



Helen, en route to Amsterdam to raise money for Jessie's Fund

Helen hits Holland

You may have read in the July/Aug issue of The Village magazine

that Helen Higginson of Barnt Green and her 17-year old grandson Thomas Wilde were about to embark on the "Amsterslam 10" cycle ride to raise money for Jessie's Fund, a UK charity that helps seriously ill and disabled children by using music for communication and therapy.

We're happy to report that Helen and Thomas successfully completed the four day 250 mile ride from York to Amsterdam and back, raising more than £2000 for Jessie's Fund in the process. Helen and Thomas would like to thank everybody who donated to the Fund. Asked whether the ride was hard work, Helen replied: "The training sessions around Barnt Green were a lot harder than the more gentle rides across the flat terrain in The Netherlands." ❁

An apology

In our Summer issue we appear to have overstated Councillor Doreen Hawkley's positions.

We described her as chairman of Barnt Green Playgroup and a member of St Andrew's School PTA. Doreen has asked us to point out that she is a past chairman of the Playgroup and a former member of the PTA. We are happy to set the record straight and apologise to these organisations for any embarrassment caused. ❁



BARNT GREEN

THE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER *for*



Councillors Judith Jagger (left) and Doreen Hawkley make a start on planting spring bulbs on the Hewell Road railway embankment

Chairman's message

In the current economic climate our District and County Councils will be facing big spending restrictions which will result in noticeable changes to the way services are delivered. We hope to be able to work with these councils more closely to ensure the services we need are continued and delivered more efficiently.

In the meantime we continue our work to improve our village appearance and amenities. We recently installed two new benches one by the bus shelter on Hewell Road and one on the corner of Orchard Croft. The small slide has been refurbished in Millennium Park and we are planning to install climbing equipment suitable for 7-11 year olds next Spring. The Parish Council will also be adding to the adventure trail in the playing field on Bittell Road spending a donation we received from Tesco. We are also hoping to install a new 'kissing-gate' type style on the footpath at the bottom of the playing field.

Some of our Parish Councillors have volunteered to plant bulbs on the verges on the railway bank corner of Bittell Road/Hewell Road and Fiery Hill Road/Kendal End Road continuing our verge planting scheme.

As Christmas approaches we will again be installing our Christmas lights and additional icicle lights will be added to the Hewell Road display.

The Christmas Carol concert will take place at Millennium Park with the Reverend Rob Fieldson and the children of St Andrews School on Friday 10th December at 3.45 p.m. when the Christmas tree lights will be switched on - please join us.

As this is the last Newsletter before Christmas all the Parish Councillors wish you a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Judith Jagger, Parish Council Chairman ❁



Dates for your diary

11am to 12pm Thursday 25 November and Thursday 23 December
West Mercia Police Mobile PACT Surgeries at the Parish Office
Monday November 29th Parish Council meeting
Friday December 10th Carol Service, Millennium Park 3.45pm
Monday April 4th House of Commons visit (more next issue)
Saturday June 11th 2011 Barnt Green Festival Hewell Road

How to contact the Parish Council

If you would like to get in touch with the Parish Council about anything at all, please contact either one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Council's Executive Officer. Your Parish Councillors are:

Judith Jagger (Chairman) chair@barntgreen.org.uk / 0121 445 2437
Diane Carr (Vice Chairman) 0121 445 1220
Tom Gray 0121 445 4424
Susan Whitehand 0121 445 3530
Rachel Banner 0121 445 4479
Chris Jenkins 0121 445 1034
Alun Davies 0121 445 5085
Doreen Hawkley 0121 445 3179
Roger Westbury exec@barntgreen.org.uk / 0121 447 9893
(Executive Officer)

Parish Council meetings

These are usually held on the last Monday in each month at the Parish Centre in Sandhills Road at 7.00pm. You are welcome to attend and observe, and an opportunity is given at each meeting for members of the public to speak.

Useful telephone numbers:

District Councillor: Mrs Ann Doyle 0121 445 4184
District Councillor: Richard Deeming 0121 445 3114
County Councillor: Peter McDonald 0121 453 9267
Anti-Social Behaviour Officer 01527 881423
Police 0300 333000
(Local police contact: PC Mandy Baldwin, Rubery Police station.)
Hall Bookings:
Parish Centre: Edna Whitehouse 0121 445 4696
Baptist Church Hall: Beverley Bennett 0121 445 1551
Friends Meeting House: Tim Martin 0121 447 7355

If a copy in larger print or in Braille or an audio version is required, please contact the Executive Officer

The address for the Parish Council Office is: Barnt Green Parish Council, 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

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Gardening Courses

Worcestershire County Council's Community Greenspace Team is organising a number of courses this Autumn and winter on a variety of gardening topics including Pruning Young Fruit Trees, Productive Small Gardens and Wildlife Gardening. For more information see the Parish Council noticeboard, ring the team on 01905 766155 or email communitygreenspace@worcestershire.gov.uk

Disabled access to Parish Council Office

The Parish Council is very aware that access to the new Parish Office on Hewell Road is not very easy for users of wheelchairs and motorised scooters.

