

HINTS VILLAGE NEWSLETTER
January 2015

Hints web site www.hints-village.com

Editor's notes (Peter Edwards)

Please remember that the deadline for inclusion of items in the Newsletter is the 25th 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 54 takers (the number is slowly increasing!). Please help by saving postage and printing costs! It's also the time of year to thank all those who contribute, Robin & Dan Petford who do the printing and Kevin Caine / Roy Clarke who help with the distribution.

Garden Guild (Maureen Casson)

Members gathered in the Village Hall on Thursday 11th December to enjoy our annual Christmas Party. This was our last meeting for 2014. During the year we have enjoyed a great variety of speakers and subjects and so now we had time to relax and spend time together and enjoy 'growing' our friendships. We enjoyed a quiz courtesy of committee members who had each provided five questions, not too many serious ones and much laughter was heard during each of the rounds. No one got five out of five for their answers, the nearest being four and a half. The winner was awarded a pot plant as a prize before we were served mulled wine and enjoyed a wide variety of both savoury and sweet snacks and nibbles from the loaded table. Our first meeting in 2015 will be on Thursday 8th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall with the speaker at 7.45pm who is Derek Crawley of Staffs Mammal Group who will entertain us with tales of animals we may meet.

Parish Council (Geoff Kynaston)

You may have seen John's email about the notices of a quarry exhibition in Hints Village Hall on Tuesday 6th Jan between 3 and 8pm. Tony Lloyd has put them up on behalf of the Parish Council who have been invited to a preview. We understand that it is to advise the community about their proposed extensions to the quarry workings. The Parish Council have also been consulted on a proposed road alteration to the junction of the A453 Tamworth Road and the B4151 Slade Road. This is the turning for Mere Green/Four Oaks at Canwell. Their proposal is to alter the junction to prevent any right hand turns. This means anyone coming from Mile Oak would have to go around Bassetts Pole island and come back to enter Slade Road and the only exit out of Slade Road would be towards Mile Oak. They also propose to extend the central reservation to prevent any U-turns at the end of the dual carriageway.

On the plus side the Council have finally got the highways to address the flooding in London Road Canwell. We are also setting up a meeting with highways to point out some issues that residents have in School Lane Hints. Should anyone have comments on any of the above please speak to a Parish Councillor or attend the next Parish Council meeting on 13th Jan at 7.30pm in Hints Village Hall. THERE IS A LIMITED TIME SET ASIDE FOR THE PUBLIC TO HAVE A SAY. Happy new year to all.

Breakfast Club (Graham Whittaker)

The next Breakfast Club will be on 25th January. Contact Graham Whittaker to book (see the back page).

For sale (Pam Aze)

Tread mill, York Racer 2750 in working order £175. Contact on 01543 480433.

Hints Golf Society (Simon Clarke)

The final game of the HGS season took place at Whittington Heath on November 17th. It was all to play for at the top of the Order of Merit with Ann Meadows leading Stuart Turton by just one point. One of the largest fields of the season meant there was plenty of pressure and a bigger than average prize fund. The course was in exceptional condition and the weather was even better which led to some quality golf. Jez won the day on count back with 39 points with Martin Woodroffe second and James Startin third. Stuart had needed a first or second place to stand any chance of beating Ann to top spot but it wasn't to be, leaving Ann, who had played some exceptional golf throughout the season, to win the Order of Merit. Congratulations Ann!

The HGS held their Christmas Party on Sunday 7th December. In a change from previous years and, following on from the success of the BBQs in the summer, it was held at the Village Hall and also opened to villagers. Over 40 people attended with the food being laid on by members of the Society. A good time was had by all. To round off proceedings Ann was presented with the President's Plate for winning the Order of Merit. In what has been another successful season, the Society has played 5 different courses locally and with the Spring and Autumn Tours, has played 2 courses in Weston Super Mare and 2 courses in Cheshire. Thank you to all the people who make these events happen and here's to next season!

Art for St Bart's (Val Edwards)

We are hoping to resume on 12th January 2015 with a new topic "Alternatives to the New - Alma Tadema and Frederic Leighton, Royal Academy Artists of The Victorian *Arrière Garde*". Monday evenings from 7.30 – 9.30 pm in the Village Hall, by courtesy of the Village Hall Management Committee. £3 per session which includes refreshments. All proceeds towards the cost of running St Bartholomew's church. For further information contact Val Edwards on 480088 or val@weardrive.demon.co.uk, or just turn up on the night.

