

HAUGHTON

WINNER
BEST KEPT LARGE
VILLAGE IN
STAFFORDSHIRE
2011

Haughton Parish Council Newsletter

September
2012

Best Kept Village 2012 — Haughton wins for the second time !!

The Parish Council is tremendously proud to announce that the village has — for the second year in a row — won the award for Best Kept Large Village 2012.

The results of the Best Kept Village (BKV) competition were announced at Weston Village Hall in August, with Haughton winning the award as **Best Kept Large Village** for the whole of Staffordshire.

In addition, as the competition for Stafford District itself (rather than the whole county) was so intense with very high standards throughout, Haughton and Derrington were jointly awarded the Stafford District trophy and Derrington also shared the Joint Best Small Village with Oakamoor.

This success for our village of course means that we will be able to retain the BKV "totem pole" near the junction of Church Eaton Road and A518 — but as this is a District award, it will be Haughton's for 6 months, then shared with Derrington.

Clearly it was difficult to win the BKV award for the first time in 2011, but to achieve it two years in a row is absolutely excellent, and this is largely down to a number of key members of the BKV team, our sponsors — as well as the many volunteers who helped with litter-picking, verge tidying and individual gardens (see page 2):

- ⇒ **Maxine Hutt** — who did a brilliant job in coordinating all of the 2012 BKV activities, having taken over from Peter Lawrence after his successful 2011 campaign.
- ⇒ **Peter Lawrence** — who carried on with his invaluable contribution to the BKV project, looking after communication and publicity for the project.
- ⇒ **Derek Warbrick** — who, as Vice Chairman of the Council, represented the BKV work and progress (and of course ensured funding!) within Parish Council meetings.
- ⇒ **Our Sponsors** — the many local businesses who generously sponsored the BKV work that was needed to ensure success.
- ⇒ **Yourselves as volunteers** — for all of the excellent work carried out over many weeks to make sure that the village looked its best, and — obviously — residents who created some of the fabulous gardens that impressed the judges so powerfully.

To all of you, please accept the Parish Council's heartfelt gratitude for this fine success. Well done !!

Inside this issue:

Best Kept Village 2012	1
Heart of England in Bloom	2
Best Kept Garden competition results	2
Street Lighting - Energy Conservation Initiative	3
Heart of England Certificate of Merit—Bert Moore	4
Adult Exercise Equipment	4
Support for St. Giles church	4
Parish Councilors	4
Key Dates	4



The trophies for the 2012 BKV win can now be seen in the Village Hall

Best Kept Village (continued)

Derek Warbrick receiving the Large Village County Award from David Owen, representing Rubery Owen, the main sponsor of the BKV competition



Heart of England in Bloom Award

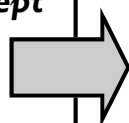
As well as our success in the Best Kept Village competition, Haughton has again been given a **Silver Gilt Award** from the Heart of England in Bloom organisation, part of the *RHS Britain in Bloom* programme. Amongst other comments, the HoE judges noted:

“We received a very warm welcome from Derek (Warbrick) and Peter (Lawrence) together with many other members of the Haughton community and especially liked Peter’s presentation on the project and the pictorial laminates given as supporting evidence. The well-organised route round the village gave a delightful and interesting overview of Haughton village, which is well cared for, has civic pride in abundance and is cherished by its proactive and inclusive community”.

The HoE judges made particular reference to several areas of achievement in the village, amongst which were:

- ⇒ *Vibrant, bold and innovative front gardens*
- ⇒ *The Newport Road bedding schemes*
- ⇒ *The Ash tree and BKV totem pole*
- ⇒ *Maintained lawns of St. Giles Church*
- ⇒ *Litter free streets and the volunteer work in managing this*
- ⇒ *The well-maintained Jim Jarvis playing field and the project to create this*
- ⇒ *The newly installed wild flower garden*
- ⇒ *Provisions for removal of dog waste*
- ⇒ *The ongoing (and successful) BKV projects*
- ⇒ *St. Giles School poster competition artwork*
- ⇒ *The oak Parish notice board*
- ⇒ *The frequent use of the HoE logo*

Haughton Best Kept Garden Competition



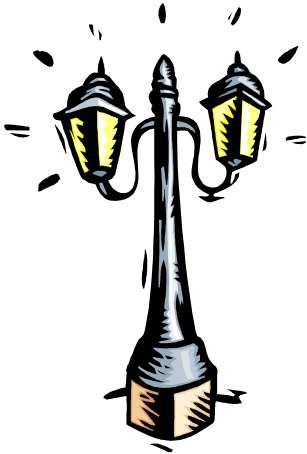
Residents of Haughton ran our own Best Kept Garden competition to stimulate people into the competitive spirit and support the BKV and HoE projects. The individual awards were:

