

Dear Resident

Many of you will know that John Jagger, the Chair of the Parish Council, sadly died at the end of August. His knowledge, character and contribution to the council is missed.

There are positions for 8 councillors on Barnt Green Parish Council, only 6 of which are filled. It is possible to co-opt new councillors mid-term without the formalities of an election. The council should operate on its full quota in what looks to be an important time for Barnt Green. If you would be interested in becoming a councillor, please contact one of the councillors or the Executive Officer at the parish office at 80 Hewell Road.

Under the Government's Localism Act 2011, the parish council is working on drafting a Neighbourhood Development Plan. This will set out the policies and future development of Barnt Green for the next 15 years and will be subject to a local referendum. With a review of the green belt pending by Bromsgrove District Council, the importance to Barnt Green is evident.

*Join us to sing Christmas Carols as Barnt Green Lights switch on: page 5*

*Diary Date for return of Shindig Theatre: page 5*

*Gear up for Sport Relief Mile 2016: page 4*

As I write this, there are no road works in Barnt Green, yet parking and traffic remain major concerns. The responsibility for this rests with Worcestershire County Council. Our county councillor, Peter McDonald, has asked that any issues are raised directly with him. His contact details are on page 2.

I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Robert Cholmondeley, Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council



**MP and Councillors' contacts:**

MP Sajid Javid – [sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk)

County Councillor Peter McDonald – [pmcdonald2@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:pmcdonald2@worcestershire.gov.uk)

District Councillor Charles Hotham – [c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk)

Parish Councillors: Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Edwin Gumbley, Charles Hotham, Jenny Jellie, Susan Whitehand, (2 vacancies)

Chairman: Robert Cholmondeley [robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com)

Executive Officer: Gill Lungley [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk) 0121 447 9893

Parish councillors' contact details can be obtained from the Parish Council office at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF or at [www.barntgreen.org.uk](http://www.barntgreen.org.uk)

Parish Council blog:

Since the last Barnt Green Bulletin was issued in August, the parish council has met for three ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting. The minutes of those meetings are all online via [barntgreen.org.uk](http://barntgreen.org.uk) and a couple of ongoing issues are summarised here:

### **Closed footpath**

Network Rail were invited to a parish council meeting to explain the reasons for closing the footpath between Barnt Green and Cofton which crosses the railway line to the north of the station. At the time of writing they have yet to respond to issues raised as a result of that meeting. The initial closure was allowed because the responsible authority for footpaths, the County Council, agreed to Network Rail's request to temporarily close the path on safety grounds for six months. That was in July.

The latest news from County Hall, via our county councillor, is that:

- 1) *Network Rail would not be given an order permanently closing the footpath.*
- 2) *They have been given a six month extension to give them time to consider & design options that would keep the path open & make the crossing safer.*
- 3) *Network Rail have agreed to this and we will be expecting the matter to be resolved within the next six months.*

We would urge all those concerned about the proposed loss of this hitherto well-used pathway to contact our county councillor so that he is fully aware of what you think about this path and can convey this to the County Council:

*Peter McDonald: tel: 0121 453 9267 / [pmcdonald2@worcestershireshire.gov.uk](mailto:pmcdonald2@worcestershireshire.gov.uk)*

### **Parking in Barnt Green**

The ongoing problem of car parking in the parish is a constant issue for the parish council. On speaking with our county councillor Peter McDonald he has told us to refer anyone with concerns about parking to contact him directly, as he has pointed out it is Worcestershire County Council that is responsible for highways matters. Peter's contact details are above.

However, with regard to the long-term future of the village and the parish council's intention to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan to cover the next twenty years, we would like to know what you think about car parking generally and whether you have any suggestions for improvement.

We all know how well served we are in Barnt Green with a choice of excellent shops and businesses, a school that is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted and an upgraded railway station all within a half-mile radius. And we all know the effect of this, as graphically depicted in a recent edition of The Village magazine, is daily pressure on local roads to accommodate car parking.

