

Lickey & Blackwell Parish Council NEWSLETTER



Number 54 December 2013



Christmas Competition Winners
Country Park Diary
Local Bus Service at Risk
Youth Parish Council Invitation

PC Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm with a councillor available from 7.10pm
Meetings include allotted time for questions from the public – all residents are most welcome to attend.
Forthcoming dates for 2014: January Recess • 3rd February, Lickey • 3rd March, Blackwell • 7th April, Lickey
www.lickeyandblackwellpc.org www.facebook.com/lickeyandblackwellcouncil

foreword



It is that time of the Parish Council year when we set our budget for the next year. We are all constantly reminded of the cuts facing the District and County Councils and are therefore trying to build some resilience into our budget to ameliorate where possible any adverse effect on our residents. As we go to print, it has been agreed that there will be no increase in the precept for 2014-15.

I should like to personally thank all those who work for the Parish Council, both paid and unpaid – and it is quite a list! Our Executive Officer, Councillors, lengthsman, litter collectors, newsletter designer and deliverers, those on the neighbourhood planning forum, and all those who mow, plant and design our public spaces. And anyone else working quietly and unseen to improve our Parish... You can see what a team we have working on your behalf.

Finally, there is a new site for our Blackwell Christmas tree in St Catherine's Church grounds. So now we have planted a live tree, saving residents money in the future, and also making the annual children's Christmas walk from the tree lighting to the school safer.

On that festive note may we wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

—Councillor Jill Harvey
Chair

social services & communications



Youth Parish Council

Are you between 13 and 18 years and interested in your local community? Maybe studying History, Geography or Politics (though this is not essential) and with some ideas about how our parish might be improved from a young person's viewpoint? For more information and to register an interest in a proposed Youth Parish Council please get in touch with Helen Doherty, executive officer.

Facebook

We are finding our new facebook page useful for passing on information about local events, especially the numerous

Christmas events, and calls for action eg the need to respond to the proposed cuts to bus subsidies, which could in that worst scenario leave Blackwell without a bus service. Thank you also to the resident, who used it to alert

us to an accident at the St Catherine's Rd/Spirehouse Lane junction. Please like the page and look it up when you have time so that it becomes a really useful community message board. www.facebook.com/lickeyandblackwellcouncil



Buses at risk!

Following its proposal to end bus subsidies, Worcestershire County Council is currently holding a consultation until 17th January 2014 on the future of our county bus services.

The following subsidised services in our area are involved:

Service 181 – school days only to St Bede's, Redditch from Blackwell via Lickey

Service 145 – Bromsgrove-Longbridge via Lickey End, Burcot, Blackwell, Barnt Green and Cofton Hackett. 40,419 passengers last year, subsidised by £1.66 per passenger per journey

Service 182 – Lickey-Redditch via Cofton Hackett/Barnt Green

If the County goes ahead with its plans to end subsidies, there needs to be alternative suggestions to keep the buses running. It is unthinkable that local residents, who depend on our bus service, should be left with no transport.

Your parish council has responded to the consultation pointing out that the 145 service is our vital link between Bromsgrove and Birmingham & that the non-drivers of not only Blackwell but Burcot, Barnt Green and Cofton Hackett would be confined to the villages if it were discontinued.

Neighbourhood Forum

During 2014, the Neighbourhood Plan group will, by invitation, be visiting local community groups' meetings and events to explain what they are doing and how you can help them to produce a plan which will be acceptable to our residents and useful in guiding Bromsgrove Strategic Planning policies. So far they have made presentations to Lickey Hills Local History Society, Blackwell residents, Lickey residents, Blackwell and Burcot WI, Cofton Hackett PC, Lickey Hills Society and Lickey Community Group. If your group would like a short presentation or would like to join us, please contact group chair, Councillor Nick Forknell.

The Plan will be compliant with the Bromsgrove District Plan (BDC) (expected to be finalised next year) but will be led by local residents, representing views about such issues as where and how much development is wanted. Plans for improvements to local services can be included. It must be sustainable ie economically and environmentally viable. When written, it must be accepted by at least 50% of those residents voting in a referendum organised by BDC. Whilst the local planning authority was not legally required to follow the recommendations of the Parish Plan, written six years ago, the NP must be considered by the Strategic Planning team when any future development in the parish is proposed. The expectation is that by identifying sites, which would not be contentious, the Plan will end the sometimes adversarial aspect of local development.

