



Lapley, Stretton
& Wheaton Aston
Parish Council

News & Views

Winter 2013

Festive Fun in Wheaton Aston

The switch on of Wheaton Aston's Christmas lights was attended by around 500 people, who were entertained by Vernon Lodge School Choir, Village Vocals, Brewood Middle School Choir, Ruth Hickinbotham and the Village Theatre Group. Nick Collins, as MC and Mike Groom on sound ensured that all of the entertainment went smoothly and the Parish Council would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Thanks go to all the singers for their excellent performances and the stall holders who braved the cold to provide us all with food, drinks and fun throughout the evening. A huge thank you goes to Mr. Busby of Littywood Farm for the generous loan of his trailer, which was used as the stage.

As with any event, there are always improvements that can be made, so if you have any ideas about how the event could be made better, if you ran a stall or provided any entertainment and want to give feedback or if you are affected by the road closure, please come along to the de-brief at 7.30 on 15th January 2014 at the Parish Council office or call 01785 841639.



Parish Council Meetings

Please see below for the dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings for 2014.

All meetings begin at 7.30pm with public participation, where members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions of the council and raise issues. After this they may stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

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| • 09 January 2014 | Vernon Lodge |
| • 06 February 2014 | Village Hall |
| • 06 March 2014 | Village Hall |
| • 03 April 2014 | Village Hall |
| • 01 May 2014 | Village Hall 7pm |
| • 05 June 2014 | Village Hall |
| • 03 July 2014 | Village Hall |
| • 04 September 2014 | Village Hall |
| • 02 October 2014 | Village Hall |
| • 06 November 2014 | Village Hall |
| • 11 December 2014 | Village Hall |

Do you know who's responsible?

There has been a spate of damage caused recently, which is costing the parish and district councils considerable amounts to repair. Do you know who may have caused any of the following in Wheaton Aston:

- Branches removed from the cherry tree outside St. Mary's church
- Horse ridden on Marston Rd dog walk
- Self-closing springs removed from Marston Rd dog walk gate, Leeke Way gate
- Padlock vandalised on Leeke Way gate
- Dog bag dispenser vandalised at Marston Rd dog walk
- Graffiti on the skate park
- Fire damage to play equipment at Marston Rd field
- Boulder moved from the village centre
- Lighting column door opened and cables pulled out at the village centre

If you have any information please call 101 or 0800 555 111

News from the Church

First of all, we would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who supported us so generously at the Lights Fair, when the village Christmas lights were switched on. It was lovely to see stalls from other village organisations around the Green, as well as the ones in church and the village hall, to have singing from children's and adults groups and, of course, the arrival of Santa. This has definitely become one of the events that bring together the whole community in our villages.

Secondly, many of you will know that Revd. Gillian and Colin Ellis have left Wheaton Aston and gone to a new home in Dorset. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for all their hard work in and around Wheaton Aston and Lapley.

Gillian was ordained whilst living in the parish and has given a lot of her time to the church, taking regular services in St. Mary's and All Saints', but also in our sister churches of St. Mary's, Blymhill and St. Andrew's, Weston under Lizard, as well as being part of the team taking Communion to the residents of Wheaton Aston Court and to housebound people in our villages.

She and Colin have both been active participants in the Prayer partners and Prayer Chain, as well as the Healing Services. Many of you will have been glad of Colin's talents as a plumber/electrician/builder and decorator, and the smart notice boards outside each church are lasting examples of his handiwork. They will be greatly missed, but we know that their new community will be blessed by their presence. **Thank you, Gillian and Colin.**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 22nd at 6.30pm, Carols by Candlelight in All Saints' Church. sing all your favourite carols in this beautiful old church, lit only by candles. A magical experience, not to be missed.

December 24th at 3.30pm Christingle in St. Mary's Church. A lovely service for the children (0-99yrs!) the proceeds

of which will go to the Church of England Children's Society.

