

# New Frankley Community News

Edition seven : June 2014

Funded by New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council

THIS EDITION SHOWS HOW COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE LIVES OF US ALL MAKING FRANKLEY A CLEANER AND HEALTHIER PLACE TO LIVE

## SPECIAL FEATURE IN THIS EDITION

### The Annual Parish Report of the Chairperson of the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council

Frankley is the only part of Birmingham to have a Parish Council. The report shows how a small amount of money, on average £32. 20 per household, can make a difference to a community. Funding groups who in turn encourage volunteers to give their time to make Frankley a better place for us all.

## HEDGES+ PATHWAY MAINTENANCE.

Do you need help with cutting your hedge or clearing a walkway at the rear of your property ? If you are elderly, have special needs or disabilities and no help from family AND HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN ASSISTANCE BEFORE from the Frankley Parish Council/Frankley Neighbourhood Forum then help is available.

The service is done on a one-off basis and is not a repeat house gardening service. The work is carried out on a Saturday morning by an experienced team who have been engaged in Frankley on this type of work for over 2 years. Please leave your details at the Parish Council Office in Arden Road shops or phone the Parish Council on 0121 457 9410 and you will be contacted to arrange a visit to view the work.

If you do need assistance on a regular basis Age Concern Birmingham has a First Call Tradesperson for hedges and gardens and the phone number is 0121 262 3020.

If there are any Public paths and walkways that are overgrown then please report them to Birmingham City Council on 0121 464 7297. Please also report them to Parish Council Office so we can endeavour to cut these as well.

A lot of the walkways and paths are regularly litter picked by volunteers ,some of them belonging to The Frankley Street Champions. I would like to thank all these volunteers for their splendid work.

Please support these dedicated members of our community and don't drop your litter on the floor ; put it in a bin or take it home. Thank you

Community Involvement comes in many ways

**Your Health and Wellbeing**

Would you love to eat your favourite take-away without gaining excess pounds?

Would you like to eat out with your friends and family without counting calories?

Would you like to be relieved of your food related stress and worries?

Would you like to be able to run around after the kids without feeling out of breath?

If your answer is **yes** to any of these questions then let us take you on a journey where no food is banned allowing you to enjoy your favourite meals whilst losing weight.

**All we need is one hour of your time to show you just what's possible.**

Every Thursday at 7pm at St Christopher's Centre New Street, a group of warm and friendly people meet to share Food Optimising tips which sees them eating gorgeously filling meals whilst losing weight. In our group no food is banned, and you are in complete control of your journey every step of the way whilst being supported by people who understand and care. **We want you** to tuck into and enjoy creamy pasta dishes , crispy roast potatoes, burgers, curries and chocolate treats all wrapped up in a big **Slimming World** heart.

The name given to this amazing group of people is **Jo's Slimming World Frankley**, led by Consultant Joanne Harrison. We're looking for like minded people from our fabulous community to come and share our wonderfully generous eating plan. Whilst shedding excess pounds and getting healthier and fitter.

Our group is waiting to welcome you. Our Thursday night are about socialising, losing weight and celebrating peoples success, who wouldn't want to be part of that?

Let us show you how you can eat the foods you love and adore whilst losing weight.

If you'd like to know more about us please contact Joanne on 07887404301

**The Rocks are doing it, the Horton's are doing it,** more than 20 other people are doing it. You can now go along Frogmill Walk without wondering if you've strayed into the local rubbish tip; later this year you'll be able to stroll along Princess Diana Walk at the rear of Queen Elizabeth Road for the first time in 5 years. Both these are local initiatives by residents who thought they could make a difference and have done so. If you want to join these efforts or start your own then ask at the parish office.

Wunabash can supply you with tools, bags, expertise and whatever you need

**THERE IS A BONUS.** The pack contains endorphins, serotonin exercise and a smug attitude

**H L B**

If you are a tenant and,  
If you want to know more  
about the Housing Liaison  
Board [HLB]

and the work it does in  
Frankley ask Bill Hollis or  
Ian Bruckshaw.

The Parish Office will Give you  
contact details

Parish Office 457 9410

# ANNUAL PARISH REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE WORK UNDERTAKEN BY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT BENEFIT THE FRANKLEY COMMUNITY.

Firstly, I wish to commence my 2014 Annual Report by thanking all my Council Member Colleagues for the time and dedication they have put into serving on the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council, a service for which no payment is received.

Over the last year the Council has seen the results of the reduction in a number of City Council Services taking effect within the community. The two dedicated Beat Sweepers who had been employed by the City Council on Frankley for several years have been withdrawn. The Council has also seen the effect of the withdrawal of the free garden waste collection service resulting in green waste bags left across the area uncollected for several weeks. There has also been a reduction in the Library opening hours which prompted a very large number of residents to attend a Public Meeting in February and raise concerns regarding the future of this service.

