



NEWSLETTER

No.71 | March 2018 | lickeyandblackwellpc.org

an invitation to
The Annual Assembly
7.30pm Monday 9 April 2018
The Wheel, Blackwell
❖❖❖
'The Future Of Our Parish'



Blackwell First School - June '17



Christmas Events - Dec '17



Senior's Tea & Talk - Feb '18

Residents & press are invited to attend our PC Meetings
usually the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm with allotted public questions time
9 April, Blackwell (6pm) & Annual Assembly (7.30pm) | 14 May, Lickey | 4 June, Blackwell | 2 July, Lickey | August recess | 3 Sept, Lickey

FOREWORD

NICK FORKNELL, CHAIR

As always I'm amazed by how quickly the year has passed. As I come to write this foreword for the "Annual Report" edition of our Parish Newsletter, I'm also amazed at how much has happened within the parish. You can read about our activities over the last twelve months in the various reports contained within this Newsletter.

From a personal point of view it has been a great pleasure to welcome new Councillors so that we are now at full strength, to make great strides in the production of our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) together with Councillors from Cofton Hackett, and to see genuine improvements in aspects of road safety throughout Lickey & Blackwell.

We also had the somewhat sad time of saying farewell to our long-standing Executive Officer, Helen Doherty, who moved on to work elsewhere, but the great joy of welcoming a new EO, Lisa Winterbourn. Lisa has been busy learning the ins and outs of Parish administration and has quickly become an important part of the team.

The coming year looks like being just as busy as the last. We're planning to complete the work on the NDP and that will be presented to you hopefully in the summer before being passed to Bromsgrove District Council for formal consultation and approval. Later in the year we shall be asking you to vote on accepting the NDP by way of a referendum. It is important that you support that vote as it could have direct implications for any likely development's to take place within the parish.



LtoR: Cllr. Charlie Hotham, Celia Artur, Gary Roskell with Cllr. Nick Forknell – Seniors Residents' Meeting, February 2018

We're now beginning to get some idea of potential developments in the neighbourhood and we need to make sure that the ideas and policies in our NDP are accepted and followed.

Please look out for information about consultation throughout the year and make sure you have your say.

Have a blessed and happy year.

Nick

DIARY DATES

- 1 May – Best Front Garden Competition judging begins
- 8 May – PC Annual Meeting, The Wheel, Blackwell 7.30pm
- 16 Jun – Blackwell Festival 'Vikings Picnic' 12-5pm
- 16 Jun – Lickey Festival, Lickey Hills Primary School 1-4pm
- 16 Jul – Bilberry Wake Picnic, Lickey Hills Country Park
- 8 Sept – Blackwell Music Festival 1-9pm

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

NICK FORKNELL, LEAD

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Group met five times during 2017 with the main task to write and present a draft plan for consultation with residents. This was to ascertain if the stated policies would have the support of people living in the designated area. The Bromsgrove Local Plan was approved at the beginning of the year and so we had a framework under which we could devise policies which would benefit the area.

The draft plan was completed with assistance from our consultants and the BDC Planning Department. We held four consultation events in June and were very pleased with the response received. For the first time we also created an opportunity for residents to comment on line which proved very popular.

Following the consultations, we've been very busy revising the text and adding loads of evidence to the document in the form of "Character Appraisals", photographs and historical assessments. It is intended that the final version of the NDP will be approved by your Parish Council in March and will be subjected to final consultation, firstly by yourselves and then by Bromsgrove District Council and the Examiner, before final approval.

A referendum will be held, hopefully in the Autumn, when you will be asked to vote to accept the NDP.

More information available from:

 Lisa Winterbourn, Executive Officer

cover picture: Blackwell Music Festival – September 2017 unless otherwise stated all photographs by Keith and Simon Woolford

FINANCE

PETER HARVEY, LEAD

Shown opposite is the audited summary of receipts and payments for the year ended 31 March 2017.

The precept for that year was increased by a little under 2% to cover a general increase in costs due to inflation.

The large rise in other income was due to £5700 being received on behalf of the "Neighbourhood Plan Group" which was subsequently repaid to them and is evidenced in the significant increase in Community events expenditure.

Community events expenditure was raised further by the purchase of new Christmas lights for Lickey at £1500.

One other notable expenditure increase is in Highways / litter picking for the purchase of another vehicle speed indicator at £3255 and £1000 donation towards the restoration of the Blackwell Ape.

The precept for 2017/18 was kept the same as 2017 and expenditure has continued in the production and delivery of newsletters, maintenance of our website, hosting residents meetings, administering the lengthsman scheme and the general maintenance of numerous green areas within the Parish including litter picking and replanting colourful planters, and all other administrative duties as required.

Finally, due to further continuing rises in costs it was decided to increase the precept for next year by a further £1000 to £45000.

LICKEY AND BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Summary Receipts and Payments Account 2016/17

2015/2016 £	RECEIPTS	2016/2017 £
43,156	Precept	44,000
175	Cemetery, recreation grounds and litter picking	
60	Interest received	45
2,624	VAT Refunds	2,670
2,516	Lengthsman	2,997
1,154	Other income	7,676
49,685	TOTAL	57,388
	PAYMENTS	
7,123	General administration	8,622
11,034	Salaries & staff expenses	12,121
9,504	Play areas and open spaces	9,047
3,701	Community events	10,851
1,232	Donations and grants	600
6,243	Highways/litter picking	11,167
2,225	Cemetery maintenance	2,639
4,868	Newsletter	4,820
814	Health & wellbeing	369
2,806	VAT paid	3,651
49,550	TOTAL	63,887
£135	Surplus/(Deficit)	-£6,499

The above statements represent fairly the financial position of the Council for the year ended 31st March 2017

PLANNING

STEPHEN NOCK, LEAD

Last year we had 66 planning applications within our parish and the planning team were kept busy looking at before and after plans, reading tree and drainage reports, conducting site visits and even navigating our way around Google Earth.

