

Gnosall Moreton Knightley MK



What's going on in your Parish

Autumn 2015
Edition

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www.gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

GMK Introduction

So much has happened since our last GMK newsletter as you can read from this latest edition. Topics you might be interested in are the result of the Neighbourhood Plan referendum, the anti dog fouling campaign, policing within the Parish and the outcome of the village meeting held on 10th September. The Parish Council continues to push forward wherever possible and will always work towards achieving the best services and facilities we can for all our Parishioners.

As mentioned in the last GMK, we would be grateful if anyone could spare just a few hours to help distribute literature around the village so we can ensure as many Parishioners as possible receive our Newsletters. We can only try to increase our distribution with help from volunteers. Whether you can 'adopt' some Gnosall, Moreton or Knightley streets or just your own, all offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

If we have any architects, planners or other professionals who would be willing to volunteer their services to work towards developing better sports facilities/services in the village, again please contact the Clerk, as everyone will be made welcome.

After almost 5 years working for Gnosall Parish Council, Jamie McLaren will be leaving us at the end of October to take up full time employment with the NHS. Jamie has been a valued member of staff, looking after Grosvenor Centre bookings, assisting the Clerk in many ways, producing much of the Parish Council's publicity material and helping with GFest administration. Councillors and Parish Council staff wish her well in her new job.



Gnosall Parish Council Vacancy

Council Support Officer

15 hours per week, based at the Parish Office.

Full details and an application form available from the Parish Office.

Deadline for applications is noon on Monday 16th November 2015.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 25th November 2015.

Telephone the Clerk for details: 01785 822685 or email: clerk@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk



Front Cover

This beautiful autumnal picture showing The Boat Inn was kindly taken by Jim McGregor.

We are always looking for photographs, both for our website and future editions of the GMK, of scenes around the Parish.

Please send any photographs to clerk@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

Village Meeting

Over 50 residents attended the open meeting at the Grosvenor Centre in September to discuss the future of community facilities in Gnosall. The evening was an opportunity to start co-ordinating the aims and aspirations of our local community. A comprehensive assessment of current facilities was given by representatives of St Lawrence School (*Head teacher Trish Edwards*), the Grosvenor Centre (*Parish Councillor Keith Abbott*), the Memorial Village Hall (*Lynn Malone*), the Gnosall Scouts & Guides Hall (*Claire Jones and Yvonne Crowe*) and the proposed Heronbrook Leisure Centre (*Stuart Powell*) - plus representation on behalf of St. Lawrence Church (*Maggie Hughes*), Gnosall Methodist Church (*Emma Parlato*) and feedback from the Fire Station.



Stuart Powell, Lynn Malone, Trish Edwards, Keith Abbott, Jeff Rhodes & Jayne Cooper (L-R)

The ensuing question and answer session was productive - helping to determine what facilities we already have in Gnosall and whether they meet current needs. Despite some good current provision, there was general agreement we still have a particular lack of facilities and leisure amenities in the village.

There was also consensus that we need to work closer together on plans to enhance provision if we are going to meet future community needs.

The key action was the formation of a Village Steering Group to consider options working together as a community. The group has now been formed and is made up of representatives from relevant village groups and organisations and held its first meeting in late September.

It is still early days with many challenges to overcome, but we have made a really encouraging start that will hopefully galvanise into an effective and collaborative venture.

Watch this space.

Christmas Lights Switch On

On November 28th the Parish Council will be holding the annual Christmas Lights Switch-on at The Grosvenor Centre, starting at 5pm.

This free family event will include carol singing, festive refreshments, and the Gnosall Player's performance of "Santa's Snowed in Sleigh".

Father Christmas himself will pop by to give all the children a goody bag at the end of the evening.



Neighbourhood Plan

Great News.... The Neighbourhood Plan is Approved!

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the Localism Act (2011) in order to give communities a greater say in the planning system in their neighbourhoods. It introduced new rights and powers to allow communities to shape new development in their local area by coming together to prepare Neighbourhood Development Plans (usually referred to as Neighbourhood Plans). It enables communities to produce a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need through planning policies relating to development and the use of land.



