

AUTUMN 2005 NEWSLETTER

AN UPDATE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF
HANLEY CASTLE AND HANLEY SWAN

The War Memorial

Thanks to recent generous donations, the War Memorial Fund now stands at £2482.00. Steve Allard, our local stonemason who is based in Callow End, has updated his quotation for the work required and even though the fund is slightly short of the mark, the Parish Council has agreed to instruct him to begin the restoration. We are hoping that a grant from the "Friends of War Memorials" will go some way towards making up the difference. There are 45 names on the memorial (34 from the First World War and 11 from the Second). John Lowles, who has undertaken a great deal of research into the lives and deaths of the men mentioned thereon has discovered a couple of additional names that were not included at the time of erection of the memorial. The Parish Council will consider the inclusion of these names at their next meeting.

If you would like to contribute to the restoration fund, the Council would be very pleased to hear from you! Please contact the Clerk on 310366.

Low cost housing in Hanley Swan

Bromford Housing Group, who had drawn up initial proposals for a low cost housing scheme on land between the primary school and Westmere, reported back to the July meeting of the Parish Council. They had held a consultative meeting/exhibition in the village hall but did not offer any feedback from the exhibition and did not have any updated plans to present to the Parish Council and residents, even though they had revised their proposals after discussion with MHDC planners. It was felt by the Parish Council that a more thorough investigation of the parish's housing need was required and indeed alternative sites to fulfil any identified need should be considered. To that end, Keith Parry of MHDC's housing department has accepted an invitation to attend the next Council meeting to explain the housing need survey process and answer questions put by the council and local residents.

New Buildings at both Village Schools

Hanley Castle High School

Rob Haring, headmaster, has started a regular liaison with the Parish Council and the villagers of Hanley Castle to keep them up to date with news from the High School. At the most recent meeting, Mr. Haring explained the proposals for a project to remove the temporary classrooms, sheds and other 'odd' buildings on the Bowling Green side of the school. The plan is to replace them with permanent buildings housing classrooms and specialist music and language rooms. He said that funding for the project had been identified and that detailed plans would be drawn up soon. Following this, further consultation with the Council and villagers would take place. Mr Haring repeated his predecessor's assertions that they had no intention of increasing the numbers of students at the school: one of the things that made Hanley High special was its relatively small size in comparison with other local high schools. Furthermore, the number on the roll was projected to fall slightly over the next few years, so there were no external pressures which would force up numbers – at least for the foreseeable future!

The Parish Council - once again – discussed the traffic problems associated with the school and Mr Haring gave his assurance that he would do his best to alleviate them as much as possible. He stated that it had to be borne in mind that about 1000 people (900 pupils, 100 staff) use the site every day.

Hanley Swan Primary School

At our village primary school, plans for a new staff room, entrance, office, disabled access and toilets and a revised layout for the library and ICT suite are well advanced. The money for the project was secured in March and detailed plans are going through the statutory consultation process. Building work is scheduled to commence immediately after Christmas (hopefully) and should provide much more suitable accommodation for all the staff and pupils. Apart for the revised internal layout around the current entrance, an extension will be built onto the gable end of the existing hall covering the area of the entrance steps/ramp and providing office and staff room facilities and a new entrance. The Parish Council was pleased to see further investment in the village's primary school and approved the detailed plans at the planning committee meeting held on October 11th.

Parish Path Wardens

It is with great regret that the Parish Council has accepted the resignation of Marjorie and Michael Nelson as Parish Paths Wardens (PPW) with effect from 31st, March 2006. After 13 years service they felt it is time for a rest and who can blame them?! They have done a wonderful job in keeping up the maintenance of the footpaths of the parish – many times the Council has heard from official sources that it has had the best PPW's in the county. Their input will be sorely missed and I am sure that everyone will want to thank them most sincerely for the last 13 years, and to wish them well in their 'retirement'. Thank you both!

Of course, this means that the Parish Council is keen to recruit a new PPW (or two!). The new warden(s) would be secure in the knowledge that the job has been made simpler in that the paths are already maintained in such good order. If you are interested in volunteering to help the parish in this way, please contact Ann Canham, our Clerk, on 310366, for more information.

Dates of Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of alternate months at 7:30pm in

Hanley Swan Village Hall. The next meeting is to be held on 17th, November, followed by meetings in January, March, May, July, September and November 2006. The council's planning committee meets on an ad hoc basis: this is because plans can be issued to us for consideration at any time and MHDC requires our response within 2 weeks of our receipt of them. Dates of these meetings are advertised on the Parish Council's notice boards and, as with full meetings of the council, members of the public are welcome to attend.