6.30pm Carols on the Green in Wheaton Aston. Come and sing carols on Christmas Eve around the Christmas tree. If the weather is awful we have a tree inside the church we can sing around! Hot punch and mince pies to follow!

11.30pm Midnight Mass at All Saints' Church. The wonderful first service of Christmas.

December 25th at 10.00am Family Communion at St. Mary's Church. Please encourage the children to bring along a toy to show us!

One final date for your diaries, **January 12th at 3pm** there will be a **Lapley Church Community Meeting in All Saints' Church.** The Lapley Church Restoration Fund are working hard to raise enough money to install running water and a toilet at the church, so that it can be used more as a centre for the community.

For more information about any services, events or other matters please contact **Revd. Rachel Livesey on 01785 840395, rachel.livesey@googlemail.com**

Wheaton Aston Wives

Wheaton Aston Wives Group meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month (except August) in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. The cost is just £2.00.

Open to all ladies (not just wives) – speakers and events are advertised in the Church magazine each month.

For more information please contact Jean Roberts on 01785 840556.

If You See It, Report It!

If you see a crime in progress call 999 immediately. Please also report any non-urgent crime including graffiti, damage, and anti-social behaviour by calling 101. If matters aren't reported to the police our local police officers cannot investigate them.

Village Hall Opening

On Saturday December 14, there was an opening ceremony in Wheaton Aston village hall attended by Jeremy Lefroy, our local MP.

The village hall has recently had some renovation work done which comprised rewiring/replacing lighting, improving the loft insulation, an extra loft hatch, improvements to the main hall ceiling, redecoration where specified/necessary and new entrance and security doors.

The village hall management committee has secured funding for this work from The Veolia Environmental Trust, Staffordshire County Council, South Staffordshire Council, the parish council, Roseclaim Ltd, and the Staffordshire Local Community Fund.

Voluntary Car Scheme

The Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme exists to provide lifts for local villagers, usually the elderly or housebound, who have no transport of their own but need to get to doctors surgeries, clinics or hospital appointments.

Could you help? Could you spare a few hours a week or even a month?

You really can contribute as little or as much as you like, on whatever days of the week that suit you or simply subject to your availability at a given time. Please give it some thought – all travelling expenses are refunded and you may be surprised to find just how enjoyable it is.

Please phone Tanya on 01902 851786 between 9.30am – 12.30pm weekdays for more information.

**Wheaton,
Illinois, USA**



Are you interested in building contacts in America? Would you like to start communicating with a US family? Why not get involved in the twin relationship with Wheaton, Illinois? Contact Ray or Diana Cowley on 01785 840697 for more details.

Mobile Library Service

Wheaton Aston

Hartley Arms 10.00am-11.25am
St. Mary's Church 11.30am-12.40pm
Old School Court 12.45pm- 1.15pm
Ivetsey Close 2.05pm- 2.30pm
St. Mary's First School 2.35-4.00pm

**6 January, 27 January, 17 February, 20 March,
31 March**

Lapley

Vaughan Arms 1.25pm – 2.10pm
**8 January, 29 January, 19 February, 12 March,
2 April**

A Cowley Production

A new DVD "A Year In Mottey Meadows" is now available price £6.

The film has been made with cooperation and input from Natural England who are the owners of the meadows, the OU based group The Floodplain Meadows Partnership, *Friends of Mottey Meadows* and local farmers.

It is presented by Sarah Lockitt. Copies can be obtained from Ray Cowley, 42 Ashleigh Crescent, Wheaton Aston, ST19 9PN, Wheaton Aston Post Office and The Hartley Arms.

Please phone 01785 840697 for more information.

BKV Success



Lapley won best small village in South Staffordshire and best village overall in Staffordshire. Stretton came 2nd and Wheaton Aston was Highly Commended. A presentation took place in November attended by BKV judges, Community Council of Staffordshire, Parish and District Councillors and local volunteers.

New benches and planters for Lapley have been purchased from Oakwood Prison with the prize money.

Calling Cat Owners

Do you own a cat that has suffered from poisoning? If so, please report the matter to the police on 101.