Christmas Competition Results

This year's topic, 'Up My Street', was chosen with our Neighbourhood Plan in mind and gave the opportunity to discover how our children see their home area and the community.

Blackwell First School entries included an excellent Blackwell Village Monopoly game, a well drawn map and a view through a window.

Lickey had an illustrated poem, a street scene and a story of local highwaymen alongside a model of Lickey Monument reminding us all of our local heritage, which our young artists encouraged us to respect.

BLACKWELL WINNERS

Under 7 years - 1st Eleanor Moody
2nd Kaitlyn Tiffany

3rd (joint) Toby Schroeder, Frankie Carroll,
Martha Durcan and Gabriel Simmond
over 7 years - 1st Ginny Carroll

2nd Isobel Durcan

3rd (joint) Rebecca Tiffany and Cara Hanrahan
entrants: Darcy McNeill and Erin Shiels

LICKEY WINNERS

under 7 years - 1st Hayden Bethel
over 7 years - 1st Lauren Bethel

2nd joint entry by Monica Bennett, Ava Baron
and Poppy Edwards

Residents' Meeting

Our third tea party for over 60's living in the parish will be from 2 to 4pm on Thursday 13th February at Barnt Green Cricket Club. Our Neighbourhood Forum team will be telling us about their work on the Neighbourhood Plan on the future of Lickey, Blackwell, Burcot and Cofton Hackett. This is a free event but a limited number of places are available. Please book, letting us know if transport is required, with Helen Doherty, executive officer.

Best Front Garden 2014

Judging of every front garden in the parish will take place in the first two weeks in July. The prize giving, which is open to all, will be in early September – more details to follow.

Helping us all to save money

During the last few years the number of newsletters being delivered on foot has steadily risen saving us all money. Currently around 80% are delivered in this way but some of our gated properties are difficult to access. Would any residents of Fairlight Drive; Ferndale Gate; Greenhurst Drive; Lickey Grange and Lord Austin Drive be prepared to deliver just to their neighbours four times per year, please?

—Councillor Janet King

Come,
It is time to put up lights,
To reach up hands
And stand on toes,
To travel fingers through old boxes,
Find old feelings,
Hang them high.

Take the way back
Where the snow lies
All outside,
And fire logs lose
A thousand embers
In their glowing,

For we have been this way before
When it was winter
And the darker times came close,
Found our way, hands in mittens,
To a softened core which waited
For our honesty to join.

For what is Christmas but the honest time?
Each little light, hung up
And saying, bravely
'Here I am, come and see',
Put up those lights then,
In honesty, with love
And do not be afraid
For all the rest will do it too,
A wave of truth across the world,
Remarkable for its innocence
Profound in its simplicity.

James Smith, Poet in Residence

Letter to the Editor

Living in the Lickey area I appreciate the rural setting of our locality. However I cannot understand how residents with houses worth £500k plus cannot cut their hedges back from footpaths and keep their grass verges cut and in a neat condition. Do they expect the County Council to do it for them? They could be waiting a long time. I live in a gated community in the area and we employ a gardener to keep our frontage clear of litter and the grass cut. However other residents on the road leave litter lying in the ditches and the grass banks and hedgerows are overgrown and never cut back. In some instances I have seen branches and grass cuttings dumped on their verges by residents or gardeners.

When will people start to take a pride and responsibility for the area in front of their house and not just their own house and garden behind their fence?

What's Happened to the Community Spirit???

—Lickey Resident



Bus Shelter News

The Parish Council have been considering a new bus shelter in Blackwell for some months. A suitable position was identified in consultation with the County Highways Department. However, at our November meeting the Council voted against its purchase. The decision was not unanimous but those voting against felt that it was not an appropriate use of funds given the threat to the local bus services that may result from likely budget cuts. Councillors also took into account strong opposition from neighbouring residents.



On a more positive note, the bus shelter next to the Trinity Centre in Lickey has been given a face lift. Encroaching vegetation has been cut back, windows repaired and the whole shelter has been given a fresh coat of paint. Although not the prettiest shelter it definitely looks better!

