



Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 3 2006

POLICING MATTERS

The survey carried out for the Parish Plan in 2005, highlighted considerable concern with the unacceptable levels of criminal damage, vandalism, drug abuse, graffiti and anti social behaviour, all too apparent in our villages. 33% of the community had concerns about policing in the villages.

We have voiced our concerns to The Chief Constable for Staffordshire, Sir Patrick Cormack MP, and particularly with PC Duncan Lampitt to find a way ahead.

We have now been promised police presence sometime during each day, and we have bought a bike for the use of the beat officers. There will be extra cover in the evenings. The speed cameras will be used in Pattingham and Burnhill Green.

The Council is investigating CCTV surveillance, but this will mean that the Parish has to fund a large part of it. We are making some progress on this project.

Pattingham and Patshull are to get a dedicated Police Community Support Officer, hopefully by Christmas. He or she will work alongside PC Duncan Lampitt, but will be here for the regular problems with parking, speeding and school coaches. This Officer will become part of our community.

PC Lampitt will continue to attend Parish Council meetings when he is on duty, and the Council will try to schedule meeting dates with PC Lampitt's on duty rota. There will be a police report at every meeting of the Council.

Policing in our villages cannot be accomplished effectively without the cooperation of the Community. The police rely heavily on the public reporting every crime or incident, irrespective how trivial it may seem. If we do not report our incidents the police records show that we do not have a problem, and we will not get the extra resources we need.

PC 4259 DUNCAN LAMPITT.

I joined the police in June 1992. I worked at Cannock police station for the first 6 years. The first year was spent walking the beat, before moving on to the response cars for a few years. Then, after a couple of attachments to specialist departments, I joined the CID at Cannock for 18 months.

In 1998, I moved to Codsall police station covering Pattingham, Perton and Codsall, in the response cars. Then in 2002, I joined the Community Team and became one of the community officers for Perton and Pattingham. We are now known as the Neighbourhood Police Team.

I can be contacted on my voicemail **08453 30 31 32** ext **04259** or by email: duncan.lampitt@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk



I have been married for 14 years and have two lovely daughters, aged 7 and 4. I am a keen golfer and also play cricket in my spare time.

Editors comment

We are happy to receive articles for publication from any organisation in the Village.

As far as we know this newsletter is the only news literature that is distributed to all residents in Pattingham and Patshull. If you are reading this from a copy that you have not received at your home address, please ring Russ Lyon on 700748 to ensure you receive future copies.

Is Your House Name or Number Obvious?

We have been asked by the emergency services to ask all householders to make sure that their house name or number is clearly visible in case of emergencies.

Recently it took a medical team an extra FOUR minutes to find a house in Pattingham, which did not have a displayed name.

This can be the difference between life and death, in medical emergencies.

Playing Fields Matters

The Key to Playing great Tennis

There appears to be some confusion over where to obtain the key to the tennis courts. And for the benefit of the two budding Roger Federers who scaled the fence the other evening, yes there is a fee for using the courts!

You can obtain the key from one of the following:

Trevor Davies - 7 Wolverhampton Road
Or The Crown Inn

For further information please contact Trevor on : **01902-700753**

Hire cost £4 per hour per court, under 16's - £1 per hour

Cutting the Grass

It is the responsibility of South Staffs District Council to cut the grass on the Playing Fields. A few years ago this was not being done as regularly as it should have been, and the field would have unacceptably long grass for several weeks at a time. Since we appointed a liaison officer to deal with the District Council directly, the grass has been cut more frequently, and looks a lot tidier.

Our liaison with the District Council is Dave Poole. Should you have any concerns about the state of the grass, or have any concerns about untidy or unsafe areas of the field,

please contact Dave on **01902 700266**.

New Housing in Burnhill Green

The Crown Estate Commissioners have put forward a plan for 10 new houses as infill in Burnhill Green.

The Parish Council has been consulted and has supported the application for the development. The houses will be to let, and will be of a design in keeping with the Dartmouth type architecture.

