



News

April 2023

The end of the Parish Council financial year is fast approaching, and the Local Elections on the 4th May are looming fast, I wonder what new challenges and changes will lay ahead? But for now, some now News.

Some great news **No** Fantastic News! After many, many years of campaigning over consecutive Parish Councils, Rectory Lane is going to be resurfaced up to the lichgate. No small thanks to Mike Hames for his relentless investigation and folder upon folder of undisputable paperwork. All this evidence along with the bulldog determination of the Parish Council's Highways Working Group convinced the Herefordshire Council that this was their responsibility after all. **WELL, DONE ALL**

The Parish Council have been doing their part, **Now** it's your turn, the Parish Council would like to hear from you about other Highways issues or concerns or even ideas to better the Transport and Highways within the Parish. There may be a possibility that the Parish Council could be in receipt of some Section 106 monies from the building of the new Malvern Oaks Close development. There may also be some funding from the same source to be spent on Sports or Sports facilities within the Parish, so please get your thinking head on, and let me know.

The Parish Council would also like to hear your views on the possibility of turning Crumpton Hill Green into a community orchard with the planting of fruit trees on the area.

As an outsider, one huge thing which has really struck me about Cradley & Storridge is the community spirit and the willingness of many of you to give up hours and hours of your precious free time to help others and the community in general.

I am told one of these unsung community heroes was a lady called Jill Upton the Parish Tree Warden for many a year. The role of Tree Warden was a natural fit for Jill, she brought the benefit of her knowledge and commitment to the Parish of Cradley and Storridge. For many years she worked with the Parish Council to ensure that our heritage of historic and significant trees and hedgerows were protected from damage, and that our precious landscape was given appropriate consideration in any proposals for development. She was a valued part of the Parish Council Environment Group, supporting the establishment of the Community Orchard at Buryfields, and it was typical of Jill that her legacy donation of apple trees were a specific local heritage variety. Roaming and seeking to protect the landscape of the Malvern Hills and this parish was only one aspect of an active and interesting life, but one which has left its mark.

A beautiful hand carved bench, donated by her family, provides a memorial to Jill on the grass verge opposite her cottage in Birchwood, looking across the valley to Batchcombe Wood. It is to be hoped that future ramblers will be able to rest there for a moment, admiring the woodland view, savouring the flavour of a Spartan apple from our community orchard, and sharing a moment with Jill and all who love our landscape.

Jill lived in and around this parish for many years, and love of the local countryside and landscape was a central factor in her life. She enjoyed walking the footpaths daily in all weathers, alone with her dog or with friends and fellow walkers and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of our highways and byways. As well as tramping the public rights of way, she had connections with local landowners and often – with permission of course! – led walks through woodland paths not ordinarily accessible. Jill's anecdotes and information about past personalities and events to enliven and bring perspective to any local Rambler.

The Parish Council have recently planted in the Community Orchard, along with a memorial plaque a Spartan apple tree donated by Jill Upton, a former resident of Birchwood and Parish Tree Warden.



Sadly, I did not know Jill, so I must say thank you Ann for the information and Sarah for the picture.

Why not enrol on to the Cradley & Storrige Parish Council website www.cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk you will then get emailed all the latest Parish Council news and other useful documents.

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