We comment to Bromsgrove District Council on all applications, our aim being to keep the qualities and characteristics that people value in Lickey and Blackwell. The planning officer reads our comments prior to deciding whether to grant permission. We can appeal planning permission if we strongly disagree with the planning officer's decision. In which case it will be heard and voted on by a full meeting of Bromsgrove District Councillors whose decision will be final.

On other matters, we note some work has been done around the balancing pool at Marlbook Tip, although we now appear to have a jeep parked in the middle of it! We worry a little about the impact the Green Belt Review and Birmingham's housing overspill plans may have on our part of the world. We do however look forward to the release of our Neighbourhood Plan. Both issues will be discussed at the forthcoming Annual Parish Assembly on 9 April.

If you would like to discuss a planning issue, please contact our Executive Officer, who will either pass on your comments, or if you wish, give you the date of our next planning meeting so that you may attend.

 Planning Committee meetings
Fridays 11am Parish Office, Trinity Centre, Lickey

COMMUNICATIONS

JANET KING, LEAD

The year has been an interesting one with well attended Residents' Meetings and enjoyable annual prize giving events for the Schools Christmas and the Best Front Garden competitions.

Councillors agreed in November to change the way in which we communicate with residents by reducing the quarterly newsletters to three per year but in addition publishing a Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council news page in The Village magazine in a further three months beginning in May. This will reach more people in Bromsgrove and we expect it to work well. It is being trialled for the year ending in March 2019 when we shall review the policy.

We wish to thank Keith Woolford for his maintenance of our website where news updates are made regularly and parish council policies and other documents, including the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Village Design Statement, may be found. Dates and venues of our monthly council meetings and agendas and minutes may also be found on the website. So, if you have not yet taken a look at it and enjoy reading about our activities.

The facebook page (www.facebook.com/lickeyandblackwellcouncil) is useful for conversations between residents and for promoting local events and public notices. Do get in touch with Cllrs. Nick Forknell or myself if you have a local news story or event to share.



Libby Parr at the keyboard and Singing For Fun

Exchanging views and ideas about our local area is at the heart of what Communications group does and we are always pleased to bring people together.

Finally, your Parish Council was pleased to support through grants and publicity the village festivals held during 2017. You can find items about both Blackwell's Picnic in the Park and Music Festival and the Lickey Festival elsewhere in this Annual report. We look forward to the 2018 festivals in June and September.

RESIDENTS' MEETINGS

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN –June '17

During the summer we held a number of consultation meetings, held in Blackwell, Lickey and Cofton Hackett, on our latest draft Neighbourhood Plan published in Spring 2017. Comments and views were included in the final draft document currently being scrutinised by the strategic planning officers at Bromsgrove District Council. The NDP will be truly your work and we are grateful for all your input, which is becoming more important as we discover the extent of Birmingham's plans for future housing.



BEST FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION –Sept '17

Held during the first two weeks in July so roses were in bloom and many gardens were at their colourful best.

Our congratulations to all the winners – there was a full report with photographs in issue No.69. The 2018 competition will be judged during the first two weeks in May.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & COMPETITION –Dec '17

Our Christmas competition produced some excellent art works on the themes of 'Wildlife in Lickey' at Lickey Hills Primary and a design for a Christmas card at Blackwell First School, the latter being printed and used as the PC's official Christmas card.

Our thanks to Blackwell Concert Band who played at Lickey and to the children who entertained us at both prize giving events.



SENIORS MEETING TEA & TALK –Feb '18

Held once again at Barnt Green Cricket Club, during the meeting Cllr. Charlie Hotham introduced a proposed community transport scheme for our villages – more details on page 6. Our other guest speakers were Celia Artur and Gary Roskell.

We were all entertained by Libby Parr and her wonderful 'Singing for Fun' group.



ENVIRONMENT

JO EALES, LEAD

The Parish Council continue to be responsible for aspects of the environment around the Parish including footpaths, some verges, Blackwell play area, Greenfield Bank and litter picking.

We fund the supply, planting and maintenance of the planters in the Parish & the flower borders around Lickey Square and the War Memorial.



We have continued our bulb planting around the Parish by planting snowdrops 'in the green' each spring. The snowdrops along Twatling Road by the cemetery have been lovely this year. Hopefully the areas we have planted will become more prominent as the bulbs become established.

We have continued the work in the Cemetery extension with monthly mowing of the paths and bi-annual cutting of the whole area. We also maintain the hedges and general weeding. Our aim remains to encourage wild flowers and are

planning to plant more shrubs in the border along Rose Hill. We are mindful of Worcestershire County Councils Pollination policy which aims to manage the public spaces with insects in mind.

This year we are pleased to welcome Susan Tibbits as our Parish Tree Warden. Her role will be to keep an eye on trees and hedges in the Parish. Any issues residents may have can be reported to her. The Planning Committee is very mindful of planning applications that have an adverse impact on trees and hedges.

We would like to thank all those people, paid or otherwise, for their valued work around the parish.

HIGHWAYS

NICK FORKNELL, LEAD

We have been working hard with Worcestershire Highways to improve Parish road safety. Firstly, in providing double yellow lines at the junction of Old Birmingham Road and Monument Lane in Lickey which will ensure better vision for vehicles exiting Monument Lane. Secondly, extension of the 30 mph speed limit at the top of St. Catherine's Road, Blackwell to include part of Spirehouse Lane, in particular the entrance to Hunter's Hill School. The Parish Council took the opportunity to position our Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at the location to further remind drivers of their speed as they approach the school entrance.

Speeding remains an issue in many areas of the parish with Dale Hill, Mearse Lane, Plymouth Road and Twatling Road being of particular concern.