As the line of parked cars creeps higher and higher up Fiery Hill Road to suit out-of-village rail commuters, and as the harassed parent drives onto the pavement blocking in a residential driveway for 'just a few minutes' whilst the little ones are delivered to school, and as quick-stop shoppers perch their cars over the dropped kerbs in the village centre, at what point do we say enough is enough? Do we roll over and accept this as a symptom of modern life, do we urge drivers parking in Barnt Green to be more respectful or do we suggest a radical re-vamp of the village centre? Suggestions welcome.

**Speed!**

In an effort to reduce the speed of traffic along Barnt Green's busier roads, the parish council has purchased 500 '30mph' reminder stickers for residents to fix to the sides of their wheelie bins. These are available free to residents on a first-come-first-served basis from the parish council office. If you are unable to collect them in person, then telephone us on 0121 447 9893 or send an email to [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk) and they will be delivered to you. The offer is restricted in the first instance to 6 stickers per household and is for households situated on Bittell Road, Blackwell Road, Cherry Hill Road and Fiery Hill Road.

Due to a variety of statutory changes affecting parish councils and the continuing requirement for local government to be transparent and open, Barnt Green Parish Council is looking to renew its website. We would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in helping us out with this; please contact the Executive Officer in the first instance.

**BGPC Website****Hanging baskets**

Thank you to all the village shops who looked after their hanging baskets so well this year, they certainly added a bright touch to the village environment. We have also enjoyed the sight of the new planters in Hewell Road with the summer plants lasting well into autumn. The contract for providing the hanging baskets and planting out is undertaken by the local 'Where Next Association', which is a charity based in Redditch providing work experience and training for people with learning disabilities or those disadvantaged in some way.

The parish council will be providing hanging baskets again next year and will be in touch with shops to ascertain requirements during the early part of 2016. We are looking forward to a blooming colourful village in time for the Open Gardens weekend - 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> July.

The Hewell Road bus shelter has never been internally lit. The parish council is considering whether to install a light here and is due to make a decision in December.

**Bus Shelter**

For more information about the work of your Parish Council visit the website at [www.barntgreen.org.uk](http://www.barntgreen.org.uk)

**SPORT RELIEF  
BACK FOR 2016**

**Barnt Green Sport Relief Mile**  
**Sunday 20 March 2016**  
**Join in the fun and games**

After the success of the events in 2012 & 2014, The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile is back again in Barnt Green on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016, with more participant places available than ever before. The event has proved very popular with locals; in 2014, it was sold out and raised over £4000 for charities at home and overseas. It is hoped that the event, which sets off from Millennium Park on Hewell Road, will attract hundreds of local people who will be running or walking, but most importantly taking part, to raise money for Sport Relief.

Mums, dads, youngsters along with road runners, joggers and those just wanting to enjoy their first fun run, can enjoy a choice of a one mile route round the village, or a three or six mile route that includes an off-road section past the Bittell Reservoirs.

Barnt Green Chuggers, the local running group based at Barnt Green Sports Club on Margesson Drive, are once again organising the event in conjunction with Barnt Green Parish Council. Mike Dickenson, Chairman of the Chuggers said: "The club positively encourages those wanting to jog, run, get fit and enjoy the company of others doing the same – and see the Sport Relief Mile as a great way for people to 'have a go' and raise money for good causes".



There will be 270 places for runners of all ages & abilities with waves of runners starting from 12pm, with each wave preceded by a fun warm-up in the park. The runners will finish by 2pm, then there'll be fun & entertainment continuing afterwards. There will be something for everyone on what looks set to be a great day. More details will follow!

**Places can be booked from January 2016. Why not get sponsored and help transform the lives of people living here in the UK and in some of the world's poorest countries, while being part of an incredible nationwide event. To register your interest NOW or book from January 2016, visit [www.sportrelief.com](http://www.sportrelief.com)**

Entry fees: Adult £7: Children (<16) £3: Family (2 adults, 2 children) £17

**If you have any community news please send it to the Executive Officer at [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk)**

### Parish Council dates for your diary ...

...the **Barnt Green Christmas Lights switch-on: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. Join us for carol-singing at 5pm in advance of the great switch-on then follow Father Christmas along Hewell Road to the school's Christmas Fayre.