Autumn Walk

This year's lovely autumn colours were enjoyed by walkers as David Crockett, parish tree warden, led the PC annual Autumn Walk.



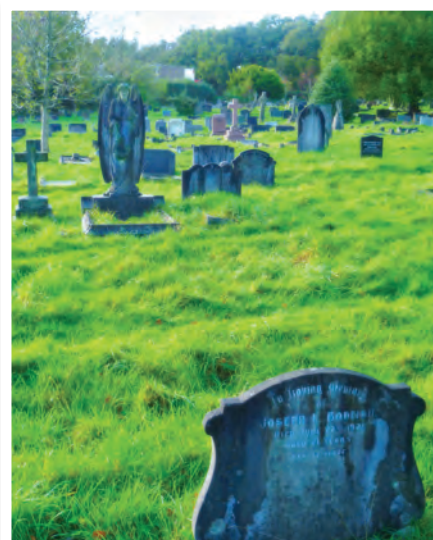
Pictured are three walkers having a well earned rest on Spirehouse Lane just after spotting a deer in the woods. Watch out for the date of the PC Spring walk in our next issue.

Lickey Churchyard Extension

The Churchyard extension is being managed to promote wild flowers. During the growing season the paths will be mown monthly but the rest of the area will be left so that flowers can grow and propagate. The whole area will be cut in August and October. Wild flower plugs will be planted in the spring to increase diversity.

Seeds are available to our residents if anyone would like to grow wild flowers for themselves.

—Councillor Jo Eales



highways



Our Parish Roads

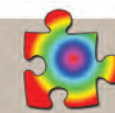
The speed of traffic at specific locations within the parish is of paramount concern to our residents. Our 'Vehicle Activated Sign' (VAS) warns motorists who exceed the designated speed limit, as well as recording the numbers involved. Analysis of the data collected shows that the warning sign does reduce the number of speeding vehicles initially but then it appears that it becomes 'accepted' and numbers climb again.

The County Council have just reviewed some potential new sites and Old Birmingham Road, Linthurst Newtown and Spirehouse Lane have been approved, but not Monument Lane. We are also expecting to borrow a portable VAS so that we can monitor more closely the effect of warning motorists of their actual speed. If results show that such a sign would be effective then the Parish Council will look to purchase one for permanent installation. No doubt as the winter progresses we will start to have more problems with potholes. May we remind residents that reporting of potholes can be done through the County website (page 7) – the more reports received, then the sooner holes are filled. The same applies to the reporting of empty grit bins, though between the County and our lengthsman, we hope that this will not occur.

On the subject of potholes, the part of Warren Lane behind Holy Trinity Church, Lickey has always been in a terrible condition, largely as it is unadopted. After much lobbying we now have a promise for a two stage improvement which should provide a much better surface by the Spring 2014.

—Councillor Nick Forknell

around the parish



Blackwell Craft Fair

This annual craft event relocated to Burcot this year for its thirtieth fair and raised £100 for Barnt Green Day Care. To mark Bromsgrove's new status as an official Fairtrade Town the theme this year was 'Trading Fairly' and a stall selling Fairtrade goods was present. A monthly Traidcraft stall may be found at our churches all year round.

Children in Need

Some of our local schools have been busy helping other children this year. Congratulations to Lickey Hills Primary School, who raised £682 at a Pyjama Day making cakes and films and enjoying dancing.

And, the Blackwell Montessori group made beautiful little Pudsey biscuits to raise £96 for the popular charity.



Blackwell Christmas Carols

There will be a traditional outdoor Carol Singing, Sunday 15th December at 4pm at St. Catherine's Church. The carolers will journey through the village ending up at Blackwell Club for refreshments around 6pm.

Wassail at the Lickeys

A date for your 2014 diary – Friday 17th January 4:30- 6pm to mark the completion of the Lickey Hills Country Park orchard. To ensure a good and bountiful harvest come and join the Rangers in this centuries old rural tradition where we make merry and celebrate the fecundity of orchards. In no particular order bring your children, families and friends, warm clothes and wellies, a sense of humour, a pan and a wooden spoon to drum out a noise, your finest singing voices, a torch and if you wish, bring a libation such as apple juice or cider. Meet at the Visitor Centre, Warren Lane.

