



Lapley Community Spirit

Best Kept Small Village
entry 2024
Supporting documents

Showcasing our
community



What does our community do?

Lapley has its own community committee set up that regularly organises events for all to participate in (Lapley Community Group) Since November 2021 the group have successfully compiled the following events:

LCG Events

- **Bring and Share Launch Event at All Saints on 26th November 2021**
- **Mince Pies and Mulled Wine at Lapley Hall on 16th December 2021;**
- **Quiz Night at All Saints on 4th March 2022;**
- **Live Music Event at All Saints on 25th March 2022 featuring local musicians Joe Bayliss and Karen and John Hawthorne;**
- **Organised Walk on 23rd April 2022**
- **Bring and Share Meal at All Saints on 13th May 2022;**
- **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at The Old Vicarage on 5th June 2022;**
- **Fund Raising Concert for Ukraine at All Saints on 24th June 2022;**
- **Village Barbecue at All Saints on 10th September 2022 which raised money for local food banks;**
- **A 'Sing for Your Supper Event' at All Saintson 25th November 2022;**
- **Bring and Share Christmas Meal at Lapley Hall on 21st December 2022;**
- **Organised Walk on 12th March 2023**
- **Village Barbecue at All Saints on 7th May 2023 to celebrate the coronation of King Charles;**
- **Local Vocals Concert at All Saints on 9th June 2023;**

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- **Bring and Share at allotment gardens on 11th June 2023**
 - **Harvest Supper at All Saints on 23rd September 2023;**
 - **An Evening of Song featuring Local Vocals at All Saints on 1st December 2023; and**
 - **Bring and Share Christmas Meal at Lapley Hall on 21st December 2023.**

Other Events

Other regular events in the village include:

- **A weekly ‘Place of Welcome’ at All Saints on a Thursday morning bringing together people from both Lapley and Wheaton Aston;**
- **Bell-ringing sessions.**
- **Regular history talks are held for both Lapley and Wheaton Aston in All Saints Church**

Other Information

LCG have set up the following to support the community initiatives:

- **a Facebook Page for residents called, ‘Lapley and Friends;**
- **a dedicated e-mail group; and**
- **a WhatsApp Group.**

Some of our events.....

 Lapley Community Group 
Bring & Share Garden Party

Sunday 11th June from 1pm

For Lapley residents and close friends

Will & Sarah's Garden (turn right along the grassy track at the end of Park Lane)

Please bring a savoury or sweet dish to share, and don't forget your chair!
(The house toilet will be available and Roxy will be out🐾)



We are looking forward to getting together as a village



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LAPLEY COMMUNITY GROUP BARBECUE to celebrate The CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

The weather *did* rain on the King's parade, but not on Lapley's celebrations for the coronation the following day.

It was a perfect spring day, at last Lapley Community Group (LCG) had managed to arrange an event in warm sunshine. By the law of averages, we were due a bit of luck with the weather.

The bunting had dried out after the coronation downpours, the gazebos were not stressed by gale force winds, and the barbecue fired first time of asking! What more could we ask for? We asked for Lapley to come and join us and you certainly did us proud.

We believe more than 100 Lapley residents and their families joined in to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. They enjoyed a wonderful barbecue, cooked to perfection (apart from one batch of burnt sausages) by our master chef Mark and followed by a vast array of homemade cakes from our generous supporters

The youngsters enjoyed games and races and were royally entertained by Punch and Judy (yes, there were more sausages involved). Unfortunately the King and Queen were not able to be there in person - they had to attend a concert at Windsor that evening – well they missed out, but I guess duty called.

Massive thanks to everyone involved in organising, setting up, catering, baking, gardening and generally making it all possible.

And a big thank you to all who supported Lapley Community Group by just being there on the day. It was wonderful to see so many people – young and old, you all made it a brilliant day for Lapley.

The ticket sales for the event contributed to the costs but we will be donating any excess funds to Lapley church and LCRF (Lapley Church Restoration Fund).

Look out for future events on **Lapley and Friends on Facebook** – the next get together is a Bring and Share in Will and Sarah's garden (Park Lane Cottage) on the afternoon of 11th June.



LOCAL VOCALS – CHRISTMAS 2023

Our first concert of the Christmas season started off with an evening of songs, wine and canapes at All Saints Church, Lapley.

We were invited back by Lapley Community Group after our “hugely popular” performance in 2022. (Or was it because we were available on the night?).

We were looking forward to performing some new songs along with some old favourites and, of course, Christmas was very much the theme for the second half, of the performance.

The church was decorated for the start of the Christmas season so there was a lovely atmosphere for the audience, although it was the coldest night of the winter so far.

Refreshments were provided by members of the Lapley Community Group (Dorothy Stephens Henry, Carole Sable and Margaret Holmes) and we are grateful to them and all who helped on the night for their support in providing the delicious canapes and fine wines during the interval.

Despite the cold, the evening was enjoyed by all and the audience joined in with the Christmas songs – our aim was to bring the first sparkle of Christmas 2023 to Lapley that night – and our community certainly did that.

December was a busy month for Local Vocals – we had two concerts at local care homes – Needwood House Nursing Home in Heath Hayes provides 24-hour residential care for adults with complex mental and physical health needs. It was a pleasure to sing for the residents and staff at Needwood House. The choir love to sing and we hope that we can bring some of that joy to our audiences who live with challenging health issues.

