



Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council Newsletter

Summer 2009

NEWS IN BRIEF

Parish Council Chairman

Councillor Ken Clive has been re-elected chairman of the parish council for the coming year and Councillor Simon Ponder has been re-elected vice-chairman.

Pattingham In Bloom

Thank you to everyone who planted spring bulbs this year. The village looked beautiful during the early part of the year. More bulbs will be available in the autumn.

Parking Bays Outside Shops

The parish council is working with the district council to mark out parking bays outside the shops. The plans include one disabled-parking bay by the post box outside the Co-op.

The parish council has also asked the village hall committee if they would consider having parking bays together with a disabled-parking bay.

"Flicks In The Sticks"

Flicks in the Sticks will be held again later this year in the autumn, though it will be moved to a Monday night.

Congratulations to Councillor Christine Roberts

The parish council sends its best wishes to Councillor Christine Roberts and husband David on the birth of their baby Daughter Alice.

Burnhill Green Speed Limits

As part of the new housing development in Burnhill Green the parish council has agreed to a reduction in the speed limit on Snowdon Road to 30 mph. The council is still working with the police regarding the speed limit on Burnhill Green Road.

Best Kept Village Competition (BKV)

Pattingham has entered the BKV competition. Thank you to all the children from St Chad's School who entered the poster competition and congratulations to all of the winning entrants. Posters are on display throughout the village.

New Housing In Burnhill Green

Building has started on the project and should be finished next spring. The project comprises ten properties, two of which will be for social

housing. A new noticeboard showing a plan of the site has been erected, on the reverse is a whiteboard allowing comments by the developers and local residents. All Burnhill Green residents have a contact number for the site manager. Regular meetings between the site manager and residents have been arranged.

Road Safety

The parish council have finally managed to get the telephone pole at the junction of County Lane and Shifnal Road opposite the Summerhouse pub moved. This will improve visibility at the junction.

Tree Felled

An unhealthy tree on Wolverhampton Road near Martin Thomas' is to be felled. The parish council is investigating whether a replacement will be planted. Unfortunately this tree was used for the Christmas lights each year.

Vandalism and Anti-social Behaviour

In early June the parish council held a meeting with Inspector Andy Chapman, new commander of Wombourne Neighbourhood Policing Unit, and representatives from the Village Hall Committee and the Playing Fields Committee to address concerns about vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the village. Inspector Chapman re-iterated that all incidents should be reported either to [0300 1234455](tel:03001234455) or, for more serious incidents, [999](tel:999).

Allotments

There's been massive interest in the allotments, so much so that there is now a long waiting list for plots.

"Swim For Free"

As part of a government initiative there is now free swimming for under-16s and over-60s at Wombourne and Codsall Leisure Centres. Please contact the Leisure Centres for further details.

FOOTPATHS

Dog Walkers

Walkers and dog owners, please stick to designated footpaths. Many of the margins around fields are part of the government's scheme to encourage the over-wintering and nesting of ground nesting birds. If their habitat is disturbed they cannot nest, leading to a decline in the diversity of local wildlife.

Millennium Sign in Pool Meadow

This sign has been vandalised and its mounting damaged. The cost to the parish council of refurbishing the sign and restoring it will be around £1,000. Last year the bench near to the sign was set on fire. This was replaced at a cost of £250.

If anyone knows who caused this damage, or sees other such incidents, please contact the police on [0300 1234455](tel:03001234455) or call Crimestoppers anonymously on [0800 555 111](tel:0800555111).

Wedding Anniversaries

There is no database for this sort of information. This can only be possible if the Parish Council knows about them! If you know of any such events please contact any councillor or Becky Hodgetts on [01902 700269](tel:01902700269) so that arrangements can be made.

If you don't tell us, we won't know!

Best Christmas Decorated Home

This year the award for the best decorated home Christmas was won jointly by Keith and Sonia Edwards (pictured left) and the Turner family (pictured below). The winners are shown here collecting their prizes from parish council vice-chairman Councillor Simon Ponder.



Ten Top Tips On Beating Scam Email

By David Cooper, Pattingham, author and creator of "Revenge On The Scammers" under the nom-de-plume Cazzy Jones

1

Don't overlook pure common sense. Are you really being offered a genuine degree from a college you have never heard of? Are the "80% off" medical supplies really likely to be cures for obesity and embarrassing personal problems? If in doubt, delete.