Post early for Christmas

We have been assured by the Royal Mail that we will have a new post box in St Catherines Road by the beginning of January 2014.

Blackwell Baby and Toddler Group

This new self-run group meets from 10.00 to 11.20am every Wednesday during term time at Blackwell Methodist Hall, Greenhill. All mums, dads and grandparents are welcome and costs are just £1.50 for adult and child and 50p for extra children.

For more details, please contact Katie on 07790 223409.

An excellent school report

Our congratulations go to Hunters Hill Technology College staff and students for being awarded an 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Are You a Pub Superstar?

Blackwell Festival steering group is organising this event on Saturday 1st February at 2.00pm at Blackwell Club to raise funds for this year's summer Festival. All you have to do is find a team of four players to compete (£20 per team) at four games ie darts, dominoes, pool and snooker. The winning team becomes this year's Pub Superstars. Everyone welcome. Please like the Blackwell Pub Superstars facebook page to register your team.

Burcot Grange

Burcot Grange plays an active part in our Parish community. Residents and staff alike know that their lives are blessed and always seek ways to share that blessing with the wider community. In the summer, residents joined the people of Blackwell at the hugely successful 'Blackwell by the Sea' festival, and links have been forged with the village school through reading schemes.



As residents and staff prepare for Christmas, their thoughts reached out to children across the world who would not be enjoying the blessings and security they would enjoy at Christmastime. "How could they help?", they asked activities co-ordinators Maggie Cuthbertson and Jemma Kilvinton. The answer was for them to join with local churches Holy Trinity Lickey and St Catherine's Blackwell to prepare Shoe Boxes for 'Operation Christmas child'. These boxes full of seasonal delights will be sent to children around the world.

Residents Mrs Veronica Anson, Miss Pat Tidey Hamilton, Mrs Lily Williams, Mrs Mary Mudie, Mrs Jan Gregson, Mrs Margaret Church, Mrs Penny Gillett and Miss Knight, knitted beautiful blankets and filled many boxes. Sue Davies and myself from our Parish church were delighted to collect the boxes from Burcot.

—Councillor Paul Clarke

Community Minister Lickey and Blackwell churches

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY PARK
The Lickey Hills Country Park diary 2013
– a momentous year...

Winter

... crept in with freezing temperatures but that didn't stop our intrepid *friends of groups* helping celebrate our new Orchard (supplied by Birmingham Trees for Life after the *Lickey Hills Society* sponsored another at Cofton Park) on old 'Twelthey Night' (17th January). Pots were banged, trumpets blown, the Gloucestershire Carol was sung and libations were poured over trees and down throats (non-alcoholic for people and cider for trees, of course). All this was done to ensure the trees knew what to do and in the hopes of a bountiful harvest. The snow came and we spent a lot of time dealing with stuck cars, sledging accidents and injuries. And, lovely 4x4 drivers who decided to rally over the hills without opening the gates first. Bless.

We organised a Waseley walk in beautiful sunshine. Big businesses send staff to do worthy conservation work to promote and preserve the habitats of our smaller residents. All of our work was supplemented by the hard work of our own Conservation Group '*Habitat Heros*' (we meet on Tuesdays if you want some fresh air/good company). Unfortunately, walking round we found some sick looking plants. We have been battling for the last 3 years to stop the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* a fungus like organism that infects and kills plants – main three being Rhododendron, Bilberry and Larch. So far we've had our fingers crossed that we had beaten it, how wrong we were to be proved. FERA (Food & Environment Research Agency) came out and tested the plants concerned leading to the part closure of Bilberry Hill and the destruction of a quarter of an acre of plants to stop the disease spreading. Unfortunately, we were not helped by some of our visitors breaking down or cutting through restricted access fences.

Again, as Easter approached, we were hit with another helping of snow and us helping stuck motorists, clearing up broken sleighs (some 5 tons of debris) and those unfortunate enough to be injured by the freezing weather.

