



Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 1 2007

NEWS IN BRIEF

TREES ON PLAYING FIELDS

Sadly SIX staked and growing trees have been broken off by vandals on the playing fields. We are very grateful to generous families who have kindly sponsored new, semi mature trees as replacements.

VANDALISM

It is important that we reduce the continual vandalism, which has to be paid by all residents in the Parish, via their council tax. Recently we have the BT phone box, the spring elephant on the children's play area, air rifle holes in the village hall windows, holes cut in the tennis court netting, footpath signpost pulled up, rear village hall window smashed, general graffiti, damage to the Christmas lights and so it goes on. If you are aware of vandalism please report it to the Police, or any councillor.

FLY TIPPER TO APPEAR IN COURT

Pattingham's first fly tipper under the new law has been caught, and will appear before the Magistrates soon. This was a box of stuff dumped in a hedgerow.

SCOUTING TREE PLANTED ON PLAYING FIELD

The Council has planted a tree near the tennis courts to celebrate 100 Years of the Scouting Movement.

GROUND NESTING BIRDS.

Please remember that a lot of headlands around fields, which are not footpaths, are part of the Government's scheme to encourage the over wintering and nesting for ground nesting birds. They cannot nest when people and dogs walk and chase through their areas.

NETBALL

A new Netball Club is being launched, please contact Jay Talbot, 01902 701837, for further information.

WESTBEECH ROAD

The County Highways have agreed to lower the verge in the dip before Westbeech Farm to allow a footpath to be created alongside the busy road.

TREASURES IN OUR VILLAGES

The District Council is looking for treasures in our Parishes, which are not listed but are worth preserving. The Council is starting with the Millennium Sign. Please let the Clerk know if you have any other ideas.

PATSHULL ROAD

Five cars have gone through the hedge near Pasford Farm since September. The County Highways has agreed to put road signs to warn drivers of the uneven road surface and bends. Please drive with care!

MILLENNIUM FOOTPATHS

Would walkers please keep to signed footpaths. The Millennium paths are soon to be renegotiated, and it will be up to the Crown Estate as the landowners and the farmers, to decide if these will be renewed

These footpaths are now open every day until late September, when they will be closed on Saturdays for the Shooting Season. They are permissive paths, and this is part of the agreement when they were created.

TUESDAY TREKKERS PASS £1,000 MARK RAISED FOR CHARITY

Meeting each Tuesday at 2.00pm at the Village Hall, charging £1.00 to walk, over £1,000 has been raised for Charities, including the Crocus Walk for Breast Cancer. Come and join them!

POST & CHAINS AROUND BURNHILL GREEN TREE

The Council has repaired the chains and posts near the Millennium seating area and Jubilee Tree.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2007

The Council has again entered Pattingham into the competition. The first visit from the judges will be in early May, with several other visits until the competition finishes at the end of July. The children from St Chad's School will again be entering the poster competition, and the Council will donate book tokens to the winners.

PARISH ELECTIONS 3rd MAY 2007

There will not be a District Council Election in Pattingham & Patshull as Mrs Joan Burton MBE has been returned unopposed. There will not be a Parish Council election for the Patshull Ward, as there were two nominations for the two seats. There will be an election for the Pattingham Ward to elect nine councillors for the next four years.

Voting will be from 7.00am – 10pm at Pattingham Village Hall

BUS SHELTER

The future of the Bus Shelter is in doubt following the recent graffiti attack. It has cost over £1,000 to remove graffiti, and repair damage over the last 18 months, and now this all has to be done again.

SOUTH STAFFS WALKING FESTIVAL in JUNE

Wednesday 13th June, conducted History Walk - Burnhill Green & Patshull Estate. Meet at Dartmouth Arms at 10.00. approx 3 hours, flat terrain. No charge, Details from SSC 01902 696802 or from leaflets in the Villages

NEW FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEPATHS AT PASFORD FARM

Neil Burton from Pasford Farm, in conjunction with DEFRA, has created some new permissive footpaths in Pattingham. The new access provides circular routes round arable fields at Pasford and link up with existing public bridleways and footpaths. The routes take you past a variety of arable options, that are being implemented to benefit insects and nesting birds. A network of ponds link up existing habitats on the farm. Extra care should be taken when walking around the large irrigation pond due to deep water. Please keep dogs on leads. This is working farmland, so please follow the Country Code. This is permissive access, and no new rights of way are being created. They expire in October 2016.