Residents on Dale Hill with the support of the parish council are continuing to press Worcestershire County Council to reduce the speed limit on the road but so far WCC have refused to do so. On Mearse Lane and Twatling Road, Cllr. Kit Taylor has confirmed that WCC will carry out traffic speed data surveys and use this data to determine what, if any, measures are warranted to reduce traffic speed. A survey may also be carried out on Plymouth Road, subject to WCC approval.

The public footpath across the railway in Blackwell was closed during the year. Residents and parish councillors alike are eager to see an alternative footpath in place so that pedestrians may safely walk (or run!) along Blackwell Road between Linthurst Newtown and Blackwell Golf Club. WCC have agreed to additional signage but are still in discussions with Network Rail in relation to the footpath. We very much hope that these will be concluded shortly and a solution implemented and will continue to press WCC and Network Rail to do so. In the meantime, we would ask drivers to take extra care along that stretch of road.

We've had a few instances where lorries and contractors have damaged verges when parking. We would kindly ask all residents, visitors and contractors to park considerately and avoid churning up the earth on the grass verges.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

RON RAND

Funded by Highways Dept. of County Hall, your Parish Lengthsman undertakes minor tasks on and around the roads in the parish of Lickey and Blackwell. Work such as keeping gully grids clear of debris, together with pipes, headwalls and ditches; cutting back vegetation, cleaning road signs, keeping bus shelters clean and tidy, removing fly posters and a multitude of other similar tasks.

Keeping the green salt/grit bins filled is another task: these are funded by your parish council for use on the highway (not as many feel for their driveways!) Battery changes and re-siting of vehicle activated road signs is undertaken (as on Rose Hill and Spirehouse Lane). Pot holes are reported for repair, vehicle debris removed, together with fallen roadside timber. Together with your litterpicker he provides a safety vehicle at that time.

One problem that may involve the lengthsman at this time of year is vehicle damage which occurs to grass verges at the roadside. Please could you ask your tradespeople to be careful here as the rectification cost could fall upon them.

COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

BLACKWELL & BURCOT WI

Our WI have had another successful, interesting and enjoyable year. As an afternoon group, we meet at 2pm Burcot Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month. Our activities ranged from crafts, walking and eating with our various groups during the month, to talks, demonstrations and music at our meetings. These have included local musicians The Vintage Singers and Alicia Benbow, Blackwell's own singing star.

On one afternoon we had a magician and a Droitwich guitar band together by mistake – it was a great day!

Our Summer trip was to 'The Source of the Thames' with the knowledgeable and entertaining Brian Draper. We also went to the ballet at the Birmingham Hippodrome and held a Garden Party in June at one of our members' garden.

We love our food, especially our Soup Lunch to which we invite members from other WI's in February, our Birthday Party in October and Christmas Lunch at Barnt Green Cricket Club in December.

We are Top WI in Worcestershire for raising money for the chosen charity The Associated Women of the World, and have also supported other local charities.

This Year's programme is equally exciting and this being the Centennial of the Worcestershire Federation we have plans to really celebrate!

Do come along and join us – you will be made most welcome!

Contact: Rae Fowler 01527 874 412

BLACKWELL FESTIVAL

In 2017 saw two very successful events ran by the Blackwell Festival volunteers. The 'Pirate Paaarrty in



the Park' 16 June and the Music Festival 8 September. [Films: Youtube/Keith Woolford]

facebook.com/blackwellfestival
website: blackwellvillage.org.uk



L-R: Mabel and Peggy

BLACKWELL FIRST SCHOOL

Another busy year for Blackwell First School. From opening an Outdoor Nursery on site to achieving the Platinum Artsmark for excellent work in Music, Art and Drama it has been a successful year for the school. The Artsmark celebrated the success of the arts at the school and in particular music teaching supported by Christianne Cutler and the development of drama in collaboration with Chris Sugars of South Bromsgrove High School.

Supported by grants from Mondelez through the Cadbury Foundation and Babcock Prime, the school has opened a Forest School Nursery and welcomed new learners.

Standards of learning at the school are always a high priority and a focus on new strategies for supporting the development of fluency in mathematics and spelling have been supported by the work of Anthony Reddy and Rebecca Kennedy who have an ongoing relationship, supporting the professional development of all staff at the school.

A recent highlight has been the purchase of two guinea pigs, Mabel Blackwell and Peggy Blackwell. They are being cared for by children in Purple Class and have caused a real buzz of excitement in the corridor. This is just a flavour of what has happened this year, supported by the staff, governors, PFTA, families and children of the school.

School office: 445 1622
office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk

HIGH HOUSE WOOD MANAGEMENT TEAM

The heavy snow and winds between Christmas and New Year left many trees damaged and unsafe. Immediate remedial work was carried out particularly as it's a regularly used route to school and for dog walkers.

The native wildflower seed mats initiative was a disaster, if you ignore the weeds, but we hope to renew our efforts soon. This apart, all goes well in our eight-acres away from the madding crowd.

With the wood featuring in the 'Exploring the Lickeys' walks book, available from the Country Park Visitor Centre, we are delighted to invite new visitors to this little bit of heaven neighbouring the Country Park.

With the inevitable human condition, littering remains popular. Thankfully, those more disposed to the



High House Wood

environment on their doorstep take a different view as we had another great litter pick. The glade bench was also given a fresh coat of varnish. Could we ask the pupils using HHW to remind their parents to stop absentmindedly littering, please.

The three information boards are rapidly approaching their use by date with plans afoot to update and replace them. The PC, one third of the management team (the others being the HHW owners and High House Drive Residents Association) have approved extra funding to help with this.