Spring

... although officially here, it still felt as if we were twinned with the North Pole. Easter arrived; we had some very busy events thanks to a computer error (89 people for the bug event – almost four times that expected). Easter Monday saw the arrival of new member of staff, Penny Marriott, and a baptism of fire as by mid-day every car park space was full.

Good weather was here and the park was in full bloom. Morris Dancers danced on the hills, bleary eyed visitors listened to the Dawn Chorus, heathlands were maintained, work commenced on the reconstruction of the Rose & Crown Pools and *Green Flags* were retained – now 14 years in a row! The weather went from freezing to boiling and we from snow clearing to fire fighting. Phytophthora was surveyed for, Geo Cashers CITO'ed (Cash IN Trash Out a clever way of enticing people to litter pick) and we started our bit to tackle obesity in children with our '*Little People in Parks*' scheme. The sad fact is three in ten children under the age of five in Birmingham are clinically obese. Over this age the figure increases exponentially.

In conjunction with '*Be Active*' and the NHS through the *StartWell* programme, we decided to tackle this by getting children into our parks doing healthy activities. Parents and the staff at children's nurseries were given ideas and activities that were resource free and were fun and easy. We are busy delivering Little People in Parks to the children's centres across Northfield and supporting them. In conjunction with the *Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country* Nature Improvement Areas were identified at Cock Hill, Rubery Cutting and Kings Norton Local Nature Reserve, and work started.

Summer

... it rained, followed by scorching weather again with more fires and fire fighting. The hard landscaping work on the pools neared completion and *The Lickey Hills Society* (TLHS) supported us by supplying half a new boat house roof and three new duck houses (Conservative ministers take note TLHS can produce them for a fraction of the cost and they look good). Additionally, they also donated some new entrance signs for the hills. Corporate volunteers repaired fences, worked on pools and created new habitats. Birmingham's Parks entered *Entente Florale* as the UK entrant and won (a good sign for Euro vision song contest?). *Live Action Role Players*, seen around in strange costumes with latex swords, inhabited the Toposcope to add an extra thrill to the *International Geo Cashers* seeking their way across the hills on an August evening. Gold was found in them there hills (Goblin Gold; Schistostega pennata a glow in the dark moss – this is only the second recorded for Worcestershire).

After a routine fly-over from the *Forestry Commission*, bad news – the disease had spread to our Larch Trees. Six trees were infected but to stop the spread they issued us with a *Plant Health Notice*. All Larch trees within a 100 metre radius of any infection. By September, some 320 trees were felled after much hard work from the City's Woodland Team and our contractors. We will take this very negative situation and turn it into a positive when we re-plant early next year.

In addition, bats were listened to courtesy of TLHS again for buying new bat detectors, weird rock formations were found in quarries and more work was done on preserving our heathlands.

Autumn

... arrived along with Crossbills and Brambling, work continued apace on dealing with the virus with the removal of Rhododendron and preparations are being made for the arrival of Santa. Over the year we had over 900 volunteers help with planned site habitat management work, which equates to 677 days of work, 283 were corporate volunteers. We held 25 public events attracting 1,976 participants. We hosted 37 different schools/1,503 pupils of which 14 schools/813 pupils worked with a Ranger.

I am pretty sure I have missed some important bits out, it has been a busy year and next year will prove challenging with the cuts that are coming to Birmingham City Council.

The one thing I need to do before I finish is thank our volunteers – without them we wouldn't achieve half the things we do.

Steve

–Steve Hinton, Senior Ranger
Lickey Hills Country Park

Birmingham Parks, including the Lickey Hills, are under threat – have your say by 10th Jan 2014: www.birminghambeheard.org.uk

