**LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

The March meeting of the Parish Council was preceded by the Lapworth Annual Assembly. Representatives from local organisations gave an update on the year’s activities.

Full reports were presented by Lapworth Parish Council, Warwick District Council, Warwickshire County Council, Lapworth School, Lapworth Charity, Lapworth Village Hall Committee, Lapworth Surgery and Packwood House but a few excerpts from local organisations are given below, more to follow next month.

**Lapworth Parish Council Vice Chairman Haydn Rees opening comments**

Vice Chairman Haydn Rees opened the meeting, giving an update and outcome on the tremendous efforts of local resident Clare Shales in fundraising to replace the rather aged playground equipment at the Village Hall. Clare, ably supported by Councillor Rees has raised in excess of £60,000 and the order will be placed shortly. We are optimistic the new pieces of equipment will be in place for the summer. Thanks were extended to both Clare and Councillor Rees.

Parish Council elections are due to take place on Thursday 2nd May 2019 and anyone wishing to stand for election to Lapworth Parish Council can obtain a pack including form of nomination for at Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5HZ from the Returning Officer who will, at the request of an elector for any electoral area prepare a nomination paper for signature.

Nomination papers must be delivered to the Returning Officer, Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5HZ on any day after the date of this notice but no later than 4 pm on Wednesday, 3rd April 2019.

The Parish Council would also welcome other local residents that may wish to volunteer to help the Parish Council just as Clare has done with the play-area. As examples, we would very much welcome people who might have ideas and time to make the most of the phone-box by the station, or people who would like to help design and produce a Lapworth flyer or brochure, or maybe someone who would like to recommend which trees in the area should be preserved via a TPO (Tree Preservation Order), or maybe something completely different that would benefit the area and the community.

**Headteacher Mrs Judy McCluskey on behalf of Lapworth School**

Since the last annual assembly the school has gone from strength to strength.

Numbers continue to grow and the school has 177 children on roll, however we still have spaces available in most year groups and can hold 210. There are children already due to start in the next few weeks so we continue to see this upward trend. Whilst this is positive for the future of the school this has put pressure on staffing and the ability to achieve high results with children that have not had long at our school.

The school operates its own before and after school care called ‘The Orchard’ and this has been a real asset for the community with numbers going above 30 on some evenings, it was clearly a need for local parents who have struggled to find alternative childcare.

The school is in the process of taking over the running of the Pre-school. We all see this as a really positive move being able to offer a high standard of childcare in our community from the age of two. We hope to develop the current provision and increase the opening hours so that it is similar to the school day or longer from September 2019.

School’s results continue to be strong and are better than county and national across all areas of the school. Our aim is to always provide the best quality of education for all our learners regardless of ability. Our current Ofsted grading is good and our last inspection was May 2016. We are not due for an Ofsted inspection until Summer 2020

**Dr Rory Nicol on behalf of Lapworth Charity**

The income of the Lapworth Charity in the last financial year was nearly £120,000. This sum arises from rents for the properties and land which the charity owns and income from the monetary investments of the Charity.

Nearly £55,000 of this was spent on the 11 Almshouses at Pound Close – this included the costs of substantial refurbishment of two of the properties. £35,000 was given as grants to four Lapworth Organisations – namely St Mary’s Church, Lapworth School, Elderberries and Lapworth Pre-school.

Then £15,000 was used towards grants to over 45 Lapworth residents. These payments included:

Contributions towards Winter Fuel Costs

Expenses of Studying and Training – not covered by the Student Loans Scheme

Chiropody costs – not covered by the NHS

Transport costs to and from school – not covered by the County Council

Fees for Specialist Tuition – again not covered by the County Council

**Parish Councillor Mrs Joyce Ludlow on behalf of the Lapworth Village Hall Committee**

Lapworth Village Hall is an excellent community resource that continues to be a popular venue valued and praised by many local organisations, commercial users and private hirers.

During this extremely busy year the Management Committee has worked hard to maintain and improve the hall, its surroundings and provision for the community.

