

Clean Up After Your Dog

During the pandemic many residents had new canine family members and there have been reports of dog mess on local pavements, particularly close to schools. Most dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pets, but unfortunately we also have a few irresponsible owners. It is illegal to leave your dog's poo lying in a public area. If a dog is in your care you must clean up any mess it makes. Dog mess can cause Toxocariasis which causes serious illness and even blindness and usually affects children between 1 and 4 years old, but can affect all ages. Please see Stafford Borough Council's webpage <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/dogs> for more information.

Berkswich Parish Council

Chair - Cllr Sue Francis

01785 665490

Main Road

Vice-Chair - Cllr Malcolm

Millichap

01785 664036

Village Gardens

Cllr Margaret Crossland

01785 664793

Holly Drive

Cllr Graham Kilford

01785 665334

Main Road

Cllr Tim Luker

07960 043412

The Rise

Cllr Ann Millichap

01785 664036

Village Gardens

Cllr Mike Pascoe

01785 302535

Elmstone Close

Cllr Caroline Pearson

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Village Gardens

Cllr Ben Rowell

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Congreve Close

Cllr Alan Taylor

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Village Gardens

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer - Sue Fullwood

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Cllr Andy Cooper

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berkswichpc.co.uk



Berkswich Parish Council NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



Afternoon Tea

We will be holding an Afternoon Tea celebration at Walton (Berkswich) Village Hall on Saturday 4 June 2022 at 2.30 pm. Sandwiches, cakes, scones and savouries will be supplied and you are invited to bring your own wine to toast The Queen. Tickets are £8.50 each (including a raffle ticket) - if you would like to attend please contact Cllr Malcolm Millichap on 664036 or at fred.millichap@gmail.com **by 9 May**.

The Queen's Green Canopy

This is a unique tree planting initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee." The Parish Council are planning to plant a tree at Hollybush Playing Fields during Autumn to honour The Queen's historic 70 years' reign. Please keep an eye out for further information later in the year.

New Play Equipment

The Parish Council have agreed to replace the large wooden multi-play unit at Hollybush Playing Fields in honour of the Jubilee. The park will not be ready in time for the Jubilee long weekend, but there will be a celebration when the time comes.

New Website

We launched our new website in February at www.berkswichpc.co.uk and it will be regularly updated with local news, meeting papers, events and local groups. If you have a group and would like to be included on our website please contact Sue Fullwood, Parish Clerk at berkswichclerk@gmail.com.

No Mow May

Our Environment Group have been working with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust on improving biodiversity in the Parish. No Mow May is a campaign to let lawns grow during May to allow flowers to reach maturity, boost nectar production and increase the number of bees around tenfold. Research shows that 80% of lawns supported the equivalent of around 400 bees a day, but 20% of lawns left to grow naturally supported up to 4000 bees.



Walton Coppice Update

The Parish Council have asked local tree surgeons to tender for work that needs to be done at Walton Coppice, including reducing the crowns of trees with Tree Preservation Orders on them, cutting down trees growing in unsuitable locations, cutting the existing hawthorn hedge and planting more hawthorn hedge along the fenceline and the northern boundary. We hope that work will be able to commence in the Summer.



The **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 7.00 pm at Walton (Berkswich) Village Hall—look out for the agenda on our website and noticeboards a week before the meeting.

The History of the Parish of Berkswich Part Two

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that in 1086 King William I, whilst at Gloucester, sent out two sets of commissioners to find out what or how much each landowner held and what it was worth. The results were brought together at Winchester, corrected, abridged and published - it became known as the Domesday Book and showed the King what he owned and who held it on his behalf. In addition, and as a result, every man now knew his rights.

The Staffordshire record shows that *Epi de Cestre* (the Bishop of Chester) held land in the Lordship *Bercheswic* and the Bishop had held this land before 1066. Berkswich or Baswich comprised a church, 5 hides (about 600 acres of arable land), land for 4 ploughs (which would on average include 32 oxen), 2 villagers (they also held valuable land) and a priest.

Waletone (Walton on the Hill) was a part of that Lordship and had 4 smallholders (holders of poor-quality land) with 2 ploughs. There was a 4-acre meadow and woodland measuring 1½ leagues long by 1 league wide (about 2 miles by 1½ miles). Brocton and Bednall also belonged to the Lordship but were recorded as waste.

The Church retained ownership until 1546 when it was surrendered to King Henry VIII, who in the same year granted the land to Sir William Paget. From then on, the land passed between members of the Marques of Anglesey family until 1893, when 1,784 acres were conveyed to Lord Lichfield.

To be continued

Be Air Aware

We know that it can be tempting to leave your engine running to keep the heater on in Winter, or the aircon on in Summer, particularly while waiting for children outside school. Air pollution is responsible for hundreds of premature deaths in Staffordshire each year. Please consider the health of our community and **switch off your engine**.