Lickey and Blackwell Parish Councillors			
Mrs Jill Harvey, chair Lickey Monument Ward (p+c)	36 Rose Hill, Lickey B45 8RR	0121 453 5838	jh@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mrs Kathryn Crockett, vice chair Lickey Grange Ward (f)	344 Old Birmingham Road, Lickey B45 8ES	0121 445 5965	kc@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mr Paul Clarke Shepley Ward (c)	c/o Trinity Centre, 411 Old Birmingham Road, Lickey B45 8ES	0121 439 3423	pc@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Ms Jo Eales Linthurst Ward (e+h+p)	Pinfield House, Cherry Hill Road, Barnt Green B45 8LL	0121 445 5754	je@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mr Nick Forknell Lickey Monument Ward (h+e)	40 Pine Grove, Lickey B45 8HE	0121 439 9324	nf@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mr Peter Harvey Lickey Grange Ward (f)	36 Rose Hill, Lickey B45 8RR	0121 453 5838	ph@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Mrs Janet King Linthurst Ward (c+p)	110 Linthurst Newtown, Blackwell B60 1BS	0121 445 2802	jk@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Vacant ~ Linthurst Ward	details from EO, below		
Vacant ~ Shepley Ward	details from EO, below		
Mrs Helen Doherty Executive Officer	27 Blackwell Road, Barnt Green, Birmingham B45 8BT	0121 445 1849	eo@lickeyandblackwellpc.org
PC Groups: environment • finance • highways • planning • communications/social services (group lead underlined)			
for parish editorial matters contact the Executive Officer, above			
Bromsgrove District Council			
Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcs B60 1AA	01527 873 232	www.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk	
Cllr. Dr. Brian Cooper, 6 Lord Austin Drive, Marlbrook, Bromsgrove B60 1RB – Marlbrook Ward	07711 014 820	b.cooper@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk	
Cllr. Mr Richard Deeming, 502 Groveley Lane, Cofton Hackett, B'ham B45 8UB – Hillside Ward	0121 445 3114	r.deeming@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk	
Cllr. Mr Stuart Dudley, Old Wharf Cottage, Brockhill Lane, Tardebigge, B'grove B60 1SL – Hillside Ward	01527 867 860	s.dudley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk	
Cllr. Mr John Ruck, The Cottage, Top Road, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove B61 0RB – Marlbrook Ward	0121 457 8026	j.ruck@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk	
Cllr. Mr Kit Taylor, 22 Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4LX – Linthurst Ward	01527 879 339	k.taylor@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk	
Worcestershire County Council			
County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP	01905 763 763	www.worcestershire.whub.org.uk	
Cllr. Mrs Sheila Blagg, Nailers Cottage, 29 Whetty Lane, Rubery, B'ham B45 9DL – Woodvale Division	0121 460 1766	sblagg@worcestershire.gov.uk	
Cllr. Mr Peter McDonald, 10 Waseley Road, Rubery, B'ham B45 9TP – Beacon Division	0121 453 9267	pmcdonald2@worcestershire.gov.uk	
Cllr. Mr Kit Taylor, 22 Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4LX – Bromsgrove East Div.	01527 879 339	ktaylor3@worcestershire.gov.uk	
Member of Parliament			
Mr Sajid Javid MP House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA	01527 872 135	sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk	
Community Contacts			
Age UK, 51 Windsor Street, Bromsgrove, Worcs B60 2BJ	01527 570 490	www.ageuk.org.uk	
Artrix Arts Centre, School Drive, Bromsgrove, Worcs B60 1AX	01527 577 330	www.artrix.co.uk	
Blackwell First School, St. Catherines Road, Blackwell, Worcs B60 1BN	0121 445 1622	www.blackwellfirstschool.com	
Bromsgrove Library, Stratford Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs B60 1AP	01527 575 855	www.acbromsgrove.org.uk	
Citizens' Advice Bureau, 50 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 0DD	01527 831 480	www.citizensadvice.org.uk	
Lickey Hills Primary School, Old Birmingham Road, Lickey, Birmingham B45 8EU	0121 445 1992	www.lickeyhillsprimary.i.k.gov	
Neighbourhood Watch – Adrian Symonds, Community Volunteers Co-ordinator	01905 331 046	www.westmercia.police.uk	
Parish Footpaths Warden – David Crockett	public footpath issues – contact Executive Officer		
Parish Tree Warden – Mrs Topsy Hughes	0121 445 4944	topsyanna@live.co.uk	
Police, Blackwell – Bromsgrove Police Station, 17 The Crescent B60 2DF	101	www.westmercia.police.uk	
Police, Lickey – Rubery Police Station, 164 New Road B45 9JA			
Rural Rides, 9 Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 7JJ	01527 879 290	www.wrvs.org.uk	
Trinity Centre, 411 Old Birmingham Road, Lickey B45 8ES	0121 445 1425	www.lickeychurch.com	
Worcestershire County Council Highways Dept – reporting potholes etc.	www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/resident-home.aspx		

noticeboard



BLACKWELL AND BURCOT WI

We meet at 2pm on the second Wednesday at Burcot Village Hall with an interesting programme of talks, visits, crafts and sports

Jan 8 Switzerland and the Bernese Oberland: video presentation by Howard Drury

Feb Fairtrade Bromsgrove Barbara Hayes and Art Lavelle

Mar Musical Memories with Colin Bell at the keyboard

Vanessa Jackson, 447 9888.