However, a marvellous positive result has been observed with the increasing number of local residents, across the Parish from Charnwood Close to Romany Road, who have joined the Frankley Street Champions to assist in tackling the litter problem. As members of the community, a number of your Parish Councillors have facilitated these collections, with Bruce Pitt, Ian Bruckshaw, Linda Coates and Sam Goodwin being lead participants.

**Last year it is estimated more than 500 sacks of litter were cleared.** As Chairperson of the Council, I wish to personally thank all those who have contributed to this remarkable effort which has received praise from City Council Members and envy from other Neighbourhoods across the City.

Frankley Neighbourhood Forum Management Committee have taken on board a project that has resulted in 100 composter units being supplied, at a reduced price, to residents to assist with the garden waste problem.

In addition I wish to highlight the outstanding contribution and endeavour to social life in the Frankley Community which has been made by Members of the Frankley Carnival Committee. Linda Coates, Ian Bruckshaw and Bruce Pitt together with their team have arranged the staging of a number of Community events which have proved a great success. Not only did they organise the Annual Carnival in September 2013 but they also have run other successful events for all ages. These have included a Halloween Party and East Egg Hunt for young people and also a "Forties Event" for the Members of the Reaside Community Centre, Senior Citizens Lunch Club. Their work has been acknowledged in the Constituency with Linda Coates receiving a special award from the Constituency Housing Liaison Board.

The Frankley Neighbourhood Forum, which has existed for 17 years, continues to serve the community in many ways one of which is the distribution of the quarterly community newsletter, the printing of which is funded by a grant from the Council, to every household. If you have any articles or something interesting to say to share with other residents please put them forward for consideration, either via the Parish Council Office or by email to (sidgreymbe@hotmail.co.uk).

In addition I wish to again praise the work of Ian Bruckshaw who, in his position on the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum, has organised hedge cutting work for elderly and disabled residents. He continues to pursue improvements to the condition of the walkways across the Parish which have been neglected and seen as a place for illegal fly-tipping. Ian is leading a project to attempt to tackle these areas over the next year and is in contact with the City Officers to badger them to take on board their responsibilities for keeping these areas properly maintained. The Forum is also employing a Specialist Contractor to assist the project. A grant contribution of £7,790 was approved by the Parish Council at its April 2014 meeting to support this necessary work.

The Council has recently seen the introduction of new orders regarding dog control under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act 2005. One of the orders relates to fouling of land by dogs which the public have access and which could result in a Fixed Penalty notice or Maximum Fine of £1000 for owners who allow their dogs to foul public land. There is no excuse as the Parish Council has, for a number of years, provided free "Poop Scoops" which have been very popular amongst the responsible dog owners in the Parish and which can be placed in litter bins for removal. Unfortunately a number of irresponsible owners continue to allow their dogs to foul in public places and have been seen throwing the scoops onto verges and bushes and run the risk of a penalty fine being issued.

Fly-tipping also unfortunately continues across the area with the illegal dumping of various items, many of which could have been removed free of charge through the Neighbourhood Caretaking Service, which is jointly funded by your Parish Council.

If residents have an item that requires assistance in moving then contact the Parish Council Office for help, however this no longer includes bricks and building debris due to weight restrictions.

The Neighbourhood Caretakers employed by the Northfield District in association with the Parish Council provide a service well above and beyond what their duties require.

## **FRANKLEY FLOOD PROTECTION**

Although the last winter was one of the wettest on record and caused devastation in other parts of the Country thankfully this has not severely affected Frankley.

A lot of this can be attributed to the work of the Street Champions and other volunteers who have pursued the maintenance of river banks in the area. In addition special funding was obtained for training to be provided for the group. Work has also recently been started to tackle a long standing drainage problem in Princess Diana Walk which has been urged by the work of local residents and the Street Champions. However residents are again requested to assist in ensuring their family members do not throw rubbish into the streams that run through our neighbourhood. If you observe any items dumped in the streams again let us know so that clearance can be arranged. Keep an eye on the condition of the drains throughout your locality and if you observe a blockage please report it to the Council.

## **Remembrance:**

Eric Carter will not be in attendance at this year's Annual Meeting as he will be in France, a place where 70 years ago as a 19 year old Marine when serving in the British Armed Forces was part of the "D Day" Normandy landings. At 89 he still continues to serve the public through the Parish Council with enormous energy and I wish to make my personal appreciation known for the work he undertakes and the dedication he has given in serving our community.

## PAYMENTS

The following is a list of Payments made by the Parish Council over the 2013/2014 Municipal Year which have benefited the Community.

