



Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2006 issue

Pattingham Playing Fields Report The Cost of Mindless Vandalism

£2,300. Two thousand, three hundred pounds! That's how much the Pattingham Playing Fields Committee have had to spend on repairing or replacing items on the playing fields since the turn of the year. And we're only just into May.

The Playing Fields Committee works hard to raise funds, with volunteers giving up their spare time to assist with events such as quiz nights, kid's discos and the like. These same volunteers also make sure the play equipment is safe and in good working order, they mark the football pitch, they clean the changing rooms, and they liaise with the district council to ensure the grass is mowed when it should be.

So you can imagine how disheartening it is when a large part of every committee meeting is taken up with discussing yet more vandalism, and a large proportion of the committee's limited funds are allocated to putting right what irresponsible yobs have done. Here are some examples of the mindless acts that have taken place recently:

- Damage to skate park fence (a fence that one committee member built on his own).
- Damage to changing room doors (and people urinating in the doorway) resulting in over £1000 needing to be spent to provide security gates.
- Memorial bench damaged beyond repair.

- Damage to roof tiles and down pipes on changing rooms.
- Window of changing rooms damaged and firework thrown inside.
- Graffiti (often rude) on children's play equipment and skate park.
- Continual damage to tennis court fence.
- Damage to tennis court nets.

The cost of putting all of that right is something we as a committee, and we as a village could do without. Other recent necessary expenditure, such as earthquaking the field to improve drainage, safety modifications to play equipment, mole control and cleaning of the tennis courts has amounted to nearly £4,000. Without the continued support of the Parish Council we would find it extremely difficult to maintain the playing fields in the manner we do. Just imagine what we could have added to the playing fields with £2,300!

A roundabout for the children's play area perhaps; lots more benches and picnic tables; an all-weather football pitch. Well unfortunately we can provide none of those this year, because we have to keep forking out for repairs caused by mindless vandalism.

Keith Turner
Chairman, Pattingham Playing Fields
Committee
March 2006

Editor's Comment.

Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council are keen to hear your views on the Parish Newsletter and all things to do with the village! This is only the second issue. We want to know what you would like to see in the Summer (third) issue. What about a Letter's page where you can air your views about what is happening, or more importantly, what should be happening in our village?

We have tried to present, in the first two issues, an impression of what the Pattingham

and Patshull Parish Council do, what issues they have to deal with, the people involved and how funding is allocated.

Do you agree? Would you do things differently? What do you consider to be the key issues? What are the priorities the Parish Council should be addressing? Would you like to get involved?

We need to know, so contact us! This Newsletter can be your voice! Please forward any comments, observations or suggestions for inclusion in the next issue of

New Mat Bowling Club Formed

Bowlers are invited to join us every Monday and Tuesday from 2.00pm – 4.00pm at Pattingham Village Hall. Cost to Bowlers is £2.00 per session. Invitation is to both men and women and all abilities are welcome and catered for.

You will quickly learn to play and enjoy the game. Friendly players will help you to have an enjoyable afternoon and refreshments will be provided.

Please come along and join us.
Pam Stevens

Anybody interested can contact
Pattingham Village Hall Secretary,
Sharon Simmons 01902-700586.



Cubs Leaders Needed

In Pattingham there is a thriving Cub pack providing a safe environment for boys aged 8-10½ to participate in a range of indoor and outdoor activities provided by Scouting. Unfortunately we do not have enough authorised leaders and may be forced to close if we cannot provide safe leadership cover for our 20 cubs and expanding Beaver group. This would be a great shame for our village as the Cubs provides a valuable social opportunity for the village children.

We currently are looking for new leaders to join us to enable us to provide a wider range of activities. You must have a good sense of humour and plenty of energy! You must be available on Thursday evenings and be prepared to participate in occasional planning meetings and some weekend activities. All potential leaders are CRB checked and full training is provided free of charge.

If you are aged 18-80 we are interested in hearing from you!

Phone Clive Wycherley 01902-701004 or
Jayne Jerrison on 01902-700150

this newsletter to:
Becky Hodgetts,
Parish Council Clerk,
23 Windsor Rd,
Pattingham,
WV6 7DR

or email to
council@pattingham.com

General enquiries can be made by
ringing Becky on 01902-700269.