...**Sport Relief Mile: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Millennium Park, starts 12pm**  
See page 4 for details.

...**Shindig Theatre, Live & Local production of The Origin of Species** at 7.30pm on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at St Andrew's Church Hall.

...**Barnt Green Open Gardens** weekend 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 – a choice of village-centre gardens to visit & flower show in St Andrews Church

### Christmas Church services ...

9.30am	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Toy Service	St Andrew's
10.30am	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	'All in' Christmas Family Service	Baptist Church
4.00pm	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	St Michael's
4pm & 6pm	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Carols by Candlelight	St Andrew's
11.00pm	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Communion	St Michael's
9.30am	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	All-age Christmas Celebration	St Andrew's
10.30am	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Family Christmas Day Celebration	Baptist Church
9.30am	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Songs of Praise	St Michael's
10.30am	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Quiet reflective time together	Baptist Church

### The Midland Sinfonia - St Laurence Church, Alvechurch


...**Saturday 12 December 2015 7pm for 7.30pm – Vivaldi by Candlelight**  
with Richard Laing, conductor and David Le Page, violin

...**Saturday 6 February 2016 7pm for 7.30pm – Brass Delights**  
performed by The Holborne Brass Ensemble

...**Sunday 28 February 2016 3.00pm – 9th Young Musicians' Showcase**

For more information and full details of the programmes, ticket prices etc then check our website [www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk)  
[marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk](mailto:marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk) or 0121 447 7040

From Bromsgrove District Council: Christmas Waste Collections

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	No change	
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	No change	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	No change	
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	No change	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	No change	
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	No change	
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	

### PLEASE HAVE YOUR BINS OUT BY 7AM

If we experience snow and icy weather and cannot get to you on collection day, please leave your bin out and we will return as soon as we can.

You can check our website, Facebook and Twitter for regular updates.  
[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

## DIGITAL INCLUSION

Included with this newsletter is a survey aimed at finding out about internet use in the parish. In this 'digital' age with the increased use of lap-tops, tablets and smart-phones some residents in the parish may feel they are missing out on just the basics. Perhaps you would like to find out more but don't know where to start.

Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (bdht) is working on a project throughout the Bromsgrove District to help people gain access to computer facilities and get online. They have approached the parish council to see if we have any computer and online facilities that are made available to residents and whether we are currently working on any projects to help residents use the internet or hold any awareness sessions locally.

From January 2016 bdht will be looking to roll out a set of training sessions focussing on low-level computer basics such as how to get online, internet security and safety. It may also be possible for them to arrange funding for people to complete a distance learning course on IT basics resulting in a formal qualification

By filling in the survey you will be helping bdht to identify any demand for digital inclusion awareness and training services within Barnt Green and where possible the parish council will aim to provide appropriate support. No postal charge for completing the form; return to FREEPOST BDHT.

### **From the Environment Agency - Get Ready for Winter!**

**Top tips** for keeping your home warmer and healthier...

- NHS advice: If you have reduced mobility, are 65 or over, or have a health condition such as heart or lung disease, you should heat your home to at least 18C and make sure you wear enough clothes to stay warm. It's a good idea to keep your bedroom at this temperature all night. If you're under 65 and healthy, you can safely have your house cooler than 18C, if you're comfortable.
- Test your heating – to avoid finding out that it isn't working only when it gets really cold!! Regular boiler servicing improves safety, reliability, heating fuel costs and the life of your boiler. Think about replacing an old energy inefficient boiler.
- If you're not on mains gas:
  - plan ahead to make sure your heating fuel tank will have enough fuel even if your delivery is delayed;
  - check oil tanks for any potential leaks before you get it filled up and if you spot a leak call the Environment Agency Pollution Hotline number on 0800 807060, open 24/7;
  - get in touch with a local oil buying co-operative to save money on heating oil purchases.