Contact: Keith Woolford 445 4619

LICKEY COMMUNITY GROUP

Our major mission remains that of the Marlbrook Tip issue. We do know that a number of actions required of the owner by the Panel Engineer have were not completed in time. Bromsgrove District Council and the Environmental Agency are looking at completing the these, employing their own Panel Engineer, enforcement or a combination.

Apart from that, we are really no further forward than this time 12 months ago.

Lickey parking is basically in two stages. The first, around the Water Trough, remains a problem despite double yellow lines now installed making it an offence. This is irrespective of available space in the Trinity Centre car park or on-road.

The second is around the school. Alas, too many vehicles delivering/collecting offspring to be accommodated by Old Birmingham Road. Again, yellow lines will not deter the determined. To the credit of the school, staggered times have been implemented in an attempt alleviate matters.

The added ingredient is the Country Park as they start to charge visitors to parking fees in all three car parks soon. This may result in the distinct possibility of more road parking by some.

The 'Partners Initiative', spearheaded by the Police with the purpose of finding workable solutions, produced initial optimism but needs reinvigorating.

The 2017 AGM allowed members to exchange views and learn of the groups activities. The unexpected winner of the '90 Seconds Challenge on a given subject was Cllr. Janet King who was presented with a his and hers 'EW DE



LtoR: Sue & Roy Hughes and Mike Adams
Lickey Community Group at Lickey Festival, June 2017

'TOILETTE' bottle, appropriately drawn from the Tip! A special mention to Lickey WI President Janet Ratcliff who was thrown in at the deep end who valiantly excepted the challenge.

LCG attend and participate in every PC meeting and engage with councillors of the parish, district and county. We are also represented on the Lickey Hills Country Park Consultative Committee.

Our website Trades People Directory is very popular with members and is just one of the benefits of joining.

Contact: Keith Woolford 445 4619
Website: www.lickeycommunitygroup.btck.co.uk

LICKEY FESTIVAL

Our second festival was held at Lickey Hills Primary School, having outgrown the Trinity Centre. The theme was 'The Farmyard' – so visitors included both humans and animals. The PC initiated this event to bring the community together and there were many businesses and local groups represented including demonstrations by Topsy Anna Crafts, The Lickey Community Group, the Geo-Champions, the Lickey Hills Society and the History Society exhibited their joint WWI Project. The Scouts and newly open Chi Chi shop were also present.

The Lickey WI provided the refreshments of a fantastic range of homemade cakes – a welcome sight for the participants in the Parish Walk which ended at the Festival.

The school grounds held more activities: school pupils displayed their wonderful 'Scarecrow' competition entries, animals ready to be petted, plus pony rides, Country Park Rangers with practical activities, a bouncy castle, Tardebigge Cider and a hog roast. With the day coinciding with the national 'Open Farm Day', Beacon Farm generously gave out dairy products.

We are currently planning this year's Festival which will be a joint Festival/School Fair event on Saturday 16 June. We are keen for more local people to help, so anyone wishing to join the community steering committee, please contact the PC.

Contact: Lisa Winterbourn, Executive Officer





Kendal End Quarry clearance



All Abroad – Transport Museum, Wythall



Wassail, January 2018



Lickey WI, Lickey Festival 2017

LICKEY HILLS COUNTRY PARK

As usual it has been a busy year for the Park. Bilberry Hill has had tree work as part of the continuing Heathland Management programme. One welcome result of this work is the return of views from the hills that haven't been seen for decades. Other tree felling was to control the Phytophthora ramorum outbreak. 341 larch trees were removed over a 12 hectare site. Please bear with us as some walking routes may be affected by the work.

Some 74 schools have visited, with 16 Ranger led, and, combined with the holiday activities etc. means that the educational aspects of the Rangers work is going strong. There have been 33 events in total, including the Search for Santa, Bilberry Wake and the best ever attended Wassail.

Birmingham Civic Society donated 25 specimen trees for the Arboretum a part of its centenary celebration. Much of the work carried out in the Park would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers to whom we would like to thank.

Finally, congratulations to Steve Hinton, who has been promoted to Head Ranger for the City – though sadly it means he will no longer be based at the Park.

Visitor Centre: 445 6036

LICKEY HILLS GEO-CHAMPIONS

The Lickey Hills Geo-Champions Volunteer Group originated in 2011 to enhance and raise public awareness of the geology of the Lickey Hills. We maintain and show visitors our most important sites, including quarries at Kendal End, Warren Lane and Barnt Green Road, plus the Rubery Cutting. We are most grateful for the continued support of the Lickey Rangers.

Visiting geologists continue to add to our knowledge of the area's geological history. During the year, we have been involved with the HLF funded 'Voyages in Deep Time' project to create a geological information panel which will be installed on Bilberry Hill. The project will also develop a geological teaching App for children.

Other activities include a public guided walk in April, two full-day field trips for visiting geological societies, and our treasurer, Bryan Maybee gave an evening talk on our work. In June we had a stall at the Lickey Festival, and in October, as part of Earth Sciences Week, we ran two activities: a Kendal End Quarry clearance session could see us at work, and our fourth 'Lickey Rocks! Activity Day' at the Visitor Centre.

Contact: lickeychampions@gmail.com
Website: www.ehtchampions.org.uk/ch/?page_id=76

LICKEY HILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

In May we had a special tour of the 27 mile long No.11 bus route on a 1968 Birmingham Corporation Daimler Fleetline bus. This was thanks to the Transport Museum at Wythall. Our driver was James Munro and it was a great day out – complete with ice creams!

In July Andrew Hodges invited us to explore the cellars under the Old Rose and Crown – unfortunately empty of wine. Our special thanks to him.

Our Open Weekend in September highlighted the WWI Project, the Battle of Passchendaele, the Zeppelin attack on the Austin Motor Company, local Wakes and Fairs, the Lickey Gibbet and some more local people – this time the baddies. The Worcestershire WWI Bell Tent and re-enactors returned and again showed their detailed knowledge with display items.