NEW FOOTPATH

Patshull Road to Copley, now a walk around the irrigation reservoir.

NEW FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEPATHS

Hamley Park Field, off Chesterton Road, The Drive and Rudge Road, linking in to Hamley Park Wood, the only piece of Medieval Woodland left in the Parish.

THE NEW MAP IS ON THE PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD

WELCOME TO PCSO 8861 TERESA WILKES

Many of you will have already met Teresa, as she joined Staffordshire Police in November 2006 as the Perton & Pattingham Police Community Support Officer. She has been working alongside PC Duncan Lampitt, looking after neighbourhood issues, as part of the Neighbourhood Police Team.

Teresa has worked in the care field for 13 years, supporting the elderly and disabled. She has experience in working for charities, including MENCAP and Sandwell Community Care Trust.

Teresa lives with her partner, and has two grown up children. Her hobbies include shopping and swimming, and she enjoys walking around meeting people and giving reassurance as required.

Teresa says she is a very approachable person and looks forward to her time in Pattingham and Patshull.

You can contact Teresa on her voicemail **08453 30 31 32** extension **08861**, or by email to teresa.wilkes@pnn.police.uk

We hope that Teresa enjoys her time working in our Parishes.



The Rotary Blood Pressure Campaign

28 April 2007

The Rotary Club of Albrighton and District is conducting a session of free blood pressure tests to be held on 28 April 2007 from 9.30am until 12.30pm in both the Pattingham Village hall and the Red House, Albrighton.

High blood pressure is the single biggest risk factor for stroke. Every three minutes someone in the UK has a stroke. It is the largest single cause of severe disability. For every ten people who die of stroke, four could have been saved if they had arranged regular blood pressure measurements and then followed medical advice.

There are often no symptoms of high blood pressure, so these measurements are vitally important, particularly as more than 150,000 people in the UK suffer a first stroke each year.

Everyone is welcome to attend, it only takes a minute of your time but could add years to your life.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

On the 1st January 2007, South Staffordshire Council launched its own support service for women and children suffering domestic abuse. The service is run by Stafford Women's Aid, and is available to all women and children in the South Staffordshire area. It aims to help with practical issues such as emergency accommodation, housing, legal and benefits advice. The service will also offer emotional support providing access to counselling, support groups and one to one sessions.

The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, Tracy Groom, feels that South Staffordshire Council have made a significant step towards helping victims of domestic abuse within the district. A service like this is imperative in an area like South Staffordshire as the villages are remote and victims are often hard to reach.

Anyone wishing to access this service should ring Stafford Women's Aid on **0870 27 00 123**. This is also a 24-hour helpline.

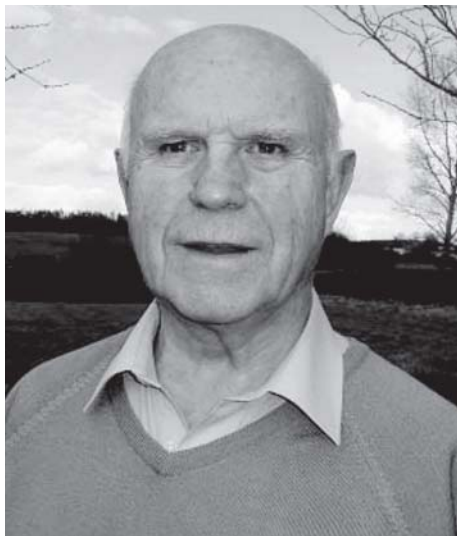
Should you wish to speak to the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, Tracy Groom, please telephone **01902 696 500**.

PAINTER'S WANTED!