The Wheaton Aston Court concert was also a lovely experience for the choir – the residents joined in with several songs and really enjoyed the performance. They asked if we could come back again the following week – we must be doing something right!

Our vocal chords held out for one final performance at the Hartley Arms on the 18th December. This was a very informal evening – more like a spontaneous performance in the pub. It was great to hear so many people joining in with the choir and a night to remember for Local Vocals. Thanks to the Hartley for inviting us to the pub – hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

We are always looking for new members – so if you like singing, why don't you come and join us. No experience needed. We meet on a Monday evening at the Village Hall, 7:30 pm start. Contact localvocals.st19@gmail.com for more details, or just come along on a Monday evening to learn more about us.

Jackie Holmes

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

We held our second Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraiser on a damp Saturday in early July, and despite the weather, the event was a great success and well supported. The event was hosted by Dawn and Mark Thomson at their home in Lapley.

We managed to raise £ 520.00 for Macmillan this year which is a terrific amount and we are very grateful to many friends and neighbours who supported us and several local businesses who generously donated prizes to the raffle.

Special thanks go to the two “Margarets” - Holmes and Kelly for serving tea and cakes and washing up for 4 hours continuously. There was a wonderful selection of cakes so thank you to all who donated their time and talents.

Thank you to all who supported the raffle - and a special mention to the following local businesses who donated prizes:

- The Swan, Whiston
- Hartley Arms, Wheaton Aston
- Rookery Farm Shop, Wheaton Aston
- TIA Gift Shop, Market Street, Penkridge

We aim to finally complete our MacMillan Mighty Hike (which was rescheduled from last year) later in July - so thank you to everyone who supported the event and gave so generously to Macmillan again.

Dawn, Dorothy, Mark and Jackie

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

PEAK DISTRICT MIGHTY HIKE 23rd July 2023

Dawn Thomson, Dorothy Stephens-Henry, Mark Wheeler, Jackie Holmes

Lapley Walkers have finally achieved their aim of completing a Macmillan Mighty Hike.

The original idea was put together during the pandemic, as, like most of the UK, we took to walking during covid times. So we thought that our “new found” fitness could be put to good use to raise money for charity.

Macmillan Cancer Support organise several mighty hikes throughout the British Isles every year. They take place between May and September and are very popular events, with participant numbers for the Peak District hikes this year being about 2000.

We walked regularly and put together a plan to gradually increase our distances so we were in peak condition when the day came to complete the Wye Valley Hike last September.

All set to go – then the hike was cancelled due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen.

All the fund raising and training for nothing?

All the cake which Dorothy made to sustain us on our journey going to waste?

What a disappointment after all the preparation and planning.

Honestly speaking, the fund raising and the cake did not go to waste, and was there a part of me that secretly thought that at least I don't have to do the painful bit?

But we were given a second chance and despite a good soaking on the day, we achieved our aim of completing a half marathon for Macmillan.

The event was well planned:-

- Health and safety checks at the start (how to avoid being struck by lightning)
- A warm up to The Proclaimers - I would walk 500 miles (I thought we signed up for 14 miles maximum).
 - The average age of most of the walkers seemed to be about 25 – 30 (maybe we should check the map for a short cut to the pub).

But five and a half hours later, we had made it, sustained by Dorothy's flapjack and the encouragement and goodwill of the supporters along the way. It was tough, muddy and challenging, but rewarding as we knew we had done it for cancer sufferers and their families who endure far more pain than blisters and a couple of black toe nails.



Our Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

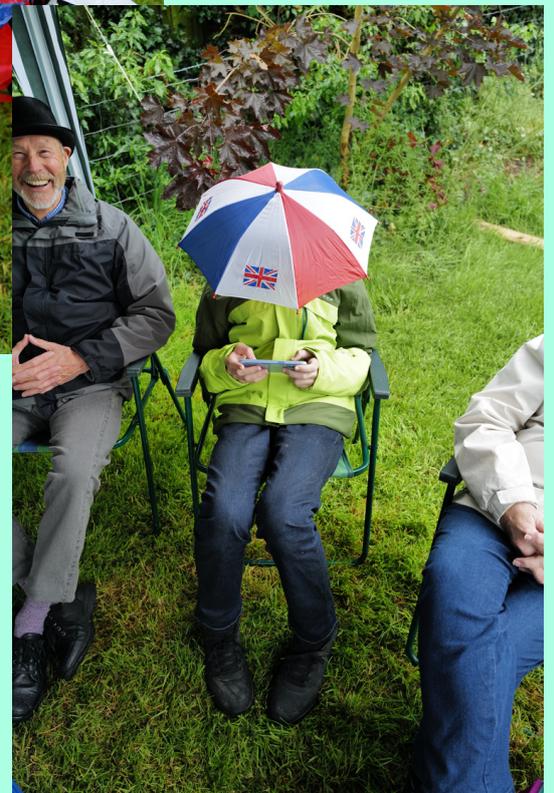




Our Scarecrow festival



Our King Charles Coronation Event



Our events in All Saints Church



Information points

Information on how LSWA PC engages with the community can be found in the following locations

- Notice boards
- News and Views magazines delivered to each household 3 times a year (minimum

<https://wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk/your-parish-council/news-and-views/>

- Website
<https://wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
- Call the office 01902327091 or 07495789051
- Suggestions boxes in each village

- Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/WAstonParish>

- Instagram @wheatonastonparishcouncil