

HINTS VILLAGE NEWSLETTER February 2021

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 44 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 92 "e-mailers" (the number is slowly increasing!). Please help by saving postage and printing costs.

To all the people who receive this newsletter by hand – Because of lockdown, I'm the only one delivering. I have to do all of School Lane, up to Canwell and all of Watling Street right up to Mile Oak. PLEASE consider having it by email in future. My contact details are on the back page. Please send me your name, email address and house number so I can keep track.

Hints history (Gilly Fifield)

A plea for photos, memorabilia, memories. This is a long overdue call to anyone who might be turning out photos, or any memories & memorabilia to do with Hints. During current enforced limitations, what better opportunity is there to turn out those boxes etc? Your gain in space is our gain in historical records! We have a wonderful record of Hints' history back to the Domesday book, thanks to Valerie & Edward Shaw. However, we have very little of recent history (any part of 20th century - present). Please let me know (or via the village website) if you have anything to help compile such a record. Gilly Fifield (fifield144@gmail.com)

Hints Garden Guild (Maureen Casson)

I'm sure we are all fed up with the dark days but perhaps it's time to remember Spring is on its way and the lighter nights will make us think of making new plans for our gardens, fruit and veg have to start their life with early planting so it's time to dust off the wellies but also to remember some of the highlights enjoyed by our members in times past. Looking at 2001, yes twenty years ago I was Chairperson and Janet Clarke was the Secretary, Pam and Geoff were on the Coffee Rota and we have had several faithful members over the years, but we've also seen and have enjoyed many changes as villagers have left the area and new members have joined, happy memories. I share a few things with you now. Around twenty years ago at this time we had an outbreak of Foot and Mouth and although the countryside was rather closed we still enjoyed visiting gardens around the village learning the best plants that survived in other gardens. We also had some excellent speakers and talks, I particularly enjoyed listening and learning about thatching, each thatcher leaves a personal symbol on a roof when they are re-thatched and the Dorothy Clive Gardens, beauty at every turn, and also some of the highlights around that time were our first visit to the Arboretum, this was on an evening trip in June when it poured with rain. Things don't change much do they, we all got soaked so even then we were restricted by the rain and then the foot and mouth outbreak in our lives and in the life of our gardens yet they have continued to grow and be tended with loving care providing food and beautiful flowers and although we are presently unable to meet in person, we are invited to join a Zoom meeting with fellow gardeners from the Barlaston area. This seems to be 'growing' as I understand around 150 people joined them at the last meeting which was interesting with very old hints and tips that are still relevant today, a bit like back to basics by using soluble Asprin tablets and carefully measured Epsom salts, and it was amusing to see old bra's planted with flowers, but I don't think I'll try this one. Other Zoom meetings are planned starting on 3rd February with a talk on snowdrops and winter bulbs but for me I can't wait for the time when we once again meet face to face in the Village Hall, sitting and looking in at Zoom with my own coffee and biscuit isn't the same as sharing them and spending time on Thursday's with GG friends. Keep safe everyone.

Hints Walking Club (Deb Whittaker)

Suspended, debjmwhittaker@gmail.com

Hints film club (Steve Bourne)

Suspended, steve.bourne@me.com

Pilates (Emma Wollaston)

Suspended, ewpilates@yahoo.co.uk or 07974 145055.

Parish Council (Geoff Kynaston)

At the parish council meeting on 12th Jan, we confirmed our precept for the next financial year. Due to the current pandemic situation, it was decided to maintain our budget at last year's level. Litter and unsocial behaviour down Bangley lane were discussed and details passed on to the police. At the extraordinary zoom meeting on 19th Hs2 and various contractors attempted to answer residents' questions that were sent prior to the meeting. At the end of these question there was a limited time for the public to ask supplementary questions. The one on bat houses took the contractors representative off guard and he waffled his response. Reminded me of the original meetings we had with HS2 when they were asked questions, they had no answer to and said they would come back with a reply. Usually there were a different set of people at the next meeting that denied that our requests had been passed on to them. In the end Staffordshire Councillor Alan White gave up chairing those fruitless meetings. Next parish council meeting, probably by zoom, on March 9th at 7.30pm.

Church flowers (Val Edwards)

As church services are suspended for the moment, there is no need for altar flowers. The church will be open on Sundays, however, from about 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, for private worship – and for Foodbank donations which I will deliver. Direct money donations (for perishable items etc) can also be made: for further information go to lichfield.foodbank.org.uk and follow the link to [donate money](#).

Art Classes (Graham Whittaker)

Suspended, contact Gill Smith (see back page)

Wagon Wheels Line dancing (Daphne Neill)

Suspended, contact neilldaphne@yahoo.com.

St Bartholomew's Church Hints (Lloyd Ansermoz)

Happy New Year!

Unfortunately, our Church services are all postponed for the foreseeable future because of Covid 19 restrictions which have affected the Interim and locum Vicars and Clergy from visiting to take services. Please look out for the dates of future services on our Church notice boards and from our communications expert and everybody's friend, Mr Toogood. We all know and I am sure we all agree that 2020 was an unprecedented year and something that brought forward huge challenges for almost all of us. Sadly, many people lost their lives, we haven't been able to see our loved ones, some of us have spent days and even weeks in isolation but most importantly, we have all come together to fight the virus as one. It wouldn't be entirely wrong to say that the year 2020 was a hugely testing one in many different ways. Away from all the negativity and bad memories of 2020, all we now need is some hope, positivity, and cheer to have a fresher outlook and make newer beginnings in 2021. New Year's Eve and the celebratory moment the clock strikes midnight was celebrated very differently this year, and various restrictions and rules had been enforced on celebrations. So, we all need some motivation and good news to keep each other's spirits up and after all, it's only when we, our entire community, come together as one that we can really fight out the virus and other challenges in our community to emerge stronger and happier at some point this year. News of the vaccines now being rolled out to protect us from the virus is

great news and even though the current 3rd lockdown is in place it is in place to ultimately protect us all and for us all to get back to a way of life that might be different and might even help us to put many things back into perspective and reflect on the positives. Maybe some of the new ways we have learnt to live differently are not all that bad and will create new positives for the future? Our foodbank donations continue to be very well supported and again, thank you to all who have taken the time and energy even during the lockdown to come into our Church to donate. Please remember and pass on the message that our Church doors will continue be open every Sunday and we are asking that all donations are left just inside the Church on a Sunday for us to then make the regular trip to a friend who will then deliver direct to the Foodbank Warehouse in Lichfield. Our Faith and trust in our Lord will help us to look forward to a better year in 2021 and the future beyond. A prayer for the future;

Loving Lord, there is so much happening in my life now. Changes seem to be taking place in all areas of my life, friends and neighbours have moved far away, loved ones have passed on, tensions seem to be surrounding me in these different and difficult times. But my hope and trust is in You. As I step out into the future, in the face of all the changes and challenges that are taking place around me, I pray that You will continue to be with me to lead and to guide, to help and to protect and to comfort and support. Lord, I come to You for You are the Rock of my Salvation, my defence and my defender. In Jesus' name I pray O' Lord. Amen

Art for St Bart's (Val Edwards)

Suspended - contact Val on 01543 480088 or val.weardrive@btinternet.com

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Art Classes – Gill Smith 0121 308 1776

St Bartholomew's Church Services February 2021

There are no services for the foreseeable future due to lockdown.

However, the Church is open every Sunday for private prayer.
Also, to leave donations for the Lichfield food bank.