

OAKLEY WOOD

Earlier this year the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Warwick District Council began a joint management programme to provide the district's woodlands with better protection for wildlife, resilience to change and sustainability.

The first phase of the ten-year project has seen the start of restoration at Oakley Woods to help establish more native broadleaved trees. The initial work, supported by the Friends of Oakley Wood, included the removal of around one third of the conifer trees which were planted following World War II following a timber shortage. The 30 metre clearings aim to provide light and space for native trees to grow. Over the winter months the natural growth of the existing trees will be supplemented by further tree planting.

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust spokesman Karl Curtis said: "Warwickshire is among the least wooded counties in the UK, which makes the woodlands in this district precious not only in terms of the landscape, but also for the role they play in securing carbon, purifying the air we breathe and prevention of flooding. Working alongside Warwick District Council the Trust are advocates for sustainable woodland management and protecting and

encouraging wildlife habitats for biodiversity. One of the biggest threats to our woodlands would be a decision not to manage them, so while the current programme of work may appear destructive, the woodland will soon recover and attract a bigger range of wildlife and gain more resilience to pests, diseases and climate change."

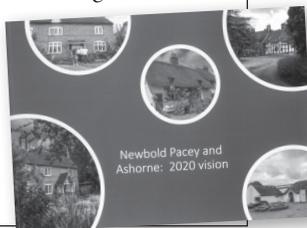
Warwick district councillor Moira-Ann Grainger added: "This is the start of an important long term strategy to protect and sustain our woodlands. After the Second World War, Oakley Wood was cleared and replanted with non-native conifers to remedy timber shortages. As a result, the woodland is all of the same age and therefore of limited use to wildlife, which benefits from a more diverse selection of native trees. Therefore, the work we are doing in partnership with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will help to restore, enhance and sustain this beautiful woodland for generations to come. During these works the contractors have avoided using the path network wherever possible and any areas that are disturbed will be repaired before works are completed, which will be before the start of the bird nesting season in March."surprised to say the least!

Newbold Pacey and Ashorne: 2020 vision

The 2020 project describing houses and families in the villages as they were in 2020 is now completed. The book 'Newbold Pacey and Ashorne: 2020 vision' has been compiled, approved, printed and provided to everyone who placed an order. The 54 page book includes beautiful photographs and fascinating information about 43 of the village's house.

The profit from the books has been divided between the Village Hall and St George's church and so far over £600 has been raised. The books were so popular before Christmas that we had to request a second print run and there are still a few copies available. The cost is £22.50 each - please contact kate@freeman.org.uk or 01926 650636.

One longstanding member of the village reported that it was a fascinating read and there was information in the book that even he didn't know about!



Deadline for next issue is March 15th. Please send items for inclusion to Christine Thornton, 1 The Green (Tel 651436) or Judy Cooper, High Paddock (Tel 651315). You are welcome to send items by email or on disc, as well as on paper. Email: jimandchris@gmail.com. or judycooper21@btinternet.com

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 150: JANUARY 2021

The Village Hall – roof finally finished!

Although the hall remains closed at present, progress is being made behind the scenes.

The roof is finally finished, scaffolding has been removed and the outside area tidied up. The Trustees' Buy a Tile Fund has now closed having raised a fantastic £6018.37 and the final name display is being prepared and will be on show in the committee room window before being placed in its permanent position inside the main hall. If you have bought a tile please check the display and get back to Jim and Chris by February 7th if there are any spelling mistakes.

The fund-raising by so many different individuals and groups which has allowed us to have this new roof is truly amazing, even more so given the difficult lock-down circumstances during which most of it took place. Thank you everybody.

During the lockdown we have been fortunate to receive government grants as well as the fundraising efforts so that we are now in a more secure financial position than we had expected. It would be great if, as a community, we could now turn our attention to the needs of the church.

Now that the hall is watertight we are having the kitchen painted and a new floor covering put down in the refurbished toilets. We are also looking at painting or replacing the stained ceiling tiles in the main hall so everything will look smart when we are finally allowed to re-open.

We do have some brand new toilets, cisterns

SPRING IS ON THE WAY...



and wash-hand basins surplus to our needs so if anybody is interested please contact Jim Thornton on 01926 651436 or email jimandchris@gmail.com.

Our AGM will be held via zoom on February 16th 2021 at 7pm. If you would like to have an invitation to join the meeting and hear about our activities and finances during the past year and outline plans for the future please let Jim and Chris know by February 8th. We desperately need new members to join the committee to keep the hall going. If you would like to be involved in working parties on maintenance and gardening, or organising and running social events or fund raising please do get in touch and we can send you an invitation to join the AGM zoom session.

If you would like to discuss things with a member of the current committee there is a list of members on the notice board at the village hall. It would be so nice to be prepared with ideas and plans for a village event when we can reopen.

PARISH CLERK'S UPDATE

Happy New Year readers. On behalf of Chairman Paul Brazel, Councillors, and myself, may I send you best wishes for what looks like another interesting year.