Pattingham Playing Fields Committee are seeking volunteers to help with repainting the children's play equipment. It is intended that this takes place on Saturday 28th April 2007, possibly in the morning. With sufficient assistance it will probably take less than two hours. All paints and brushes will be provided.

With the Best Kept Village competition at the beginning of May, this is an ideal opportunity to present a colourful image of the playing fields of Pattingham.

If you would like to help by giving a couple of hours of your time, please contact Becky Hodgetts on **01902 700269** or Keith Turner **01902 700538**.



COUNCIL AWARDS PLAQUE TO GRAHAM SMITH

Graham has recently been presented with a Parish Plaque at a recent Parish Council meeting, following his retirement from the Village Hall Committee, in recognition of 50 years continuous service.

Graham joined the Drama Group in 1956, and spent time repairing and maintaining the old village Hall. In 1963 he became a fundraising member for the new (present) village hall. Between 1963 & 1966 he helped organise two public BBQ's on Perton aerodrome, profits going to the village hall appeal.

In 1966 he was elected to the new Village Hall Management Committee, and became Chairman for several years.

Since 1980 he has represented the Drama Group on the committee.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We have presented our first Live and Local Show, which was a sell out for the "New Rope String" band, which has a strong following. Tickets were sold through the Drama Group, the Hall Committee and the promotion that Live and Local provide.

The show is not a big money spinner but it makes a contribution and brings live acts into the village, which we would not otherwise be able to afford. We are looking to host two shows next time. We have to select the shows we fancy on dates when the Hall is available. Then we wait to see what we are allocated. However having had a successful show, we are likely to be looked on favourably.

Hall bookings are slightly increasing and we hope to be able to keep costs as low as possible. The greater the usage, the more tolerant we must be of other users. That is how to keep the cost down.

The short mat bowling on Monday and Tuesday afternoons is going well. We were challenged by Worfield and lost away. However we learnt a lot, we have bought some of the heavier jacks used in matches and look forward to getting our revenge on the 30th April when they come for a return match. There is talk of a match against Claverley as well.

Sadly we have suffered from air rifle pellets being fired at windows and general vandalism. This childish behaviour is very disappointing in a village like ours. We hope everyone will be on the look out for youths messing about around the Hall. Please contact our police, Duncan or Teresa, if you see anything.

We spend about £2,000 a year of our hard earned income on vandalism repairs and would rather this money was available to improve our facilities than spend it repairing mindless damage.

Colin Ringrose
Chairman of the Management Committee



The Cowshed Restaurant
Clive Road, Pattingham Tel: **01902 701888**
has kindly sponsored this
edition of the Parish Newsletter

Pattingham Drama Group nominated for NODA award

Pattingham Drama Group's production of "The Winslow Boy" by Terence Rattigan has been nominated for a National Operatic and Dramatic Association 2006 Best Production Award. The play, directed by Helen Dowd, was performed in Pattingham Village Hall last May.

Jean Beard, NODA's regional representative for Wolverhampton and the South Staffs. area, commented favourably on the production: "Once again Pattingham did justice to a splendid play...no weak links in this casting and a beautiful set with subtle changes between scenes."

A special commendation was made of Christopher Mattinson's performance as young Ronnie Winslow. The Award Ceremony took place earlier this month and the Drama Group were presented with a Certificate.



BURNHILL GREEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Geoff & Eunice Langford switched on the new lights in Burnhill Green. They had recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. The Village Committee had organised mince pies and a hot punch at The Dartmouth. Thanks to everyone involved. We have booked Monday 3rd December to switch on this years lights in Burnhill Green

Cllr Harry Stiles presenting Mr & Mrs Langford with a gift following the switching on of the Burnhill Green lights.

Sir Patrick Cormack MP moves his Constituency Office to Pattingham

Sir Patrick Cormack, MP for South Staffordshire has moved his Constituency Office to 2 Lychgate House, Pattingham WV6 7BQ. Although Sir Patrick can, of course, be contacted at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, it would be helpful if all letters relating to constituency matters could be sent to Sir Patrick at 2 Lychgate House.

