

## HINTS VILLAGE NEWSLETTER August 2014

Hints web site [www.hints-village.com](http://www.hints-village.com)

### **Editor's notes (Peter Edwards)**

I would like copy for the Newsletter before (about) the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. I need to print about 80 copies of the newsletter. If you are willing to receive it by e-mail, send me an e-mail saying so. So far I've had 52 takers (the number is slowly increasing!). Please help by saving postage and printing costs!

### **Breakfast Club (Graham Whittaker)**

The next breakfast club will be on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Please contact [grahamawhittaker@gmail.com](mailto:grahamawhittaker@gmail.com) to book a place.

### **Football Pontoon (Graham Whittaker)**

Don't forget the Football Pontoon, which raises funds for the Church!

### **Boules Match (Gerald Blackburn)**

We won! Ah, what and who? Answer; the annual Hints Boules Challenge Cup and (the next part gets a bit confusing) the teams were from Hints and the Aston Graduates Association (AGA to friends). Or at least they should have been but most of the AGA Regulars were in the High Himalayas (or was it Weston?). Either way Hints had to supply AGA with players on an ad hoc basis. It was the latter who scored most of AGA's points to give them the winning score. As Judge I decided not to play for either team (actually there wasn't room for me) but after a brief presentation we got down to the main business of the evening, the excellent Buffet prepared by the Hints Social Club helped by the bar staff. Lawrence provided the usual bottle of Barbados Rum and, I think, we all got an invite back to Barbados next year (or was it Weston)? An Excellent Evening. Gerald (ex Hints & AGA)

### **Garden Guild (Maureen Casson)**

An excellent evening was enjoyed by members and friends in July, the weather was kind to us as we enjoyed the bright sunshine in the garden at Manor Farm where Janet gave us a most interesting talk with photographs illustrating the progress over several years and how some plants had 'appeared' and thrived in gravel beds, and others had grown into maturity with greenery and flowers happily growing alongside each other. We enjoyed the views as we sat enjoying the drinks and nibbles as the evening drew to a close. Thankyou, Janet & Roy. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 14th August at Brookside Nursery at 7pm and perhaps those attending may like to bring a garden chair with them for coffee time. New members are always welcome.

### **Hints Village Fete and Scarecrow Festival (Jeannette White)**

Planning is going well for 21<sup>st</sup> September. At the last meeting many issues were resolved, but we still need more volunteers! The next meeting will be Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

### **Tombola prizes etc (Graham Whittaker, Jeannette White and others)**

Keep looking out for Tombola prizes, books, bric-a-brac and hats & handbags for the Village Event on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Take them to the Village Hall or the Vicarage please!

### **Parish Council (Geoff Kynaston)**

As there has been no recent meeting, there is nothing to report. The next meeting will be at Hints on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Swans (Peter Edwards)**

I can report that the pair of swans in the marshes next to Pool Meadow appear to have left the nest after several weeks and are swimming about in the brook, but there appears to be only one cygnet. One swan is sitting on the nest again, so maybe they are having another go!

### **Hints Golf Society (Simon Clarke)**

Following on from the success of last month's BBQ after the game at Sutton Coldfield, it was decided to play at another nearby course, namely Willesley Park, Ashby, so the format could be repeated. Ten players (and 1 caddie) took part on what turned out to be a scorching summer's afternoon. The course was in good condition apart from the greens, which were exceptionally slow for the time of year. However, golfing hotshot Stuart Turton did his best to avoid putting on the greens by 'chipping in' from off the green on several holes. In a keenly contested competition, Ann Meadows came second with 31 points edging out Simon Clarke on countback, but the winner with 33 points was Stuart Turton (the only player to have a caddie, Aaron). Good work Aaron – hope you have been paid your 10% caddie fee! After the golf we all returned to the VH and along with 20 villagers and non-golfers enjoyed a fantastic BBQ washed down with a few drinks. A great way to round off a summer's day. Many thanks to Elaine, Jez and Lynn for the food and to Stuart and John for running the bar. Without these volunteers these events would not happen. Many thanks to all those people who supported the BBQ making it such a good night and weather permitting we will have another one next month! As ever, anyone interested in joining the Golf Society, please contact [simon@manorfarmfruits.co.uk](mailto:simon@manorfarmfruits.co.uk)

### **Film night (Stuart Turton)**

The next film night will be "Monuments Men" on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, at 8 pm. The bar will open at 6:45 pm. HOT BEEF BUNS, but you need to book them with Stuart a.s.a.p.!! See the contacts information on the back page for the phone number.

### **Pool competition (Stuart Turton)**

Last Wednesday following the events meeting for the Village Fete we held our July Pool Competition. There were twelve entries and as normal each frame was keenly contested. The eventful winner playing some superb pool was STEW BAKER- congratulations to him, who also becomes our first past champion to regain their crown. In the Final Stew beat PETER SELLARS who had coasted his way into the semi-final before overcoming another past champion in Mick Hartland in a hard fought contest. Stew and Peter receive the normal bar credits. The subsidiary competition for those early knockouts ended up with Eric Jackson (last month's Champion) beating yours truly (last month's Runner up).

The date for the AUGUST competition has been set at Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August from 8.30 pm . If there are less than 16 entries, the draw will be made using the double elimination method (kindly supplied by Dan Petford)

### **Hints Village Calendar (John Toogood)**

This is too big to put in the newsletter, but Kevin Caine has put it on the website. Please refer to that!

### **Art for St Bart's (Val Edwards)**

We are taking a summer break and will reconvene on Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30, thanks to the generosity of the Village Hall. The topic for the autumn is "Realism to Minimalism, European and American art movements" from 1860 to 1960. Thanks also to the dedicated band of enthusiasts who turn up each week and have generated £565 so far for the Church so far this year.