Youths Donate Wreaths



At the December Parish Council meeting, members of Wheaton Aston Youth Club donated wreaths that the young people had made to the local community. Dr. Husselbee, residents from Old School Court and Cllr. Roy Wright received the wreaths to be displayed at the doctors' surgery, village hall and Old School Court.

Stay and Play

Enjoy a wide range of activities for families with children aged 0-5yrs old.

Come along to Wheaton Aston Youth Centre, Marston Road. Wheaton Aston ST19 9PQ....

The group runs term time only meeting on Tuesday Mornings 10.00-11.30...Cost of £1.50 per family including a snack and cold drink.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ALI on 07582092834

Broadholes Lane Nature Space Closes for Winter

In order to let the natural area regenerate and some new plants establish themselves, the nature space will be closed until 1st April 2014.

"Home Alone At Christmas?"

Come and have
Christmas Lunch with us

Monday 23rd Dec
12.00pm (for 12.30pm)
South Staffordshire
Council Restaurant
Wolverhampton Road, Codsall
WV8 1PX

sponsored by
County Councillor Robert Marshall
Local Community Fund
District Councillor Sonja Oatley

St. Nicholas
First School
Choir



To book, contact Councillor Sonja Oatley MBE
01902 842589

Jeremy Lefroy MP Advice Surgery

31st January 2014 at Wheaton Aston Village Hall from 3.00pm to 4.00pm. No appointment is necessary, a first come first served system is operated.

Citizens Advice Bureau

An outreach worker now operates one day a week from South Staffordshire Council Offices. Call 01902 696000 to make an appointment.

St. Mary's First School Opens a New Facility

St. Mary's First School have opened a new nursery, out of school club and breakfast club.

Childcare is offered during term time for 3-13 year olds. See the leaflet that was delivered with this newsletter or contact the Nursery Leader on 01785 895342 or office@st-marys-wheatonaston.staffs.sch.uk for more information.

Are You a Considerate Driver?

Inconsiderate parking is causing a nuisance to residents and the parish council alike. Please avoid parking opposite junctions, in junctions, on double yellow lines, on grass verges (especially at Leeke Way) or where visibility is poor, such as on a bend. Powers to issue parking fines will soon be extended to the police. Those parking on double yellows and/or causing an obstruction beware!

Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council

Chairman	Wheaton Aston	Mrs. B. Cox	01785 841639	b.cox@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Vice-Chairman	Wheaton Aston	Ms. S. Whittingham	01785 841639	s.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Wheaton Aston	Mr. P. Elson	01785 840443	p.elson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Wheaton Aston	Mrs. J. Squire	01785 841639	j.squire@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Wheaton Aston	Mr. T. Noblett	01785 840927	t.noblett@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Wheaton Aston	Mr. T. Whittingham	01785 841038	t.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Wheaton Aston	Mrs. D. Wildman	01785 840854	d.wildman@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Lapley	Mr. M. Fox	01785 840334	m.fox@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Lapley	Cllr. R. Wright	01785 840342	r.wright@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Stretton	Mrs. S. Gould	01785 841639	s.gould@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Stretton	Mr. B. Wells	01902 850343	b.wells@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Parish Council Manager	Mrs. Debra Bate c/o Staffordshire Youth Service, Marston Road, Wheaton Aston, ST19 9PQ Tel: 01785 841639 office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk			

Key Contacts

Jeremy Lefroy MP	01785 252477	jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor	01902 851682	mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor Roy Wright	01785 840342	r.wright@sstaffs.gov.uk
District Councillor Brian Cox	01785 840482	b.cox@sstaffs.gov.uk
South Staffordshire Council	01902 696000	www.sstaffs.gov.uk
Staffordshire County Council	0300 111 8000	www.staffordshire.gov.uk
Police	101	www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	www.crimestoppers-uk.org
To report potholes, damaged roads or pavements, or problems with lighting columns and road signs contact:		
Highways	0300 111 8000	highways@staffordshire.gov.uk