You can contact Sir Patrick through his long serving secretary, Mrs June Sharman, who is in charge of the office, telephone **01902 701479**.

Sir Patrick will be holding some of his advice sessions in Pattingham, but will continue to hold most of them at South Staffordshire Council Offices in Codsall.



Wolverhampton Airport Policy Area – Development Plan

As your representative on the Pattingham Parish Council I, I was invited to attend a Stakeholder Workshop on 31st January 2007. This was a full day event starting at 9.30am and ending at about 4.00pm.

These workshops are part of the consultation process, to identify issues and options for the Development Plan Document, and are being held at various venues around the area.

The event was well attended by representatives from all interested parties and stakeholders, and included: - parish, district and county councillors, planning officers from Staffordshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands, airport staff and airport users, environmental groups, pressure groups and other groups too numerous to mention.

The participants were divided up into groups of between 10 or 12 people.

The key issues discussed were: -

- Role of the airport and possible expansion
- New development and use of buildings
- Future uses and development of site

The recommendations from each group were summarised and presented to the meeting as a whole and the event concluded with a summary of the workshop recommendations and proposals for “the next step”.

The following is a brief summary of the main proposals and recommendations made by this particular workshop: -

- Wolverhampton Airport should continue its role of serving business and general aviation. - Private flying (including recreational flying), corporate aviation including business flying, instructional flying, training, and aerial work such as aerial photography, surveying etc.)

• Any new development should be restricted to defined areas within the group of existing airport buildings and only permit aviation related development that can be justified to meet the operational and safety needs of the airport.

• Continue to allow the use of certain existing buildings for non-aviation purposes on a temporary basis.

• There was some support for some further “non-aviation” development within restricted defined areas but this was opposed by the majority because of the potential impact on the existing road system.

In considering the future of the land and buildings at the airport should, all flying operations cease and the airport close completely, many suggestions were put forward but the consensus was that we should maintain existing planning policy and allow the site to be used for other compatible Green Belt uses and those appropriate to a rural area such as leisure, recreation and tourism.

It was felt that we should consider the heritage features of the airport and the restoration and or preservation of some of the existing wartime buildings and structures. The Staffordshire County Historic Environment Record indicates that there are 3 features of archaeological interest within the airport boundary and these are the sites of 3 wartime pillboxes.

Harry Stiles

SELECTION OF GRANTS & SPENDING BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

From 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007

£600	Burnhill Green Playing Field insurance
£ 900	Bus Shelter repair for vandalism
£6,464	Christmas Lights including Burnhill Green
£ 75	Pattingham Church Clock
£190	Footpath Maintenance
£1,063	Parish Council General Insurance
£112	Inter Parish Sports
£1,300	Litter picking [extra to SSC daily clean up]
£513	Newsletter
£1,000	Annual Christmas Dinner
£2,014	Playgroup Hall hire
£1,000	Playing Fields General maintenance & vandalism
£1,116	Tennis Court Fence renewed for vandalism
£1,928	Pattingham Playing Fields Insurance
£1,200	Pattingham Parochial Church Council
£3,373	Gritting Westbeech Road
£1,695	Burnhill Green Millennium & Green fence repairs
£1,677	St Chad's School for Security
£1,034	SSC SUSSED Summer Sessions
£5,000	Pattingham Village Hall general maintenance
£100	Grant for Funday
£1,050	Gardening & Lawn mowing Village Centre
£250	Best Kept Village competition
£130	Citizens Advice Bureau
£2,000	Pattingham Changing Rooms Loan
£1,000	New Churchyard Loan

INCOME towards EXPENDITURE

£600	County Cllr Robert Marshall for Burnhill Green Playing Field
£1,000	County Cllr Robert Marshall for Pattingham Christmas Lights
£500	D A Baldwin & Son for Christmas Lights shortfall
£500	County Cllr Robert Marshall for Burnhill Green Christmas Lights
£300	County Cllr Robert Marshall for St Chad's School Security
£2,000	County Cllr Robert Marshall for Gritting Westbeech Road

CONSERVATION FOR WILD BIRDS

Fields that are left as stubble over winter, provide an important food source for seed eating birds. Split grain and seeds of broadleaved weeds are vital for the winter survival of birds such as tree sparrows, yellow hammers, and corn buntings, and also benefit game birds, skylarks and finches. They also provide shelter for brown hares.