The present houses will have garages provided. The Council has stressed the need that these houses should be let to people connected to the area. A final decision should be taken by the autumn.

Celebrations

The Parish Council loves to recognise Golden Weddings, 100th Birthdays, and other special occasions and achievements in the Parish.

The Chairman of South Staffordshire Council and Sir Patrick Cormack MP also recognise these celebrations.

The Council has already congratulated four couples who have been married for 50 years in 2006. Quite an achievement!

There is no database for this sort of information. This can only be possible if the Council knows about them! If you know of any such events, please let any Councillor or Becky Hodgetts 700269 know, so that arrangements can be made.

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

Church Grants

In the Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council 2006 Spring Newsletter, a selection of grants and spending by the Council over the last twelve months was published. You may have observed that 'The Church' received a total of £3275 in that period, and we as Churchwardens felt that you might like an explanation of what these grants were used for.

Residents of Pattingham & Patshull are very fortunate to have a burial ground here in the centre of Pattingham. Several parishes have no graveyard space remaining, resulting in great inconvenience for surviving relatives who may have to travel some distance to tend graves of loved ones. In many cases Parish Councils have to assume responsibility for providing a burial area; here in Pattingham & Patshull the Parochial Church Council [PCC] does this task at the moment.

The PCC had the foresight some years ago to purchase what had been the old orchard at the rear of the Vicarage next to the Church when it was sold off by the Diocese, and thereafter obtained the necessary planning permission to use it as a burial area. In 2001 this planning permission was activated by the PCC and the land was levelled, seeded with grass, paths laid and an avenue of trees planted – all to conform to the South Staffordshire Council's stipulated design. The total cost of this work was approximately £10,000. As the Parish Council was spared the task of providing a new burial area, they very kindly agreed to reimburse the cost to the PCC by paying £1,000 per year over a ten-year period. Six of the ten payments have now been made.

Incidentally, we were asked to complete a survey commissioned by the Home Office

last year, who were conducting research into burial grounds in the whole of the Country. One of the questions was "Approx how many more years will it be before your burial ground is full?" Our reply was "at the current rate of burials it would be 18 years before it is full."

As you are probably aware, the new extension is not yet being used, but is ready for use, having been consecrated by the Bishop of Wolverhampton in June 2005. The PCC also has responsibility for the upkeep of the Churchyard at St Mary's, Patshull, even though the Church itself is now under the care of The Churches Conservation Trust. Burials into existing family graves still occasionally take place there.

In addition to the £1,000 per year [which the Parish Council will pay for the next four years], we are also awarded a precept – currently £1,200 per year - against invoices billed to the PCC for the maintenance and upkeep of the Churchyards and also for other items, which are to the benefit to the whole village, and not just Church attendees. Some examples of items claimed/paid are pruning of trees, hedge cutting the churchyard, a replacement mower, maintenance of the church clock and carillon, and also the night time illumination of the clock. No claim is made for anything inside the body of the Church, as the PCC fully accepts that not all persons would be happy with their Parish Council funding running costs of the Church itself.

We believe the churchyard is a great credit to the Parish. It is only because of the unpaid volunteers who diligently mow their designated patch throughout the growing season, that it is as neat and tidy as it is, and we thank them for all their hard work. The tools

are supplied, and they do the job!

Unfortunately we have to pay a professional mowing person to look after the churchyard at St Mary's, and this is another item of expenditure, which is claimed from the precept set by the Parish Council.

We hope that this has helped you appreciate where the money goes, and we hope that we are able to provide a service to the parish for as long as possible.

Finally we would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued funding towards these expenses, which the PCC has to find.

Church Wheelie Bins

There are three large bins at St Chad's Church provided by South Staffordshire Council. Two are for green waste only; the third one is for anything else.

It is MOST IMPORTANT that no plastic of any description is placed in either of the "green" bins. Each bin has a large sign on it indicating what should be put in it.