Our programme of talks included the Bluebird Toffee Factory, Birmingham in Music, Dudley Castle, Beatrice Cadbury, who gave away her fortune, the 1916 Zeppelin attack on the Black Country, and The WWI Home Guard. The Christmas social looked at scenes that no longer exist in 'Worcester - Ooh! I remember that...'

Our research group continues to work on the World War I Project. We are also researching our local churches, the men on our war memorials and women's suffrage for our Open Days on September 15 and 16.

Contact: info@lhls.org
Website: www.lhls.org.uk

LICKEY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

During the summer we had building work for new learning pods, toilets and work on our Early Years Building. In June we had the grand opening of the new early year's area which the children love! In July we had lots of visits: Year 1 visited Smit Farm to see how seed is turned into bread, nursery went to Wonderland and KS2 took part in a Bell-Boating Regatta coming 8th out of 36 schools. The Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas performances were a great success, a team effort bring lovely Christmas stories and songs of kindness and friendship to life.

In February we had a cake & bun sale raising £450 for the cancer ward at the Birmingham Children's Hospital [see page 6] a big thank you to all who contributed. KS2 pupils took part in Science workshops at Waseley Hills High School carrying out fabulous experiments. March saw staff and pupils wearing a range of wacky and inventive costumes dressed as characters from

our favourite stories for World Book Day. Staff led workshops for our parents to prepare them to support their children. Run throughout the year to help parents access additional support for home learning. We hugely value our parent partnerships in school.

School office: 445 1992 | lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk

THE LICKEY HILLS SOCIETY

The Society launched our enlarged walks book 'Exploring the Lickeys', which funded the trails waymarkers, has already sold over 350 copies. We have also donated a replacement tree for the Community Orchard, replacement cables for the nest box cameras in the Visitor Centre and contributed walkie-talkies for the Rangers.

At our AGM Senior Ranger Steve Hinton gave a fascinating talk entitled simply 'Trees', covering every aspect from their evolution to the latest update on the Phytophthora ramorum situation within the Country Park. Our other talks were on wildlife photography when Peter Preece gave us a beautifully illustrated talk – 'Every Picture tells a Story'. More recently in 'The Lickey Hills – a Social History', Edwin Gumbley showed an absorbing glimpse of people and events from the area's past.

Our outdoor activities were the second Bilberry Wake when hobby horses were made and raced, and the best ever attended Wassail. The mums play had Vladimir Pudding, McDonald Trumpty and Porridge Johnson brawling, with fake news, the new Doctor Who and the devil all appearing. This year's guided 'walk and supper' was led by the World War I Project Team.

Our practical work included litter-picks and Himalayan Balsam clearance. We continue to lead free weekly guided walks, open to all, under the Active Parks scheme 10.30am every Thursday from the Visitor Centre.

Website: www.lhs.org.uk

LICKEY PHAB CLUB

Meeting at the Trinity Centre on Monday nights, we are a social group for people with and without disabilities, providing an opportunity for people to come together, to have fun. Members join from 14 years old with no upper age limit! Opened in June 2014, membership is now 69 as we are continue to grow! In 2017 we had an enjoyable Autumn Ball with a live band and three course dinner. The appealing activities include – cooking, sports nights, craft, quiz night, bingo and visits from local speakers. We particularly enjoy discos and trips out to Hollywood Bowl.

Contact: Louise Bother, 07814 122 990

LICKEY WI

A very friendly group meeting at 7.30 on the first Tuesday of every month at the Trinity Centre. We have a lunch at Barnt Green Cricket Club and visit Burcot Garden Centre.

At our Christmas craft evening we made a Christmas tree decoration. We had varying informative talks on The Role of a Magistrate, spring flowers and a talk from our president's daughter on her role as a female fire fighter. We joined in Bhangra dancing at our Christmas party.

We have a book club, a dining club and a district WI walking club that a number of members belong to. We take part in local events such as providing refreshments at the Lickey Festival.

New members and visitor's are always made welcome.

Contact: Janet Ratcliff, president 445 0163

SINGING FOR FUN

Meetings every Tuesday 7.45pm at the Holy Trinity Church, Lickey – based on enjoyment, with no pressure, followed by refreshments!

In April, we sang at the Farewell Concert for our vicar, Margaret and her husband, Darrell. We also attended the Lickey Festival again singing adding 'The Surrey with the Fringe on Top', and 'All God's Creatures got a place in the Choir' to our repertoire.

In February this year we were invited to entertain at the PC Residents Tea Party, with the audience joining in very gamely during the afternoon – see page 4.

Contact: Libby Parr, 01527 872 598

ST CATHERINE'S WI

We meet every third Thursday 7.30pm at The Wheel, St Catherine's Church, Blackwell with a varied programme of talks, visits, book club and skittles events.

Last year one of the highlights of our programme was a fashion show with M&Co. and this year we shall be celebrating the Worcestershire WI centenary and looking forward to our second fish and chip supper and summer trip to Wedgwood, Barlaston.

Contact: Sue Barratt 01527 596 092



Talk given by Ranger Steve Hinton at the Gun Butts



WWI PROJECT

WWI PROJECT

The Heritage Lottery Fund funded project aims to record and research World War I structures in the Lickey Hills Country Park.

Work started with Acorn Environmental Management Group clearing decades of overgrowth from the gun butts. Then volunteers from the Project and ACT, the Country Park's volunteer group, cleared the debris from the toilet block, which was boarded up in the 1990s.

We have held five workshops: Recording Buildings, Oral History, Researching, The National Archives and a Discussion Day. Our researchers have been to Worcestershire and Birmingham Archives, Gaydon and Warwick and the National Archives. The site has proved difficult to research. The Royal Artillery archives are in deep storage awaiting a move to Wiltshire.

