



Seasons Greetings from **Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council**

Pattingham and Patshull Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 4 2006

NEWS IN BRIEF

CLIVE ROAD - The Council is in discussion with SCC Highways department, to consider traffic calming measures in Clive Road. The Police have had several speed camera checks, with no prosecutions. The Council is hoping to continue the footpath to the last house.

WESTBEECH ROAD GRITTING - The Council is again paying SCC to grit Westbeech Road to the county boundary past Monument Lodge. This is one of the only roads in Staffordshire paid for by a Parish Council, as it is not in a category for automatic gritting. The Council feels it is important to keep main routes into the village open.

THANK YOU BULB PLANTERS - The Parish Council has again had free bulbs from South Staffordshire Council and is grateful to the volunteers who have planted them. We have done this for many years, and have planted daffodils, bluebells and crocus, which have been enjoyed each spring in hedgerows, footpaths and front gardens.

HORSE WARNING SIGNS IN BURNHILL GREEN - The Council has asked Staffordshire County Council to put horse warning signs on the main Burnhill Green road, following the recent accident.

THURSDAY CLUB NEED A CHAIRMAN! - Pauline Lloyd is standing down after many years as Chairman of the club. The future of the club is in the balance if someone will not step forward to take her place. The club meets on Thursdays at Pattingham Village Hall, from 2-4pm. with a committee meeting once a month. If you feel you could help please contact Pauline on 01902 700734

TREES IN FRONT OF THE BUNGALOWS - South Staffordshire Housing Association has removed two trees in front on their bungalows in Wolverhampton Road. Both were diseased and classed as dangerous. Replacement trees are being considered, but the tenants are delighted to have their natural light back.

ELECTIONS IN 2007
Elections will be held next May 2007 for one District Councillor to represent the Parishes on South Staffordshire Council at Codsall, and to elect a new Parish Council for Pattingham and Patshull.

The Parish Council consists of 9 elected representatives from Pattingham and 2 from Patshull (Burnhill Green), making a total of 11 members.

NEW KISSING GATE OPPOSITE SCHOOL? - St Chad's School Council of top form pupils have written to the Parish Council to request a kissing gate opposite the school, now that the new footpath has been finished. This has been approved in principle. The Council is now in discussion with Staffordshire County Council Highways Department for further advice, before this can go ahead.

KNITTING FOR POLAND - Again villagers have been knitting baby and children's clothes to send to Poland. Lady Barbara came to see the clothes, and said that the Nuns relied on the Thursday Club's contribution each year. She was so grateful to everyone who had been involved, and said the clothes were fantastic, so beautifully knit, colourful and of a superb quality. There were a large number of knitted slippers, as many children live on bare concrete floors. The knitting filled FIVE black dustbin bags, and are now on their way to Poland in time for Christmas.

BURNHILL GREEN MILLENNIUM AREA - The Council is obtaining quotes to repair the slabs and edging which has been damaged by cars parking on the seating area. The posts for the chain link fence around the tree are to be replaced, and the chains extended to protect the Millennium area.

100 YEARS OF SCOUTING IN 2007 - The Council is proposing to plant a tree in both parishes to celebrate this event, especially as the Scout Camp has been in Patshull Park for many years.

NEW CHURCH WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED - On the 1st November 2006, a brand new website was launched with details about the church. With the domain name of www.pattingham-church.org, the site has been designed to be an important communication tool for St Chad's Church in Pattingham.

You must be over 21, you do not have to live in Pattingham or Patshull, but must either have an interest in, work or live within 3 miles of the Parish boundary.

Anyone can stand as long as they are nominated by two residents from the current electoral rolls. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE ASKED TO STAND. The Parish Council is non political. There has not been a Parish Council election

SUNFLOWER WINNERS

- (1) Daniel Alford
11 ft 11 ins tall
- (2) Benjamin Phillips
10 ft 8 ins
- (3) Lauren Alford
9 ft 11¾ ins
- (4) Tom the Milkman
5 ft 2 ins

Winners!
Message from Tom - he has new seeds for next year so look out!

Daniel & Grandad Tim Bolland with the winning flower.

Thanks to Linda & Colin Robinson for donating the 'Sunflower Cup' and medals for the winners



here since 1987, as there have not been enough applications for an election to be held.