South Staffordshire First Responders

The South Staffordshire Community First Responders scheme will be celebrating its third anniversary this April and what a successful three years it has been! Over 600 patients have received medical treatment from volunteers within the local villages of South Staffordshire and there have been many lives saved as a direct result of our local heroes' actions.

On top of the good work of the unpaid volunteer Community First Responders, the Community Paramedic Officers have attended over 1200 patients in South Staffordshire within the two years they have been in post, offering treatment and support to patients.

The expansion of the scheme has only been possible through the support of local villages and parish councils who have raised enough money to purchase emergency kit for the trained volunteers to use. Examples of kit purchases in Pattingham are as follows:

Kit 1 – British Heart Foundation
Kit 2 – Pattingham Parish Council
Kit 3 – St Chad's Church, Pattingham

During the coming year, the scheme is looking to take on more volunteers from within Pattingham, especially those available evenings and weekends. The West Midlands Ambulance Service ensures training is completed to nationally recognised standards and maintained with monthly training and reassessments.

The schemes can only continue with further generous donations to the charity, enabling maintenance of emergency equipment and the purchase of new kits for volunteers joining the scheme. £1200 has recently been received from a source in the village and will be put to funding kit for new volunteers joining the scheme. A new course is planned for May. Also, money donated in remembrance of a lady who sadly recently passed away will be put to good use purchasing a

new oxygen measuring device for the original kits in the village.

If anybody is interested in becoming a Community First Responder or would like to help with fundraising activities, please contact either:

Sarah Partridge 07968-409475

or Kurt Jones 07968-409490

Also, please visit our website www.southstaffsfirstresponders.co.uk



St. Chad's C. of E. (C) Primary School - Security Project

For some time there has been a growing concern amongst parents about the school's external security, particularly in relation to the times when pupils are on the playground.

This is a very real issue particularly in light of the increased numbers of "looked after" children and those from one parent families now attending the school. A major fear is the snatching of these by their estranged parents. In addition, steps need to be taken to reduce vandalism and arson. In the past

the school has reported gangs of youths gaining access and climbing onto the school roof.

The school has consulted the Chase Division Crime Reduction Officer who has made his report and recommendations on what needs to be done, which included re-siting 2 pairs of gates and extending the height of the playground fence, at a total estimated cost of over £5,300.

The parish council is supporting the project with a donation, together with the PTFA and Rotary, who are organising fund

raising events to raise the money.

In this respect the Rotary Club of Albrighton & District organised an evening of fun and entertainment in Pattingham Village Hall on Saturday 13th May 2006. The proceeds were donated to 'St. Chad's School Pattingham, Security Project'.

The evening's entertainment was provided by "Three Men in a Bow Tie" and promised to be a night to remember.

Councillor John Tomlinson

John joined Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council in May 2005 to represent the Patshull ward, following the resignation of Bernadette Eaglestone, who emigrated to Australia.

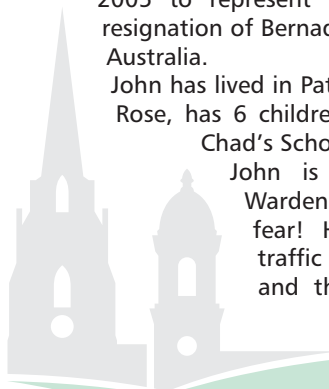
John has lived in Pattingham for 24 years, is married to Rose, has 6 children, all having been educated at St Chad's School, and Codsall High School.

John is better known as the Crossing Warden, a job he does with great pride and fear! He has taken a great interest in the traffic problems with the school coaches, and the unauthorised parking of many

parents dropping their children off for the school transport.

It is only a year since John became a Councillor, but he finds the Parish Council very interesting and worthwhile. He regularly used to attend Parish Council meetings as an interested member of the public, before becoming a member of the Council himself.

His hobbies include cycling, fishing, walking and DIY.



Tennis Club Serve up a Treat in First Season!

Back in January 2005 a small group of Sunday morning Tennis players felt that they wanted a slightly more challenging game and applied to the Staffordshire LTA Mens League to play in one of the lower divisions. Thus, Pattingham Mens Tennis Team was formed.