Deciding to write a Neighbourhood Plan for the long term future of Gnosall parish, at a time when the area was subject to intense large scale housing development pressure, was not an easy decision but it was an important one. Gnosall Parish Council made this decision in January 2013 and the working group was established in September 2013. In February 2015 The Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Stafford Borough Council to check and publicly advertise in accordance with legal requirements, for a six week period.

Following that the Borough Council, after consulting with the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, appointed an independent examiner who examined the plan and gave it his support. The Examiner recommended, subject to a number of modifications, that it should proceed to a referendum.

He also endorsed the proposed Settlement Boundary around Gnosall. The recommended modifications were accepted and the final plan was approved by the Parish Council (as the Qualifying Body) in July 2015. Stafford Borough then proceeded to the Referendum and Parishioners were asked to vote yes or no to whether they wanted Stafford Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Gnosall to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

The good news is that more than 51% of those who voted, voted in favour of the plan. Therefore the Parish Council and Working Group are very pleased to be able to say that our Neighbourhood Plan is now formally adopted and Stafford Borough Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in Gnosall. The Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan for Stafford Borough.

Gnosall is the first Parish in the Borough to have a formally adopted Neighbourhood Plan and is already being asked by other parishes in the Borough to assist and give advice on this long and very detailed process. This really is a tremendous achievement and one that we are all very proud of and thank parishioners for being part of this throughout the entire process in completing questionnaires, attending consultation events, providing the parish council with feedback and finally for voting YES.

Dog Fouling

In the last edition of GMK it was reported that Stafford Borough Council Enforcement Team and Parish Councillor Doug Webb had spent time on the Village Green and Acres talking to dog owners following a number of complaints concerning people not clearing up after their dogs. Contrary to the story published in the Staffordshire Newsletter, all the owners spoken to had poo-bags, did clean up after their pets and were acting responsibly. However, there were a number of examples of dog faeces being left and not cleared up. This is just not acceptable.

So, what can happen if someone treads in it, or worse transmits traces of the faeces onto their skin? Apart from being very unpleasant, Toxocara Canis is an illness caused by worms in dog faeces which can in extreme cases cause failure of internal organs and/or blindness.



The definition of Toxocara is:- *A disease caused by a parasitic nematode of the genus Toxocara, transmitted to humans by ingestion of a substance, such as soil, that has been contaminated by dog faeces and typically affecting either the eye or the internal organs. The ocular form of the disease can lead to permanent loss of vision.*

Just one case of Toxocara is one case too many. So what can be done to prevent it?

- ★ Ensure that you clean up after your dog, every time, without fail.
- ★ Ensure that your dog is regularly wormed. This prevents the life cycle of the roundworm even starting and stops the problem dead.

There has been a recent improvement in cleaning up of dog faeces, however there are still some irresponsible owners leaving their pet's droppings where they have been deposited. A new campaign will be launched in Gnosall in the new year, where the enforcement team will be active in all of our open spaces (including Way for the Millennium path), so let's really work together to ensure that our village can be declared 100% dog poo free. Remember free poo bags are available from the Parish Office.

Defibrillator

The Parish Council recently erected two signs, on the A518 approach to the village from both Newport and Stafford, highlighting the locations of the defibrillators in the Village.

In the event of an emergency, defibrillators are located at -

- ◆ The Boat Inn
- ◆ The Petrol Station
- ◆ The Grosvenor Centre

These simple-to-use units are designed to be used by the general public. An automated system guides users through the steps to take until emergency services arrive.



Youth Club

Progress continues with reinstating a Youth Club to replace the withdrawn County Council service. Gnosall Parish Councillors met with Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) to gain valuable advice and assistance in establishing a new youth facility.

Any new club will be run as a separate group from the Parish Council, though with ongoing Parish Council support.

We have the specific use of the St John Ambulance's building (behind the Grosvenor Centre) to host a club and all the equipment from the demolished youth hut, so the next step will be to constitute a committee to oversee a re-established club. Once this is in place and enough volunteers signed up, a club can be started (one night a week to begin with) for those children aged between 9 and 13.

