



BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

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1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Welcome to Burntwood Town Council's Annual Report.

Following the 2007 elections and the change in the political profile of the Town Council, it is a pleasure to say as Chairman of the Council that all elected Members worked constructively together for the good of the town. Debates at Council meetings were robust at times but always good-natured when different opinions were taken into account and consensus reached. I enjoyed chairing and being part of the meetings of Burntwood Town Council over the last year.

Our Council meetings and internal organisation benefited from having a full-time Town Clerk. The move to our new Council Offices in Lambourne House was completed on time and without too many problems. A Council presence on the high street rather than being out of sight behind the library has been beneficial to residents and we are visibly there to deal with any enquiries. We are in the process of establishing a Burntwood Town Council web site which will also widen access to the Council and improve information flow.

The Council recently submitted an application to be awarded Quality Parish Council status. We are fairly confident that the Council now meets the necessary criteria and we look forward to receiving accreditation later this year.

The 2007 Burntwood Wakes was a great success. For the first year since the Wakes restarted, the weather was good and this helped to make the event so very enjoyable and possibly the best yet. Thanks are due to all the elected Members, officers and community groups who worked together to make it happen. Sincere thanks are also due to those who sponsored the Wakes. Their contributions really had a big effect on the overall size and success of the event.

Preparations are well in hand for this year's Burntwood Wakes and again we are all hoping for good weather. The Town Council decided that this year's Burntwood Wakes would still be a free event. However, the costs of the Wakes are very large for a Council of our size and implementation of a small charge for the Saturday evening event may well be considered for next year.

The Town Council decided to re-launch the Burntwood in Bloom competition and we hope that as many residents as possible will enter. There are categories for all, ranging from complete gardens to single containers and hanging baskets. Entries need to be in by Friday 27 June and winners will be announced at a special event in September.

As Chairman of the Town Council I hosted the two traditional annual civic events, the Town Council's Carol Service and its Civic Service. I thank Reverend David Weaver and the Christ Church community for welcoming us to Christ Church and for providing two such joyous occasions. These services presented the town of Burntwood in a very good light and it was pleasing to see so many local organisations represented at the services as well as neighbouring parish councils and district and county members. There was also a special civic event this year, when in partnership with Lichfield District Council, the Town Council hosted a reception for Chasetown Football Club to commemorate their historic 2007/2008 FA Cup run. Mementos were presented to the players and club management.

During the year, my wife and I had the privilege of representing Burntwood on over fifty occasions. Our thanks go to the Vice-Chairman, Councillor John Walker MBE, who agreed to attend when we were unable to do so. Thanks to John's help no civic invitation was turned down. I would also like to record my thanks to John for saying prayers at Council meetings as substitute for my not appointing a chaplain for this year.

My charities for the year were St Giles' Hospice and the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society. Thanks to the generosity of prize givers, donors and ticket buyers about £1,250 has been raised to be shared between the two charities.

It may be an old fashioned thing to say, but it really was been an honour and a privilege to be Chairman of Burntwood Town Council over the last year. I thank everyone who helped to make my Chairman's year so enjoyable and I wish my successor an equally happy year.

Councillor Dr Bill Hassell
Chairman, Burntwood Town Council
2007/08

2. GRANT AID

The Council operates an annual Grant Aid Scheme and invites local organisations to apply for contributory funding.

The following organisations were awarded grants at the October 2007 meeting of the Grant Aid Committee:

	Organisation	Grant Awarded
1	Age Concern South Staffordshire	£500
2	1st Burntwood Girls' Brigade	£200
3	2nd Burntwood Boys' Brigade	£250
4	Burntwood and District Citizens Advice Bureau	£1,000
5	Burntwood Darby and Joan (WRVS)	£150
6	Burntwood Family History Group	£100
7	Burntwood Folk Festival	Application withdrawn
8	Burntwood Gardening Guild	£100
9	Burntwood Leisure FC under 14's	£50
10	Burntwood Live at Home Scheme	£300
11	Burntwood Meeting Centre	£250
12	Burntwood Singers	£50
13	Burntwood Swimming Club	£500
14	Cannock and Burntwood Cats Protection League	£25

	Organisation	Grant Awarded
15	Chase Terrace Darby and Joan Club	£150
16	Chase Terrace Ladies Club	£100
17	Chase Terrace Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£100
18	Chasetown Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£100
19	County Air Ambulance	£200
20	Cruse Bereavement Care	£100
21	Embroidery for Burntwood Community	£100
22	Emmanuel Church New Life Centre	---
23	Hammerwich Cricket Club	£100
24	Lichfield & District Crime Prevention Panel	£50
25	Lichfield & District Neighbourhood Watch	---
26	National Association of Widows	£100
27	Pathway Project	£350
28	Redwood Friendship Club	£200
29	Royal British Legion (Burntwood & District Branch)	£150
30	Royal British Legion (Chasetown Branch)	£150
31	South Staffordshire Youth for Christ	£150
32	Staffordshire Victim Support	£300
33	St Giles Hospice	£200
34	St John's Community Church	£200
35	Vitalise	£350

3. **STAFF**

Mrs Mary Danby BA (Hons), Town Clerk (Full-Time)
 Brian Cooper, Finance Officer (Part-Time)
 Ms Jayne Minor, Administrative Assistant/Chairman's Secretary (Part-Time)
 Mrs Julie Bayley, Administrative Assistant (Part-Time)
 Mrs Lydia Brown, Relief Administrative Assistant (Part-Time)

4. **PUBLICITY**

The public and local press are invited to attend all meetings of the Council. Meetings are notified on notice boards at Burntwood Library and at the Council's office.

The Council publishes a quarterly Newsletter and a website will be launched during 2008.

5. **GENERAL**

Burntwood in Bloom Competition

The Council launched the Burntwood in Bloom Competition comprising of eight categories with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category. The **Burntwood Chase Heritage Group** has kindly donated the trophy for the Overall Winner of the Best Rear Garden and Best Front Garden categories and the **Lichfield District Council** has kindly donated a trophy for the winner of the Community Project/Premises category. The Competition will be judged in mid July, with a Presentation Evening scheduled for mid September. **Helianthus**, a local florist, has kindly agreed to sponsor the Presentation Evening by providing all the flowers for the event.

Burntwood Cemetery

The Council operates Burntwood Cemetery, which is located on St Matthew's Road, Burntwood.

Burntwood Wakes Festival

The Chairman makes reference to the 2007 Burntwood Wakes Festival in his report. Preparations are well advanced for the 2008 event.

Remembrance Day

Members participated in the Remembrance Day services held at Burntwood, Chase Terrace and Chasetown.

Civic Function

The Town Council's Christmas Service and the Civic Service were held at Christ Church, Church Road, Burntwood.

The Chairman represented the Town at various engagements throughout the year and he refers to these in his report (see paragraph 1, above).

Finance

The Council's estimated income and expenditure for 2007/08 and 2008/09 is attached at Appendix 1.

Office

The Council's office is open to the public from 9.30am – 3pm Monday – Friday (closed Bank Holidays).