

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Keith Drew	- 01527 575691	Karen May	- 01527 575836
Stuart Hall, vice-chairman	- 01527 878123	Parish Council Chairman	
Carolyn Marshall	- 01527 575362	Hazel Feeney	- 01527 870034
		Brian Lodge	- 01527 875048
		Steve Westwood	- 01527 877783

Parish Council office (Clerk, Gill Lungley) - 07813 671899
 e-mail – clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk
 website – www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk

Parish Tree Warden, Cllr Stuart Hall - 01527 878123
 Parish Paths Warden, June Maw – bournheathppw@gmail.com

Bournheath Village Community Centre - 07516 723360
 - also on Facebook and twitter - bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch, Bryan Hewett - 01527 831897
 – hewettbc@telco4u.net

Local Policing Team (non-emergency) - 101
 e-mail – bnr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Bromsgrove District Council hub - 01527 881288
 e-mail – bromsgrovecsc@bromsgrove.gov.uk
 website - www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Planning website – <http://appuview.bromsgrove.gov.uk/online-applications/>

District Councillor, Woodvale Ward - 01562 730709
 Brian Lewis - e-mail: b.lewis@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Worcestershire County Council hub - 01905 765765
 e-mail – [worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:worcestershirehub@worcestershires.gov.uk)
 website - www.worcestershire.gov.uk

County Councillor, Woodvale Ward - 0121 460 1766
 Sheila Blagg - e-mail: sblagg@worcestershires.gov.uk

MP (Bromsgrove) Sajid Javid – www.sajidjavid.com

To find out what the Parish Council is up to current information is posted in the Parish Council's four notice boards which are situated at (1) Fairfield Road/Dodford Road crossroads, (2) outside the village hall Claypit Lane, (3) at Five-Ways and (4) by Whitings in Wildmoor Lane or you can follow us online via our website or come along to our meetings on the last Tuesday each month except August and December.



BOURNHEATH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

November 2014

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE – Cllr Karen May...

This newsletter is later than normal this year as we were waiting to hear what was happening to the Ballast Phoenix (BP) application to use the Veolia site off Sandy Lane to process incinerator bottom ash. At the moment the Environment Agency has allowed BP more time in which to submit a detailed technical response. When we hear of any progress we shall provide an update via our website.

Chairman's Report for the year so far....

As a Parish Council we are now half-way through the fourth and final year of our elected term of office; elections for a new Parish Council will take place on 7th May 2015.

- ❖ The result of the Boundary Commission review places all of Bournheath into the new District Council ward of Belbroughton & Romsley which, from May 2014, will have an electorate of 5,318 and will be the largest District ward with two elected members.
- ❖ Work has been ongoing to widen the M5 Lydiate Ash traffic island aiming to alleviate congestion on the A491, A38 and the M5 exit slip roads. This work was expected to take 48 weeks and it is now entering the final stage that is scheduled for completion in March 2015. The 16-week closure of one of the lanes on the island is likely to cause some disruption to local roads and there will be additional lane closures and occasional overnight total closures of the motorway at junction 4.
- ❖ We so enjoyed last year's Christmas Carol Service that was supported by Blackwell Concert Band that we are repeating it this year on Friday 12th December; I do hope to see many of you there.
- ❖ Earlier this year we supported the History evening organised by Mr Trevor Bott and Mr Chris Lloyd which was attended by 70 residents and thoroughly enjoyed by all!! This Parish is steeped in history.
- ❖ A coffee morning was held in April for the Eve Appeal for research into female cancers following which a cheque for £160 was forwarded to the charity; thank you to all who helped out and supported.
- ❖ For the environment the Parish Council continues to:- oversee the Lengthsman scheme which is mostly County Council funded, - maintain some of the grass areas and benches in the Parish, - work with the probation service as part of the community payback on some of the grass verge cutting, - monitor speeds via the Vehicle Activated Speed sign in Rocky Lane. We recently installed the new bench at Five Ways and pass on our thanks to Bumble Hole Foods for planting out the flower boxes.

My thanks to all who volunteer for the benefit of the parish and I look forward to the remainder of an interesting and varied year as your Chairman.

FUNDS and BUDGETING

This year's annual statement of accounts has been published along with other financial information on the parish council's website: www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk.

The simplified figures are shown here:

Opening balance at 01/04/2014	£16,497	
+ Annual precept (paid by residents via Council Tax)	£10,689	
+ Other receipts for the year	<u>£2,447</u>	
Sub total		£29,633
- Payments inc salary, grants, maintenance etc		<u>£11,043</u>
Final balance , carried forward		<u>£18,590</u>

Parish Precept

In order to alleviate the burden of benefit system changes on those council tax payers who live in parished areas the Department for Communities and Local Government continues to pay a grant to Billing Authorities, including our district council, that is supposed to be passed on to the parishes. For the last financial year ending March 2014 Bromsgrove DC passed it on in January. For this financial year the DC members decided to split it between themselves to be spent in accordance with their 'Ward Members' Fund Policy'.