Hints History (Peter Edwards)

I reported last month on "Eddie Shaw's book on Hints" – I should also have mentioned Val Wilkes was equally involved and apologise for this omission!

New Years Eve party (Beckie Barlow)

On behalf of everyone who attended the New Years Eve bash at the village hall may I relay our massive to thanks to Debbie and all the team involved for laying on yet another successful party. It was lovely to see so many people in the village and the tables all looked amazing. The food was laid on by Packington Farm and very tasty it was too with the music juke box (how trendy are we!) laid on by Mike Pitt.

I think everyone would agree the range of music and the lighting really added to the night. The planning and the commitment on laying on events like this takes an awful lot of work and thank you so much to Debbie and everyone who worked behind the scenes (especially those behind the bar!) for really making it such a special night.

60th Anniversary Party (Elaine Clarke)

On Saturday 13th December, the village came out in force to help celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our fabulous Village Hall! The event was a sell out - 81 guests enjoyed a sumptuous 3-course meal served by So Catering, followed by a wonderful night's entertainment from the incredibly versatile Trevor T (formerly of Musical Youth).

After the meal Village Hall President Roy Clarke entertained the audience with his reminiscences of the opening of the hall quoting anecdotes and facts from the opening night's programme - 4th December 1954. It was also lovely be joined by Eddie and Valerie Shaw as they were the last residents to have lived in the original Hints Hall before it was knocked down after the war.

Chairman Graham Whittaker rounded off the formalities with a vote of thanks to everyone who had contributed to making the event happen. The evening was another resounding success for the Village Hall and whilst it was never intended to be a fundraising occasion, the bar did very well with everyone entering into the Christmas spirit. This was evident from the amount of empty wine bottles the following day! On this note, special thanks should be given to Sue Petford who did the bar, ably assisted by Aaron Turton who were both kept very busy!

All in all another memorable night and in the absence of a pub in Hints, we are very lucky to have the Village Hall - so, here's to the next 60 years!

Church Christmas Tree (Sally Shepherd)

A big "thank you" in the newsletter this month to Kay and Andrew Barnes from Bangley Lane who so very kindly donated and delivered the Christmas tree for the church.

New Years Eve party (John Toogood)

The 2014 New Years Eve Party was a tremendous success - Mike Pitt brought his Juke Box down with a vast range of music which was enjoyed by all and many danced until the early hours of 2015. The food from Packington Moor Farm was good as usual and judging by how busy the bar was, the drink was very popular. A table quiz was kindly provided by Peter and Val Edwards and there was a prize for the best table presentation. Thanks must go to everyone for putting in the effort to make this a resounding success but especially to Deb who co-ordinated and organised us all.

To all those who have supported **YOUR** Village Hall in 2014, thank you very much. We need your support so please keep this momentum going throughout 2015 and we will

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 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****District Councillor – Brian Yeates 0121 323 2200****County Councillor – David Smith 01543 374690****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****St. Bartholomew's
CHURCH SERVICES January 2015**

11th January	10:30 am	Morning Service Rev. Fiona Haskett
Readings:	Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11	tba tba
Sides person:		tba
25 January	11:00 am	No service at St Barts Joint service at Whittington

St Bartholomew's "Farewell to Fiona" Beetle Drive (Val Edwards)

On Saturday 24 January 2015 the PCC hope to run a beetle drive partly as a fund-raising event for St Bartholomew's, but also sadly as a farewell event for Revd Fiona Haskett who is leaving the parish for pastures new. In addition to the (usually) manic fun of the game itself, there will be a fish and chip supper and also a raffle, the first prize for which will be a Henrietta (for the uninitiated that's the pink version of the Henry vacuum cleaner). In the Village Hall, 7pm for 7.15 prompt start. Contact Val Edwards on 480088 or val@weardrive.demon.co.uk for tickets, £7 adults and £5 children under 12.

Fiona Haskett's leaving us! (Simon Clarke)

As many of you will know, our Vicar Fiona will be leaving us at the end of January. Fiona has done a great job looking after the 3 Parishes of Hints, Weeford and Whittington for nearly seven years now. However, when the opportunity of a Parish in Kent became available with the chance to be closer to her parents, she decided to accept the position. We all wish her well on her move to Kent and her new Parish. Fiona's last service at Hints will be on Sunday, January 11th. The PCC will make a presentation to Fiona at the Beetle Drive in the Village Hall on Saturday 24th January. If you would like to make a donation for a leaving gift please see one of the members of the PCC. Fiona's last service in the Parishes will be at 11:00 am on Sunday 25th January at Whittington followed by a buffet lunch in the Church Hall at Whittington.