We were placed in Division 7 South and despite a tentative start (no one had any experience of competitive tennis) finished the season strongly, a creditable fourth placed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the players who represented Pattingham for their sportsmanship and camaraderie throughout the season.

The players are as follows, not necessarily in order of playing ability:

Dave Herring, Dave Poole, Matt Smallwood, Lee Perry, Simon Coulson, Tom Bishop, Garry Burton and Paul Norman.

Our visitors, without exception, commented on the wonderful surround-

ings of the village, some having never visited Pattingham before.

The playing surface of our tennis court is not in the best condition and at a recent meeting of the Pattingham Playing Fields committee it was decided

that the weeds and moss growing round the sides should be removed, the existing tarmac bonded and the surface painted in a durable non slip paint, specially developed for sports arenas. We have seen the result of this at Wednesbury Sports Union and it looks and plays really well.

The upgrading of the court has now taken place and it looks excellent. This project has the backing of Pattingham Parish Council, and represents a major upgrading of the tennis facilities in the village and it is hoped that this will get more people using the courts.

If there is sufficient interest we would be

keen to start a Junior tennis section, and a Ladies section to form teams and have an LTA coach visit for group and individual coaching.

At the recent Staffs Tennis League meeting to decide the dates of this season's fixtures, the Pattingham Men's Team, were promoted from Division 7 to Division 6. In addition, they were awarded with a prize of 15 cans of Wilson tennis balls for use in the home matches this season. This was for 'The Best New Team' and their sportsmanship shown throughout the season.

The first home game will take place on Monday 15th May. Your support will be appreciated, but the play will not quite mirror Wimbledon standards!

If anyone is interested in getting involved in these developments and receiving coaching, please contact me, Paul Norman, on 01902-700215.

Maintaining Clean Footpaths in Pattingham

We have many beautiful footpaths in and around Pattingham and Burnhill Green and they attract walkers from outside the local community inevitably bringing custom and business to the pubs and shops within the village.

However we continue to have problems with inconsiderate dog owners who cannot be bothered to help us to keep our environment clean.

A disillusioned resident has recently written to the council on the subject and we have printed part of his letter here:-

"Alongside the field adjacent to my property runs a footpath, the course of which was laid down some 14 years ago in order to allow occasional vehicular access through the property, for farmers, national grid etc., we planted a cupressus hedge to separate the field from what became a generous wide 'public footpath'.

For many years we included the footpath in our grass cutting programme and of course the maintenance of the hedges on both sides (natural hawthorn and the cupressus). It was often commended, by walkers, as being a joy to use.

However about 4 years ago an increasing number of walkers with dogs found it to be an easy access "loo stop" – these walkers had obviously not heard about the 'poop a scoop law' or, if they had, assumed that it was not relevant to a public footpath.

The result inevitably has been that whilst still maintaining both sides of the 'protective cupressus hedge' we now leave the rest to nature! And the walkers have to dodge the 'hazards' in the longer grass."

How can we persuade dog owners to act more responsibly to keep our footpaths clean and a continued pleasure to use?

Pattingham Village Playgroup

At our playgroup you're always assured of a warm welcome!

Pattingham Village Playgroup has been in the village for many, many years and caters for children aged 2 to 5 years in a caring, stimulating environment.

The past couple of years have been difficult for the playgroup with the reduction in numbers due to the nursery opening at St Chad's school. But due to the help and assistance of the Pattingham Parish Council, the playgroup has been able to continue to provide its excellent sessions that many other playgroups have been unable to do.

With numbers falling fast and without the fees to pay for the room to hold Playgroup, we wrote to the Parish Council and explained to them that the Playgroup was on the verge of closure. They then very kindly offered to pay the rent for playgroup on an ongoing basis until we were in a position to start paying again for ourselves. Without their help playgroup would most definitely have closed its

Help to keep
your village
CLEAN
SCOOP IT UP



Please show some consideration for
your neighbours and other users of
public footpaths and help to keep
your village free from dog mess.

doors which would have been a real shame for the village to lose this long standing service.

Now the playgroup is running five morning sessions per week from 9:15am to 11:45am, with a new manager. Our sessions follow the six areas of learning set out in the national curriculum, and are a great start to children's education and development. The sessions also provide an opportunity for children to interact with other children under the watchful eye of fully trained members of staff.