BLACKWELL CONCERT BAND

Regulars at our Lickey Tree Lighting

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Concert 7pm, Blackwell Club Vicky Stock, 244 1662 stock.vicky@yahoo.co.uk www.blackwellconcertband.co.uk

BLACKWELL FIRST SCHOOL

St Catherine's Road, Blackwell B60 1BN

Dec 23 - Jan 6 Christmas Holidays 445 1622

www.blackwellfirstschool.com

BLACKWELL SCOUT GROUP (4TH BROMSGROVE)

Blackwell and Lickey Scout groups meet at the Hut, St Catherine's Rd., Blackwell. Scout troops are open to boys and girls of all interests and abilities.

- Beaver Scout Colony 6 – 8 years Thurs 6-7pm.
- Cub Scouts Pack 8 – 10½ years Weds 6.45-8.15pm
- Scouts Troop 10½ – 14 years Thurs 7.15-9pm www.4thbromsgrove.org.uk/
- 1st Lickey Scout Group runs three sections on Tues. info@1stlickey.org.uk
- Explorer Scouts is organised at the District level and 1st Blackwell Scouts feed into the Shackleton Unit based at Blackwell Court.

BLACKWELL CLUB

Linthurst Newtown CAMRA Club of the Year 2013!

Dec 24 Blackwell Concert Band, see above

Details about all year round events 445 2134



BLACKWELL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Blackwell Methodist Hall Thursday evening 7.30pm. Tables & equipment supplied – just turn up. £1 all ages & abilities are welcome.

Janet King, janet@kingfamily.mail1.co.uk

BROMSGROVE AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Jan 4 New Year's Party 7.30pm at Barnt Green Parish Hall

Jan 25 Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs Pantomime, Droitwich

Jun 7-10 Twinning visit to St Sauveur-Lendelin, Normandy - info/bookings: Roger Westbury, 447 7455 www.bromstwin.gov.uk

FRIDAY BRIDGE CLUB

7pm each Friday at Burcot Village Hall. Friendly competition, beginners and visitors welcome.

Gill Croft, 01527 401 019

KEEP FIT (50+YRS)

Monday eves at Methodist Church Hall, Greenhill. Ann Gwynne.

THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH AND ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH

Jan 12 Epiphany Party, family fun and games, Trinity Centre 4-6pm

Feb 1 Breakfast, Trinity Centre 9-11am, free with donations going to CM Fund

Mar 1 Coffee, Cake & Craft, Holy Trinity 10.30-noon

Mar 2 Pancake Party, Trinity Centre 4-6pm

Alison Rushton, 445 6170

email: alisonjr59@hotmail.com

Service times: www.lickeychurch.com

LIBRARY SERVICE

- The 'delivered to your door' service operates in our area. If you cannot visit a local library, contact 01905 822722 to join or www.worcestershire.gov.uk
- Local Mobile Library Van – see above panel.

- Rubery Library open Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday, various times. Reading club email: ruberylib@worcestershire.gov.uk 01905 822 722

LICKEY & BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Monthly meetings, are open to all residents with a consultation period beforehand and an opportunity to speak during the meeting.

Feb 13 Over 60's Tea Party 2pm, Barnt Green Cricket Club inc Neighbourhood Plan talk

Helen Doherty, 445 1849

LICKEY CHURCH WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Trinity Centre, Lickey 1st and 3rd Wednesday 2.15-3.45pm. Speakers, craft activities, quizzes and charity events.

