

# Dedicated poppy seller

**A BIRSTALL poppy seller has received a certificate for her dedication to the Royal British Legion's annual appeal.**

Val Joyce (63) started selling poppies in 1967 and her commitment to raising funds for our service men and women has been recognised by Voluntary Action Leicester, which has been making awards to people who have been volunteering for 25 years or more.

Val joined other volunteers to receive her certificate at a ceremony at Voluntary Action Leicester's Newark Street headquarters in Leicester.

**ASB continued from page 1**

tracts, ASBOs and may result in eviction from local authority homes.

The Programme also includes explaining and identifying to young people the opportunities they have locally for constructive activities. A 12 month programme of activities was planned for Birstall that may include a Friday night youth project.

Longslade College have agreed to introducing the programme from September and negotiations with Stonehill school are still ongoing.

There were five members of the public at the meeting. Carl Gunns, who runs a boxing gym on Birstall Road, said the thought there had been a dramatic improvement in graffiti, that Birstall's young people got a bad name as most of the trouble is caused by people who don't live here and that most of the young people here were OK.

Another resident commented that the problems of ASB and graffiti were bad and that she had no confidence in the authorities to deal with the problem.

Points made at the meeting included:  
 • The Police said that most ASB in Birstall could be attributed to two people who were both now in the criminal justice system  
 • most burglary is carried out by people not living in Birstall

• one of the first responses to ASB is a visit to the parents. Not all young people are aware their behaviour is unacceptable or criminal

• three people have been arrested recently for graffiti

To report problems of graffiti and ASB contact 01509 634533 or 01509 634920. If you witness incidents of graffiti, ASB or criminal damage always report it to the Police on 222 2222. You can contact Charnwood Local Policing Unit by email: charnwood.lpu@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk. You will receive a response within 24 hours.

# Romans in Birstall

**TWO HUMAN skeletons dating back to Roman times have been unearthed near Birstall.**

The remains were discovered as a pond was being dug – the Police were called, then archaeologists from Leicester City Council and Leicester University.

The bones have been dated as third century AD because of the pottery found with the bodies. Archaeologists have also recovered the iron hobnails from their shoes.

Before further work can take place and the bodies can be removed an exhumation licence has to be obtained from the Home Office.

Archaeologists say the site may be a cemetery for a known settlement in the Birstall area.

The Birstall Post has agreed not to disclose the exact location of the site.

In 2007, 200 bodies and the remains of a Roman villa were found on Fowke Street, Rothley.

Archaeologists made the finds when they were excavating the site of the Grange, before developers William Davis began work.

The bodies were found five deep in places. Richard Clarke, Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, said: "The clear indication is that these burials are Christian in tradition and it seems most likely that the cemetery fits into a period between AD850-1400."

The discover of the Roman remains were a surprise to the archaeologists, as they were aware of a substantial site near the Ridgeway and did not expect another major site so close.

Mr Clarke said: "The Roman remains suggest the presence of a substantial, high status building or complex in the near vicinity." The excavation was confined to the footprint of the planned new building at the Grange and the excavated area was clearly not the main focus of the Roman site, said Mr Clarke.

Roman building materials, brick, tile and slate, were found. Pottery and other artefacts suggest the Rothley site was in use during the later roman period, AD250-400.

**Pics from top: human teeth, 1700 years old; human skull; a third century Nene Valley colourcoat pottery vessel**



# Scouts Indian camp

**SIXTEEN CUB Scouts from Birstall's two cub packs took part in the annual three day challenge camp at the Oaks in Charnwood campsite, on the weekend of June 12-14.**

The theme for this year was Native American Indians and prior to the camp the cubs designed and decorated sections of tubes to create two totem poles that made up our camp gateway.

The cubs took part in adventurous activities like rock climbing, canoeing, sailing, shooting and archery, along with crafts, karaoke, tee-pee building and grass sledging, then finishing off with a good old campfire sing-song.

Spokesman Ged Sessions said: "The cubs enjoyed glorious sunshine all weekend and



tested themselves to the limit. By Sunday afternoon they were all exhausted and ready for the journey home but were already looking forward to their next camp in the summer holidays."

**Pic: The whole Birstall contingent in front of the Totem pole gateway**

# Local elections

**THE CONSERVATIVE party retained control of Leicestershire County Council at the June elections.**

The Tories increased their number of seats by six, winning 36 seats with 44.3% of the vote.

The Labour party won four seats (down nine) with 15.5% of the vote and the Liberal Democrats won 14 seats (up three) with 27.1% of the vote.

The British National Party won a seat for the first time with 12.1% of the vote. At the last local elections four years ago they polled 1% of the vote.

The turnout was 39%, well below the 63% recorded in 2005.

**Local Results: Birstall**

Liberal Democrat hold. R Wilson (LD) 1489 (37%), S Jones (Con) 1442 (36%), P Cheeseman (BNP) 644 (16%), C Poole (Lab) 464 (11%). Majority 47. Turnout 42.4%

**Rothley & Mountsorrel**

Conservative hold. P Osborne (Con) 1878 (52%), T Smith (LD) 664 (18%), C Collett (BNP) 650 (18%), J Smith (Lab) 443 (12%). Majority 1214. Turnout 38.7%

# NHW birthday

**BIRSTALL AND Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch, one of the largest crime prevention schemes in the country, celebrates a milestone in July.**

Saturday July 18 is the group's 126<sup>th</sup> Advice Shop marking 10 years of holding their monthly drop-in sessions.

Birstall and Wanlip is one of very few Neighbourhood Watch schemes to hold a regular Advice Shop, where any resident can call in and get advice on crime prevention, buy crime prevention and safety products or speak to a local police officer.

The tenth birthday celebration advice shop will run from 10am-2pm on the lawn opposite the garden centre on Sibson Road in Birstall.

# Parish Council notes

**A FULL meeting of Birstall Parish Council was held on June 8.**

PC Richard Caruthers reported that the County Council's IMPACT team were coming back to work with young people on the streets of Birstall this summer. He said officers from the Special Constabulary were continuing to be deployed in Birstall, especially at weekends.

A new Police Community Support Officer, Angela Ogden 6637, has joined PCSO Mark Butler on the Birstall beat. She will be on duty Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Police Inspector Duncan Southall re-

ported on the actions taken to date to address the problems of antisocial behaviour (ASB) in Birstall. These included identifying key partners in other agencies and holding regular meetings with them, arresting two key individuals for ASB, visiting local schools to give talks, issuing press releases about progress, supporting Business Watch, organising a summer graffiti project and continuing to urge the public to keep on reporting problems.

It was agreed to use £28,000 left over from the budget for the Sibson Road car park to refurbish the cemetery paths.

The council discussed a proposal to offer

a reward for information leading to the conviction of individuals responsible for graffiti. Some concern was expressed that the Council may be deluged with information and that fraudulent claims may be made. It was agreed in principle to offer a reward and that a set of rules and conditions be drawn up.

Users of the 10 Sibson Road building will be invited to submit names for the building, to be chosen by the Council.

It was reported that the Connect2 project of improvements to Watermead Country Park were underway and that the area around Birstall lock including the bridge would be completed before the end of this financial year.

The Council is investigating the provision of new skateboarding facilities including possible sites and sources of funding.

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