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor please contact **Becky Hodgetts**, the Parish Clerk, 700269, or the **Election Department at South Staffordshire Council, 01902 696000** for an application form. Applications will close in March 2007

Shepherd's Building, Burnhill Green

Founded over 25 years ago, Shepherd's Buildings was the Rev John Geer's idea and he established this residential centre for Christian Groups to use for weekends away or for days out in the countryside. Intended primarily for children, the facility is robust and groups do not need to worry about being too neat and tidy.

It is self financing and quite inexpensive offering groups of up to 20 children a wonderful place to stay over a short weekend or for a mid week break. There are two large dormitories and two smaller rooms which tend to be used by the group leaders. There are separate shower and toilet blocks for boys and girls which include a disabled person's toilet. And there is a kitchen with two cookers and two microwaves for groups to prepare their own food. There is plenty of cutlery and china. Groups are expected to leave the place cleaner than they found it on arrival. Any breakages should be replaced and on the whole people are very good.

There are two large function rooms and a grassed courtyard in which games of volley ball, football or rounders can be played. There is a table tennis table and many boxes of games that people can play.

Initially groups from Poland used to visit thanks to the Rev. John Geer and his contacts in Burnhill Green with Adam and Lady Barbara. We have also had groups from Germany and Zambia to stay. Sadly these overseas visits have stopped but we hope we may be able to get some more soon if people are looking to accommodate overseas students on exchange visits. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested or knows anyone who arranges overseas trips for youngsters.

Staying at Shepherd's Buildings is rather like indoor camping and is very much enjoyed by church groups which come back year after year. The booking are handled by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education Office and anyone interested should contact [Paula Lloyd on 01543 306040](mailto:Paula.Lloyd@lichfield.anglican.org) or paula.lloyd@lichfield.anglican.org
Colin Ringrose
Chairman of the Management Committee

Staffordshire Safer Routes To School Project

St Chad's School, the Police, South Staffordshire Council, the Parish Council and other interested parties have been consulted by Staffordshire County Council, as part of their Safer Route to Schools scheme. This has resulted in some extra parking restrictions in Westbeech Road, and the bus stop area in front of the shops. This is all part of a scheme which is being monitored by SCC and independent auditors.

The Council is in discussion with Paul Hemmings from The Pigot, and South Staffordshire Council, to create a joint user car park at The Pigot, enabling more much needed parking space in the village.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Congratulations to Eunice and Geoff Langford from Burnhill Green for celebrating 60 years of Marriage recently. They were amazed to receive visits, flowers and cards from the Chairman of South Staffordshire Council, Sir Patrick Cormack MP, and the Parish Council. They made a large donation to The Princess Royal Breast Care Unit in lieu of presents. We all wish them more happy years together.

GOOD MOOS!

Congratulations to the Cowshed restaurant at Clive Farm, Pattingham. Having celebrated its first birthday on 1st November, it has already won its first award - a "Taste of Staffordshire Good Food Award - Passionate about Food."

The awards, sponsored by Wedgwood, promote the use of local producers and suppliers. The Cowshed sources local meat, vegetables, fruit, eggs and cheeses from South Staffordshire and Shropshire. Fourteen members of the staff come from Pattingham.

Sugar Beet

Most of you will have heard of the closure of the Alscott Sugar Beet Factory at Wellington in February 2007. This will be the end of sugar beet production in the West Midlands and of course Pattingham and Patshull. Sugar beet has been grown in our parishes, since it was introduced in the 1920's. The British Sugar Corporation was founded with the Government holding 50% of the shares, to give some stability to arable farming during the depression years. Sugar beet is sown in the spring, harvested in autumn and early winter, spreading the workload throughout the year.

Who will be affected in our Parishes and what changes shall we see? Farmers, who were informed by e-mail on a Monday morning, will lose a crop, which provides a good disease break in the rotation, and has a guaranteed market and price. Most growers will have planned next year's cropping months previously, and many had already bought and taken delivery of next years fertilizer.

The beet tops provide a winter food for sheep and cattle and the dried residue is sweetened with molasses to produce sugar beet pulp, much loved by cattle and horses.

Farm workers and farmers have a very personal relationship. Both parties will be worrying about their future. Bank managers and management consultants may suggest reducing the wage bill by employing part time or casual staff, but they do not have the experience, skill or commitment of existing staff.

Contractors harvest most sugar beet with large machinery costing over £100,000.

