



# Houghton Parish Council Newsletter

2013

November 2013

## ...And then it was three ...

... Best Kept Village wins in a row for Houghton. The first time this has ever been done by any village in the Competition, making it six wins for our village since 1963, with 5 wins since year 2000.

The picture below shows our village viewed from a glider in July this year. It even looks good from 2000 feet in the air !!



So many congratulations to all involved in the BKV project, notably:

- Cllr. **Derek Warbrick** who led the project
- Cllr. **Gill Anslow** who handled information and publicity
- **Bert Moore** for the excellent Newport Rd. flower beds
- **Bob Swinnerton** who raised significant sponsorship
- **Reg Matthews** for maintenance of the Playing Field
- **John Hall** for meticulous grass-cutting of public areas
- **Tim Jones** for maintaining the churchyard and cemetery
- **Houghton Village Hall** for maintenance of the Hall and grounds
- **Houghton & District Garden Guild** for organising the Best Kept Garden competition and awarding prizes
- **St. Giles Church** for work on gates and railings
- **St. Giles Church Sunday School** for painting and planting flower pots at the church porch
- **Houghton St. Giles School** for planting and maintaining a flower bed on Rectory Lane, and
- **Peter Rowley** for school liaison and displaying the record number of 140 children's posters . . . . . and . . . . .

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**The trophies for all of the 2011, 2012 and 2013 BKV wins can now be seen in the Village Hall**

**UPDATE (continued) — And Then It Was Three . . . .**

. . . . . of course all of the residents in the village who contributed their time and effort in terms of making their own gardens look so good and those who helped with the numerous “litter-pick” evenings in what was a lovely summer. To one and all:



Haughton's achievement in the BKV Competition was further recognised by the presentation to Haughton of the Rubery Owens Holdings Trophy on the 20th September by Mr. David Owen OBE, Chairman of the Rubery Owens Holdings organisation. The Mayor of Stafford Borough, Councillor Angela Loughran, also attended this event and she expressed her appreciation of Haughton having brought the title of Best Kept Village to the Borough.



Vice Chairman of Haughton Parish Council Derek Warbrick receiving the BKV award from Mr. David Owen



Chairman of Haughton Parish Council Mike Allen with the Mayor Stafford Borough Angela Loughran and her consort



### Superfast Broadband Project

A number of residents have recently asked for an update regarding the implementation of the fast broadband service into the village. Sadly, we have not been informed of dates etc., but we have received a Project Newsletter which gives us a number of project management contacts that we can pursue, and there will be a Superfast Staffordshire project website launched soon that will give these details. Also, the Parish Council now have 2 Broadband Champions to liaise with the implementation team, and following the team presentation on Friday 22nd November, we should be in a much better position to reflect the project plans in greater detail. This will be covered in depth in the next Newsletter.

***Bits and Pieces . . . .***  
***various other items of Parish news***

***Two other awards for Haughton . .***

- St. Giles School won the best in Stafford District Summer Reading Challenge Cup
- The Bell won the best in Regional and West Midlands Public House in Bloom award

***Did You Know . . . . . ?***

. . . that Haughton are now the BKV Competition winners SIX times !! These were in 1963, 2000, 2004, 2011, 2012 and 2013! No other village comes close to this.

As well as entering the Best Kept Village (BKV) competition next year - and going for a record four in a row - the Parish Council will be entering the Heart of England Britain in Bloom competition in 2014. We have been in this previously and gained a Silver Gilt award, but we are now aiming for the top Gold Award. This should not mean any significant extra effort over and above the BKV event, but will clearly bring more prestige to our village. More news on this in future Newsletters.

**UPDATE — Jim Jarvis Playing Field facilities:**

The Parish Council has now agreed a project with the Borough Rights of Way department that Grassy Lane (i.e. the lane that runs alongside the Playing Field from Back Lane to the Playing Field car park) is to be covered with "planings" to create a proper pathway from that end of the Playing Field into the normal entrance. This is expected to be carried out within the next few weeks.

**And another date for your diary . . . .**

The Village Hall will be hosting light refreshments on the evenings of the 20th and 21st of December when the village Christmas lights are switched on, and given the excellence of the lights (surely we would win a "Best Christmas Lights" award if there was such a thing !), this is a date not to be missed.

2013

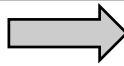


**Current Parish Councillors:**

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



**Key Dates:**



**Parish Council Meeting:**

Monday 25th November @ 7.00pm

**Village Hall and Christmas Lights Evenings:**

20th and 21st December