

Report of the Chair of Drayton Bassett Parish Council April 2025

This has been quite a turbulent year for Drayton Bassett Parish Council. Previous years had seen a strong group of Councillors who had served the community for a number of years and seen great works like the redevelopment of the village park. We would like to make special mention to them for their work and dedication during their service. We would like to give special mention to former Councillor David Davies who sadly died in November 2024.

In the summer, six of the seven councillors stood down from the council which meant that the vacancies were advertised for co-option. In October 2024 we welcomed some new and familiar faces to the parish council. The Councillors come from a variety of backgrounds and have had a steep learning curve but they bring with them enthusiasm and have many plans for the coming months.

The Community SpeedWatch Group which was set up over a year ago, goes from strength to strength with 12 volunteers regularly helping out to monitor and report those who abuse the 30mph speed limit through the village. This group are always looking for more volunteers who will need to undertake training before they can fully help out but this training is provided free of charge.

The Councillors undertook a house to house survey of the villagers to gauge opinion as to whether to allow dogs in the park. We are still in the trial period of this and have had a mixed response from the community as to its success. In the main we are getting a positive response but there is disappointment at the abuse of the trial period with people still refusing to keep their dogs on short leads and picking up after the dogs.

Councillors are working to promote a Volunteer Gardening Day on 26th April where we invite residents to come along and give even just an hour of their time to getting the park back into order. We are hoping to work with local groups to have more community events held in the park. Tonight you will hear from the Village Entertainment Group about a summer community picnic and we look forward to supporting this event as much as we can.

Each month at our meetings we hear about concerns over potholes, uncollected rubbish and fly tipping, damaged road signs and graffiti. We have been building links with the district and county councils to get the repairs done as soon as possible but encourage all residents to report the highways issues individually for speed. We have seen success with road signs re positions and graffiti removed from the bridge on Portleys Lane.

Report of the Drayton Bassett Women's Institute Year Ending February 2025

Officers for the year were: President Ann Foley. Vice President & Assistant Treasurer Paula Acton. Secretary Hilary Woolliscroft. Treasurer Donna McGuire. Register and Hall Bookings Lin Shears. Hall Treasurer Ann Foley. We currently have 18 members.

9 Committee meetings and 10 Monthly Meetings were held.

The Hall has been regularly cleaned by Leslie. The Hall has also had help from a willing WI Husband in Paul Shears who does small repairs and keeps our back garden looking very tidy.

The Hall has been well used by various groups: Soul to Soul, Music Practice; Uniquely U and Me; Art Group; Birthday Parties and Football Night TV(by some of the village men).

Speakers this year have included talks on: Penguins, A Male Nurse, Hats, Old Proverbs & Idioms, Lavinia Princess or Fake, Hand Woven Bags, Making a Christmas Wreath & The Peels of Drayton Manor.

Donna and her Husband John hosted our Garden Party in August. Members provided food and we enjoyed a wonderful sunny afternoon.

This year we have attended the Assembly Rooms to see Oliver!, and Spring and Autumn events at Stafford Show Ground.

A number of WI County Events have been held on Zoom, Hilary and Ann reported back on these.

Members receive County News Letters each month by e-mail.

Two pupils from Drayton Bassett School received a trophy each before going on to Secondary School.

We have supported the pensioners Christmas lunch and Carols in the Croft.

Our Christmas charity in lieu of cards raised £100 for St Giles Hospice

Lin takes our register each month and organizes the raffle as well being our very efficient Hall Booking Secretary.

Ruby has held a Subscription saving scheme for members and also collected stamps and plastic bottle tops for charity

A Remembrance Sunday Wreath was placed on the village War Memorial at the Annual Service.

We are a small group but with the help of willing members and some of our husbands we try to keep our WI an active part of village life and always hope for more people to come and join us.

Thank you for listening to this report and we wish all other village groups a successful year.