



June 2011

# Berkswich Parish Council

www.berkswichpc.co.uk

## Newsletter

### Your New Parish Council

**Bob Morton, Chairman,** Kitlings Lane, Tel 664613  
Bob has lived in Walton for over 40 years. He has been Treasurer of Berkswich History Society since 2002, and a member of the Village Hall Committee. When not actively pursuing plans for the new Village Hall you can usually find him photographing "fauna and flora" on Cannock Chase.

**Beryl Holt, Vice-Chairman,** Old Croft Road, Tel 665834  
Beryl has lived in Walton since 1965 and has been involved in many village activities. She was Chairman of the Parish Council for 8 years until 1996, during which time the Parish successfully fought against the construction of the ring road across the edge of Cannock Chase. At present she is Chairman of Berkswich History Society and a member of the Village Hall Committee.

**Ian Bearne** Main Road, Milford, Tel. 614752  
Ian and his wife moved to Milford 26 years ago from Trentham. He was Chairman of the Parish Council from 2007 to 2009 and represents the Council on the Cannock Chase A.O.N.B. Committee. He is also on the Board of Trustees of the Stafford and Stone Citizens Advice Bureau.

**Derek Dudley** Birch Close, Tel 660003  
Married for 53 years, with one daughter, & two grandchildren. Derek has lived in Walton-on-the-Hill since 1999. He is heavily involved with raising money for "Help for Heroes", due in part to the fact that his grandson is a Royal Marine Commando, and granddaughter, in the Queen Alexander Royal Army Nursing Corps.

**Sue Francis** Main Road, Milford, Tel 665490  
Sue and her husband moved to Milford in 1983 and until seven years ago ran a bed and breakfast business. She is a Senior Advisory Teacher and dyslexia specialist for Stoke on Trent City Council and is a keen Rotarian. She was a borough councillor for 8 years and has been a parish councillor for four years. She is the SEN (Special Educational Needs) governor for two local schools.

**Phil Innocent** School Lane, Tel 606800  
Originally from Herne Bay, Kent. Phil has lived in Walton for the past five years with my wife and three children, two of whom are at Berkswich Primary School, with the youngest at Brocton Pre-school. I have worked within the telecommunications industry for the whole of my career until recently embarking on a new career path in teaching. I currently work as an ICT teacher at The Grove High School, Market Drayton.

### **A Message from the Chairman**

I would like to thank all the retiring Councillors for their hard work during the past four years. In their place I am pleased to welcome five new faces to the council, some of whom I am sure, will bring new ideas and a younger outlook to the Parish. I hope they will soon settle into their new roles.

As your new Chairman, I will do my utmost to lead the Council forward at a time when Government proposals may well increase the powers of Parish Councils in local government.

**Bob Morton**

**Bob Jenkins** Elm Avenue, Tel 662408  
Bob has been a member of the Parish Council continuously from May 1995 and has served as Chairman and unpaid Clerk. He moved to Walton from Baswich Lane in 1971. Bob is also Manager and Treasurer of Walton Village Hall.

**Malcolm Millichap** Village Gardens, Tel 664021  
Malcolm came to Stafford in 1958 as a police cadet and was appointed Constable the following year. He has lived in Stafford since his marriage in 1964, moving to Walton in 1984. He was elected to Stafford Borough Council in 1995 and has served as Deputy Mayor on three occasions and was Mayor last year.

**Emma Jane Wheatley** School Lane, Tel 606527  
Emma has lived in Walton for nearly 6 years. As a newcomer she set up a Mother & Toddler Group at Walton Village Hall and was also Chairperson at Brocton Playgroup for 2 years. With the help of the Berkswich Parish Council, she co-ordinated the construction of a new play park in Holly Bush Field. At present she is an active member of the Berkswich Primary School P.T.A and is about to join the Board of Governors at the school.

**Matt Wheatley** School Lane, Tel 606527  
Matt was born and bred in the surrounding area and after a 10 year hiatus in London, decided to return to Staffordshire with his family in 2004. Although his job takes him abroad regularly, he hopes to be able to contribute to our community through the Parish Council.

**Liz Harrington-Jones—Parish Clerk**  
6 The Crescent,  
Walton on the Hill,  
Stafford, ST17 0JZ

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### Quality Parish Status

The Parish Council is working towards "Quality Parish Status" - more details about this will follow in a future edition. In order to achieve this status, we are required to provide parishioners with minutes of our meetings and a quarterly newsletter. These are available via the Parish website. (www.berkswichpc.gov.uk) In addition to this, the June & December newsletter will still be delivered to every household. The September and March editions will be available on the website or on all Parish Council Notice Boards. This new process will halve the amount of printing and paper we use. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who regularly deliver our newsletters.

## Royal Wedding Celebrations 2nd May

We were blessed with brilliant weather on Monday 2nd May when villagers invaded the Chase for a walk in the sunshine before enjoying afternoon tea in the Village Hall.

We could not squeeze another person into the hall and everyone enjoyed a chat, a most welcome cup of tea and an opportunity to view the display of wedding photographs of couples married in the Village from 1909 until 2011. Children from Marshlands Special School had made a life size collage of Kate in her wedding dress.

A book stall and raffle, with the 1st Prize of a £20 Voucher donated by "Hobbycraft", helped swell the funds and a profit of £575 will go towards the new village hall building fund.

There is still a very long way to go before the new hall becomes a reality.



### Gardens

We are aware that some elderly residents are finding it difficult to maintain their gardens.

Other villagers would welcome the opportunity to have the space to plant a few vegetables but have only very small garden.

If you would welcome help keeping your garden tidy and productive, or if you would like to be put in touch with someone who is willing to let you use part of their garden please contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

### Help!!

Do you have an empty garage? The Parish Council have been approached by 2 residents who have vintage cars and no garages to keep them in.

If you have an empty garage and would like to earn a little by allowing it to be used to store a valuable car, please contact the Parish Clerk.

### Holly Bush Field

During recent weeks the play equipment in Hollybush Field has been revarnished and refurbished.

Unfortunately, before the varnish had time to dry, the equipment was vandalised, even though the gates were locked.

If you have any concerns about instances of anti-social behaviour, particularly in Holly Bush Field or Milford Common, please telephone the Police immediately on **0300 123 4455**

### Reduce Bus travel for under Twenties

The County Council has launched "Your Staffordshire Card" which enables young people under the age of 20 to travel by bus, paying just £1 for each bus journey starting or ending in Staffordshire.

Please phone Ade Turner, Staffs. County Council on 01785 277787 for further information.

### Speeding in our Village—a heartfelt plea!

More and more residents are raising concern about the high speeds that some vehicles travel through and around the village. It would be devastating if there were a fatal accident within the village caused by excessive speed. Please **please** slow down and allow more time to get to your destination.