Fortunately we have photos of the site from 1918 with 4.5" Howitzers, and of a soldier stationed here who married a local woman and stayed in the area. We are grateful to his daughter-in-law, Ruth Roberts, for her help. We plan to have a 3D photographic record of the site online, and are awaiting suitable weather conditions.

Ending this autumn, we will be mark the project with public and schools events. It's legacy will be interpretation boards, a leaflet, and a teachers' pack for schools.

To find out more:

 **Contact: info@lhlhs.org.uk**

AROUND THE PARISH

A MESSAGE FROM LICKEY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our school community has come together to support one of our Year Five pupils, Oliver Portman.

Oli was diagnosed in January 2018 with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Type T. Seven weeks later following a major stroke, brain bleeds, several surgeries, including brain surgery, and chemotherapy, Oli is still smiling. He's a real fighter!

The staff at Birmingham Children's Hospital have been amazing throughout, supporting Oliver and his wonderful family and so on Sunday 6 May some of the staff and friends of LHPNS will be taking to the streets of Birmingham and running the 10k race.

We have a target of raising £1000 for the hospital to begin repaying the kindness and dedication of the staff. We are already halfway there thanks to a cake stall run by fabulous Year Five parents.

Anyone wishing to help achieve our target, and thanks in advance to all who do, can donate at:

 **Donations: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lickeyhillsprimary12**



TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

Plans are in the pipeline for a new very local bus service to start later in the year. Whilst we have good public transport links via the train and the 145 bus, many people live beyond walking distance to the station, bus stop or shops – thus relying on car usage. The idea of the new bus service is for it to follow a figure of eight route joining the communities of Lickey, Blackwell, Barnt Green, Hopwood, Alvechurch and Rowney Green. This would be a continuous daytime service and it's hoped a complete circuit would take about 50 mins.

It will operate on a three month trial basis on Saturdays using a minibus provided by the Bromsgrove Urban and Rural Transport (BURT) charity with volunteer drivers. A fare has yet to be set and to start with a 'ring and ride' system will be used ensuring space and accomadates anyone with limited mobility.

The service will depend on volunteer drivers, so if you have a couple of hours to spare – why not give it a go? Full training will be provided.

For more information:

 **Contact: Cllr. Charlie Hotham, 0121 445 2930**



Cllrs. Janet King and Charlie Hotham

LICKEY AND BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Nick Forknell, chair Lickey Monument Ward (H/lead)	40 Pine Grove, Lickey B45 8HE	0121 439 9324	nf@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mrs Jill Harvey, vice chair Lickey Ward (C + P)	36 Rose Hill, Lickey B45 8RR	0121 453 5838	jh@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mrs Anna Boehm Linthurst Ward (F)	48 Linthurst Newtown, Blackwell B60 1BS	0121 445 6659	ab@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Ms Jo Eales Shepley Ward (E/lead + P)	Pinfield House, Cherry Hill Road, Barnt Green B45 8LL	0121 445 5754	je@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mr Peter Harvey Lickey Grange Ward (F/lead)	36 Rose Hill, Lickey B45 8RR	0121 453 5838	jh@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mrs Janet King Linthurst Ward (C/lead + P)	110 Linthurst Newtown, Blackwell B60 1BS	0121 445 2802	jk@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mr Stephen Nock Shepley Ward (P/lead)	Tavistock House, Mearse Lane B45 8HL	0121 445 3213	sn@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mr Stephen Tibbits Lickey Grange Ward (E)	19 Linehouse Lane, Marlbrook B60 1HR	0121 445 3827	st@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mrs Sara Woodhouse Linthurst Ward (H)	27 Twatling Road, Lickey B45 8HU	0121 445 6167	sw@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mrs Lisa Winterbourn Executive Officer	Parish Office: Trinity Centre, Old B'ham Road, Lickey B45 8ES Wednesday and Friday 10.30am-3.30pm	07513 865 011	eo@lickeyandblackwellpc.org

PC GROUPS: ENVIRONMENT | FINANCE | HIGHWAYS | PLANNING | COMMUNICATIONS | EDITORIAL – EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council House, Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 8DA	01527 881 288	bromsgrove.gov.uk
Cllr. Dr. Brian Cooper, 6 Lord Austin Drive, Marlbrook, Bromsgrove B60 1RB – Marlbrook Ward	07711 014 820	b.cooper@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Cllr. Mr Richard Deeming, 502 Groveley Lane, Cofton Hackett, B'ham B45 8UB – Cofton Ward	0121 445 3114	r.deeming@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Cllr. Mr Kit Taylor, 22 Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4LX – Lickey Hills Ward	01527 879 339	k.taylor@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP	01905 763 763	worcestershire.whub.org.uk
Cllr. Mr Peter McDonald, 10 Waseley Road, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9TP – Beacon Division	0121 453 9267	pmcdonald2@worcestershires.gov.uk
Cllr. Mr Kit Taylor, 22 Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior--, Bromsgrove B60 4LX – Bromsgrove East Div.	01527 879 339	ktaylor3@worcestershires.gov.uk
Cllr. Mrs Shirley Webb, 74 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0LE – Woodvale Division	01527 882 392	swebb2@worcestershires.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Mr Sajid Javid MP House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA	01527 872 135	sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk
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COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Age UK, 51 Windsor Street, Bromsgrove, Worcs B60 2BJ	01527 570 490	ageuk.org.uk
Artrix Arts Centre, School Drive, Bromsgrove, Worcs B60 1AX	01527 577 330	artrix.co.uk
Blackwell First School, St. Catherines Road, Blackwell, Worcs B60 1BN	0121 445 1622	blackwellfirstschool.com
Bromsgrove Library, Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 8DA	01527 575 855	acbromsgrove.org.uk
Citizens' Advice Bureau, 50 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 0DD	01527 831 480	citizensadvice.org.uk
Lickey Community Group, 30 High House Drive, Lickey, Birmingham B45 8ET	0121 445 4619	lickeycommunitygroup.btck.co.uk
Lickey Hills Primary School, Old Birmingham Road, Lickey, Birmingham B45 8EU	0121 445 1992	lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk
Neighbourhood Watch – Adrian Symonds, Community Volunteers Co-ordinator	01905 331 046	westmercia.police.uk
Parish Footpaths Warden – David Crockett		public footpath issues – contact Executive Officer
Parish Tree Warden – Susan Tibbits	0121 445 3827	
Police, Blackwell	101	westmercia.police.uk
Police, Lickey – Rubery Police Station, 164 New Road B45 9JA (no counter service)		
Rural Rides, 9 Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 7JJ	01527 879 290	wrvs.org.uk
Trinity Centre, 411 Old Birmingham Road, Lickey B45 8ES	0121 445 1425	lickeychurch.com
Worcestershire County Council Highways Dept – reporting potholes etc.		worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/resident-home.aspx