Since the demise of sugar beet, which was sown in the spring, more fields will be ploughed and planted in the autumn. Autumn sown crops are more reliable and higher yielding than spring grown crops and as the old saying goes “when the scales stop turning you stop selling”

Many Pattingham and Patshull farmers are co-operating with DEFRA in the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Over wintered stubble must follow a cereal crop and be followed by a spring crop or a summer fallow. There are small payments but DEFRA has already run out of money for this year and payment will be deferred until next year. (I hope they tell Gordon Brown this time!)

It is therefore vital that we do not walk or allow our dogs to roam across these over wintered stubble. It is not because a dog might catch a bird, but if the birds are disturbed too often, they will regard the field as a dangerous place, rather than a haven. They already have to watch out for buzzards, sparrow hawks, kestrels etc, and the middle of a field is a long way from shelter.

Other parts of the scheme allow for small areas of summer fallow to create ideal habitat for nesting lapwings or stone curlews. For skylarks small areas 2 or 3 metres square can be left unsown in fields of corn. These are known as skylark plots.

How wonderful it would be to, once again, see the lapwings swooping over the fields and hear the skylarks singing high in the sky!

David Burton

FAREWELL and THANKS

With the Elections in May, Cllr Harry Stiles, Cllr Linda Robinson, Cllr Russ Lyon and Cllr Caroline Guy are not standing again.

Harry has been Chairman of the Council for the last three years, and has done some super work, particularly with the Parish Plan, and the Airport issue. Harry has moved away from the Village and is not eligible to stand again.

We wish all the retiring Councillors good wishes for their future, and thank them for everything they have done over the years for our Parishes.

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
08453 303132 Ext 04259

e-mail:
duncan.lampitt@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

teresa.wilkes@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood watch enquiries
01785 234427

Rural Watch Enquiries
01785 234429



If you see anyone dumping rubbish in South Staffordshire contact (01902) 696203. Pattingham targets litter issues

South Staffordshire District Council have recently employed a full time Enforcement Co-ordinator. Catherine Gutteridge works closely with the PCSOs in the district issuing fixed penalties for littering and dog fouling offences and investigates fly-tipping reports.

Fly-tipping is the deliberate dumping of rubbish in an unauthorised place. This includes garden waste such as grass and hedge cuttings dumped on grass verges. Litter can be anything from a piece of chewing gum, a cigarette butt or even an apple core.

Offenders caught littering face instant fines of £75 and for those caught allowing their dogs to foul public land, a £50 penalty can be issued. Where sufficient evidence is obtained, fly-tipping offenders face prosecution and fines of up to £50,000.

If you witness a littering, dog fouling or fly tipping offence and are willing to provide a statement please contact the Council on the above number.

If you witness an offence, please note down as much about the incident as possible:

- Time & date
- Location
- Vehicle registration number
- Vehicle colour
- Vehicle make/ model
- Description of offender/dog
- What rubbish dropped/ fly-tipped?



Catherine Gutteridge, South Staffordshire Enforcement Coordinator and Judith Russon Police Partnership Development Officer investigate an incident of fly-tipped tyres.



Catherine Gutteridge, Enforcement Coordinator, investigates the dumping of domestic rubbish on the roadside.

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 D Poole Tel: **01902 700266**

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

Cllr L Robinson (Vice Chairman)

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**

Cllr R. Lyon Tel: **01902 700748**

Patshull Ward:

Cllr J Tomlinson Tel: **01902 700531**

Cllr A Baugh Tel: **01746 783019**

Other Useful Numbers: South Staffordshire District Council: Tel: **01902 696000**
Your local Member of Parliament - Sir Patrick Cormack MP: Tel: **01902-701479**