

## **Wolston Parish Council - Community News: Updated 23rd September 2014**

### **War Memorial**

The repairs to restore the War Memorial, including the additional work to improve the access, have been completed. Mr Alan Jones from Galliford-Try (the firm managing the major works at Tollbar End roundabout) came to Wolston on 8th September and presented the Parish Council with a cheque to cover the cost of undertaking work to improve the access. Mr Jones was asked to convey to Galliford-Try the thanks of the Parish Council, the village and the families of those who have loved ones remembered on the Memorial. Now that this work is complete the garden around the Memorial will be further transformed by Caroline and Marion, our volunteer gardeners who will take this opportunity to completely replant the memorial garden. The Parish Council have provided a grant to enable the purchase of additional plants for the garden.

### **Allotments**

The Parish Council rents 12 acres of private land for use by the Wolston and Brandon Allotments Association, and has done so since 29th September 1990 when it was asked to take over their lease by the Allotments Association. The land, which is administered by Godfrey-Payton, as agents for the C R E W Wilcox Will Trust, has been used as Allotments for many years. The entrance on Stretton Road is opposite what used to be Herbert's Ground Allotment Field which the Parish Council, formed in 1894, rented from Mr H. Townsend, and sub-let to people from the village from 1901 to 1935. Following his death, the land was sold by the Executors of Mr Townsend and eventually, a row of houses was built on the field, which used to stretch to the old Vicarage garden which itself is now home to John Simpson Close and Chestnut Grove.

The Wilcox family has provided land for Allotments in the village on the current site for many years. Some villagers will remember that there were also allotments provided in the old walled garden of Wolston Manor in the Church Field, after the Manor House was demolished, and before the primary school was built.

The current Allotment site is centrally located and, although alternative sites have been suggested and considered over the years, there were always snags which prevented a move from the private site. We are fortunate to have such a large space for allotments; in many areas there are long waiting lists to get a plot on the limited land available. There are, however, several plots free at the moment in Wolston. They can be rented very economically in sizes to suit the gardener, and some have raised beds to enable easier access. Anyone wishing to rent a plot should contact Tony Howes on (024) 7654 3690.

### **PC Workforce change**

In June 2005 local resident Graham Webb took on the role of local Maintenance Worker/Handyman on the Parish Council workforce. This was the role that Geoff Ollis held until his retirement. Graham was working 16 hours per week when he started but this reduced to 15 hours. He trained a number of people over the last 9 years who have helped to provide additional support in the summer months to ensure that the necessary work could be completed. Personal circumstances and increased caring responsibilities now mean that Graham has reluctantly had to give up work and resign from his position on the workforce. We wish him and his wife, Debbie, well for the future.

Pete Owen, who has previously been employed by the Parish Council, started work for the Parish Council in August 2014. He has been independently tested and demonstrated his capability in use of all the equipment required, and attended and passed Health and Safety and First Aid courses. He will be providing the Lengthsman\* duties, in a trial which has been put in place by Warwickshire County Council to help local communities to help themselves. We are pleased to welcome him back.

\* **Lengthsman** is a term coined in the 1800s and originally referred to someone who kept a "length" of road neat and tidy, but lengthsman were used on canals and railways from the beginnings of both. On roads, lengthsman were responsible for a few miles between adjacent villages and sometimes their duties encompassed whole villages. Employed by local parish councils their job was, inter alia, to keep grass and weeds down in the verge and keep drainage ditches clear. Litter, such as it was in those times, was collected and even wild flowers were tended to. (Thanks to Wikipedia for this).

### **CCTV**

Concerns about vandalism to Parish Council property on the Recreation Ground, including damage to play equipment and destruction of trees, has led to discussions about how other organisations use CCTV camera systems to help protect their own buildings and equipment. The Leisure and Community Centre and St Margaret's Church already successfully cover their own properties with CCTV, and it is hoped that by installing infra-red capability cameras as part of a CCTV system

the Parish Council would be able to protect the Recreation Ground against unwanted attention and help to cut costs.

### **Flood Walkway Renovation**

Warwickshire County Council are planning to renovate the raised walkway on the Brandon side of the River Avon. It's expected that the works will start in the New year and take four to five weeks. During that time there will be some amendment to the road layout to protect the workers but traffic should flow as normal. Pedestrians will be able to pass over the bridge on a special phase of the lights. The Council engineer believes that there should be no significant inconvenience and that access to houses, the farm and the Church will not be affected.

*Tim Harvey-Smith  
Chairman, Wolston Parish Council*