Three Counties Showground

Nick Vincent, executive Director of the Three Counties Agricultural Society (TCAS) attended our September meeting to hear villagers' views as to whether or not his attempts to alleviate some of the traffic problems had been successful. It was felt that there was a slight improvement but that some events (e.g. 'Vanfest') caused a disproportionate amount of noise and nuisance to local residents. Mr. Vincent took comments on board. He said that there had been some problems over the summer, most notably with the gates remaining closed before the start of 'Vanfest' – this caused a large build-up of parked vehicles near the showground – and the helicopter rides associated with the Land Rover show. He said that there was a solution to both problems and that they would not happen again.

Mr Vincent agreed to return to the Council's March meeting to discuss any further problems and to keep local residents informed of happenings at the showground.

Bulb Planting

Thanks are due to the Upton on Severn Brownies who, as part of their 'Seasons' badge, spent a rather wet Wednesday evening recently, planting bulbs underneath the oak tree on the village green in Hanley Swan. They were ably assisted by our Clerk and David Cheale (Parish Tree Warden). Keep an eye open in the spring for signs of emerging snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells in small clumps under the canopy of the tree.

*Sue Roberts
(Chairman)*

18 October 2005

HANLEY CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL**Receipts and Payments for year ended 31 March 2005 (audited)**

RECEIPTS

Precept	7500.00
Interest	2.50
Dividends	8.76
Worcs.CC - Parish Paths Grant	1518.25
Worcs.CC - Lengthsman scheme (contra)	1620.00
Donations	70.00
V.A.T. refund for 2003/2004	334.93

11054.44

PAYMENTS

Staff Costs	3647.09
Members allowances & expenses	75.00
Other administrative costs	333.27
Insurance	398.98
Section 137 Payment	100.00
Section 142 Payment	100.00
Subscriptions	277.01
Grass cutting	1466.00
Playing Field rent	200.00
Paths maintenance	1155.74
Playing Field & Play Area	155.50
Audit Fee 2003/2004	120.00
Training	47.32
Tree Work	755.00
Timber for Cider Press	91.00
Lengthsman scheme (contra)	1850.00
Demon - Internet Service	140.00
V.A.T. paid 2004/2005	437.04
Printing Newsletters	175.00
Parish Plan Account	100.00
Miscellaneous	0.00

11623.95

EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS -569.51

BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD 1 APRIL 2004

Current Account	1221.03
Instant Gold Savings Account	192.65
Consolidated Stock 2.5%	351.44
	1765.12

BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD 31 MARCH 2005

Current Account	424.09
Instant Gold Savings Account	420.08
Consolidated Stock 2.5%	351.44
	1195.61

Our website presents far more information than can ever be printed in a newsletter. On it, you will find all the minutes of committee meetings, planning decisions, information regarding businesses resident in the parish, news, links to other sites, information about recycling facilities and much, much more.

We are very keen to expand this site and to make it a valuable source of data for our residents. However, it is run by volunteers at no cost to the Parish and consequently would benefit from additional effort. If you would be prepared to lend a hand in providing content and timely updates, we would be glad to hear from you. Experience is not necessary (we'll help you with the technical stuff!), but a PC, an internet connection and boundless enthusiasm are all essential! We have plenty of ideas — we need help in getting them put onto the site. If you can help, please contact the editor: irt@cygnetlodge.co.uk or phone 310716.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Hanley Castle Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November at Hanley Swan Village Hall: meetings start (usually) at 7:30 pm. All members of the public are welcome at these meetings, though they will be allowed to address the council only before and after the meeting unless otherwise invited by the Chairman.

Our Council comprises:	Telephone
Sue Roberts (Chairman)	592686
Tony Atkinson	310408
Anne Ballinger	592812
Ann Davies	310861
Francis Harcombe	310740
Margaret Norris	310786
John Taverner	310460
Ian Thompson	310716

Associated officers:

Ann Canham (Clerk)	310366
Marjorie & Michael Nelson (footpaths)	310302
David Cheale (Tree Warden)	310233
Sue Adeny (MHDC Councillor)	310440

Comments and contributions from parish residents are welcomed on any subject to do with our community. The Parish Council is very conscious of the cost of producing and distributing this newsletter and the methods of so doing will be under constant review.

If you would be prepared to receive it in electronic form either by email or by downloading it from our website, please let us know — this will help us to keep production costs to a minimum.

The information contained in this newsletter is edited by Ian Thompson
Telephone: 01684 310716, email irt@cygnetlodge.co.uk or by post to
Cygnet Lodge, Worcester Rd., Hanley Swan, Worcs. WR8 0EA.