Sandra Smith, 445 1425

LICKEY COMMUNITY GROUP

The Lickey Community Group was formed in 2000 by local residents keen to improve the local area and community in Lickey & Marlbrook The future of Marlbrook Tip is of particular concern at present. Contact Mike Adams mwadams@pipex.com www.lickeycommunitygroup.btck.co.uk

LICKEY HILLS ART SOCIETY

Longbridge Methodist Hall, Bristol Road, Rednal, B45 9TY (nr. Kidderminster Carpets). First Saturday each month at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

Graham Wilson, 463 7097

enquiries@lickeyhillsartsociety.co.uk

LICKEY HILLS COUNTRY PARK

Visitor Centre, Warren Lane, Lickey B45 8ER 445 6036

• Park Events

Jan 11 Lickey's 5 Peak Challenge 11am-3pm, 7 mile walk. Stout footwear/bring lunch. Meet Visitor Centre

Feb 15 Waseley Wander 11am-3pm, winter's walk 6 miles, stout footwear/bring lunch. Meet Visitor Centre

Feb 17 & 21 Kids Half-Term Activities 11am-1pm go wild in the woods - booking essential, meet Visitor Centre.

Mar 3 Skywatch, Birmingham Astronomical Soc. 7.30pm Explore the night sky with powerful telescopes, slide shows + Star Dome Visitor Centre - limited tickets on sale at 7.30pm

MOBILE LIBRARY 2014

STOPS AT ORCHARD CROFT, BARNT GREEN

TUESDAY 1.55 - 2.20PM

THEN REDNAL SOCIAL CLUB, COFTON HACKETT

2.30 - 3PM

7 & 28 JAN, 18 FEB, 11 MAR, 1 & 22 APR, 13 MAY

• Habitat Heros

Every Tuesday 10-2pm. Join our conservation volunteer team, learn new skills. Tools & training provided – booking essential

• Lickey Hills Geo-Champions

details from centre

www.birmingham.gov.uk/lickeyhills

LICKEY HILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Trinity Centre, Lickey each second Monday at 7.30pm

Dec 17 Christmas Party, inc reports on members local research. Mince pie & hot punch.

Jan 21 'The Archaeology of Birmingham – an update on the Past', Mike Hodder, Birmingham CC Planning Archaeologist

Feb 18 'Brother William: the Life of a 12th Century Monk in Bordesley Abbey', Dave Wilkins

Visitors: £3 per meeting.

George Gascoyne, 453 6320 www.lhlhs.org.uk

LICKEY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Old Birmingham Road, Lickey B45 8EU

Term times & events:

445 1992 www.lickeyhillsprimary.ik.org

LICKEY HILLS SOCIETY

Meet at Trinity Centre, Lickey at 7.30pm and for practical work as advertised. Visitors welcome.

Jan 20 Lickey Incline, Edwin Gumbley 7.30pm, presentation based on 20th century postcards

Mar 2 Heathland Clearance, practical session, 10am meet Visitor Centre.

LICKEY WI

Meet at Trinity Centre, Lickey at 7.30pm first Tuesday - theatre/cinema visits, skittles and bowling matches.

2014 programme: www.lickeywi.moonfruit.com

LICKEY WINE AND SOCIAL CIRCLE

Burcot Village Hall 8pm last Thursday. Talks, quizzes, games, themed evenings and making your own wine. Sheila, 445 5436

MIXED AEROBICS AND FITNESS

Every Wednesday at 7pm at Blackwell Methodist Hall. The fun way to keep fit £3.50pp.

Richard Daley, 07957 419 389

ROSEHILL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY

Trinity Centre, Lickey 2pm second Monday.

Demonstrations and refreshments – visitors welcome. Belinda Winroope 447 7477

ST CATHERINE'S, BLACKWELL WI

The Wheel, St Catherine's at 7.30pm third Thursday.

Varied programme of talks, craft projects and visits.

Jules Evans 01527 576 261

YOGA AND MEDITATION CLASSES

Yoga: Mon & Wed 7pm; Learn to Meditate: Mon 8.30pm at Blackwell First School and Wed 12.45 at Barnt Green Scout & Guide Centre.

Sally Wall, 07903 663 085

Further information on parish activities can be found on our website. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the PC and its councillors disclaim all liability for damages arising from information supplied and recommend checking with the relevant group.

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