If you are tending a grave in the churchyard, then please ensure that you use this facility correctly. This is not happening at the moment. The green bins regularly have material in them, which will not compost down.

South Staffordshire Council will cease to provide this service if the situation does not improve. We ask you for your full cooperation in this matter.

David Sampson & David Challinor. Churchwardens

Councillor Ken Whalley

Ken Clive (Whalley) has had his shops in Pattingham since 1984. He takes a keen interest in village life, and has been a Councillor since 2003.

Ken is very involved with Tettenhall Rotary and, along with Cllr Linda Robinson, instigated the new Christmas lights last year. They have new ideas for this year as well!

He has arranged the annual visit of Santa's Sleigh to the village each year. Ken is married to Jan and he has a daughter. Ken's hobbies are cycling and fundraising.



Best Front Garden and Hanging Basket Competition

Each year the Council send anonymous judges to find the best front garden and hanging basket. We would like to thank the judges for this difficult task.

This Year's Results:

Pattingham Front Garden:

- 1st Mr & Mrs Norton, 39 High Street
- 2nd Mr & Mrs Whele, 7 Moor Lane
- 3rd Mr & Mrs Wheeler, 5 Letchmere Close

Patshull Front Garden:

- 1st Mrs Ann Bott, 42 Snowden Road
- 2nd Mr & Mrs Baugh, Memorial Hall Cottage

Pattingham Hanging Baskets:

- 1st Mr & Mrs Wheeler, 16 Clive Road
- 2nd Ms Amanda Riley, 1 Woodbine Cottage, Marlbrook Lane
- 3rd Mr & Mrs Wilby, 10 Moor Lane

Patshull Hanging Baskets:

- 1st Mr & Mrs Bryan, 22 Snowden Road
- 2nd Mr & Mrs Ray, Old Walnut Cottage

Cups and Vouchers will be presented at the September Parish Council Meeting.



Reader's Letters

Dear Editor,
Quality standards in the Conservation Area

In 1977, much of Pattingham was declared a "Conservation Area". I understood that amongst other things, one of the benefits that was intended was that our street furniture would be replaced in due course by sympathetically designed equipment - designed to enhance our street scene.

By 'street furniture', I mean traffic signs, street name plates, street lighting, litter bins, bus shelters etc - any item which has to be put on our streets.

It does appear that nearly thirty years on, that message has been lost.

The 'Give Way' sign at the end of Clive Road is typical of several others in the village. A black post with a grey-backed sign and a grey luminaire. Why cannot the black theme be carried through to the whole assembly? It would not cost a penny more to do so - so why make a mish-mash?

The street lighting columns in High Street beyond Hall End Lane, are at best utilitarian - (no doubt the cheapest available) - and if we do have to have them - then why are they left in their galvanised state and not painted black as in the centre of the conservation area? Why, indeed, wasn't the quality of street lighting column used in the centre of the village carried through the rest of the conservation area?

Perhaps it is that Staffs County Council Highways do not yet have a standard for street furniture equipment for Conservation Areas. If not, why not? Surely 32 years is a long enough time for them to get their act together and to make their contribution to enhancing our village street scene. Lets face it, cluttering our streets is not popular, - but sometimes it has to be done - so lets do it in the best way we can.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Leigh

Editor's Note:

We would be pleased to receive letters from readers, but please note the editor reserves the right to edit, although the writer would be consulted prior to publication.

What happened to the baby swings?

You may have noticed that the small swings were removed during May and were not put back up until early July. Whilst we are sorry for any inconvenience, there was a very valid reason for this.

Every year an independent health and safety inspection is undertaken on the children's play equipment. The latest report suggested that the bolts that hold the swings to the frame were showing signs of stress due to age and might therefore represent a danger. The Committee therefore decided to remove the swings immediately. Unfortunately, obtaining replacement parts was more difficult than we expected, hence the delay in re-installing the swings. Thanks to Trevor Davies for sorting the matter out, and to Ashley Curtis for removing and refitting the swings.



