

PAULINE HAYWARD: THE PC'S LONGEST SERVING MEMBER

I've lived in Churchill all of my life and belong to an extended family named Bache, who have run the Forge since the 17th century. I attended Churchill School and then Stourbridge High School, and served as a Governor of Blakedown School for 20 years. My son, daughter and three grandchildren have all benefitted from attending this local school.



I have always tried to preserve the area from unsuitable development yet recognise the need for houses for our young families and the older generation.

I was married to Geoff at Churchill Church (where I'd been in the choir) 56 years ago on 14th June, and we both believe in strong Christian values.

and helped with fundraising, usually with teas or baking cakes, as I was a Home Economics teacher! I've been a Wyre Forest District Councillor for 32 years and am the longest serving Parish Councillor, so was very involved in fighting the Kidderminster By-Pass/Western Orbital route which I believe would have devastated the whole of the Parish.

I have happy memories from the end of the Second World War, when I took part in the sports day on Blakedown's old playing field. We watched the men of the village chasing a small, very well greased piglet, and the youths struggling to stay on a greasy pole! The day ended with the parishioners attending a huge bonfire on Churchill Hill with jacket potatoes, a keg of beer for the men and lemonade for the ladies and children.

I have always taken part in local events and activities

DATES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Forthcoming Parish Council meetings are on 16th July, 20th August and 17th September at 7.30pm in the Sports Pavilion. You are most welcome to attend.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about items for future issues, please contact the Parish Council Clerk, on 01905 830756 rogerdgurney@btinternet.com

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July
2014

CHURCHILL & BLAKEDOWN NEWS

Published by Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council

SPEED SIGN SUCCESS MEANS 3RD SIGN IS NOW ON ORDER



Drivers entering the villages of Blakedown and Churchill are now greeted by electronic speed signs, installed some months ago by the Parish Council. There are currently two of these, and they can be moved to a number of locations to prevent motorists becoming too accustomed to them.

The idea is that they'll prevent drivers from speeding by making them

more aware of how fast some drivers, even if not they're going. One of the signs gives an indication of the exact speed of a vehicle, whilst the other is simply 'tripped' to illuminate when a vehicle is travelling at 30 mph or more.

The signs cost more than £2,000 each, and are operated by rechargeable batteries. However, the batteries can run down quickly, especially when installed in busier locations, such as outside the Swan on the A456. Mark Jones, the village lengthsmen, has the responsibility of checking and replacing the batteries, a task that often has to be carried out every couple of days.

"The signs certainly do seem to have an effect on

on all of them," said Parish Councillor Sue Fowler.

"We feel that they're money well spent, and we're getting a positive reaction from residents.

So much so, that we have decided to order a third sign, which should be in position soon," she added.



Sue Fowler

ALL CHANGE AS THE PARISH COUNCIL TAKES ON NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

Cllr JIM LONG

Explains how Localism will affect our villages



The current Westminster government has an agenda of encouraging county and district councils to pass more control to parish councils and community groups, if they are willing, and this is referred to as Localism. Parish Councils can do more things if they qualify to adopt a new power under Localism, known as the General Power of Competence. Not all parish councils are able to qualify, but your Parish Council is. We have adopted the new Power because we see the need and opportunity to improve local services in Churchill and Blakedown.

We are now engaging with Wyre Forest District Council and Worcestershire County Council regarding the transfer of some services which would be managed by your Parish Council in future, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring parishes for administrative support. The aim is to eliminate undoubted waste and duplication in the areas of grass mowing, litter picking and parking

provision and so improve the local service we get as residents.

How will it be paid for?

The current Parish Council is committed to obtaining a better service for residents without affecting the precept, the Parish Council's own budget. The assumption behind Localism is that parish councils can do things with far lower overheads than the bigger councils and so, as well as receiving a fixed amount for providing services previously provided by the other councils, we are entitled to apply for a share of any savings which are made as a result.

Hopefully in due course you should see the villages looking better kept at no extra cost to your council tax. We hope you will notice a difference, and you can join in by letting your Parish Councillors know if there are parts of the villages that could look better. Together, we can do something about them.

In the next issue of this publication we'll be looking at Neighbourhood Planning, and explaining about the ways in which you can help shape the villages for the next 20 years.



View across Ladies Pool, Blakedown

Photographed by Roger Shade

NEW BENCH AT CHURCHILL GREEN

Have you spotted the Recent research into in fact own the green, latest addition to the WW1 for the centenary and the memorial, alt-Parish's street furni- commemoration by Par- hough until now this ture? The wooden ish Councillor Roger information had been bench now situated at Shade has revealed that forgotten!

Churchill Green is in the Parish Council does fact a Diamond Jubilee gift bench, funded from County Councillor Stephen Clee's discretionary grant fund. The Parish Council requested its location at this spot.



This bench is a welcome partner to the existing Diamond Jubilee Bench, at Blakedown Sports Field, which was paid for by local fundraising in 2012.