Parish Funds

As you can see the Parish Council has a reasonably healthy bank balance, but councillors would like to know where you think the funds should be spent. For instance do you want to see outdoor exercise equipment on the playing field for adults as well as children, possibly with a dog-exercise course alongside or would you prefer the funds to be put towards establishing a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Parish Council has recently purchased a Worcestershire flag, two new notice boards - one for the front of the village hall and the other at Five-Ways alongside our replacement roadside bench.

Defibrillator - For the future we intend to purchase a community-use defibrillator that will be available for use in an emergency. First Aid training for the community is provided at the same time as the unit is installed and we would like to know if there are any residents who would like to attend this – please contact the Clerk or any parish councillor to register your interest.

Your comments on any matters relating to the parish council are welcomed either by e-mail or in person at the parish council's meetings which are held each month at the village community centre. The meetings are always open to the public and the agendas and minutes are published on our website: www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk

COMMUNITY THANKS...

Shula & Phil Witherford at the Nailer's Arms asked us to pass on their thanks to residents for the support and tolerance shown earlier in the year during their beer and cider festival weekend (9th - 11th May).

HOME SAFETY

Check Your Home is Fire Safe!

A message from Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service provide advice to everyone and for the more vulnerable a free of charge fire safety check in the home. Our evidence shows that people who are more at risk of an accidental house fire are older people, people who live on their own, people with reduced mobility and individuals who may not be able to respond quickly to a fire. We all like to think this will never happen to us, but unfortunately it does, with sometimes terrible consequences so our aim is to keep you safe.

As its name suggests, a Fire Safety Check in the home involves Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service representatives calling at your home to offer safety advice specific to your household and personal circumstances. During the visit, they will check your smoke alarms and install new ones if needed, and will ensure that you are doing all that you can to avoid the risk of a fire in your home. They will also help you work out an escape plan in the event of fire.

We would urge anyone who might be vulnerable themselves or knows an elderly family member, friend or neighbour who lives on their own or has reduced mobility that might benefit from a visit, to get in touch using the number below and request one on their behalf.

To see if you qualify for a **FREE Fire Safety Check** contact the Community Safety team on **0800 032 1155** quoting **reference PN14**. *Note that those doing the Fire Safety Checks will always make an appointment in advance of their visit, and will always carry identification which they will be very happy to show you.*

MOTORWAY NEWS

The work at Lydiate Ash traffic island at junction 4 of the M5 is part of the Highways Agency 'Pinch Point Scheme' to improve traffic flows by widening the bridges over the motorway and lengthening the slip roads off the motorway. One lane on the junction 4 roundabout will be closed for about 16 weeks from early December to allow temporary safety barriers to be installed while the bridge parapets are removed. The Highways Agency expect this stage of the work to cause some disruption to the local road network and motorists are advised to plan their route before travelling and allow plenty of time for their journeys. There will also be some lane closures and occasional overnight total closures of the motorway at J4. When complete the roundabout will be widened to a four lane carriageway with new road and destination markings on each lane, new destination signs and new traffic signals.

Website: www.highways.gov.uk and telephone information line: 0300 123 5000

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH & PACT*

Bryan Hewett hewettbc@telco4u.net 01527 831897

It may have escaped your notice but the recent six- month reports from West Midlands Police show crime reports from all around us BUT none in our Village. We can only be thankful for this. The team in Bournheath of Neighbourhood Watch will continue to "watch out" for any signs of criminal intent be it from social noise, loitering or suspicious behaviour. You, the people of Bournheath can help by the following...



- ⊗ Do not leave keys, sat nav's etc in cars on driveways
- ⊗ Do not leave Garden Sheds or Garages unlocked if they store valuable items of machinery
- ⊗ Do not leave "freebies" in sawn-off drain pipes at the end of driveways
- ⊗ Do not be a victim of 'identity theft' by leaving post where it can be accessed by an identity thief.
- ☑ Do tell your neighbours or local "watch" person if you are going away

BE ALERT and let us trust for continued safety in our Village.

The Parish Council aims to hold at least one PACT* meeting each year and this year's meeting was on Monday 13th October when the main issue of concern was speeding of traffic on our rural roads. The Parish Council aims to work on this issue with the Safer Neighbourhood Team over the coming months

* PACT stands for Partners and Communities Together. It gives you the chance to tell your safer neighbourhood team, local authority and other partner agencies about the issues causing concern within your community and which ones you want the police to deal with as a priority.

Once the community agrees on the top priorities we'll work together to address them. The issues raised can vary significantly, and aren't always for the police to deal with, but it's better to let others know of any problems than let them get you down. Our Safer Neighbourhoods Team is Bromsgrove North and Rural; more information is available via the link from our website.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

This year's **Christmas Carols will be on Friday 12th December** at Bournheath Village Community Centre, 7pm, supported by the Blackwell Concert Band. If the weather allows it then we shall sing outside so bring your warm coats and lanterns, but if inclement then we shall sing in the hall. Followed by mince-pies and punch.