2

Is that lonely Russian girl everything she seems? Or just a gang of ruthless conmen called Vladimir, Mikhail and Yuri waiting for a victim to pay the fake visa fees?

3

Beware of anything supposedly from a financial institution – your own bank, your credit card provider, PayPal, etc – that starts off "Dear Customer" and goes on about updating your personal details online, or something similar. Your bank will always address you by your own name when genuinely emailing.

4

Still not convinced? Hold your mouse over the supposed contact address and look at the bottom of your screen. Chances are that a different (and blatantly fake) site will be shown.

5

Amazon and eBay users should be just as vigilant – one new favourite is the fake order that you never placed, giving an option to respond immediately to cancel. No, they just want your personal account details to place some "real fake" orders before you latch on.

6

Now for my favourites, all of which involve an offer of easy money via email. Is it that easy? Rule Number One again: if in doubt, delete.

7

In particular, are you really likely to cash in from an over-invoiced Nigerian oil contract, or a cancer victim with a fortune free to good causes, or the orphans of a poisoned cocoa merchant looking for a fresh start with his concealed loot, or a secret stash of dollars in Saddam's palace discovered by a deserting US marine? Remember: all they want is the advance fee. From you. Then they will disappear.

8

Don't bother telling the police. They do not have the resources or the inclination to follow these scams up. You'd be better letting off steam by replying to the scammer, telling him you weren't born yesterday and that he should take a long walk off a short plank. It could be worth one abusive reply to staunch the flow.

9

Feel a little more inventive? You could always play them at their own game. Tell them tall tales. Ask them for favours. Send them to Western Union offices for payments you have not made. Tell them to meet an incoming flight that you will not be on. Lead them a dance, spill the beans and let them think Interpol are on their trail. That's what I did!

10

And if you'd like a good read about how this can be done, buy "Revenge On The Scammers" by Cazzy Jones (£7.99 through Amazon), which tells six tales of how an anti-scammer vigilante (that's me) put on six different disguises through one central character and really let them have it. Sometimes laughter really is the best medicine.

Clear Streets Tackling Illegal Parking



Selfish parking can affect us all; sometimes it is just annoying but the consequences can be disastrous if, for instance, emergency services can't get through. Inconsiderate parking can affect people with disabilities, young children and older people; it can block deliveries and essential services such as waste collection.

Staffordshire County Council has been working with the Districts / Boroughs since 2007 to deliver parking enforcement through partnership agreements and "Clear Streets" teams were initially launched in four of the eight local authority areas. From 23rd March the remaining four local authorities including South Staffordshire have taken up their new enforcement powers, ensuring that "Clear Streets" will be delivered across the whole of the county. Parking contraventions (where yellow lines or other restrictions exist) have become "civil" offences enforceable by the local authorities instead of the Police. It should be noted that dangerous or obstructive parking will remain an endorsable offence dealt with by the Police.

The penalty charge for breaking parking regulations is straightforward:

On-street and serious contraventions - cost £70, which is reduced to £35 if paid within 14 days

Less serious contraventions (for instance overstaying in a car park) cost £50, which is reduced to £25 if paid within 14 days

For further information:

Call the customer services team at South Staffordshire on **01902 696000**

Or e mail them at clearstreets@sstaffs.gov.uk

You can also find out more by visiting the county council website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Seesaw On Playground

The seesaw in the playground was seriously damaged in May and was unusable for several months. The Playing Fields Committee decided to repair the seesaw and it is now back in action.

Skate Park

The skate park has suffered several acts of criminal damage and theft. The fence surrounding the skate park has been badly damaged by vandals. An integral piece of equipment to the skate park has also been stolen. The "grinder" was detached from the skate park and removed..

Repairs will be expensive and the Playing Fields Committee is investigating whether funding is available to repair the damage and replace the equipment stolen.

PLAYING FIELDS

Trevor Davis

"Please, I don't want any fuss."

That was what Trevor Davies said to me when he announced that, sadly, he was going to have to retire from Pattingham Playing Fields Committee. So I said that there wouldn't be any fuss.

But how could we let Trevor leave without us at least saying a big thank you to him for all his work for the village for nearly half a century?

"No fuss" sums Trevor up perfectly. He just got on with it, helping in any way he could to make the paying fields an enjoyable place to visit.

Trevor joined the Playing Fields Committee in 1963, and acted as treasurer for the next forty years. When he gave up that role a few years ago, he continued to visit the field on an almost daily basis, keeping a log of anything he discovered that needed attention. And then, without fuss (see, told you), he would attend to it, whether it was a swing that needed fixing, or a hole in the tennis court fence, or part of the skate park fence.