After discussions with RoSPA and Bromsgrove District Council it has been decided initially to install a bellpush on the side of the building adjacent to the driveway by the Barnt Green Surgery so that residents can attract the attention of the executive officer during office hours. The executive officer and all councillors are also happy to meet with residents in their own homes or at a pre-arranged location to discuss any issues that they may have.

Drama in Barnt Green



Sheila Evans pictured in a scene from 'I'll Take You Home Kathleen.'

Local resident and dramatist Sheila Evans is interested in setting up an amateur drama group in Barnt Green.

Sheila started in amateur theatre over 30 years ago, performing mainly in the Old Rep Theatre, Station Street, Birmingham, before progressing to become a professional actress. She also writes her own scripts for both theatre and film. Her first independent theatre production was a play she wrote

and performed in entitled 'I'll Take You Home Kathleen' which received excellent reviews. Sheila also wrote the script and screenplay for a Bollywood crossover feature film entitled 'Veiled Existence' which was filmed in Barnt Green and Birmingham and featured on BBC Midlands Today.

It is currently awaiting release but a trailer can be viewed on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdGwZzieQMg>

Sheila has two more film scripts currently in pre-production – one in India (a Terrorist Thriller) and she is co-producing her latest script (a comedy entitled 'Vodka and Chips') with a Russian filmmaker working in TV in this country.

Sheila avidly supports many local amateur theatre groups and would love to see one established in Barnt Green.

If anyone would like to join Sheila in setting up an amateur theatre group, she would be willing to donate her services as writer, actor, director and producer. Training would be available for those eager to 'have a go' at treading the boards.

Sheila has several play scripts as well as a hilarious pantomime ready for production and can be contacted on 445 5976 or by email at walktall@talktalk.net

MILLENNIUM PARK

The small children's slide in the park has been given a complete refurbishment and a new base installed.

The equipment now complies fully with Health & Safety requirements. The Parish Council will be looking to install some additional equipment in the park next year and welcomes any suggestions that residents would like to make. One idea is to add some form of rope climbing equipment suitable for 7-11 year olds. If you would like to comment on this or to suggest an alternative, please contact the executive officer or one of your councillors.



Jane Roberts of Orchard Croft tries out the new bench at the corner of Hewell Road

Hewell Road update

We hope that residents like the two new benches that have been installed.

It's good to see so much use being made of all the benches in the village and we hope that the locations of the new ones will see them being utilised to the full.

The Parish Council would also like to express its thanks to the landlords and tenants of the shops in the 'Tesco block' for their financial contributions towards the recent resurfacing work on the footway. This has made a real improvement to both the appearance and the safety of the footway there. The Parish Council is now looking into ways of further improving the appearance of this section with the addition of some planters.

At its September meeting the Parish Council agreed to install some additional Christmas lighting in the village this year to give an even more festive feel. We hope you like them.

Garden Waste Collections 2011

Residents who subscribed to the 2010 Garden Waste Collection Service will shortly receive a reminder invoice for 2011.

There is a payment deadline of 31/01/11 for this service. After this date Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) will arrange the collection of brown bins not used for the 2011 garden waste collection service.

- BDC will only empty brown bins that display a valid pink sticker for 2011
- If payment is not received by 31/01/11 BDC will arrange removal of its brown bin/s
- Payments received after 31/01/11 will not be guaranteed a collection service
- All bins remain property of the District Council - BDC reserves the right to charge £30 for each replacement bin
- Please call BDC if you do not want the service in 2011 so they can arrange to collect bin/s and cancel the outstanding invoice

If you would like to set up a Direct Debit for payment please note this request must be received no later than 3rd January.

If the renewal invoice is not for the exact number of bins you need in 2011 please call 01527 881288.

Christmas Collections 2010

There are **no changes** to your collections during Christmas or New Year.

Please place your wheeled bin **out by 7am** on your usual day of collection.



HANGING BASKETS

The Parish Council would like to thank all of the businesses on Hewell Road for their maintenance of the hanging baskets this summer. After careful consideration the Council has decided to award certificates for "Outstanding Care" to Viva Hairdressers, Threshers Wine Shop and Happy Valley Chinese Restaurant.

Right: Viva's award winning hanging baskets

