

Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



A guiding light who is always switched on collects Burbage community award

THE Chairman's Community Award, given to unsung heroes of Burbage who deserve a pat on the back for the efforts they put in to make the village a better place, has gone this year to Jo Lee. She is Leader of the First Burbage Guides and has been for more than 15 years.

Making the presentation at the Millennium Hall, Parish Council chairman Stan Rooney paid tribute to a stalwart of Guiding who works full time but still makes room to devise a fun-filled programme that includes summer camps, ice skating, concert and theatre trips, swimming and money-raising demonstrations and events for charity. The group has become so popular it is now split into two groups and Jo is training girls to pass on the knowledge and skills that will help them to become future guide leaders. Cllr Mr Rooney said: "All of these activities assist in developing the self-confidence of girls, introducing them to interests and abilities they may not otherwise experience. She always has time and patience for everyone and makes an invaluable contribution to our community."

• The John Moore Vase, the engraved glass trophy presented to Jo Lee, was donated when the former councillor suggested villagers nominate every year a person who helped make Burbage a safe and pleasant place to live. Mr Moore resigned as a parish councillor last month after many years of dedicated work for the parish – he served three terms of office as council chairman and was always involved in successful community happenings, with a special interest in personal well-being and safety. The council's present chairman Cllr Mr Stan Rooney expressed a vote of thanks to a member he said "had worked tirelessly for the community over many years."



Guide Leader Jo Lee receives the Chairman's Community Award from Cllr Stan Rooney

Principal Officer Julie Perrin is off to pastures new

BURBAGE is saying its goodbyes to Julie Perrin, the Principal Officer of Burbage Parish Council.

At the end of the month she leaves a job in which for 17 years she has been the first point of contact between the public and the council. Julie is leaving the area to set up home in a new location in a Thames-side village in Oxfordshire.

When she was appointed, originally as Parish Clerk, the Millennium Hall had only recently been completed and commissioned. It was to become one of the busiest buildings in Burbage, a hub of community activities and the headquarters of a parish council which, with 20 members, is one of the biggest in Britain, looking after the parish needs of an ever-growing population in excess of 17,000. Many people, we know, will be bidding their personal farewells to Julie.

The final Burbage council session she will minute is a Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting at the Millennium Hall on Monday, 20th March, and following that a farewell party is planned among councillors.

Another vintage year keeps Burbage bubbling

SUCCESSFUL projects and programmes completed or in progress over the past 12 months were highlighted in a report to the annual parish meeting by the chairman of Burbage Parish Council. Cllr Mr Stan Rooney told the meeting he believed the council's performance had been "first class" and it faced with confidence a coming year of new challenges.

- **Events:** Street party time saw the village celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in the style Burbage is used to . . . which meant everyone had a great time. Big crowds turned out for Remembrance and Carols events.
- **Improvements:** With the aim of reducing workloads and costs in churchyard and cemetery maintenance, new contractors are being used. Aged and damaged trees had been removed at several sites and hedges reduced across all recreation grounds and open spaces, again lessening ongoing maintenance work. Improved management of the council's allotments had ensured they are looking good.
- **Facilities:** Remodelling and improvement of facilities at the Millennium Hall should hopefully start during the year, after a major input to arrive at the best design. Access to the Parish Office had been altered and the new lay-out worked well.
- **What lies ahead:** Permission for the redevelopment of the former Co-op building, opposite the village war memorial, and the removal of a large warehouse in Coventry Road was welcomed, as was the restoration of Cedar Lawns, opposite St Catherine's, seen as a major visual enhancement to the village of an attractive listed building.

Our website seems to have clicked with you

CLICK, click, click... 100,000 times over. That's the number of times PC users have called up the Burbage Parish Council website over the past 12 months.

It was redesigned a year ago, to give you a smarter, more functional site providing access to a huge variety of information - council news and updates, meeting agendas and minutes, facilities and hiring details, planning activities, the Parish Newsletter. The aim was to get the data you want to see on to a device screen as quickly and easily as possible and from the number of views it appears to have worked nicely.

Facebook and Twitter links provided at www.burbage-council.co.uk are also being well used.

The grass is green, the dream is there for the taking

THE chunk of wood nudging wood, the smell of warm grass carried on a summer breeze... well we can dream, can't we?

Bowl along to the Burbage Parish Council green in Bridge Road and start turning it into reality. Senior citizens interested in taking a look at what the traditional English pastime can offer are being offered an initial free 12-month membership of Burbage Bowls Club. The offer is for new senior members who are over 60. Anyone keen to find out more about the facilities is invited to a spring open day on Saturday, 8th April. Visitors are welcome, between 10am and 4pm, to take a look round and send down a few woods.

Have they got the stuff to tickle all tastes...

BUSY members of the Burbage Community Arts Festival team have spent the winter planning the 2017 programme that will mark the 20th year the group has brought a mix of music, drama, art, crafts, comedy, film and other stuff to the village.

The waiting is over and the BCAF website is open for business and bookings . . . go to www.bcaf.net to check out the entertainment lined up from Wednesday, 3rd May through to Sunday, 21st May, 2017. The ever-popular festival, which is supported by Burbage Parish Council, has fused new ideas with old favourites – Stand-Up for Burbage sold out to comedy fans in a record 18 hours! Plenty more still to go at, however. Use the online facility or meet BCAF organisers and buy tickets direct at the Windsor Street Farmer's Market on 1st April.

Poll called to fill two seats on village council

TWO casual vacancies on Burbage Parish Council are being contested and an election has been called. Polling will take place on Thursday, 4th May, 2017 (to coincide with Leicestershire County Council elections) when registered Burbage voters will be able to choose from candidates to fill the vacancies and bring the 20-member council back to full strength. The vacancies were created through the resignations last month of long-serving member Cllr Mr John Moore (Tilton ward) and Cllr Mrs Ann Stevens (Lash Hill ward)