DETAILS OF LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS – SEE OUR WEBSITE

NOTICEBOARD

BLACKWELL BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10-11.30am Blackwell Methodist Hall
Baby, toddlers and mothers group – all welcome
– Carrie 07985 539 983

BLACKWELL AND BURCOT WI

Second Wednesdays 2pm Burcot Village Hall
Interesting programme of talks, visits, craft,
national campaigns & sports events - visitors welcome
Apr 11 'Mary Quant - the later years' by Ruth Lowe
Apr 26 Sponsored Walk for ACWW 11am Country
Park Visitor Centre, lunch at The Victoria, B/Green
May 9 AGM and resolutions meeting
– Barbara Knight, President 0121 445 3456

BLACKWELL CLUB

Linthurst Newtown
This popular venue is available for hire for parties,
meetings and other events
– 445 2134 | www.facebook.com/blackwell-club

BLACKWELL CONCERT BAND

Available to play at various formal & informal
occasions - see website for list of concerts
Celebrating 20 years of blowing!
– blackwellconcertband.co.uk

BLACKWELL FESTIVAL

Held on Catherine's Road, Blackwell B60 1BN
Jun 16 Vikings Party in the Park - followed by
entertainment at Blackwell Club
– 445 1622 | www.facebook.com/blackwellfestival

BLACKWELL FIRST SCHOOL

St Catherine's Road, Blackwell B60 1BN
Mar 29 Easter Egg Hunt - PFTA event
May 12 PFTA Spring Ball
– 445 1622 | www.blackwellfirstschool.com

BLACKWELL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sept 8 Music at Hunters Hill School 1-9pm
– 445 1622 | www.facebook.com/blackwellfestival

BLACKWELL SCOUT GROUP (1ST BROMSGROVE)

1st Blackwell Scout group and the Lickey groups
meet at the Hut, St Catherine's Rd, Blackwell.
Open to boys and girls of all interests & abilities.
• Beaver Scout Colony 6-8 years Thurs 6-7pm.
• Cub Scouts Pack 8-10½ years Weds 6:45-8:15pm
• Scouts Troop 10½-14 years Thurs 7:15-9pm
• 1st Lickey Scout Group runs three sections on
Tuesdays details: info@1stLickey.org.uk
• Explorer Scouts & 1st Blackwell Scouts feed into
Bonington Explorer Unit based at Sanders Park

BLACKWELL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Thursdays 7.30pm at Blackwell Methodist Hall
Tables & all equipment supplied
Adults £2 / child 118 £1 – just turn-up!
– Janet King, janetking110@gmail.com

BURCOT GARDENING CLUB

First Wednesday 7.30pm at Burcot Village Hall
Speakers and visits
– Brian & Jenny Adams 01527 522 109

FRIDAY BRIDGE CLUB

Every Friday 7pm at Burcot Village Hall
Friendly competition, everyone welcome
– Gill Croft 01527 401 019

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library Service At Home may be available to
the house-bound via Rubery Library.
Rubery Library open Mon/Tues/Fri 9-5.30pm;
Thurs 9-7pm; Sat 9-4pm (Alvechurch has a library)
– 01905 822 722 | worcestershire.gov.uk

LICKEY AND BLACKWELL CHURCHES

• Holy Trinity Church, Old B'ham Road, Lickey
• St Catherine's Church, Blackwell after school
coffee and last Friday of month for coffee, cake and
chat in The Wheel
Mar 18 The Asklepios Orchestra, Spring concert
7.30pm St. Andrew's Church, Barnt Green
Apr 15 St. Catherine's Annual Meeting, The Wheel
after morning communion

LICKEY AND BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Trinity Centre, Lickey
Wednesdays & Fridays 10.30am-3.30pm
Monthly meetings open to residents inc
consultation beforehand plus public question
time – see cover for times/dates.

May 1 Best Front Garden judging begins

May 14 PC Annual Meeting, Lickey

Jun 16 Blackwell Festival and Lickey Festival

Apr 22 Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Holy

Trinity Church after morning service
– Alison Rushton 445 6170 | alisonjr59@hotmail.com
www.lickeychurch.com

LICKEY CHURCH WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

1st & 3rd Weds 2.15-3.45pm Trinity Centre, Lickey
Speakers, craft activities, quizzes & charity events
– Sandra Smith 445 1425

LICKEY COMMUNITY GROUP

Local residents improving Lickey & Marlbrook
communities. Responsible for stopping Marlbrook
Tip illegal tipping + speeding & parking issues
– Keith Woolford, keith@arch-media.co.uk
www.lickeycommunitygroup.btck.co.uk

LICKEY FESTIVAL

Jun 16 Festival partnered with and at Lickey Hills
Primary School Summer Fair. Offers of help welcome
– Lisa Winterbourn | eo@lickeyandblackwellpc.org