Some of our wide ranging achievements over this period include:

* Phase 1 of the project to replace the loft window, brick up the redundant police post door and to install a canopy over the front porch has been completed. We continue to work to raise £40,000 to complete the project.
* The foyer, hall, kitchen, rear corridor and all toilets have been decorated. The hall floor has been sanded and varnished and new lights fitted in toilets.
* Large purpose built-in storage cupboards have been commissioned and constructed backstage.
* On several occasions drains have been blocked and shattered windows repaired. Leaks caused by splits in the roof covering have been repaired with the installation of Flashbond.
* Use of the web based telephone line and [lapworthvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:lapworthvillagehall@gmail.com) is now embedded, we continue to develop use of ‘Hallmaster’ software and now publish an online calendar so potential users can access hall availability.
* Working together with Lapworth Players, Stage LED lighting has been installed.

All this is only possible with the time and hard work kindly given by committee members. This year a new Chairman, Treasurer and Booking Officer have been appointed.

We thank you for supporting these events and also appreciate financial donations by the Parish Council, Film Club, The Boot, Moles and The Phoenix Group.

**Gareth Rowlands on behalf of** **Lapworth Surgery**

Another exciting year in general practice. With the biggest change in the last 15 years the new government contract may open up some opportunities to develop the practice in the next five years.

It requires that we form a Network with our surrounding practices in the western side of Warwickshire, but it does not mean that we should merge with them so don’t panic! It would seem that each practice can maintain its own unique style and identity but that there will be increasing opportunities to develop our teams. We have already met with our surrounding practices and I have volunteered to be the clinical lead for our network.

Lapworth remains in the top 10 in the national survey of GP satisfaction. Given there are over 7000 practices this is no mean feat and we are very proud of our team in making this possible. We continue to work for the best healthcare for you all and to try and give you the care that we think all families need.

Heartfelt thanks to our supportive patient participation group and all of you out there in the community for supporting your local surgery.

**Mrs A Ryan**, **Operations Manager, on behalf of Packwood House**

**Village pass**

We continue to operate our local Village pass which is issued to local residents on pre-determined roads between Packwood and Baddesley Clinton. We have just received the approval to continue with the pass in its current form for a further year. I spoke last year at the Parish Council meeting regarding community passes; they are something of a rarity throughout the Trust. As a charitable organisation we have to submit a business case for re-approval in order to carry on with this offer. We are pleased to have received the go-ahead and are happy to welcome those who take up the opportunity to visit our properties in this way.

**St Giles Church**

We continue to work with Rev. Marc Catley and have had the pleasure of facilitating two fundraising opportunities for St Giles Church. The Church’s quiz and fish and chip supper evening was held in the Packwood café which was a great success. We also facilitated free entry for a wildlife walk fundraiser event that proved very popular and generated much appreciated funds for the church.

**Conservation**

We have now completed our fifth and final phase of our causeway project that has seen the restoration of the causeway wall along the lake in Packwood’s garden. The wall had rapidly deteriorated and was at risk of failing, thereby endangering the dam which holds back the water in the Great Pool. The whole project cost over **£400,000** and was part funded by Natural England in year one along with the support of our visiting public and our wider supporters.

**Anti -social behaviour**

Packwood has experienced some anti-social behaviour over the last year, mostly during the night time and some small scale theft in our car park during our open hours. All staff and volunteers remain vigilant and take special care with security procedures and we continue to work closely with the neighbourhood watch and the Warwickshire rural police who now make routine stops at the property to raise visibility.

**Velo cycling Event**

The Velo cycling event on 12th May and the road closures the event it is enforcing will have a significant impact at Packwood as we will be forced to close for the day. This event and the road closures have been approved by the local authorities. As a result we are working with the organisers to help the national event go well, by acting as a pit stop for cyclists and providing a base for the 50 plus volunteers.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled to take place on Monday 8th April at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Lapworth Village Hall. Meetings are held at the same time the second Monday of each month.

Minutes and Agendas for meetings are on the Parish Council website [www.**lapworthpc.org.uk**](http://www.lapworthpc.org.uk)

Clerk Contact details – phone 01676 533258 or email clerk@lapworthpc.org.uk