

HINTS VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

May 2014

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 about 82 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 51 takers (the number is slowly increasing!). Please help by saving postage and printing costs!

Bits and Bobs and Birds (Janet Clarke)

We've been waiting a long time for this bird's appearance and with the help of binoculars we saw a thrush in our paddock and we're hoping there will be a second one. The number of birds is increasing and the bird song is so welcome. The buzzards are in the vicinity and we recently saw one perched on the road sign at Weeford Island - wonder if he was deciding which way to go!! We have had a hedgehog wandering in our paddock during the day, which is most unusual. Haven't seen him since - just evidence that he is still around. We have ladybirds everywhere and I counted 36 in our lounge windows and almost the same number in one of our bedrooms. Where have they come from? They cluster together for the night in the window corners. The hen pheasant has appeared, along with George, her partner. Let's hope she chooses a more sensible spot to lay and hatch eggs than she did last year. At the end of March Roy and I spent a few days at The Three Choirs Vineyard in a beautiful lodge in the middle of the vines. It was so peaceful. Their restaurant was excellent and the wines superb. We had a tour round the Winery with several samples along the way. We visited Hereford Cathedral and saw The Mappa Mundi in its temperature controlled glass case, which is the largest surviving medieval world map and is displayed alongside the famous chained library. In fact we spent three hours looking round which was well worthwhile. On our way home we called at Gloucester Cathedral (another three hours) and completed our journey in atrocious weather. The daffodils and cowslips in the churchyard have been a joy to see, along with the magnolia blossom. I'm sure all the visitors walking through the churchyard will have appreciated them and there are always some welcome comments in the Visitors' Book in church.
(Ed - we heard the first Cuckoo on 28th April so it MUST be Spring!)

Football Pontoon (Graham Whittaker)

Thank you to all the players this season. We have now raised £1200 for the church. The new season will start around September and new players are always welcome. Contact grahamawhittaker@gmail.com

Breakfast Club (Graham Whittaker)

The breakfast club is proving ever popular. Only £5 for a FULL English breakfast. The next breakfast is on Sunday 25th May. Thank you to Chris and Ann Meadows who will be chefs for the day. Please book in advance grahamawhittaker@gmail.com

Hints Hats and Handbags sale (Jeannette White)

Advance notice - the stall will go ahead again at Whittington Church Fete on Saturday 14th June. Donations, spare hats, handbags and other accessories wanted. Contact Jeannette White or Val Edwards please.

Village Hall AGM (Graham Whittaker)

The AGM will be on 7 May at 8:00. We are always keen to have new committee members. So please come along should you wish to attend the AGM or more importantly if you want to be a member of the management committee.

Events Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Events Committee immediately after the Village Hall AGM on 7th May. Please attend, even if you are not a member of the Committee!

Parish Council (Geoff Kynaston)

Not much to report as between meetings. The Parish Council has been advised that the National Grid Gas Plc will be doing work in School Lane between 29th April and 6th May that will involve Traffic control. Residents may already have been advised. The continuing problem with effluent on the footpath at the rear of Weeford Lodge may be finally solved. We suggested to Lichfield Council that the problem may be caused by the flooding in Watling Street overflowing and inundating the sewage system. In a very short time a tanker appeared and jetted out the gullies in the road. We had been trying for months to get this done without success! Next meeting at 7pm in Quinney Hall on Tuesday 13th May.

Garden Guild (Maureen Casson)

The Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm and it was agreed that the annual fees and charge for refreshments would remain the same. This is £12.00 and £1.00 on the night for a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. There is a great variety of interesting speakers, not just strictly gardening, although this is our major consideration and what the guild was originally formed for. The committee was re-elected en bloc and it was agreed that the charge for visitors at meetings would now be increased to £3.00. The programme for the next twelve months will be interesting, informative and varied and will start with the first meeting in May on the second Thursday. Our speaker will be Brian Teall who will be telling us about Peggs Barn, a 17th century timber framed barn which was demolished and rebuilt with the aid of a scout group. On 31st May a visit is planned to Plant Hunters Fair at Hodnet Hall Gardens, the cost of the trip will be £20 per person. There are 2 acres of gardens to explore and a guided tour will be arranged. All welcome, please contact Janet on 0121 308 1706 to book your place. We plan to visit Middleton Hall in June, more news to follow. New members are always welcome and your support is appreciated.

Hints History Walking Treasure Hunt and Strawberry tea (Gilly Fifield)

Sunday June 22nd - 2.15 p.m. Hopefully everyone has this in their diaries and have told friends and family about the walking treasure hunt which should be fun, a bit of a challenge and, with any luck, a sunny afternoon in which to enjoy the strawberry tea at the village hall afterwards. Could you give me or Ann Meadows some idea of numbers planning to attend so that we have enough question sheets for everyone, and tea too of course! Volunteers for helping with the tea are urgently needed. It won't be onerous, but many hands will make light work of preparing strawberries, possibly making scones etc and pouring tea, so please could you kindly let me know.
Gilly Fifield hintsvillage@uwclub.net)

Art for St Bart's (Val Edwards)

We are working our way through northern European artists from Van Eyck to Vermeer and still have a little way to go, so if you are new to Art History please feel free to come and join in. Monday evenings at the Village Hall: 7:30 to 9:30, £3 per session including refreshments, all proceeds to St Bartholomew's Church.