Several residents have encouragingly expressed an interest in volunteering to help run sessions and events for our local children.

If you are interested in being involved with the running a new Youth Club or being a member of the new Club committee, please get in touch with the Parish Office on 01785 822685 or email clerk@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk.

Relevant training courses and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks will be available via SCVYS, free of charge.



Burial Ground Extension

Some five or six years ago it became obvious that the Burial Ground was filling up fast and within a few years there would be no more room for either burials or internment of ashes. It was deemed necessary to continue to have a burial facility in the village, particularly for the sake of elderly people visiting the grave of a spouse who would find it difficult or impossible to travel.



St. Lawrence Church and the Parish Council approached the County Council with a view to buying a piece of their land that adjoined the existing burial ground. The Parish Council agreed to pay for this piece of land, bearing in mind that burial fees go to the Parish Council as payment for grass cutting and general maintenance.

Negotiations with the County Council Property and Legal Departments have been long and convoluted but the sale has finally been agreed and accepted by the Land Registry.

Burial Ground off Stafford Road

Community Safety Day

On Thursday 1st October the Grosvenor Centre was alive with action hosting the first 'Community Safety Day', organised by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue. Local Firefighters attended as well as Gnosall Blood Bikes, Gnosall's new PCSO Pat Wright and Gnosall Lions. Salop Medical Services attended and arranged a demonstration table showing the importance of First Aid.

Children from local nurseries came to meet 'Blaze Bear' and got the chance to explore the fire truck. They also walked the 'Wellbeing Mile', (well ¼ mile each due to their little legs), lapping the field behind the Grosvenor Centre. The Healthy Walkers organised two 1-mile walks around the village, special thanks to Karen Ison for helping with this. In total, everyone involved walked 95 miles, coming second place in the regional competition.

Complimentary refreshments were provided by the local Co-op store who donated a wonderful selection of delicious cakes and biscuits. Many members of staff also came and they all worked extremely hard to make the event a success. The event was enjoyed by all, thank you to all the residents and Parish Councillors who attended and we look forward to repeating the event next year.



GFEST 2015 Gnosall Festival Film Night

WHERE: THE GROSVENOR CENTRE
WHEN: FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2015
TIME: 5.00PM & 7.30PM

Come along and join us at the Grosvenor Centre, High Street, Gnosall for a special local showing of two films.

★ 5.00pm - 'Paddington' (PG)★ - the story of a young Peruvian bear who travels to London, starring Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins and Julie Walters.



Followed by



★ 7.30pm - 'A Royal Night Out' (12)★ - On VE Day 1945, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret are allowed out to join the celebrations. Starring Sarah Gaden, Bel Powley, Rupert Everett and Emily Watson.

Tickets: only £2 for children up to 16, and £4 for adults.
Family ticket (two adults and two children) £10.

Tickets may be obtained w/c 19th October from the Parish Office, behind the Grosvenor Centre, during opening hours, Gnosall Post Office and the Bakery, Wharf Road, or at the door.

Films are shown by the Big Picture Show. The event is part of GFest 2015 and is supported by Awards for All.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Further details available from Mary Booth, 07980 485 667.



GFest 2015

Gnosall Festival in July now seems a long time ago. During the past few months we have been receiving monies from grants and events as well paying out for prizes and giveaways and now we know how much money was raised at events although we still have the Big Picture Show to come on 13th November as the final activity of GFest 2015.



Income from grants (from Awards for All, Waitrose, Gnosall Parish Council, Gnosall Parish News, Gnosall Lions, Cllr Winnington's Fund and Mr & Mrs G Turner) came to £4689. Donations from events totalled at least £3,130. In addition, Macmillan Cancer raised £522, which they retained for their own good causes.