Payee	Nature of Payment	Amount
Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Payment for printing 4 editions of the Community News	£940.00
Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Contribution towards Frankley Hedge Cutting programme	£5,000.00
Frankley Neighbourhood Forum	Purchase of Trailer for community use.	£952.00
Parish Council	Contribution towards the cost of the Frankley Neighbourhood Caretakers Scheme	£26,185.00
Parish Council	Purchase of Poop Scoops which were provided free of charge to Frankley Residents	£ 873.00
Parish Council	Maintenance of grassed areas in front of Arden Road shops.	£490.00
Parish Council	Provision of Community Christmas Tree	£80.00
Parish Council	Snow Clearing equipment modification.	£50.00
		£34,570.00

In addition the following Community Grants were awarded.

Frankley Carnival	Grant towards Carnival Costs	£2,000.00
Playsafety Limited	MUGA Annual Inspection	£65.00
Parish Council	Additional Notice Boards	£552.66
Frankley Community High School	Sport Coaching Payment	£2,000.00
		£4,617.66

### WARD COUNCILLOR AND HOUSING OFFICER SUPPORT

I would also like to thank Ward Councillors Andy Cartwright and Ian Cruise for the work they have put into serving the community. They have provided considerable support for the Parish Council and attend an Advice Desk in the Parish Office twice a month. However if any resident wishes to have a message directed to the Ward Councillor please contact the Parish Council Office and we will assist in the process.

In addition a thank you to Housing Officer, Sally Doherty and Estate Services Assistant, Keith Moore for their work and excellent cooperation in their contact with the Parish Council and assistance in tackling the problems and concerns that are brought to the Parish Council Office .

**Gareth Griffiths, Chairperson of New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council, May 2014**

## History of Frankley

### Gannow Green

**Gannou: first record 1330**

Gannow Green lies at the west end of Frankley. The green itself, an agriculture feature, probably dates from the Middle Ages when the term usually referred to common land over which local people had certain rights. Chief of these was that of grazing their livestock. Gannow may derive from two Old English words: **gamen** and **ho**: the first element meaning 'to game' or 'to play': the second, a topographical word meaning 'a ridge' [of land] that sticks out. The implication is of a 'recreation area on a hill'. What the origin of this may have been remains open to conjecture, although it suggests a site perhaps performing the function of a village green.

Little is known of the early history of the manor of Gannow. It is first found in the records in 1330 when Hugh de Mortimer obtained a grant of free warren here. This was in effect a licence bought by a manorial lord from the Crown to hunt on his own land small game, such as badger, fox, hare, otter, rabbit, squirrel, partridge and pheasant. This rather suggests a resident or at least a semi-resident lord. In 1407 the manor of Gannow was held by Richard and Elizabeth Ruyhale from the Earl of Warwick and then passed through various families including the Boleyns. Thomas, Earl of Ormond c1477-1539, the father of Anne Boleyn was lord of the manor. In the 19th century Gannow manor passed with that of Cofton Hackett to the Earl of Plymouth.

In 1961, ahead of building the development, Gannow Green Moat was excavated by Birmingham Archaeological Society's junior fieldwork group directed by B K Roberts. It was found that the site had been occupied from the 13th century to the 15th century. On the south side was found a massive stone curtain wall which had been built in the first half of the 14th century, and a fine tiled hearth of c1400. Evidence was also uncovered of buildings with tiled roofs.

The wooded moated site at the west end of Devon Road, now a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is the location of the medieval manor house. Now dry and grassed, the moat was dug to surround a timber-framed building of some size and prestige. The moat was edged with a sandstone wall and must have been an expensive venture, more a display of status than a defence, and only undertaken by people of some wealth.

Two fishponds east of the moat, around Devon Road/Kent Road, and around Lismore Close must have provided an important addition to the medieval diet; these too were a symbol. Although the sites are now covered by housing, part of the dam of one of the ponds can still be seen alongside Mull Close. The dam was originally built across the River Rea, though that river has subsequently diverted to its present course

Gannow windmill is no longer there but features on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1834. Situated on the site north of New Inns Lane in the Ormond Road area, it may have had a relationship with Frogmill on the River Rea nearby. From the 18th century and earlier, when watermills were turned over to the metal industries, a windmill was often built to continued grinding corn.

Information for this article was sourced from the History of Birmingham.

Eric Carter

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**This Newsletter is produced by Frankley Neighbourhood Forum**

## The Quality of the Water in our Rivers

### **BALAAMS WOOD– FRANKLEY/BOURLAY BROOK FIN SURVEY 24.4.14 summary [ FIN Freshwater Invertebrate Network]**

The Friends of Balaams Wood FIN group have set up a new survey site on the Frankley/ Bourlay Brook, a little tributary of the River Rea just off Ormond Road. It flows along the edge of Gannow Green Moat-the site of a medieval homestead and now an atmospheric wooded and swampy area bursting with choice woodland plants including the town hall clock plant ADOXA MOSCHATELLINA.

