

BINLEY WOODS PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER No 26

March 2012



BINLEY WOODS IS 50!

Yes, it really is our 50th birthday; or rather it was on 14th October last year. Although the first properties were built along the Rugby Road in the 1920s and then started to spread along Oakdale Road, Woodlands Road and Heather Road in the 1930s and 1940s, at that time the village was known simply as 'Binley' – the name of the neighbouring area of Coventry – or sometimes as 'Binley Without' (ie outwith the City of Coventry). By the 1950s, the village had started to expand rapidly and it was suggested that we should have our own identity to distinguish us from our urban neighbours. Following a public referendum, the name 'Binley Woods' was formerly adopted on 14th October 1961.

It is also the Parish Council's 80th birthday this year. The first ever Parish Council meeting took place in 1932 when the village was little more than a few houses on the Rugby Road and some shacks amongst the trees. The shacks have all now disappeared, but the Parish Council is still going strong.

The Parish Council is considering whether / how to celebrate the village's birthday, possibly combined with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. If you have any suggestions, please contact the council (see back page) with your ideas.

Binley Woods Open Gardens – 24th June 2012

Sunday, 24th June sees the fourth *BINLEY WOODS OPEN GARDENS*. As always, it promises to be a fantastic day in which the whole of the village can get involved, although the brilliant sunshine of 2010 will be hard to beat!

We have already started a list of gardeners who can't wait to take part, but we would really love to be able to include *NEW* gardens. Don't be put off if you think your garden is too small, a communal garden, not perfection, etc - none of that matters! People just want to come along, admire your handiwork, share your gardening tips and suggestions, and have a lovely day. With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June, we thought it would be great for any gardeners who don't want to open their gardens to the public to show their support by displaying red, white and blue pots or flower beds or, alternatively, why not conjure up an Olympic-themed display?

Please pick up the phone for a chat, either with Lynne & Tony Clifford (02476 543481) or Kath Salisbury (02476 542340) and get involved on this lovely day. All proceeds, as always, will be for Coventry Myton Hospice.

Binley Woods Library Service

The library will close its doors for the last time on Saturday, 31st March and will be replaced by a mobile library that will visit the village for three hours each week.

The mobile library will visit Binley Woods on Wednesday afternoons, starting on 4th April. It will be stopping at the library site on the corner of Monks Road and Birchwood Road between 2.00pm and 3.25pm and then near the shops on the corner of Woodlands Road and Craven Avenue between 3.30pm and 5.00pm.

The mobile library is fully accessible with a wheelchair ramp and carries a range of books, including large print, talking books and children's books. Books are changed on a three-weekly basis. There is no limit on the number of books that can be borrowed and there are no fines for the late return of books. Books can be pre-ordered by phone, via the Internet or in person from the driver for collection from the mobile library at no cost. There is a PC on board which is connected to the Internet and has free access to WCC subscription services such as Ancestry.com.

Library tickets can be used at any of the County's libraries. As from 1st April, our nearest library in Wolston will have revised opening hours:

- Monday to Wednesday – 2.30pm to 5.00pm
- Thursday to Saturday – 10.30am to 1.00pm

Did you know that Warwickshire County Council also offers a home delivery service for people who find it difficult to get out and about? The service is staffed by volunteers who will visit you at home, discuss your interests and then deliver books and audio books free of charge. For more information, please call 01926 851031.

Inconsiderate Parking / Speeding

With the full support of the Parish Council, the police are cracking down on those drivers who are inconsiderate to their fellow residents, either by parking on the pavement so that there is not room enough to pass by without walking on to the road or by speeding through the village. It's your village; please do not put the lives of your friends and neighbours in danger.

Inconsiderate Dog Walkers

The number of incidents of dog faeces being left on the grass verges and the recreation ground and other public spaces seems to be increasing, and the Parish Council has asked the Dog Warden to increase patrols in the village.

If you see a dog owner not picking up after their pet, please take a note of relevant details such as the description of the owner, the description of the dog, the vehicle registration number (if the owner has driven into the village), etc. And if you can do so without antagonising the dog's owner, take a photo. Please report the incident to the Rugby Dog Warden on 01788 533857. You can also download a Dog Control Report Form from the Rugby Borough Council website: www.rugby.gov.uk.