Best Kept Garden — shared between Heysham Cottage (**Margaret Holt**) and I Meadow Drive (**Bert Moore**)

Best Kept Small Garden — Avoncroft, Newport Rd. (**Mike Davies**)

Best Hanging Baskets — School House, Newport Rd. (**Sue Keen**)

Highly Commended awards went to Oak Croft (**Janet Harris**), Rose Cottage (**Sue Edwards**) and Sunnyside (**Dave Curtis**)



Street Lighting — Operational Changes

In April 2012 Staffordshire County Council approved changes to the way its street lights would be operated in order to save energy, following a complete review of operations associated with the delivery of the Street Lighting PFI contract. The changes will mean that the majority of **new** street lights will be fitted with equipment which will reduce (dim) light output from late evening to early morning. This change programme will run from September 2012 until May 2028, and in addition — and where appropriate — **existing** street lights with high wattage lamps will be retrofitted with dimming equipment. Several steps are involved in this work:

Dimming (Forward Programme):

New equipment will always have dimming technology fitted in the instance of new developments or where existing lights have reached the end of their serviceable life and are being replaced.

Dimming (Retrofit Programme):

Existing street lights with high wattage lamps on “traffic routes” will have dimming equipment installed (e.g. the A518 through Haughton). Lower wattage lamps will not be addressed this way.

Part Night Switching:

Under the remit of the Government localisation agenda, the Parish Council can request the introduction of part-night switched lights (i.e. lights being switched off for a designated period of time), provided that the community supports the initiative. This switching can be done by whole street, alternative lights or by specified individual lights. This will be subject to approval by the County Council to ensure that safety standards are maintained.

Watch this space for further details of how we will be contacting the village community for their observations.

The regime which will cover the dimming or switching off is summarised as in column 2:

Dimming Regime

TRAFFIC ROUTES:	E.g. A518 in Haughton
Brightness Dimming:	From 100% to 50%
Timing:	8.00 pm to 6.00am
OTHER ROUTES:	(including residential streets)
Brightness Dimming:	In 2 stages: (A) From 100% to 75% (B) From 75% to 50%
Timing:	(A) 8.00 pm to midnight (B) Midnight to 6.00am

Part-night Switch off Regime:

TRAFFIC ROUTES:	Does NOT apply to A518
OTHER ROUTES:	(i.e. residential streets)
Brightness:	Completely switched off
Timing:	Off at midnight and switched back on at 5.30am

There are some restrictions which will apply to these regimes:

- ⇒ Roads with traffic calming measures, roads near a traffic island or adjacent to central carriageway islands or near bus stops. The regime in these instances will be to dim from 100% to 75% between midnight and 6.00am.
- ⇒ No dimming will apply to town centre locations, pedestrian subways, CCTV covered areas, near 24-hour emergency services or commuter locations such as railway/bus stations or taxi ranks.

Many congratulations go to Bert Moore, whose achievement in designing, planting and maintaining the flower beds of Haughton has been recognised and acknowledged by Heart of England in Bloom. The judges who visited the village on 27th July, were so impressed by the scale and beauty of Bert's work and by his hard work, dedication and commitment that they awarded him a Certificate of Merit.



Bert plays an indispensable role in the village, helping to achieve the high standards gained in both the Heart of England in Bloom and Best Kept Village campaigns. Not only does he produce enviable beds and borders in his own garden and in public areas, Bert also keeps grassy areas in trim and undertakes numerous maintenance tasks around the village. And that's just in the summer ... For many years Bert has turned his house and garden into a fairyland of Christmas lights, raising thousands of pounds for charity. Well done, Bert Moore, for this special award.



Adult Exercise Equipment

The Parish Council are now pleased to announce that the planned exercise equipment for Adults, mentioned a number of times in previous Newsletters, has now been delivered and installed in the Jim Jarvis Playing Field. Five items of kit are in place, and — needless to say — they are there to be used by yourselves whenever you like. Please make sure however, that you first read the guidance noticeboard located beside the equipment which will help you to make best use of the facilities. Enjoy.

Support for St. Giles Church.

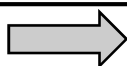
As you may be aware, the Parish Council actively support St. Giles Church in a number of ways, principally as regards BKV open-ground maintenance. However, it is important to acknowledge that the Church needs increased financial support, so the Parish Council would like to draw your attention to the letter being circulated by the Rector entitled "Giving for the Future" which highlights the overall fiscal situation that the Church finds itself in. Please read the Rector's letter.

Current Parish Councillors:

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



Key Dates:



Parish Council Meetings:

Monday **22nd October 2012**