THE CROWN ROOM

As residents of Burnhill Green and Patshull, did you know that you have the occasional use of the Crown Room, Dartmouth Arms on a "free of charge" basis?

The residents of Burnhill Green and Patshull have enjoyed the right to use the Crown room for various local and charitable functions since its completion about two years ago.

In October 2000 an agreement was reached between the Crown Estate Commissioners, the Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council on behalf of the residents of Burnhill Green, and the Tenant of the Dartmouth Arms, to develop the "cart shed" adjoining the public house, for use by the pub and residents of the village. It was decided to call the new development the Crown Room.

Make use of your village facilities

The Crown Room is available for use by the council and villagers for such occasions as council meetings, birthday parties, children's parties, harvest auctions (including the sale of produce), wine tasting and cheese and wine events, and other charitable uses. The room can be used up to 12 occasions a year free of charge, after that, a reasonable charge will be made. Any villager can book the room by contacting the Dartmouth Arms where a diary of bookings is kept by the tenant. Bookings are accepted on a "first come first served" basis.

On certain key dates, the tenant of the Dartmouth Arms, is entitled to use the room exclusively. These dates include New Years Day, Valentines Day, Mothers Day, Burns Night, Halloween, Christmas day, Boxing Day, New Years Eve, statutory bank holidays and all bank holiday weekends.

Pattingham Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee is very grateful to the Parish Council for its support.

This year was a special year being our 40th anniversary of the present building. We had a couple of extra events which were successful financially, so the worries we had over bookings falling off have subsided.

Despite the loss of the doctors' surgery and the reduction in size of the Playgroup our booking revenue has held up. That was due to actively looking for new business and increasing the charges slightly above the rate of inflation.

The large hall, small hall, and Committee Room are available for hire as an entirety or as separate units. The rates are low for the facilities on offer.

More details are available from Sharon Simmons on [01902-700586](tel:01902-700586).

With a grant received from the County through the good offices of Councillor Robert Marshall we are able to run indoor bowling sessions two afternoons a week. These are well supported both in summer

and winter by 16 to 20 members of the community. The Regular Bingo sessions are also well supported and provide another social focus for the community.

The Hall grounds are well maintained, the damage caused by mindless youths is kept to a minimum and put right as soon as possible so the Village Hall looks smart and a credit to the community.

Now the building is 40 years old, we realise we will have to spend some money on replacing areas which are beginning to deteriorate. A schedule of repairs in priority order is to be prepared and we will steadily work through these to ensure we are able to keep the Hall up to a standard of which the village can be proud.

If you enjoy being involved in organising events, please consider joining the Village Hall Committee. We are always keen to welcome new helpers for our social events. It is a great way of getting to know people in the village, especially for newcomers.

Colin Ringrose - [01902-700340](tel:01902-700340)

Message From Our Crossing Warden

Will parents please take care with parking when dropping off their children for school, either to catch the coaches or to go to St Chad's school. Unfortunately, cars are parked on the double yellow lines, on the zig-zags, and even on the zebra crossing!

With the number of school coaches collecting children, it is impossible to get a clear view to safely cross the children, especially as there is so much through traffic coming through Pattingham in the mornings.

Your co-operation would be appreciated

Christmas Lights

Don Goodman will switch on the lights in Pattingham on December 1st at 6.00pm. Santa will be there with his sleigh. There will be a mini fair with Christmas stalls selling seasonal goodies, from 5.00pm - 9.00pm. Stalls will cost £5, further details from Kenneth Clive 700741.

The council is hoping to add more lights this year, especially on the big tree on Wolverhampton Road by the bungalows.

Plans are at an advanced stage to light the copper beech tree in Burnhill Green.

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

Neighbourhood watch enquiries **01785 234427**

Rural Watch Enquiries **01785 234429**

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**

The Millennium Footpaths closed

The Millennium Footpaths will be closed for the Shooting Season on Saturdays from **30th September to 1st February 2007**

with extra days closed on **22nd November, 6th, 20th & 27th December and 17th, 31st January and 1st February.**

Signs will be displayed.
Dogs must be kept on leads.

CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAU

The Parish Council makes a contribution to the Citizen Advice Bureau for parishioners.

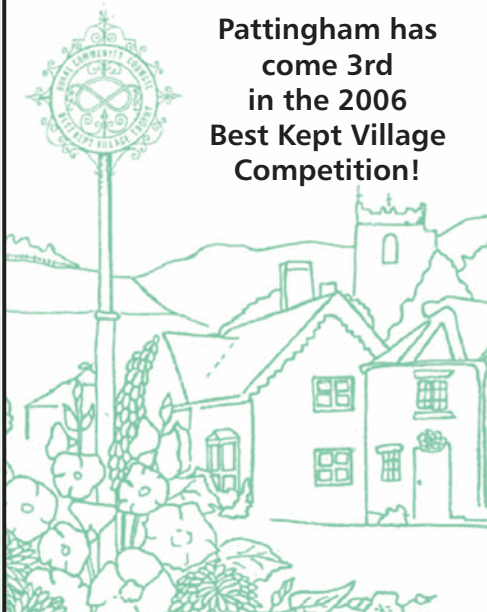
The CAB is at the Perton Centre (by Sainsbury's car park) on Wednesdays.

It is open from **9.30 am to 12.30pm** and from **1.00pm to 4.00pm.**

Telephone **01902 745667**

STOP PRESS!

Pattingham has come 3rd in the 2006 Best Kept Village Competition!



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE INTER-PARISH SPORTS 2006

We are on a roll! Our small but merry band of Competitors have stormed ahead this season with a determined 'never say die attitude' to their chosen event. Winning for the 3rd year running, Skittles Team (Mary & Dan Davies and Pauline & Paul Hickman) played the Joker and scored a magnificent 26 points! Scary or what!!

Our other Teams have continued to improve, contributing positively to the overall score; Darts (2nd), Rifle shooting (2nd), Sports Quiz(3rd), Squash (3rd), 5 aside Football (3rd), Target Golf (2nd), also the Angling, Chess, Crown Green Bowls & Tennis teams fought hard in fierce competition to provide valuable points.

In May, we successfully hosted the Cross Country Event (3rd), a tough 4 mile run on the Crown Estate. Thanks to Organiser Clive Wycherley, Marshalls and Volunteers. The Parish Council gave generous donations to Venture Scouts and St. Johns Ambulance for their assistance.

With two events to go we can hold our heads up high knowing that we have at least equaled last season's success (6TH place). Don't forget, we are a small parish in comparison to others but we can jolly well give 'em a run for their money! What we have got is high quality, but what we do need desperately are more volunteers to enter extra events, especially TRIATHLON, NETBALL & SWIMMING. Points gained in these sports would really make a big difference. WATCH OUT for final results in October.

Linda Robinson - Games Co-ordinator

If you have an interest in these sports, please please contact me asap!

TABLETENNIS
CRIBBAGE
INDOOR BOWLS
DOMINOES
BADMINTON
CHESS
RIFLE SHOOTING
SPORTS QUIZ
CROSS COUNTRY
DARTS
CROWN GREEN
BOWLS
SWIMMING
SQUASH
TENNIS
5 ASIDE FOOTBALL
TARGET GOLF
SKITTLES
BRIDGE
ANGLING
TRIATHLON
NETBALL
on **01902 701535**

Goodbye & Welcome

The Council would like to wish Paul Norman and his wife a very happy retirement in Portugal, and to thank Paul for his valued commitment over the past years. Paul was presented with a Pattingham plaque for his new Villa.

Dave Poole has been co-opted on to the Council following the recent advertisements to fill the vacancy. We hope Dave will enjoy his new challenge.

Patshull Ward:

Cllr J Tomlinson Tel: **01902 700531**

Cllr A Baugh Tel: **01746 783019**