### **Birds and Bits and Bobs (Janet Clarke)**

The bird population has increased, generally, since I last wrote in our village newsletter. We seem to have hundreds of starlings, enjoying the seeds, nuts and one bird bath in particular. I realise they are not the most popular of birds, but I have to admit their antics are most amusing. They squawk at each other over the seeds and nuts and then there is a rush for the bird bath; this sometimes accommodates seven, with others waiting their turn and then the bath requires refilling! They are rather attractive birds with beautiful feather colouring. The adults are so much darker than the youngsters. Also on the bird table is one young, very cheeky squirrel, but cheekiest of all recently was the sparrow hawk who sat on top of the bird table whilst I walked up to him. He flew off when I was about three feet away. We have also had a large hedgehog outside our back door late one evening. By the time I had fetched a saucer of cat meat for him he had disappeared; they move rapidly on their tiny legs. A few days ago in the field opposite our house there were around 20/30 large gulls which I thought at first were geese. I've had difficulty identifying them. They could have been the Common Gull. This is where I miss John Fairclough to supply the correct information. We have seen a "colony" or a "screech" of gulls fly over early morning and then return early evening; this is quite a regular occurrence. (Editors note - they may be black-headed gulls which live on the lake at the quarry). A fox has also been seen in our bottom paddock. Thank goodness the butterfly population has increased and the buddleia bushes are attracting so many. According to an article in one of the national newspapers the Government has, to quote "got it in for the buddleias" which they say are taking over the countryside. These beautiful plants provide the butterflies and insects with a vital source of nectar. Pity they don't get it in for all the highly poisonous ragwort, which is taking over. Many of the grass verges and islands are a disgrace.

*Finally, on a happier note:- "Hope" is the thing with feathers / That perches on the soul / And sings the tune without the words / And never stops - at all."*

Emily Dickinson (American poet, 1830 - 86)

### **Social Club (John Toogood)**

July started off with the inevitable disappointment that England were out of the World Cup and on their way home. The England matches in June attracted quite a lot of interest and **YOUR** Village Hall was pretty busy and everyone happy. However, we did persevere with the other World Cup matches throughout the first half of the month and the final on Sunday 13th attracted considerable interest as we added a BBQ into the event and all those who attended had a good time. Other events during the month included the British GP and most of us got excited about Hamilton's stunning win; the annual Boules competition which was as good as ever; the monthly Pool competition in which Stew Baker beat Peter Sellars in an exciting final; the final round of The Open which was viewed on the Big Screen and those who were there witnessed the excitement of Rory McIlroy lifting the Claret Jug. All this was followed by the second Hints Golf Society BBQ at the Village Hall which was attended by over 50 and as only 10 played golf, the wider interest in this is obvious especially as it was held on a Monday! Well done to all those involved in putting this wonderful BBQ together. To summarise - July has been another successful month for the Social Club and long may this continue. Whilst your Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer etc are very happy to continue trying to make the Village Hall a vibrant and pleasant place for all villagers to come to, it is important that all members come up with ideas that can help this process. Let us know your thoughts and we will try and incorporate any ideas that we think are likely to be viable and profitable - **YOUR** Village Hall, **YOUR** ideas. Thanks for your support in July and lets make August another record month.

**St. Bartholomew's  
CHURCH SERVICES August 2014**

<b>10<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Rom 10:5-15</b>	<b>Rev. Fiona Haskett</b>
	<b>Matt 14:22-33</b>	<b>Roy Clarke</b>
<b>Sides person:</b>		<b>Janet Clarke</b>
		<b>Gill Needle</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Evening Worship</b>
<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Acts 5:12 -16</b>	<b>Rev. Fiona Haskett</b>
	<b>Luke 22:24-30</b>	<b>Val Edwards</b>
<b>Sides person:</b>		<b>Gily Fifield</b>
		<b>Val Edwards</b>

**CONTACT DETAILS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

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**Hints web site [www.hints-village.com](http://www.hints-village.com)**

**Vicar – Rev. Fiona Haskett 432233**

**Churchwardens – Jeannette White 480066 and**

**Simon Clarke 07798 740209**

**Chairman of the Village Hall - Graham Whittaker 480090**

**Chairman of the Social Club – Stuart Turton 481162**

**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**

**Village Hall Bookings Secretary - Gill Needle 481220**

**Art Classes – Janet Clarke 481214**

**Brockhurst Lane (Louie Packwood)**

There is an ever-increasing number of people using this lane as a short cut and “run through” and causing no end of problems for residents. Rookery Lane is part of Hints and drivers have access ONLY TO THE GATE AT THE TOP OF THE HILL. Brockhurst Lane from the gate is a completely private road not maintained in any way by any highway authority. ACCESS FOR THE PUBLIC IS TO FRONTAGES ONLY. Residents are fully authorised to ask users if they will name the property they are visiting ON EACH AND EVERY VISIT and unless they can prove a legal right then that VEHICLE AND DRIVER WILL PROBABLY NOT be covered by insurance! There are heavy tractors, often with loaded trailers, using this lane - quite rightly so; consequently there are often problems with strange cars reversing, etc. May we ask all local Hints, Canwell and adjoining area householders to inform their families, friends and acquaintances of this – or – as Gerald Blackburn put in the newsletter some years ago – DON'T DO IT! Our hopeful thanks.

**Library (Louie Packwood)**

Do support your local mobile library in the service road on the old A5, Wednesday mornings every 3 weeks for 15 minutes from 10.45 to 11 am. The librarian is so helpful, children and young people are always welcome, yet numbers supporting the librarian have dwindled to very few now. (Editor's note – there is a flyer displayed on the notice board outside the Village Hall with times, dates and locations)