Pattingham needs a playgroup and it is due to the kindness of the Parish Council that we still have an excellent one.

For more information on Pattingham Village Playgroup, Contact 07816 834555

THE COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET PATTINGHAM, WV5 7BB

PATTINGHAM & PATSHULL PARISH COUNCIL
**TALLEST SUNFLOWER
 COMPETITION 2006**

Who can grow the tallest Sunflower in the Parish?

-  The winner will be awarded the 'SUNFLOWER CUP' plus a £10 voucher.
-  Two runners - up will get medals plus a £5 voucher each.
-  It is open to ALL ages and free to enter.
-  Just grow the sunflower(s) of your choice.
-  You must have looked after it yourself.
-  Enter by telephone on 01902 700269 or 701535 by 20th August.
-  Just leave your name and contact details.
-  Judging will take place during the week 20th - 27th August.
-  The tallest complete plant wins (Judges decision is final).



**Police contact
 telephone numbers**

Please note these numbers and keep them by your phone

If a crime is actually occurring dial 999

Number for Staffordshire Police is now **08453 302010**

Information of interest to the police can be left on PC Lampitt's and PC Hossack's (our assigned Community Officers) voicemail box **01785 238329**

Neighbourhood watch enquiries

01785 234427

Rural Watch Enquiries

01785 234429

**BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2006
 CHILDRENS POSTER COMPETITION**

The competition is open to children from all villages entered in the BKV Competition in 2006.

Posters should be no smaller than A4 and no larger than A3 in size and should promote the best kept village competition.

Villages are invited to submit the two entries they consider the best in their

village, one from each age group, to go forward to be judged as county winners by the BKV Working Group.

Prizes will be awarded to the overall winners in each age category.

The categories are:

- a) 5 to 7 year olds
- b) 8 to 11 year olds

Patchwork Drama

Patchwork Drama is great fun!

We meet on Saturday mornings at 10.00am for 'Seniors' (age 13 - 18) and 11.00am for 'Juniors' (age 7 - 12).

Drama isn't just drama, we do a warm up at the beginning and we also play really good games when we are not rehearsing for a play.

I love drama because it keeps me fit with all the movement and it helps me with my confidence.

It helps me project my voice because I have

to speak quite loudly and clearly.

I love dressing up in the costumes and get really excited when we are in a show.

Learning the lines and being another character for a while is brilliant!

It makes me feel very proud when the audience clap at the end.

We always have a party at the end of our last running show - it's great fun being in Patchwork Drama.

Christopher Dain, aged 10.

Anybody interested in joining should contact Mrs G Jones on **01902-700393**

**SELECTION OF GRANTS & SPENDING BY THE PARISH COUNCIL
 From 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2006**

- £ 240** Installation of 2 new benches, Pattingham Village Hall & Burnhill Green
- £ 268** Footpath maintenance
- £ 130** Citizens Advice Bureau
- £ 500** Old Peoples Welfare Committee towards Christmas Lunch
- £1200** Pattingham Playgroup hall rental
- £2200** Pattingham & Patshull Parochial Church Council
- £75** Lighting of St Chad's Church Clock
- £ 600** Burnhill Green Playing Fields Liability Insurance
- £1909** Pattingham Playing Fields Liability Insurance
- £6251** Purchase of new Christmas Lights and installation costs
- £2900** Gritting of Westbeech Road
- £ 300** Shepherd's Building Burnhill Green - Insurance contribution
- £ 968** Parish Council general insurance

- £5000** Pattingham Village Hall towards maintenance and running costs
- £2500** Pattingham Playing Fields towards maintenance and running costs
- £1000** St Chad's Churchyard Loan
- £90** Best Kept Village Competition
- £35** Interparish Sports
- £ 696** SUSSED KIDS holiday sessions
- £ 300** Staffordshire Police funding for Police Patrol Bicycle
- £2000** Changing Rooms Loan
- £ 822** Pattingham Playing Fields Fence and Gate

Income towards expenditure

- £2500** County Councillor Robert Marshall for Christmas Lighting
- £2500** Central Networks Prize for Christmas Lights
- £1700** County Councillor Robert Marshall towards gritting Westbeech Road

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 R Lyon Tel: **01902 700748**
- 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**