

HINTS VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

April 2013

Hints web site www.hints-village.com

Rev. Fiona Haskett 01543 432233

EDITOR'S NOTES (Peter Edwards)

I would like copy for the Newsletter before (about) the 25th of each month. I need to print 80 copies of the newsletter. If you will receive it by e-mail, send me an e-mail saying so. So far I've had 35 takers. This newsletter is available on the Village website www.hints-village.com. I ask those who opted for e-mail since the last newsletter (you know who you are) to send me a message to say that you can (a) receive it and (b) read it. John Wedrychowski has suggested that some may not want to subscribe to receiving by e-mail as this discloses their e-mail to others. He suggests that I send the newsletter to myself, and send it to others as "BCC" (Blind Carbon Copy), which prevents others seeing the address list. That's a good idea, and I shall do so in future, so don't be afraid of letting me have your e-mail, it will be only me that knows it!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Fiona Haskett)

This will take place in Church at 5:30 pm on Sunday 28th April, preceded by tea and coffee at 5 pm, followed by a Celebratory Act of Worship at 6:30 pm.

Spring Walk –Sun 14th April (David Fifield)

Hints villagers and friends are invited to a spring walk on Sunday 14th April. The walk will take a circular route from the Village Hall of about 8 miles with some stiles and stretches of uneven ground. We shall leave at 10.0am All welcome, bring a packed lunch + coffee. Return to the Village Hall by about 3.00pm

Snowdrops (Janet Clarke)

On Sunday, 3rd March, Roy and I visited Hopton Hall in Derbyshire to see the display of snowdrops, along with the yellow aconites. It was the final day for visitors and we were fortunate to have a sunny one. The Hall gardens had been open for a month and the snowdrops were still at their very best. The first stop was for a welcome coffee and toasted teacake in the tearoom. This garden is worth a visit and in the summer it is open when the rose gardens are at their best. The drive was very scenic and we saw the first lambs enjoying the sunshine. All information can be found on their website.

Art for St Bart's (Val Edwards)

We shall have a 2-week break on 1st and 8th April, restarting on 15th April at 7:30 in the Village Hall. All are welcome, £3 per evening, all proceeds to St Bartholomew's Church. Contact Val Edwards 01543 480088 or just drop in.

Fundraising for Breast Cancer (Jessica Ross, The Bungalow)

For the first time ever I am competing in the Race for Life against Breast Cancer on June 9th in Nottingham with some of my University friends. My just giving page is <http://www.raceforlifesponsorsome.org/jessicaross>. Via this personal web page donations can be made securely online via Paypal or with a credit card. I am trying to raise as much money as possible for this good cause. My lowest target is £50, however hopefully I can raise more than that with a little help. Even one pound would be amazing!. There should be an update in the next Newsletter.

Village Hall (Graham Whittaker)

The new electric screen and projector are fully operational. Thanks to Stuart Turton and Kevin Caine for their efforts. We are able to play live television on the big screen making it particularly good for sporting events. Any presentations can of course be shown via a laptop. There are many other uses so please come along and make your suggestions. The kitchen upgrade has been agreed and work will commence in May. YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU! The village hall is the envy of many villages so let's make use of it. Fund raising events will be particularly welcome with no open gardens this year. YOUR SUGGESTIONS PLEASE! With no open gardens we need to raise more money for the church. Your participation in the pontoon will be greatly appreciated. There are currently 26 players paying £1 a week. The rules are still on the notice boards. As ever contact me and I will do the rest. Please note you don't have to know anything about football or cards!! 01543 480090 or grahamwhittaker@gmail.com

Bird Update (Janet Clarke)

With such a mixture of weather the poor birds must be confused. It's lovely to hear them in fine voice and we're hoping the number of small birds visiting our feed stations will increase, although we have had a buzzard sitting on the fence just a few yards away from our kitchen window and this is not a good sign. The sparrow hawk is still around waiting his chance to grab one of the smaller birds. He's very welcome to the pigeons - we have ten or twelve in the field near the house and some of them show signs of pairing up. Dread to think how many youngsters will be produced! Our two cock pheasants are daily visitors, gleaning under the seed containers, so nothing goes to waste. I would like the blue tits to make use of the new bird boxes we erected last year, but I have a feeling they preferred the dilapidated ones. The weather isn't warm enough yet, but I'm hoping we shall see the hedgehog soon when he's had enough of his hibernation. The daffodils are just showing colour -can spring really be on the way

Hints History Evening (Gilly Fifield)

On Friday April 12th we shall be holding our second Hints' History evening at 7:30 in the Village Hall. This time a speaker, Trevor James, from The Staffordshire Archaeological Society will be joining us to talk about 'Our Hidden Landscape', which promises to give us a new perspective on our local countryside.

The second part of the evening will provide an opportunity to share memories of Hints School, or other history from living memory. PLEASE bring photos, stories, and anecdotes, already written down if possible. Also please encourage family, friends and acquaintances who used to live here to come along to share their memories too, or send their memories for us to share. There will be a nominal charge to cover the cost of a donation to our speaker's Archaeological Society and will also include a glass of wine and nibbles. Do come and join us for an evening of learning and sharing more of the ancient and modern history of our village.

Open Gardens and Flower Festival (Kevin Caine)

There were only 5 people prepared to open their gardens this year (a common factor for those who did not wish to participate was that of security and the possibility that burglars might "case" their properties - is this a sign of the times?) Also there was a shortage of volunteers for catering. It has regrettably been decided that there will not one this year. We may consider one in future.

