trevor has handled the matters efficiently and effectively.

Three years ago, the tennis courts were being used sporadically, and the income from them was minimal. Trevor single-handedly increased the usage by speaking to the tennis players of the village, so that regular games are played, income has increased, and now we have just been able to afford to have the playing surface professionally cleaned.

That is just one example of the many things Trevor has done to help with the upkeep of the field. Has everyone noticed the new fencing around the Skatepark? As the vandals have broken the old fence, 84year old Trevor Davies has replaced the pailings with better ones – without fuss, and without help. The last time a piece of play equipment was broken, Trevor fixed it. I remember taking my children to the park recently and raising the point at the next meeting that there was a dangerous gap at the top of the small slide, and asking the committee for ideas to solve the problem. The next time I took my children, the gap had been neatly covered

Footpaths in Pattingham

All the footpaths in the Villages are maintained by the Parish Council. We are pleased that walkers let us know when there are problems with the paths. We are grateful to the farmers and landowners for their co-operation with the paths. The Council allocates a budget for footpath maintenance. The walks are well used by the Rambling Associations, and it is pleasing to see them supporting our shops and pubs. The Millennium footpaths are permissive, and it is important that we look after these, as they are in the last few years of their permission. We would hate to lose them in 2009.



The Millennium footpaths close, (that is why they are permissive) during the shooting season, on Saturdays. This year they will be closed on December 3rd, 10th & 17th and every Saturday in January. They will also be closed on 22nd, 26th and 29th December, and 31st January for Shooting Bye Days. The Shoot display the Closed Signs.

and the slide was safe. I didn't need to ask who had done it.

There is not enough space here to say just how much Trevor has done for Pattingham. Nor is there enough space to say just how grateful we all are. Everyone is delighted that Trevor is going to remain on the committee.

You will see Trevor in the Spar Shop every morning buying his Daily Telegraph. Rest assured that his next stop is the Park, to make sure that everything is in order. If it isn't, he won't make a fuss or write a letter of complaint, he'll just fix it. We couldn't do without him.

Thank you Trevor.

Keith Turner

Chairman, Pattingham Playing Fields Committee, November 2005

Pattingham & Patshull Old People's Welfare Committee.

This is a Registered Charity, which is administered by a committee, with Mr Gordon Bramall as Chairman. The Committee consists of people who represent other Village organisations, with some co-opted members. Its sole purpose is to provide an Annual Christmas Dinner for ALL residents over the age of 60 years, who are resident in Pattingham and Patshull who wish to come. It is held in Pattingham Village Hall, this year on 8th December 2005. The Children of St Chad's School always entertain us with Christmas Carols and Songs, and this year Mrs Sally Billson again will be playing the piano for a 'Sing Along' after the meal. We are delighted that the Vicar always says Grace.

The Committee has been able to fund a four course hot meal, with sherry, wine, crackers and chocolates. We are able to send a miniature whisky to known sick residents who would normally attend. Mrs Nicklin and her Staff have been involved with the top class coming to the Dinner to entertain for years. Not only is it a special event in the School Calendar, but something that the Guests enjoy, especially when their grandchildren are performing!

This year will be the first year that men can come over the age of 60 years, instead of 65 years. This is to comply with the new Age Discrimination Act, which comes in force in 2006.

We are grateful to the Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council and to the C.F. Parker Trust, and over the years from donations from different people and organisations, to be able to provide such a lovely event. We normally have over 100 guests. We are also grateful to the Village Hall Committee who always decorate the Hall for our event. We do have the Community Bus to transport any guests who require help.

Application forms for anyone who wishes to come, are available from Pattingham Hardware, and from Miss Joyce Passey in Burnhill Green. We are always delighted to say thank you to George and Totty for receiving the application forms, in the same Christmas wrapped box that George has used for 20 years!

Joan Burton, Secretary & Treasurer.