LICKEY HILLS ART SOCIETY

1st Sat each month 7.30pm Longbridge Methodist
Hall, Bristol Road South, Rednal. Visitors welcome.
– Graham Wilson 463 7097
enquiries@lickeyhillsartsociety.co.uk

LICKEY HILLS COUNTRY PARK

Visitor Centre, Warren Lane, Lickey B45 8ER
445 6036 www.birmingham.gov.uk/lickeyhills
Unless otherwise stated, activities start from VC
(BE = booking essential)

• PARK EVENTS

Some events need booking & may be chargeable
Mar 23 Skywatch - Telescopes & the Star Dome, café
open 7:30pm VC
Apr 4&11 Easter Kids Activities - go wild in the woods.
Family event, wear suitable clothing 11am-1pm BE
May 30 Kids Half-Term Activities - as above
Jul 7 Bittel Reservoir Circular Walk, 5 miles mainly off
road, hilly/steps 11am-2pm
Jul 15 Bilberry Wake - make a hobby horse/bring
your own for gymkhana race! All ages + prizes + best
dressed picnic comp 3-5.30pm
Jul 21 - Sept 4 Self-Guided Activity Trail, activity
sheet from the VC 10am-5:40pm Prizes to be won
Aug 1 National Play Day - family event. Fun & games
with the Rangers 11am-3pm
Aug every Weds - August Antics, go wild in the
woods. Family Event 11am-1pm BE

• ACTIVE CONSERVATION TEAM (HABITAT HEROES)

Every Tuesday 10am-2pm. Join our conservation
volunteer team, learn new skills. Tools & training
provided – 445 6036

• ACTIVE PARKS

Thursdays - free guided walks from VC 10.30 til noon

• KEEPING FIT FOR FREE

Tai Chi – Sun 10-11am Monument Lane, Beacon Hill
and Tues 10.30-11.30am Cofton Park
– Hayley 01527 881 404 | Hayley.gwilliam@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

LICKEY HILLS GEO-CHAMPIONS

Explore the fascinating Geology of the Lickey Hills
– Details: Jill Harvey 453 5838

LICKEY HILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Third Tuesday at 7.30pm Trinity Centre, Lickey
Mar 20 'The Home Guard in WW1' by Malcolm Atkin
Apr 17 'Ironbridge & Coalbrookdale' by Brian Draper
– George Gascoyne 453 6320 | info@lhls.org.uk

• There have been a number of house
burglaries in the area – some are targeting
car keys.

We urge residents to keep their doors locked
and to be extra vigilant.

—Lisa Winterbourn, Executive Officer

THE LICKEY HILLS SOCIETY

Practical Activities and talks with guided walks
every Thursday 10.30am from CP Visitor Centre

Apr 14 Pride of Longbridge 2018, 10am

Apr 17 'Ironbridge & Coalbrookdale' by Brian Draper
– Baden Carlson, info@lhs.org.uk | www.lhs.org.uk

LICKEY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Old Birmingham Road, Lickey B45 8EU
Jun 16 Summer Fair + Lickey Festival 1-3pm
– 445 1992 | www.lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk

LICKEY PHAB CLUB

Every Monday 7.30-9.30pm Trinity Centre, Lickey
To build confidence, socialise and have fun for the
disabled and able-bodied alike
– Contact Louise Edgell 07814 122 990

LICKEY WI

First Tuesday 7.30pm, Trinity Centre, Lickey
Theatre/cinema visits, skittles/bowling matches
Apr 3 Pudding Evening – bring a pudding/cake
+ Best Pudding Comp
May 1 AGM/Resolutions, no competition
Jun 5 'The Little Black Dress' by Molly Murray, +
Accessory to wear with an Evening Dress Comp
Jul 3 Birthday Meeting with entertainment
– www.lickeywi.wordpress.com

LICKEY WINE AND SOCIAL CIRCLE

Last Thursday in month 8pm Burcot Village Hall
Talks, games, theme evenings and making wine!
– Sheila 445 5436

THE MIDLAND SINFONIA

Programme of classical music (Reg.Charity)
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch 7.30pm (7pm bar)
Mar 25 Young Musicians' Showcase, free concert 3pm
Apr 20 'Strings Attached' Bach, Saint Saens, Mozart,
Tchaikovsky, Arensky and Nielsen
May 18 'Flute and Harp Classics' with Hefin Flute &
Harp Duo inc. Bach, Bax, Debussy, Schubert & Rossini
Jun 23 'And All That Jazz' - with Fret & Fiddle, inc.
Gershwin Medley, Grappelli style!
Jul 6 'Season's Finale', guest Tim Gill, cello - Haydn,
Boccherini, Strauss and Mozart
– Marian Barwell 447 7040 | midlandsinfonia.co.uk

ROSEHILL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOC.

Second Monday 2pm Trinity Centre, Lickey
Demonstrations/refreshments – visitors welcome.
– Belinda Winroope 447 7477

ST CATHERINE'S WI

Third Thursday 7.30pm The Wheel, Blackwell
Varied programme of talks, craft projects & visits.
Mar 15 Willows Hedgehog Rescue
Apr 19 Worcester Porcelain
May 17 AGM and Resolutions
Jun 21 The Glory and Intrigue of Colours
– Sue Barratt 01527 596 092
stcatherineswi@aol.co.uk

MINDFUL MEDITATION CLASSES

Mondays - Yoga 7pm & Meditation 8.25pm at
Blackwell First School
Wednesdays - Yoga 12.45 & Meditation 2.15pm &
7pm, The Ark, Alvechurch
Wednesday - Yoga 9.30am, Rowney Gn Village Hall
– Sally Wall 07903 663 085 | www.MyYogaMind.co.uk



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