It cost £4973 to run GFest 2015. This included buying some capital items which we can use at future GFest events. The GFest Working Group decided to keep another £500 in the bank for the 2017 Festival. This left us with a grand total of at least £2844 for distribution to worthwhile local causes. The chosen projects to receive financial support are Gnosall Best Kept Village Group projects, Knightley Church for refurbishing the vestry and other projects, the Heritage Group, Sustrans for painting the metal benches and an omnidirectional ceiling microphone for Gnosall Players. Any residual funds will be used to help with the next GFest in 2017.

We would to thank all those who made GFest2015 such a success, especially the GFest 2015 Working Group, the Parish Clerk, the Assistant to the Parish Clerk and our volunteer helper, Amanda Morrell. We can now look forward to similar success at GFest 2017.

Acres allotment - Planned work

Another phase of the Acres Restoration Project should be completed before Christmas. Weather permitting, nearly three acres of the northern section of the allotments is being re-aligned to provide all-weather plots for tenants.

Despite significant strengthening of the riverbanks along the Doley Brook, the lowest-lying allotments in the floodplain continue to be under water during the wettest periods. In consultation with the Allotments Association (GAGA), the Parish Council will be overseeing a project to drag soil back and away from the brook to build-up plots closer to the access track at the centre of the site. This will reduce the number of allotments, but at least provide viable plots above the 1/100 year flood levels. The new plots will be marked out for use and rabbit-proof boundary fencing erected in April. The newly excavated areas will be utilised as wetland habitats along the brook, with pools and reed beds created, in addition to planting of osier beds.



A series of remedial work will be carried out over the winter to raise two sunken sections of the boardwalk. We hope this does not cause too much inconvenience to users.

Parishioners may have noticed the attractive new Parish Council noticeboard recently installed on the Village Green - near the Health Centre entrance. The oak-framed panels will be used to display the latest parish news.

Moreton Scarecrow Festival

Over 800 people visited 74 scarecrows during a weekend in September and the whole occasion was extremely enjoyable, galvanising the rural community of Moreton, Bromstead and Outwoods. There was much fun and laughter between children, parents and grandparents. The scarecrows were superb and so well made, many had taken weeks to create.

The theme of characters from films, TV and cartoons produced scarecrows such as Star Wars, Spiderman, Peter Pan & Tinkerbell, Monsters Inc., 101 Dalmatians to name just several. There was an automated Wallace & Gromit which not only attracted the children but also challenged a few of the dog visitors! A hotly fought quiz based on all the scarecrows brought out the competitive nature of many visitors.

Other attractions included a classic car display, vintage tractors, military tanks and a very friendly Shetland pony. Craft stalls provided a retail experience alongside the sale of refreshments. The Lady Wulfruna fairground organ played throughout the weekend to welcome visitors.



Some of the fabulous examples of festival entries



National Cycle Route

Staffordshire County Council is reviewing the management of its 21 countryside estates, including the 13 mile Stafford to Newport *Greenway*, much of which falls within Gnosall Parish. The former railway line is also part of the long distance *Way for the Millennium* path and the *National Cycle Network* route 55.

Since the closure of the railway, many local people have committed time and effort to ensure the positive progression of our Greenway into one of the premier off-road leisure routes in the West Midlands, with between an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 journeys made each year - an important county asset that should be kept in public hands for us all to use and enjoy.

In November there will be a public consultation of the 21 countryside estates in Staffordshire including the Greenway. We hope parishioners will make their voices heard for the Greenway to remain in public hands so that it remains a free amenity for the public now and in the future.

On a more positive note, the Shropshire Union Canal towpath will be given a much needed overhaul and upgrade by the Canal & River Trust. This work has come after positive engagement by members of the public, Gnosall Best Kept Village group and the Parish Council.



A518 road entrance to National Cycle Route No. 55

New School

The new school has really developed over the summer, with walls and roofs suddenly appearing on the backs of lorries from Germany! During the summer, head teacher Mrs Edwards, visited two schools of the same design as ours and has come back greatly enthused by the accommodation that our children will enjoy once the move is complete. Colour schemes and finishes have been chosen, and once the builders have a 'dry' building all the fitting out will begin.



