

HAUGHTON

WINNER
BEST KEPT LARGE
VILLAGE IN
STAFFORDSHIRE
2011

Haughton Parish Council Newsletter

2012

March 2012

Best Kept Village Update

Following on from last year's tremendous success in the County Best Kept Village (BKV) competition, it is now time to restart the programme to defend Haughton's well-earned 2011 title for this new year.

The first step has been to appoint a programme coordinator to take over Peter Lawrence's role, who after 3 years, is taking a back seat this time, and we are pleased to announce that **Maxine Hutt** has agreed to take over the baton from Peter. Peter will however still be involved in the communication and publicity side of our BKV work.

Maxine's first step has been to schedule a number of "Pick-Me-Up" sessions. These are sadly not related to normal remedies (!!), but are to work with friends and neighbours to tidy up the village and help to retain our award — many people contributed to last year's successful campaign and it is hoped that even more will become involved in 2012.

The dates for the "Pick-Me-Up" sessions can be found at page 4 of this Newsletter.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact **Maxine on 780455**.

In addition to the BKV campaign, details will be announced in April for our own Best Kept Garden competition. Watch this space !!

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The trophies for the 2011 BKV win can now be seen in the Village Hall

Dog Fouling Issues

It is sad to have to report that there has recently been an increase in the instances where dog faeces have not been picked up by dog owners or walkers. This has been especially apparent near the village school, which of course means that children can be bringing the problem into the school on their shoes, or bringing the mess back to their homes.

This is an important issue and we, the Parish Council, feel that it is appropriate to re-emphasise the following main points:

- It is the responsibility of the owner or walker to clean up after their dog(s)
- By law, under the 2006 Dog Control Order, it is an offence to fail to remove dog faeces, punishable up to a maximum penalty of £1000 in a magistrate's court, or via an authorised officer of an authority who can issue a fixed penalty between £50 and £80. There is clearly a need for greater diligence in this area which we will be addressing.
- Throughout Houghton there are convenient supplies of dog gloves to help with this cleaning-up process and bins where the faeces can be left. This is all paid for by the Parish Council
- Once dog fouling has been picked up it must be put into one of the bins and not left on the pathway, roadside or hedge
- As well as being unsightly and unpleasant, dog faeces are dangerous to humans in that it can, on occasion, lead to contracting a disease known as toxocariasis. This can have several drastic effects including blindness and rheumatic, neurologic and asthmatic symptoms

Remember: dogs can't behave irresponsibly—only owners can.

For further information please access www.keepbritaintidy.org website and the reference to Dog Fouling and the Law

Update !!

Adult Exercise Equipment:

In addition to the above improvements, the Parish Council have an intention to install extra equipment in the Playing Field to provide exercise equipment for adults living in the village.

The survey for this has been completed, the grant application has been submitted and we await the outcome. More as soon as we hear.

Community Speedwatch

As you may already know, a Community Speedwatch programme has been in place for some time and has proved very effective in reducing the speed of vehicles travelling through the village along the A518. We now need additional volunteers to help with this work, so if you are willing to be involved, please get in touch with **Derek Butlin on 780662**.

Parish Website

Haughton Parish website was launched in July 2009. It is a developing resource for both residents of the parish and its surrounding areas and for visitors. It currently has fifty pages in twelve main sections. The Parish Council section carries important information, including contact details for Parish Councillors, the Freedom of Information Publicity Scheme, the Annual Report, the latest Newsletter and minutes of previous meetings. The comprehensive section on Best Kept Village showcases Haughton's successful 2011 campaign as well as providing details about this and previous years' campaigns. A large section on the Christmas Lights shows the splendour of the famous dis-

plays during the previous three seasons. The website contains sections on the church, the school, the village hall and other amenities, leisure, village groups and village history.

The webmaster, who is one of the Parish Councillors, will welcome comments and suggestions and in particular would be pleased to receive information and images for inclusion in the history section about parish places, events or people.

Please visit the website at www.haughton-staffs.org .

The webmaster can be contacted at webmaster@haughton-staffs.org

Road Closure

The Hextall Lane route from Ranton to the Stafford / Woodseaves road remains closed - a closure which started on the 23rd of January 2012 and will continue for a period of 14 weeks (i.e. until around 30th April) for bridge replacement. Diversions will be suitably signposted during this period.



The Olympic Torch

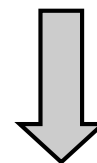
Will be carried through Haughton Village on the 30th May 2012, starting at 5.12pm. It will be carried from Station Road, along the A518 through the village to Prince Avenue, and then by convoy into Stafford.

More details will be provided as soon as we are informed.

Current Parish Councillors:

Chairman:	Mike Allen	780328
Vice-Chairman:	Derek Warbrick	780592
Treasurer:	Ian Sunley	780585
Gill Anslow		780371
Ian Forrester		780124
Mike Little		780594
Barry Stamp (also Borough Councillor)		822723
Clerk:	Julie Hill	282607

Key Dates



Parish Council Meetings:

Monday 26th March

Monday 23rd April (also the date of the Annual Parish Assembly)

Olympic Torch:

Wednesday 30th May

BKV 'Pick Me Up' sessions:

April:

Thursday 12th

Wednesday 25th

June:

Thursday 14th

Thursday 28th

May:

Thursday 3rd

Wednesday 16th

Wednesday 30th

July:

Friday 6th

If you would like to help out and provide much-needed support, please meet up at the Village Hall car park at 6.30pm on the above dates. Litter pickers and waste bags will of course be provided.