Meet your Parish Councillors

Harry Stiles Chairman, Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council



The Chairman of the Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council, Harry Stiles, is well known to many of you in the village. He has been a resident of Pattingham for 30 years having moved here from

Kenya with his family in January 1974. After taking semi retirement in 2000 he retired fully in 2002. Harry became a Parish Councillor in 2003 and was proud to be elected Chairman of the council in May 2005.

Harry is involved in all aspects of the community and would like to encourage more organised activities for younger people from the village. He was recently instrumental in producing the Parish Plan, and is currently also a member of the Playing fields Committee.

Harry has been a Trustee of the Wolverhampton Crossroads Care Scheme since 1995 and currently serves as their Chairman.

He is a member of the Pattingham Probus club and re-joined the Albrighton and District Rotary Club after a short absence, where he is Community and Youth Activities Committee Chairman.

Robert Marshall, County Councillor



Robert has been your County Councillor since 1997. He has lived all his life in either Lower Penn, Perton or Codsall and is married with two Children aged 14 and 11.

The main subjects that he can help to influence are Education, Social Services, Highways, Transport, Youth matters, Waste Management, Trading Standards, and last (but not least) Grant aid!

These are all County Council matters, but because Robert is also a District Councillor (representing Codsall South) he is always

Becky Hodgetts



Becky Hodgetts has been Clerk to Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council since May 2002, having moved to the village from Perton in April 2003.

Becky is married to Steve and has three children aged 9, 8 and 5, all have attended, or are currently attending, St Chads CE Primary School.

The role of Clerk to the Parish Council is part-time and this has enabled her to invest valuable time in completing a 'Working With Your Council' course. This requires Becky to complete a detailed portfolio of work in order to enable her to achieve 'Qualified Clerk' status. This qualification is one step and one requirement towards the village achieving 'Quality Parish' status, a key aim for all on the Parish Council.

Becky is currently also fully occupied in carrying out the role of Secretary and Treasurer to Pattingham Playing Fields Association. If that is not enough responsibility, she is also a Governor at St. Chad's CE Primary school, representing the Parish Council, until 2007. To complete a very hectic schedule, she has been Chair to the Parents Teachers Friends Association at St. Chad's School for the past two years.

available to help Joan Burton on any District related matters.

Robert is Chairman of the South Staffordshire Duke of Edinburgh's Award Support Group.

In 1991 Robbie joined MENSA and became the Chess Champion in 1993, 1995 and 1996. He was also Monopoly Champion in 1997!

He coaches the Under 14's at Wolverhampton Rugby Club and is a member of Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club. He completed the Wolverhampton Marathon in 2000 and this year he ran and completed the Pattingham Bells Run.

Robert attends all our Parish Council meetings.

INTER-PARISH SPORTS NEWS 2005

The Inter-Parish Season is now at an end. Can I send a big thank you to all those who have given their time and assistance in helping to organise and participate in the games. **Pattingham finished in 6th place for the second year running, and with a more improved overall score of 123 compared to 86 points.** Brewood & Coven are the overall winners with 180 points.

Angling, Swimming and Tennis events have been played this season, hopefully this will continue next year. The Skittles team played a blinder with the team joker, not only winning but scoring a magnifi-

cent 26 points! The Target Golfers, Rifle Shooting Team and Crown Green Bowlers are all runners up. **Medals will be awarded at the SSIIG Annual Presentation night which will be in late November.** Details and tickets for all competitors, families and friends will be available shortly. The PCC will fund these tickets **Every point earned from each event goes towards the overall score, giving us a chance to go for the end of season trophies. Once again thanks go out to a very special band of people who have made a wonderful effort for the Parish and the Games. Roll on next year!**

Indoor Bowls:

Mary & Dan Davies,

Cross Country:

Clive Wycherley,

Hal Wycherley,

Ivan Follos,

John Bailey

Dominoes:

Phil Lee,

Brian Robinson,

Stan Turner

Chess:

Stuart Jones,

Matt Ellis

Sports Quiz:

Gary & Lynn Lister,

Tony Attwater

Rifle Shooting:

Andrew & Hazel Ashmore,

Harry Robinson & Ben Jones

Crown Green Bowls:

Mary & Dan Davies,

Pauline & Paul Hickman

Squash:

Gary Lister,

Jackie Braddock

Target Golf:

Graham Newton,

Chris Norman & EDD

Tennis:

Christine & Steve Asprey

5 A Side Football:

Adam Hartley,

David Finch,

Ben Brevitt,

James Swinburne,

Richard Hammersley,

Tom Barnsley

& Warren Hancox

Skittles:

Pauline & Paul Hickman,

Mary & Dan Davies

Swimming:

Harvey Brindley,

Paige Floyd,

Sam Benton

& John Benton

Angling:

Terry Evans,

Steve Greenway,

Dennis Gregory

& George Bloor

Next year we need more swimmers, badminton players, netballers, darts players & would be mini-triathaloners – just call me on **701535**

LINDA ROBINSON

INTER PARISH GAMES CO-ORDINATOR

Pattingham Bells Run 2005 breaks all previous records.



The 16th Bells of Pattingham Run took place on the 16th October with the largest number of runners taking part since the event started in 1990, with a total of 868 entry forms being completed.

The Run was won by Paul Mountford with a time of 41 minutes 15 seconds, second was Nigel Share on 41 minutes 33 seconds and third was Paul Rogers at 41 minutes 59 seconds.

The first lady over the line was Amanda Wright with a time of 44 minutes 20 seconds, an excellent performance. Second lady was Kate Burge with 46 minutes 1 second and in third place was Ann Brizel at 48 minutes 33 seconds.

The winner of the Pattingham and Patshull Challenge Cup for the Parish, went for the third year running to Alan Griffiths. Well done, Alan.

Thanks go to all those who helped with the event. Around 100 people assist in marshalling the race and village traffic, manning the Help Desk and taking

'on-the-day' registrations. Thanks also go to the Pattingham Bell Ringers and the band of ladies who prepare and serve the hundreds of pieces of fruit cake with a hot cup of tea.

The services of Raynet (communications), the Red Cross and the Community Paramedics were needed when a runner collapsed at the 5.5 mile point. An immediate and efficient service was provided by these groups, which ensures the welfare of all runners taking part in the run.

Donations will be made to various local charities including the Air Ambulance plus the Village School, the Village Playing Fields Association, Raynet and the Air Cadets, who provide our car parking attendants. Remaining proceeds from the Bells Run are given to St. Chad's Church, Pattingham.

Thanks must also go to the Crown Estate and the Farmers for making the run possible. This article has been kindly provided by Mike Coope and can be viewed on

www.pattingham-ringers.org.uk

Next year's Bells Run will be on SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER 2006. Entry forms for this event will be available for download from the Pattingham Bellringers website www.pattingham-ringers.org.uk from August 2006.

Publicity: Mike Coope
(email: copidate@aol.com)

Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council

Becky Hodgetts (Mrs) - Clerk Tel: **01902 700269** E-mail: council@pattingham.com

Your Parish Councillors are:

Pattingham Ward:

Cllr J Burton MBE Tel: **01902 700208**

Cllr D Baldwin Tel: **01902 700063**

Cllr C Robinson Tel: **01902 701535**

Cllr P Norman Tel: **01902 700215**

County Cllr R Marshall Tel: **01902 846664**

Cllr L Robinson Tel: **01902 701535**

Cllr C Guy Tel: **01902 700863**

Cllr S Evans Tel: **01902 700818**

Cllr K Whalley Tel: **01902 700741**

Cllr H Stiles (Chairman) Tel: **01785 841314**

Patshull Ward:

Cllr J Tomlinson Tel: **01902 700531**

Cllr A Baugh (Vice-Chairman)

Tel: **01746 783019**

Other Useful Numbers: South Staffordshire District Council: Tel: **01902 696000**

Your local Member of Parliament - Sir Patrick Cormack MP: Tel: **01902 844949**