ALL WELCOME - Sing loud, sing long!

THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Parish Councillor Stuart Hall is the Parish Tree Warden and is available to give informal advice regarding trees, shrubs and hedges. He writes:

As a parish council we are conscious of its needs and as such we endeavour to meet them. We have provided flower troughs and planted daffodils around the village's open areas which we add to every year.

We also attempt to keep the litter down through volunteers and the Lengthsman scheme and by each of us doing our bit throughout the year.

However we have some other problems in the village and that is the ever-increasing large vehicles that drive through our village. The lorries and farm tractors seem to get bigger all the time and can cause damage to the grass verges and traffic islands when faced with a problem. We may be able to seek compensation if we have relevant details, so if you see a situation please take a note of the vehicle registration and company name and pass on to us or the police.



Bournheath sunset 15th March 2014

The other way in which we can help to keep the village tidy is by keeping the hedges cut well back from the road especially on corners so the drivers can see to negotiate with care without having to swerve into the middle of the road, especially in our narrow lanes and back-waters.

I would also like to highlight that all manholes and drains need to be kept clear as we seem to have much more heavy rain these days. Our Parish Lengthsman works hard to keep on top of the situation but if you see any drains and pot holes that look blocked and in need of attention you can help by letting us know by phone or email. Also the County Council's website, www.worcestershire.gov.uk has an easy-to-use "report it" tab where you can detail any concern about roads, bridges, street lights*, public rights of way, winter gritting, overgrown shrubs, traffic lights and so on.

*With reference to street lights, in an attempt to save money and energy the County Council are to turn off a few along our local roads at midnight instead of at 6am. If you have any environmental issues please get in touch or join us at our monthly parish council meetings held on the last Tuesday in the month.

CLlr Stuart Hall

BOURNHEATH & WILDMOOR FOOTPATHS

From our Parish Paths Warden, June Maw:

Bournheath and Wildmoor is one of the smaller parishes in Worcestershire with 34 footpaths amounting to 6.6km. They include a short section of the Monarch's Way from Mill Lane to Top Road.

As footpath warden, I ensure the paths are accessible and clear to walkers so they don't stray onto private land. I carry out way marking, vegetation clearance and minor repairs to stiles, gates, etc. New posts and markers have recently been installed between Fairfield Road and Stourbridge Road. I am grateful to those landowners whose hedges and fences run alongside footpaths for keeping the boundaries well maintained.

I know that the paths are much used and valued by dog walkers, those going from one side of the village to another and between Bournheath and Catshill. If you would like to know more about our paths, they are marked on a map in the community centre, as well as in the Ordnance Survey Explorer map 219.

If you spot a problem, please email me at bourneheathppw@gmail.com or speak to one of the Parish Councillors.



PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Find us at www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk

For the last few years the county council has provided hosting space for the entire county's parish councils at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish for which we have been very grateful. However this does not have the same flexibility as having our own website and so we have taken the decision to create a site of our own at www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk. It is early days yet but we hope it will prove to be a useful tool to communicate with residents and businesses in the parish and for you to find out more about the parish council. Suggestions for additional material will always be welcome. The new e-mail address is clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk

BOURNHEATH VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Chairman Keith Drew writes:

As ever November signifies the end of the year for the previously elected Management Committee. With no one standing at the last AGM for election the previous Committee took up the mantle again unopposed, with the exception of June Maw and Helen Ward; we thank them for their efforts. Since the AGM Phil Danckert and Tom Crook have been co-opted onto the Committee and we have also been ably assisted by Symone Price-Simon.

The year has been mixed with those taking over from the previous long established pre-school group having to pull out purely through lack of numbers attending, but on the other hand we have seen an increase in private use of the Centre for functions from within the Village.

On events organised by the Committee we were overwhelmed by our first and last offerings of the year. The Xmas Fayre last December brought a great response from local village traders and the public. The Halloween Walk, a few days back, attracted 60 children in various costume guises and with their guardians parading along Dodford Road with lights a-glow it was a sight to be seen.

The Committee organised a 'Bunny Hunt' which was enjoyed by those attending and which saw an increase in numbers over the previous year. We avoided the following rainstorm by an hour! A couple of quizzes took place in the year with a different format and these were well attended. Also on Sun 22nd June the 'Party in the Park' event,



free to all Villagers and their families, was well attended and went extremely well.

The weather was fantastic, what a difference a year makes!

On Sat 6th Dec plans are in place to hold another Xmas Fayre and we look forward to greeting as many of you as possible to this.

We would like to thank all our event sponsors and those of you from the Village that have attended our functions.

This year's AGM is to be held on Fri 28th Nov from 19:30 in the Community Centre. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this meeting. If you would like to join the Committee then this is your opportunity. Contact us by the methods shown below on this or any other matter.

To keep in touch with events or with Committee members remember we are contactable in many ways as well as via the link on the parish council website:

Telephone 07516 723360 / Facebook / Email bourneheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk

www.bournheathvillagecommunitycentre.btck.co.uk Twitter@bournheathvilla