PATTINGHAM TENNIS CLUB

Following a very successful inaugural year in 2005 which saw Pattingham Tennis Club promoted from the South Staffs Men's Doubles League 7 to League 6, 2006 has not been so kind. After a very difficult season where Pattingham were struggling to field a consistent team, the difference in a higher league took its toll and Pattingham finished bottom. However, relegation is not a forgone conclusion as teams may fail to re register for next season and therefore natural wastage might replace the drop.

Pattingham captain David Poole said, "Although the standard of tennis was definitely higher this season, our biggest problem was fielding our strongest side week in and week out. We will not know whether we will be relegated to Division 7 until January when all teams must register for the new season. What we really need, if we are to compete at this level, are some new young reliable players."

Anyone interested in playing competitive league tennis, please contact:
David Poole on 07989 996331 or 01902 700266.

It provides the contractors with 3 or 4 months work lasting well into the winter. Where will they find buyers for their redundant equipment? There are no new growers in the UK, only Russia and East European countries are increasing their production.

Rural road hauliers will have to try to find new work to replace the sugar beet haulage, delivering from farm to factory for 5 months of the year. Agricultural merchants, engineers, etc will all be affected.

What about the wildlife? Foxes, pheasants, partridges, mice, rats and other animals and birds shelter and feed on the beet in the winter. After beet harvest, they have to find new homes.

The crop most likely to replace sugar beet is oil seed rape, which is usually sown in the autumn. Wheat, barley and oil seed rape all give better yields and are more reliable when sown in the autumn. If global warming leads to drier summers and wetter winters, the differential between autumn and spring sown crops can only increase.

Stubble fields left unploughed until spring are a valuable source of food for many birds and small animals, who feed on fallen seeds from the crop and weeds in the stubble. So valuable is this that the EU pays a small grant for stubble fields left unploughed. This may well be the factor that decides what changes we will notice in the fields around Pattingham and Burnhill Green, until, of course, all the extra fields of rape come into flower.

Farmers have been told they can still grow sugar beet providing they deliver it to Bury St Edmunds! Incidentally, sugar from sugar beet is identical to sugar from sugar cane.

David Burton

HARVEST SUPPER & AUCTION

The first social event of the Burnhill Green and Patshull Parish Residents Committee was a Cheese and Wine evening with a Harvest Auction on 29th September.

The Crown Room was packed out with residents and friends and nearly £1,400 was raised for village funds.

Hopefully this will become an annual event again



Councillor Adrian Baugh

Adrian Baugh represents Burnhill Green (Patshull Ward) on the Parish Council. He has lived in Burnhill Green for 5 years, and has been Councillor for the last 3 years. He is married to Clare and they have 3 children, Alex, Lucie & Maddie, and a dog called Barney!

He is Managing Director of a business gift importer, based in Wombourne, employing 12 staff, all of which are his friends.

He is a long standing Wolves season ticket holder, with his son Alex, plays golf when not working – which isn't very often! Adrian is currently in training to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats in May 2007, to raise money for Compton Hospice so if you are feeling generous and would like to know more please visit www.justgiving.com/ademustbemaad and have your credit card to hand!!

Adrian is also a member of the Burnhill Green & Patshull Parish Residents Committee and represents the Parish Council on the Pattingham Education Trust.

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Community Paramedic gets Hitched

Our Community Paramedic Sarah Partridge has married her boyfriend Scott Folley and is now known as Sarah Folley.

Sarah who has worked for the West Midlands Ambulance Service for ten years has been the Community Paramedic for South Staffordshire for the last three years.

Sarah joined the Ambulance service as an Ambulance Cadet aged 18 and after qualifying she has worked in Birmingham and Wolverhampton city centres but enjoys the different challenges that working within a rural community bring.

Sarah and Scott married at St Nicholas Church in Codsall



BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2006

Judges Comments - Pattingham

- There were no BKV posters at the entrance to the village and not many elsewhere. There was a very good display of Children's posters. The main village road sign is on an angle and not easy to read.

- The condition of the notice boards was generally good, but a board outside the shops needs renovating and some notices were hanging loose. Local information was good and the recycling site was obvious at the village hall. The dog fouling awareness sign was overgrown at the tennis court entrance and very little information was seen in May and June.

- The area in front of the Church was well maintained, but other parts were neglected.

- Community buildings were excellent and well used.

