



## **Best Community Website Competition 2015**

To be completed and returned with entry fee no later than Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Sylvia Batty, Cheshire Community Action, Suite G7, Ground Floor, Northwich Business Centre, Meadow Street, Northwich CW9 5BF**

**Tel: 01606 350042 Fax: 01606 359730 E-Mail: sylvia.batty@cheshireaction.org.uk**

**Website URL:** [www.villagearena.org](http://www.villagearena.org)

**Your name:** Larry Bannon

**Your address/postcode:** Old House, Church Minshull, Nantwich, Cheshire

**Village/Parish name:** Church Minshull

**Who decides what should go on the website?** The website is the ownership of Church Minshull Parish Council and the design of it, was based on the feedback of the community, as to what they wanted to see on the local website. On a day to day basis, overall content is controlled by the webteam of Larry Bannon and Meikle Carss, with contributors given access to, dedicated pages, calendars and news articles. External contact is governed and vetted by the webteam.

---

### **Is there a way people can feedback on the website? YES**

There are numerous ways that people feedback on the website, the first is by word of mouth. As Church Minshull is such a small community, verbal communication is very good and comments and discussions of website content is a regular occurrence. The website also has a 'Share & Chat' feature, where anyone can access to make comment about the site, the community, or say, an event and invite wider discussion over the ethernet. There is also a website email address to allow people direct contact with the webteam.

### **Do you invite people to share information and ideas in any way through the Website? YES**

Many of the local groups have their own webpage within ARENA, such as the Village Hall group, the Youth Club, the CM Vision group, Messy Church and WI, etc. Some have direct contributor access to update their pages; to add an a current news article, or say, to amend/add a calendar event. The website is promoted in local newsletters and on Facebook and Twitter and anyone can access or share the information through these means.

**What are your hopes and aspirations for the future of the website?** The parish has been lucky in having had a website for a number of years through the enthusiasm and endeavours of a very small number of individuals. In 2012 the Parish Council took the initiative and grasped the opportunity to expand on that good work. The objectives were to make use of advances in publishing tools and to embrace the broader engagement with the digital world for social interaction and communication. The concept of ARENA is to create a place to join up our community and build on the impact that groups, such as the CM Vision team, has achieved to increase awareness of existing activities and initiatives in our area, but also to enable new ideas to be developed and communicated more easily, hence the name – ARENA: “*a place where events unfold*”; and there is a particular reason for not branding the site specifically to Church Minshull.

The website was generically named ‘ARENA’, so as to encourage engagement with other local communities who may not have their own website, such as the neighbouring community of Worleston. Neighbouring parishes are quite small and by possibly involving a broader community with the website, then both the number of events and scope for interesting content, could be increased and editorial contributions could be shared. Worleston Primary School makes use of ARENA in this way and the Parish Council has also approached the Chair of Worleston PC, to take advantage of this generic approach and look to develop wider community engagement by doing so.

In future, the webteam will hope to train more local people, to higher levels of access and in doing so encourage more information and ideas passing through the website.

In it’s first full year of operation – 2014, the website had over 35,000 page hits, on average 3000 page hits a month, which is an extraordinary amount of engagement for a small community of 204 houses and 425 residents. Of course, we would like to maintain, or even grow these numbers, as it is a measure of the importance, that the local residents, within a widespread and very rural community, place on it ...reaching out to the wider community was always on of the key objectives for the website.

We are looking to introduce additional monthly features, such as; competitions, ‘meet the community’ features, a local mapping search; and now that we have a full year of statistics, we will look to market the website to our local businesses too and grow that side of the directories pages. The Parish Council continues to seek support and sources of funds to cover the ongoing licensing charges and to enable the facility to support the communities, individuals, groups and local businesses.

**ARENA**  
Where Events Unfold

Search

Home News Calendar Community About Us Directory Share & Chat Contact

## Remembrance Day Service

Arena Webteam: 10th November 2013 12:50pm

A lovely remembrance day service was delivered by St Bartholomew's Churchwardens, John Headon and Chris Challoner. Pryce Jones provided the music of 'Nimrod' and 'Last Post' as well as the 11 o'clock chimes of 'Big Ben'.

Audrey Colquhoun provided the organ music for the three hymns and the national anthem.

Wreaths of remembrance were laid by Dave Wallis on behalf of the Parish Council and by Margaret Guy, on behalf of the W.I.

Kerry Bannon gave a reading and Tim Hough read out the names of the local fallen from the Great War to the Second World War.

**Upcoming events**

- 16 NOV** Village Hall Quiz Tomorrow 7:00pm
- 18 NOV** Parish Council Mtg 18th November 2013 7:30pm
- 19 NOV** Mobile Library 19th November 2013 10:20am

**Latest news**

- A Servant to Two Masters**  
Arena Webteam: Yesterday
- ARENA server disabled**  
Arena Webteam: Tuesday 12th Nov
- Remembrance Day Service**  
Arena Webteam: Sunday 10th Nov
- Messy Church**  
Arena Webteam: Sunday 10th Nov
- ARENA: now on social media**  
Arena Webteam: Friday 8th Nov
- Brand new community website**  
Arena Webteam: Tuesday 5th Nov
- Cartoon - winner announced**  
Arena Webteam: Monday 4th Nov

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND ON YOUR ANSWERS.**

**Please return completed forms to Cheshire Community Action, Suite G7, Ground Floor, Northwich Business Centre, Meadow Street, Northwich CW9 5BF**

**Forms are also available electronically at [www.cheshireaction.org.uk](http://www.cheshireaction.org.uk)**