Too shallow to survey with the big net, the creatures were collected by turning over stones and peering into the water. Water crickets skated around on the surface and a good variety of creatures were found beneath the water including lots of shrimps. A giant leech was admired by some and Olive mayfly, cased caddis and a few stonefly larvae were found, the latter being quite intolerant of polluted water. Interestingly the Bladder Snail was also found – this species is one of the most **tolerant** of pollution. Under the larger stones were little piles of stones stuck on in a sloppy matrix of netting a sure sign of caseless caddis larvae which build nests in a fixed location rather than carrying their cases around with them.

### Where Do Names on Frankley Come From ?

As most of you will know , the Lickey Banker pub is named after the locomotive that helped trains up the Lickey Incline the steepest main line bank in Great Briton [ it is 1 in 37.7] Wikipedia shows just one locomotive but I was told recently that there was more than one. The engine shown by wiki was known a Big Emma and then Big Bertha and was a 0-10-0, an unusual wheel arrangement but understandable in view of the task, no bogey wheels. Does anyone know more? Are there any books or information ? If you know more tell the editor [sidgreymbe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sidgreymbe@hotmail.co.uk)

[ex-fireman: the last of these steam engines was a class 10, 2-10-0 Built in the late 1950s it had the traditional head lamp on the front for safety when coming up behind at night. It was joined by four tank engines all were stabled at Bromsgrove shed]

#### Road Names

**If you look around you will see that roads are grouped under different themes. when you walk about look for the following groups.**

**The Royals**

**The Scottish Isles**

**The Counties & Shires**

**Local Names from Old Frankley**

**Shakespearian**

**Look for more and let us have your answers**

**There are also two roads named after the same person**

**Send to the editor**

**[sidgreymbe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sidgreymbe@hotmail.co.uk)**

## Reaside Community Centre

## Community Activities

Reaside Community Centre 17 Ormond Road Frankley B45 0JE The Monday Club over 60s meets 12pm till 2.30pm every Monday at a cost of £3 per person. We can arrange for Ring and Ride to collect you if you wish. We have Fish and Chip day and Ti Chi once a month, we play bingo, activities and have trips out.

We have a few places available, contact Karan 0781 7090587 or Sanda0795331990.

Wednesday Bingo 1pm till 3pm (over 18s only) Cash prizes refreshments. Just turn up!!

Children's two hour party with disco only£40, (a £10 non refundable deposit is required) The Centre is also available to hire for other occasions. Contact Dave 0781 561 1251 or Karan.

Beeches Martial Arts Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays, phone PAUL 07944537515

**Frankley Carnival Committee.** Meets 1st

Thursday, 6:00 at the parish office Tel 07925  
233 738, email craftygirl\_9@hotmail.com

**Frankley Neighbourhood Forum.** Meets 3rd

Thursday of the month, 7:00 at the parish  
office Tel 07779 497 263,

email bruceinfrankley@hotmail.co.uk

**Friends of Balaam's Wood,** Next meeting 12th

June 6:00 at the parish office.

www.balaamswoodlnr.btck.co.uk/

**Housing Liaison Board.** Meets @ 6:30 on the

last Wednesday of the month at Grizedale  
Residential Centre. B45 0JL. Tel 07786 641 981

**Longbridge Police Tasking Meeting & Neigh-  
bourhood Watch.** The tasking meeting starts

at 6:00 followed by the NHW at 7:00.

Hollymoor Centre, 8 Manor Park Grove,

B31 5ER. June 2nd, June 30th & July 28th.

Tel 07779 497 263

**Parish Council meetings,** 3rd Monday of the  
month, 7:30 at St Christopher's Church Centre.

All welcome

### Composting

In the last edition of the community news we put forward the idea of Composting as one alternative to paying the £35 a year for green collection. Over 100 people have taken this option on. Unfortunately the price of the composting kit has risen to £40 each, so we cannot carry on supplying them at the subsidised price. We must thank the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum for its efforts in securing limited funding to support this project.

You can now buy them direct from  
evengreener.com or  
Birmingham City Council.

Thanks to all those who have taken  
part.

### Community Awards

Those of you who have lived on Frankley for a while will remember the great nights we had celebrating with those who had been awarded Community Awards in recognition of their contribution to Frankley life.

It became the social highlight of the year. The Parish Council are looking at reviving this prestigious community event, later this year. So look out for more details. Spend a social evening with fellow residents of Frankley ,and get to know your neighbours