Do you know, Trevor, well into his eighties, built the fence around the skate park all by himself? Perhaps some of the younger generations would do well to consider that fact next time they decide to vandalise it.

But we won't dwell on that, better to look at all the positive things that have come from Trevor's contribution to Pattingham. The committee will miss him greatly.

When I told the other committee members of Trevor's decision, they all responded that we need to do something to honour such a wonderful man, and to say thank you. We will hopefully decide how to do this at our next meeting.

As long as we remember not to make a fuss.

Thank you Trevor from the Playing Fields Committee!

Milkman Honoured After 30 Years



Tom Edgington the village's resident milkman for over thirty years retired in the New Year. Parish council vice-chairman Councillor Simon Ponder is pictured presenting Tom (left) with a plaque to commemorate his retirement.

Best wishes to Tom and Margaret for a long and happy retirement.

Allotments

The Trustees of the Pattingham Church Estate have asked Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council to publish this correction to an earlier parish council newsletter.

"THE TRUSTEES OF THE PATTINGAM CHURCH ESTATE wish the best of luck to all members of St Chad's Allotment Group in their first season up on the Newgate "patch".

"The Trustees would also like to correct one or two of the facts published in an article in the last issue of this newsletter. It is evident from old maps etc. that in the early part of the 20th Century villagers had the use of some land for allotments - now possibly under numbers 4-6 Newgate. The

current field in Newgate is owned by the Pattingham Church Estate Trust (registered charity number 254296) and not by the Church Commissioners, nor by Pattingham Church. The Trustees have been very happy to arrange a lease for this field with the Parish Council, subject to any planning permission, for the sole use as allotments. This same field also falls within the South Staffordshire Local Plan Development area and as such has been suggested by the Trustees as a potential site for future (affordable) housing, again subject to any planning permissions and appropriate notice to the Parish Council/Allotment Association.

"Trustees: David Challinor, Maureen Hobbs, Chrissie Ringrose, David Sampson and Alan Stubbs"

Police contact telephone numbers



In an emergency, for instance when a crime is being committed, dial **999**

For non-emergency incidents, dial **0300 123 4455**

Pattingham and Perton NPU Team

Sergeant
Daryl Kenny - Collar no. 4354

Police Officer
Duncan Lampitt - Collar no. 4259

Police Community Support Officers

Teresa Wilkes - Collar no. 8861

If you need to talk to a specific officer, dial **0300 123 2345**, then follow the instructions (the officer's Airwave number is "0" followed by their collar no.)

Neighbourhood Watch enquiries
01785 234427

Rural Watch Enquiries
01785 234429

Councillor Robert Marshall

Robbie Marshall (pictured right, accepting a Pattingham plaque from parish council chairman Councillor Ken Clive) has moved home to Codsall and will no longer represent Pattingham and Perton on the county council. Robbie was county councillor for 17 years. Robbie has been generous to Pattingham through the Local Members Initiative Scheme, including donations to the PSYCO youth club. Robbie also generous with his time and attended most parish council meetings in Pattingham and Patshull.



Councillor Joan Burton MBE

A beech tree was planted by Joan in acknowledgment of her achievements in thirty-two years as a parish councillor and thirty years as a district councillor for Pattingham and Patshull. The tree and plaque were donated by the parish council in recognition of this distinguished service,



New Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) Commander

Since February Wombourne NPU has had a new Commander. Inspector Andrew Chapman has been with Staffordshire Police since 1993, starting off in Tunstall and Burslem before moving to Cannock. In 1998 he became a Neighbourhood Officer for Penkridge. In 2002 Andy became a Detective before moving to Wombourne as a Sergeant.



Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council

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Parish Council Committee Representatives

Burnhill Green Residents Committee

Adrian Baugh
Simon Ponder

Education Foundation Trust

Adrian Baugh
David Morgans

Local Transport

Joan Burton MBE
David Morgans

Old People's Welfare

Derrick Baldwin
Stevie Brinkman
Ken Clive
John Tomlinson

Playing Fields Committee

Stevie Brinkman
Christine Roberts
John Tomlinson

School Governor

Becky Hodgetts

Sports Council/
Inter-Parish Games
Vacant

Village Hall Committee

Derrick Baldwin
Stevie Brinkman
Sheila Evans