All has not been plain sailing, however. Government funding cuts have meant that many of the facilities our children need and deserve have been threatened, and Mrs Edwards, supported by the Governors, has fought really hard to get basic things such as cookers and other kitchen equipment included in the build.

We are really pleased and immensely grateful that the Church has agreed to fund a lovely glass screen that will allow us to form a new 'Sanctuary' area off the entrance area of the new school.



We are sure the new school will be a wonderful learning environment for our pupils and we hope a useful community facility. However we are also mindful that the buildings in themselves do not make a good school; that is and always will be down to the fantastic efforts of our staff and our children.

Policing

Whilst police patrol cars have occasionally been spotted travelling through the village, there has been some concern from residents that we no longer have a 'visible' police presence which many consider has led to an increase in the number of burglaries and damage to cars over the last few months. Until recently our area was covered by 1 full time Police Officer and 2 PCSO's. However, the very good news is that PCSO Ian Brewis has returned to the area following his redeployment elsewhere last year and PCSO Patrick Wright, who has a dual role and is also a Family Intervention Officer has also been allocated to our parish.

Both Ian and Patrick are keen to work with the Parish Council on the Youth Club project and wish to be involved in getting the Youth Club up and running. We hope the increase in police numbers will give some reassurance to parishioners that we will, in fact, have Officers on the 'beat' once again. Policing and Crime is a top priority for the Parish Council and will now be included on the monthly Council Meeting Agenda so that crime statistics for the parish can be monitored, reported on and dealt with appropriately.

'For those who wish to receive further information on Crime and Prevention, please visit Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's website <http://www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/> where you can register for Newsletters or email updates.

There are lots of volunteering opportunities including registering for the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. If every Road or Street had just one Neighbourhood Watch member, we could help to reduce crime locally by alerting neighbours to potential risks/scams. As a well known Supermarket chain phrase says 'every little helps' to keep our area safer and crime free.



PCSO Pat Wright

Gnosall Parish Council ~ Useful Information

Parish Councillors

ABBOTT, Keith ~ 01785 823691
keith.abbott@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

ALKER, Pat (Mrs) (Chairman) ~ 01785 823271
pat.alker@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

BOOTH, Mary (Mrs) ~ 01785 822742
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COOK, Jamie ~ 01785 822232
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DEEGAN, Mike ~ (Vice Chairman) 01785 824293
mike.deegan@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

EMSLEY, Chris ~ 01785 822837
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GREATREX, Roger ~ 01785 284553
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GREGORY, Gail ~ 01785 822104
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INGRAM, Kenneth ~ 01785 822082
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TOMKINSON, Jenny (Mrs) ~ 01785 823473
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WALLIS, Shirley (Mrs) ~ 01952 691229
shirley.wallis@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

WEBB, Doug ~ 01785 823317
doug.webb@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Office

Address: The Grosvenor Centre,
High Street, Gnosall, ST20 0EX
Telephone: 01785 822685

Clerk : Jayne Cooper ~
clerk@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

Grosvenor Bookings:
clerk@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

Monday: **by appointment ONLY**
Tuesday: 10.00am ~ 2.00pm
Wednesday: 1.00pm ~ 3.00pm
Thursday: **by appointment ONLY**
Friday: **CLOSED**



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 28th November - 5pm	Christmas Light's Switch On at The Grosvenor Centre
21st December - 4th January 2016	Parish Office CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS
Saturday 6th February 2015 10am - 11am	Civic Amenity Visit at The Grosvenor Centre (restrictions apply)

The Parish Council meet on the 2nd Monday of every month (excl. August) at 7.30pm in the Brearley Room.

County & Borough Councillors

COUNTY CLLR:
Mr M J Winnington ~ 01785 822224

BOROUGH CLLRS:
Mr R M Smith ~ 01785 280648

Mr K S Williamson ~ 01785 823433

Useful Numbers

Police: 101 (*non emergency*)

Highways: 0300 111 8000
(roads, pavements and street lighting issues)

Streetscene: 01785 619401 or 619402
(litter & dog fouling)

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