HS2 update (Ann Outen)

HS2AA has won the Judicial Review on the Compensation aspect of the 2011 Consultation. They have also won the right to appeal against the judgement on the environmental review. Full details are in our newsletter, which has been circulated to all addresses in Hints and also by email to those on the Action Group mailing list

Hints Golf Society – Spring Tour, 17-18 March 2013 (David Outen)

The spring tour was held at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire, which is the home of the National Golf Academy. Spurred on by the enthusiasm of our President Simon and organiser Elaine, 12 intrepid souls lined up at the first tee in threatening weather to tackle the Hotchin course, which has been nominated as the best heath land course in the UK and the 20th best course in the world. Whilst being flat, it is characterised by long carries over heather and numerous deep pot-hole like bunkers. As the third group teed off the weather broke and the first of several hailstorms hit us! The second storm covered the fairways and greens in white, which was slow to melt adding to the difficulty of the course. We ploughed on and particularly two new members, Dave Brennan and Alan Tingey were getting some very good scores. Lloyd produced the highlight by holing a 40-foot chip over a bunker and through the hail on the green! Through the second half, the conditions worsened, water began to lie on the fairways and greens so unfortunately play was abandoned. We dried out and met for dinner, drowning out our sorrows with well earned drinks and lots of banter. The only prize went to Ann Meadows who won the nearest to the pin prize. The second course was too wet to be played the following day and Elaine used her skill to get those who attended compensation and the prospect of a return deal in the autumn. Despite the weather we enjoyed the experience and our thanks go to Elaine. As always, new members are very welcome, please contact Simon for more information simon@manorfarmfruits.co.uk.

Garden Guild (Maureen Casson)

Our speaker on 14th March was Gerald Ingram who founded Planter's Garden centre in 1990, and he discussed their most popular group of plants: climbers, which are grown up walls, trellises and arches and also useful to disguise eyesores. There are 3 types of climber; those which attach themselves to walls; those which need support such as wire or trellis and shrubs which are strictly speaking not climbers but which will grow up walls and fences. Gerald bought examples of each type and gave members hints and tips on planting and care. The biggest enemy of plants is lack of maintenance; many climbers originate from forests and strive to reach the top of the canopy so it is normal for the lower stems to become bare of leaves. We shouldn't be afraid to cut back half of the stems each year to encourage new ones. The next meeting on 11th April is the A.G.M. at which officers are elected. This is not a long meeting and when finished we will socialise with wine and light refreshments. For more information contact Maureen on 481151.

Parish Council (Ann Outen)

The last meeting was on 12th March. Police Sgt Caroline Bailey had been invited to answer queries regarding policing in the area. Reports of heavy trucks passing through the 7.5t weight limit between 5.30 am and 8.30 am were raised. The Councillors were informed that this is a matter for Helen Portman, Staffordshire County Licensing Officer; Helen is to be contacted to see if monitoring equipment can be set up near School Lane. The last time it was monitored was in 2009. Questions were asked about visible police presence and the Councillors were informed that PC Stackhouse is only on duty every 6 days in the Canwell area. The police are still monitoring the problems with bikers and "boy racers" at Bassetts Pole. The arrows on the road at Mile Oak have been repainted. A new street light has been put up near to Chadwick House. There is an ongoing problem of sewage on the Public Footpath behind The Lodge on Watling Street, despite the fitting of a new septic tank at the property. Lichfield District Council are monitoring the situation and have asked for updates from those using the footpath, so further information would be useful. Dog-fouling signs, provided by LDC, have been placed around the village to encourage responsible dog ownership. The Annual Parish Meeting is on 14 May in the Village Hall, all are welcome. This is followed by the Parish Council AGM, at which officers are elected for the next 12 months.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
CHURCH SERVICES April 2013

**14th April 6.30pm 3rd of Easter – Holy Communion
Rev. Fiona Haskett**

**Readings: Roy Clarke Rev 5:11-14
Janet Clarke John 21:1-19**

Sideperson: Val Edwards

**28th March 6.30pm 5th of Easter – Evening Prayer
Rev. Fiona Haskett**

**Readings: John Kingslake Acts 11:1-18
Barbara Kingslake John 13:31-35**

Sideperson: Gill Needle

CONTACT DETAILS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

Editor: Peter Edwards - 01543 480088, peter@weardrive.demon.co.uk

Hints web site www.hints-village.com

Vicar – Rev. Fiona Haskett – 01543 432233

Church Wardens – Jeannette White 01543 480066 and

Simon Clarke 07798 740209

Chairman of the V. Hall - Graham Whittaker 01543 480090

Chairman of the Social Club – Ged Henson 07713 573465

Chairman of Hints with Canwell Parish Council –

Geoff Kynaston 0121 308 6145

Chairperson of the Garden Guild – Maureen Casson 481151

'Art History' - Val Edwards 480088

V. Hall Bookings Sec. - Gill Needle 481220

Art Classes – Janet Clarke 481214

Broadband speed (Beckie Barlow)

As you know as a village we suffer greatly compared to other areas in terms of broadband speed, it appears to be getting worse and is affecting residents greatly in terms of working from home with lost connections and for those who want to download films/games etc quickly. I have been on the phone to BT who have told me that we ALL need to register our interest to get the line upgraded to superfast openreach and if enough people fill in the request they will upgrade the village to better speeds (you can do multiple entries per household as it allows you to put separate work broadband numbers you pay for as well as your home broadband). It doesn't matter whom you pay your broadband facility to as they all work off the very poor lines coming in. The place to go to register your request is:

<http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx>

and if we can all have a moan at our providers I think they can also request the lines to be upgraded faster.