- The bus shelter was good but needed sweeping out. The telephone box was in good condition. Seats were in need of some TLC.

- Public open spaces were excellent and the private gardens were of a good standard. General cleanliness was good, but there was some litter near the shops in June.

- The children's play equipment was excellent with good safety surfaces.

- The map was good, but the boundary was missing, and it only covered the centre of the village.

- Pattingham is generally a very well kept village and showed a high standard of care. With a little more effort it could be a winner, and the village well deserved to be placed THIRD in the Large Village category in South Staffordshire District.

Community Council of Staffordshire Judges.
August 2006

RESPONSE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- The main village road sign on Wolverhampton Road is at an angle because the verge is not wide enough to accommodate the sign at right angles to the road.

- The Playing Fields Committee will take steps to ensure the dog fouling sign does not get overgrown.

- The council has already decided that the existing notice board does not provide enough space for official information in the lockable section and plans are in hand to replace it early in 2007. The map was kindly donated to the village some years ago, by a Pattingham resident. Perhaps a replacement can be considered in conjunction with the new notice board.

All in all a commendable result and an excellent effort by all concerned. Let's hope we can improve on this next year.

Cllr. Harry Stiles. Chairman



New Village Committee In Patshull

The Burnhill Green & Patshull Parish Residents Committee has recently been formed from the old Playing Fields and Village Hall committees. Following a public meeting, Mrs Jenny Ray was elected as Chairman, Russell Smith as secretary and Phil Hudson as treasurer.

The committee's aim is to improve facilities on the playing fields, and to install some new equipment. There will also be events, not only to raise funds for ongoing extras in the village, but also to be a social group.

Jenny Ray
Chairman 01746 783400

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

Another success for the 2006 Pattingham Bells Run.



The 17th Bells of Pattingham Run took place on the Sunday 15th October and again proved to be a significant success. The weather was dry and cool, ideal running conditions with the number of entries being the biggest in the history of the race with a total of over 900 entry forms being completed.

The Run was won by Greg Wilson from Telford AC with a time of 41 minutes 01 seconds, second was Paul Mountford from Tipton Harriers on 41 minutes 16 seconds and third was Nigel Share of Wolverhampton and Bilston at 41 minutes 21 seconds. Congratulations to you all.

The first lady over the line was Samantha Hutchinson of Shrewsbury AC with a time of 51 minutes 35 seconds. Second lady was Rachel Buller of City of Norwich with 53 minutes 23 seconds and in third place was Rachel Ward of Amazing Feet RC with a time of 54 minutes 18 seconds. Well done, ladies. The Pattingham and Patshull Challenge Cup for the Parish was won by Mark Taylor who receives the trophy donated by the Riches family.

Once again, thanks 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 the Pattingham Bell Ringers and the band of ladies who prepare and serve the hundreds of pieces of harvest cake with a hot cup of tea. Thanks also to the farmers for their cooperation on the actual course and John Richards for presenting the prizes. Raynet (communications), the Red Cross and the Community Paramedics were again on duty and we thank them for their attendance which ensures the welfare of all runners taking part in the run.

As in previous years, 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.

Next year's Bells Run will be on
SUNDAY 14th OCTOBER 2007.

Mike Coope 01902 700973
mike@sensorland.com

Pattingham Fun Day 2006

On Saturday 19th August this year, Pattingham saw the new style "Family Fun Day" take place. Beacon Radio opened the event to a very wet crowd. Although heavy rain prevailed for the day, this didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the organisers or the many visitors to the event. There was a fun fair, marching band, animal man, several craft stalls and an appearance of the Gold Power Ranger, closely followed by the Star Trekies. Several different organisations benefited from stalls on the day, including the local cubs and the First Responders who braved the rain.

The "local lads" acted as marshalls for the event and were complemented on their conduct and professionalism; they entered what turned out to be a mammoth tug-of-war with numerous teams competing in a very muddy, yet extremely

entertaining event. There was a coconut shy, put a football in the loo, fishing for beer and numerous other stalls on the day which culminated in an evening dance with over a hundred men women and children boogying the night away to a live band, held in the main marquee on the fields.

The date of the 4th August 2007 has already been set for next year's extravaganza and helpers are desperately needed to make next years event bigger and better than this years. A total of over £700 was raised with half going to the Playing Fields Committee for the upkeep of the area and the remainder going towards making next years show the place to be.

Carl Morgan

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 844949