Social Club (John Toogood)

Your Chairman has been on holiday but we have tried to maintain an active social scene in his absence. On Sunday 13th, we opened the Village Hall for the Golf Lovers of the village to watch the end of the final round of the US Masters. We had a good turn out and those that were there enjoyed the usual banter together with a few beers etc. Then on Tuesday 22nd the Village Hall was open for the 1st leg of the Champions League semi final between Chelsea and Atletico Madrid. Again there was a good turn out and although this ended as 0 - 0 draw, we all enjoyed the match and the half time pies. The planned viewing of the 2nd leg had to be cancelled when I was made aware it was only on Sky so my apologies to all those who rearranged their social calendar. We continue to attract good support in the Village Hall on most Friday nights although Wednesday's are still very slow. Friday 18th April was particularly active as "The Clarkes" came in en masse to continue celebrating Simon's birthday - it really was a GOOD FRIDAY. Upcoming events include Film and Curry night on Friday 2nd May and although we cannot take any more orders for Curry, any club Members and Guests are very welcome to come and watch the film and enjoy the selection of drinks and snacks that are available from the bar.

There is a Village Events meeting on 7th May after the Village Hall AGM.

On Sunday 11th May the Spanish GP will be on the Big Screen with the normal selection of draught beers plus a variety of bottled beers, wines, spirits and soft drinks. We will also provide a few "snacks and nibbles" so please let me know if you intend joining us to make sure we have enough.

Thank you to all those who have supported the Village Hall over the last month and long may that continue to improve. If anyone has any suggestions for events that will attract additional support, please let us know. We will continue to keep you posted with upcoming events and if there is anyone you know who is not currently receiving email updates, again let us know.

Just Giving (Beckie Barlow)

As we all know the church is in desperate need of funds just to stand still so I thought it timely to remind everyone that we have a just giving page where the church receives funds when you buy practically anything on the Internet - and the good news is that it costs you nothing! Could I therefore make a friendly plea that if you buy anything at all on the Internet, be it your weekly shopping, DIY goods or even holidays that you enter your normal site via our Just Giving page. This can be found on our village website so in theory shouldn't be any more work for us all to do and in some instances companies like Expedia (for those of you booking flights and holidays) will give our church around 6%. A very big thanks to you in advance and happy shopping!

Hints Golf Society Spring Tour (Elaine Clarke)

Following the HGS Spring Tour in March, our first game of the season was held on Monday, 14th April 2014 at Perton Golf Club near Wolverhampton. The day was sunny although the course proved somewhat challenging as they had sanded the greens on the morning of our game; meaning the 'putting' was far from ideal and challenging to say the least! However, the sand did not affect our enjoyment too much and Ann Meadows won on the day with a very creditable 36 points and Carol Conwell was a close second with 35 points. We also welcomed a new member to the Golf Society, John Taylor who will hopefully be joining us again. New members are very welcome; we play a round of golf, have a laugh and usually end the day with a meal somewhere on the way home. So if you are a golfer, why not come and give it a go? Please contact Simon Clarke for details simon@manorfarmfruits.co.uk. Our next game will be on **Monday, 19th May 2014** - venue still to be decided.

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

11th May	6:30 pm	Holy Communion Rev. Fiona Haskett
Readings:	1 Pet 2:19-end John 10:1-10	Glyn Smith Val Edwards
Sides person:		Gill Needle
25th May	6:30 PM	Evening Worship Rev. Fiona Haskett
Readings:	1 Pet 3:13-22 John 14:15-21	Roy Clarke Janet Clarke
Sides person:		Val Edwards

CONTACT DETAILS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

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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

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 – Annual Meetings 27th April 2014 (Val Edwards)

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was held in church on at 5.30 pm. Simon Clarke and Jeannette White were re-elected as churchwardens for the year. At the Annual Parochial Church Council meeting which followed Sally Shepherd was elected as a PCC member alongside three existing members, Janet and Roy Clarke and Gilly Fifield. Gill Needle, Jeannette White and Val Edwards were re-elected as Deanery Synod representatives for the ensuing three years. Sally Shepherd has taken over from Angela Warner as Treasurer and Val Edwards continues as Secretary. The various reports made in the meeting indicate that financially St Bartholomew's is just about keeping its head above water, although a recent compulsory survey ("the Quinquennial") carried out under diocesan rules has thrown up some maintenance issues which will need to be addressed over the coming years. However, the good news from the Quinquennial is that we were congratulated on the very high standard of upkeep of the church and the churchyard. The main issue remains that highlighted by Revd Haskett in a previous newsletter: the average congregation is very small and we need more people actually attending services and becoming involved.

Art Class (Janet Clarke)

There will be no art class on Thursday, 22nd May as the Village hall will be used as a Polling Station.