The Parish Council have hit the ground running and have already met. Where were you? We held our first Extra Ordinary meeting of the year on 6 January to discuss the budget for the forthcoming year (and years to come). I am pleased to report that it was a painless meeting, and the Council were unanimous when agreeing the final figures. I have posted a condensed copy of the budget on our website for you to peruse, should you wish to do so. On the website you will also find draft and final minutes from all of our meetings, Ward Member Anne Parry's regular updates and even past copies of the Village Hut News. Why not forward a link to our website to your loved ones outside the village so that they can keep up to date with our happening's?

Back to the budget for a moment, the Parish Council agreed a Precept for 2021-22 of £7090. This is an 8.84% increase on 2020-21. The Precept is the figure apportioned in your Council Tax payments for Parish Council spend. In the last year, The Parish Council accomplished rather a lot, including clearing the allotments and the extensive works on Ashorne Old School clock tower, returning it back to its former glory. At the meeting on 6 January Councillors also agreed to pay a grant of £350 towards the refurbishment of the ceiling above the toilets in the Village Hall where the Velux windows was replaced, and we have

money set aside to repair/replace the telephone box door frame and furnish it with shelving and to install a sub-water meter for Herd & Grow at the allotments when the weather allows. The 8.84% increase in Precept this year will allow us to cover the running costs of the Parish Council office and address this year's projects and to start saving for large future projects.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ Wednesday 17 February 2020 – Parish Assembly at 19.00 – via Zoom. The Parish Assembly is a less formal meeting and a great opportunity for residents to bring new ideas to the parish council. We are pleased to confirm that we have had confirmation that the WI, PCC and local Police will provide us with an update on the evening. See our website for more details nearer the date.

■ Wednesday 3 March 2021 – Ordinary Meeting at 19.30 – via Zoom.

KEEP IN TOUCH?

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Parish Council or have a new year's resolution to become an allotment holder please email me at npapclerk@gmail.com.

Remember: Hands – Face – Space and please keep safe.

Beverley Thorpe

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

There is a link to an interesting offer from SDC on our website – business training for new start-ups. Visit our website at www.npapc.co.uk

WI REPORT

For our Christmas meeting in December, we distributed goody bags containing festive treats and delicious Pam Cook mince pies to all members. Later that Thursday, we donned thinking caps to solve the mystery of the Great British Bump Off murder mystery on Zoom. Some members enthusiastically embraced creating characters such as Pete Statio, Mac O'Roon and Inspector Melandsue with fantastic fancy dress and great thespianship, whilst others asked probing questions to get at the truth! We downloaded the game from <https://www.red-herring-games.com/> Great fun.

Many of our members participated in the Village Advent Calendar event by dressing their windows with their given number – thanks to Jane Reading and Emma Willis for encouraging everyone to spread a bit of twinkly joy this Christmas.

We had hoped to hold our WI AGM and change officers in January 2021 but this has not been possible due to Coronavirus restrictions so we continue as we are for now and I look forward to handing over to my successor President in due course.

Our January Zoom meeting addressed The Importance of Vaccination. Amazingly apt as we had booked the speaker back in January 2020! We were joined by around ten members from neighbouring WIs. Our presenter was Shelia McSharry, Nurse Education Lead, Medicines Management at Warwick Hospital. Sheila's role (and passion in life) is to encourage public take up of the various vaccinations that keep us healthy.

Sheila gave a fascinating presentation explaining that vaccines began before 1800 with Edward Jenner's discovery that milkmaids were resistant to cowpox. She was particularly keen to promote the 'flu and shingles vaccines as well as MMR for our children and grandchildren pointing out that for robust herd immunity, we need 70% of the population to be inoculated.

In terms of the new Covid-19 vaccinations, Sheila took us through the timeline for development,

testing and production explaining each stage in detail and reassuring us that no corners had been cut. She pointed out that massive amounts of time had been saved due to 45,000 people coming forward in 24 hours to participate in trials. It is usually a very long process gathering people for trials. There were many questions and Sheila answered them fully, we all agreed we were seeing certain aspects of what a world without vaccines would look like.

We await the call to go for our vaccine!

Our Walking Group has not met since October but we look forward to what the spring may hold in terms of getting out into the countryside if restrictions are relaxed. Our Craft group is suspended at the moment but members continue to knit at home for prem babies at Warwick Hospital.

For our February meeting we are hoping to hear from Jane Neary who works with Assistance Dogs and in March we're due to find out 'How Not To Keep Honeybees' from Sarah Westmacott. But, as with everything this year, we will have a plan B in place!

Denman at Home

WI members and non-members alike are welcomed to join our new series of informative, entertaining shared virtual experiences in the comfort of your home. From cookery courses, craft demonstration, history lessons and activities for all the family. We have something to suit all tastes, and courses, from only £5 per session.

<https://www.denman.org.uk/>

We're still open for new members and guests – maybe online before in person! Contact Trish by phone for a chat or email: npandawi@gmail.com
Stay well, stay safe everyone

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Facebook: Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire
Instagram: @Newboldpaceyandashorne

Enrich your Garden this Winter!

Horse Manure available - free from straw and shavings. Drop off your bags/

wheelbarrows and we will fill them up for you.

Free or donation to St George's Church, Newbold Pacey. Supply available all winter.

Contact Clare on 651647 after 7pm.