Also see [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk) Get Ready for Winter for some ideas.

**If you have any community news please send it to the  
Executive Officer at [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk)**

<b>Weekly events</b>			
Sunday	Holy Communion	St Andrew's Church	8.00am
	Family Service	St Andrew's Church	9.30am
	Family Service	Baptist Church	10.30am
	Quaker worship	Friends' Meeting House	10.30am
Monday	Bridge Club	Friends' Meeting House	7.00pm
	Choral Society	Parish Centre (Sept - June)	7.45pm
Tuesday	Art Club	Friends' Meeting House	10.00am
	Talk Together	Parish Centre	12.15pm
	Slimming World	Parish Centre	7.00pm
	Tai Chi	Friends' Meeting House	7.00pm
Wednesday	Literature Group	Friends' Meeting House	10.00am
	Parents and Tots	Baptist Church (Term Time)	10.30am
	Bridge Club	Parish Centre	1.30pm
Thursday	Holy Communion	St Andrew's Church	9.15am
	Baby/Toddler Group	Parish Centre (Term Time)	10.00am
	Quaker evening	Friends' Meeting House	7.00pm
Friday	Art Club	Friends' Meeting House	10.00am
	Bridge Club	Burcot Village Hall	7.00pm

<b>Monthly events</b>			
Macular Disease Society	Last Fri	Friends' Meeting House	2.00pm
Monday Fellowship Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	Parish Centre	2.30pm
Friendship Club (not Jan)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Friends' Meeting House	2.15pm
Gardening Club	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Burcot Village Hall	7.30pm
Lickey Women's Institute	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	Trinity Centre, Lickey	7.30pm
Lickey Hills Local History	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Trinity Centre, Lickey	7.45pm
Parish Council	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Parish Council Office	7.00pm

Disclaimer: the Parish Council cannot guarantee these events will take place as shown, please check in advance to save an unnecessary journey.

**If your club or society would like to be featured in the Village Diary please send details to [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk)**

## 2 Vacant Seats

A variety of personnel changes have resulted in the current vacancies for two councillors on the parish council. Casual vacancies are publicly advertised on the notice boards and the website in case anyone wishes to call a by-election, but as that opportunity has now passed the parish council is free to co-opt a suitable candidate for each position.

If you are a registered local council elector, over the age of 18 years who has owned land, lived or worked in the parish of Barnt Green for the last 12 months or you live within three miles of the parish boundary, you would be eligible for co-option to fill one of the vacant seats.

An application form can be downloaded from the parish council's website or obtained from the parish council office which is open on four days during the week Monday – Thursday 10am to 2pm and Thursday 2pm – 4pm.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 7pm in the parish council office.

All parish councillors are volunteers as the position is unpaid, however training is provided to help councillors in their role. In Barnt Green the parish council is responsible for a number of services including:

- Millennium Park recreation ground and Parker's Piece playing field;
- Support for the continued health and well-being of residents;
- Footway lighting within the parish;
- Lengthsman scheme (checks on ditches, gullies, overgrown vegetation);
- Support for the village centre;
- Consultation on the built environment;
- Preparation of long-term plans for future development;
- Providing grant support to community groups;
- Grass-roots representation of the electorate.

If you have an interest in your community and would like to put your skills to good use, do get in touch as we would love to hear from you.

As this goes to press, the parish council is considering its budget for the 2016/17 financial year. Whilst we are mindful of the need to keep a tight rein on spending we are keen to fulfil our purpose of improving the quality of life for residents where possible. Some improvements such as providing safer walking routes are only possible by working with the organisations responsible for the service, whereas others can be self-directed, such as provision of a defibrillator or lighting the bus shelter.

Funds for the parish council are collected via your council tax where the charge is known as the 'precept'. It is your money and therefore important that you let us know if you are happy with the way we are working!