Pavements

Warwickshire County Council will resurface the pavements in Woodlands Road later this year when the gas main replacement works have finished. Discussions are on-going about the possible resurfacing of other pavements in the village.

Skateboard Park

Following concerns raised by local residents, we have agreed to site the skateboard park further down the back field nearer the woods. We have applied for a grant of £25,000 toward the cost of the park, but the wheels of public funding turn exceedingly slowly; we hope to bring you positive news in the next edition.

Annual Parish Assembly

The 2012 Parish Assembly will take place on Wednesday, 16th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend.

Parish Council Tax Frozen for 2012/13

The Parish Council's element of the Council Tax for the coming year has been frozen at last year's level. Commenting on the Council Tax, Cllr Paul Salisbury, Chairman of Binley Woods Parish Council, said: "Once again, we have not increased the Parish Council Tax which remains at the level set back in 2010/11. We recognise that villagers' budgets are being squeezed and we remain committed to providing residents with value for money."

Bringing Superfast Broadband for Rural Areas

Warwickshire County Council is leading on the project to improve the broadband across the county and they need your help. Clearly the money available from public funds will not be sufficient to solve the problem for the region, and so telecoms providers who tender for the work will be expected to make their own investment of at least twice the amount that is available from public funds. They will not be doing this out of the goodness of their heart, and so are likely to prioritise those areas that are able to show the greatest demand.

If you have not already done so, please complete the broadband survey that is located at www.cswbroadband.org.uk. There is one survey for domestic use and one for business use, so if you run a business or work from home please do both. And please encourage your friends and neighbours to do it as well, because the more people that respond from a given area the higher priority it will be.

Binley Woods Board Walkers

Once again, the Board Walkers put in an excellent pantomime in the village hall. This year's production of Sleeping Beauty was enjoyed by kids from 2 to 92!

The Board Walkers are always keen to hear from new talent in the village, both budding actors and behind-the-scenes technicians. If you are interested, please contact John Leech on 02476 542847 or Margaret Bourne on 02476 542532.

New Police Non-Emergency Number – 101

101 is the new number to call when you want to get through to your local police and it's not an emergency. **101** is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calls to **101** from landlines and mobile networks cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call or how long you are on the phone.

101 does not replace the local police numbers, which you can still use. And, of course, if it's an emergency and you need an immediate response - dial **999**!

Trees

The Parish Council has a programme of planting new trees on the publicly owned spaces in the village; we are fortunate to have many wide spaces between the front of the gardens and the edge of the pavements.

Trees are a much loved feature of Binley Woods, but many of our trees are old and some are coming to the end of their natural lives. The native British species that we are planting take many years to reach full maturity (up to 50 years in the case of an oak tree) and so planting new trees now will ensure that the leafy character of the village is preserved for our children and our grandchildren to enjoy.

We have planted 20 trees by the roads in the village this year together with 20 more on the village green and the back field. If we don't plant at least this number every year, the village will lose its leafy suburban image and become a less attractive place to live. This year we have paid our contractor to water the trees enough to keep them alive throughout their first year, so the losses we have had due to the unusually dry conditions in previous years should not be repeated. And for those of you concerned with the environment, please note that young trees are far more beneficial for global warming than old ones.

We would welcome suggestions for next winter's planting programme:

- Would you like a tree planted adjacent to your property?
- Would you like a tree planted, but not by your property? If so, please suggest a possible location.
- Do you not want any trees planted?

Please contact Peter Claisse on 07970 077375 (preferably by text) or by e-mail to pete@claيسة.info giving your house number and street and we will do our best to accommodate your wishes.

Binley Woods Parish Council Information

The Parish Council meets in the Morrison Room of the Binley Woods Village Hall at 7.30pm. Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month, but this may vary at Christmastime and during the summer holiday period.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. There is a standing agenda item at the start of each meeting where members of the public can raise concerns and ask questions.

Meetings are advertised on the Parish Council noticeboards around the village. Minutes of previous meetings are available on our website (www.binleywoods.org) and by written request to the Clerk.

Chairman:	Paul Salisbury	02476 542340	Vice Chair:	Dave Jones	02476 540101
Councillors:	Norman Brinton	02476 542178		Peter Claisse	02476 543932
	Ken Crawley	07958 721735		Pat Docker	02476 543786
	Linda Harbour	07958 244784		Paul Howells	02476 542611
	Liz Johnson	02476 543074		Ken Short	02476 540422
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