



Lapley, Stretton
& Wheaton Aston
Parish Council

News & Views

Autumn 2014

Parish Grounds Damaged by Adults and Children

Marston Road Playing Field has suffered damage this year. Play equipment has been vandalised, graffiti has been sprayed and written on the skate park, branches have been ripped off trees, fences have been damaged, gates demolished, gate posts and bins ripped from the ground, benches destroyed, fires lit and litter strewn across the grounds. Most of the damage has been caused at weekends and is thought to have been caused by children from the village. Parents are urged to make themselves aware of where their children are in the evenings and at weekends and to talk to them about treating the area with respect.

Damage isn't just caused by young people though. Despite there being a dedicated dog walk alongside Marston Road Playing Field, adults have been seen allowing their dogs to run onto the playing field. Dog mess has been found on the football pitch and near the play area. The Parish Council would like to make it very clear that dogs are not allowed onto the Playing Field and that dog mess, even on the dog walk, must be picked up by the dog walker. The maximum penalty for not picking up after your dog is due to be increased shortly from £1000 to £4000. The Parish Council provide poop bags free of charge at the dog walk, Lapley Green and at Stretton. They are also available at the Post Office.

Dog mess is a health hazard and allowing your dog to foul on a children's play area is reckless and inconsiderate. Residents are urged to contact South Staffordshire Council on 01902 696000 if they witness a dog owner failing to clear up after their dog.

The Parish Council is funded completely by tax payers and spends around 30% of its budget looking after grounds in the parish. This includes play areas, the cemetery, skatepark, football pitch and Lapley Green. The more the Parish Council has to spend repairing vandalism, the less money it has to make improvements to the parish.

Parish Council Meetings

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

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.

- 11 December 2014 Village Hall
- 09 January 2015 Village Hall

BKV 2014

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that all three villages (Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston) were highly commended by the Best Kept Village competition's judges this year. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped in the three villages.

Areas where judges felt that improvements are needed were:

- Weeds near St. John's Church, Stretton
- Branches obscuring signposts
- Long grass at Stretton war memorial
- Road verges overgrown
- Litter in Stretton and Wheaton Aston car park
- Some poorly kept front gardens in Wheaton Aston
- Benches in Lapley churchyard need attention
- Dog mess on Lapley Green

If you would like to get involved in next year's BKV competition please contact the Parish Council Manager on 01785 841639.

Do You Park on Leeke Way?

The entrance to the village of Wheaton Aston from Lapley has become a quagmire. Cars parking on the grass verge at Leeke Way have almost destroyed an entire section of the grass verge. Not only does this damage a visitor's first impression of the village it also will cost a substantial amount of money to restore the verge. Residents are politely requested to refrain from parking on the verge in future. If the problem persists, the traffic warden will be asked to patrol the area.



Follow us on Facebook
Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council



News From The Church

The wedding of Revd. Rachel and Dr. Crispin Dale was one of the community events of the year, as so many of us were involved in helping to make their day perfect. The sun shone (thank you, Lord), the bridesmaids arrived on a decorated trailer pulled by a tractor polished like a Rolls Royce.

All Saints' Church was decorated with sweet peas and flowers from gardens across the two villages. The bride looked stunning and arrived at church in a Rolls Royce, to be led into church by a real Scottish piper to wed her handsome groom.

After the ceremony and pictures, everyone went to St. Mary's Church for sandwiches, cakes, strawberries and cream, wine and soft drinks. It was a wonderful day that we will all remember for a long time, and the following Sunday could have been an anticlimax except that All Saints' was open all afternoon so that people could go and see the superb floral displays, complete with 'stand in' bride and groom scarecrows and enjoy a cream tea as well!

The cream teas and sweet peas after the wedding were provided by Lapley Church Restoration Fund who continue to work to raise enough money to install a toilet and small kitchen in All Saints' Church.

Since then they have organised an Autumn Quiz and there are more events planned, see below for details. The booklets of Local Walks and Cakes and Puddings recipes are still available in both churches. They are both great value and each sale adds a little more to the Restoration Fund.

If you would like to offer help to this small, but extremely hardworking team, please consider becoming a member of LCRF - wider membership and support are vital to the success of applications for funding, as well as the ongoing life of the church as a centre for both worship and community events.

If you would like more information about LCRF, please contact Janet Fox (840334) or Margaret Holmes (840241) or, of course, Revd. Rachel, (contact details below)

On August 31st we all gathered at St. Mary's Church in Blymhill to celebrate and give thanks for the ministry of Revd. Linda Beech, who has now officially retired. She will take a six month sabbatical before returning to us in a retirement ministry. This will mean she does not work so many hours or take so many services, but we are all delighted that she and Roger will stay among us in the Benefice.

We thank her and Roger for all they have given to our churches, they have worked tirelessly, above and beyond the call of duty and we have all benefitted from their generosity of spirit. We wish them a blessed and relaxing time over the next few months and look forward to welcoming them back in due course.

As Gillian and Colin Ellis moved away last year and Linda has now retired, we have fewer people to lead worship and have needed to revise the pattern of services. There was a Benefice Meeting in May to discuss the best way of doing this and the consensus of opinion was that we trial the pattern that we are presently using. Services continue at 9.00am at All Saints' each Sunday but on the second Sunday of each month, the service of Family Communion at St. Mary's takes place at 5.00pm instead of 10.30am.

Every year Anne and Dave Wright organise the filling and collection of Christmas shoeboxes to be sent to very needy people in Eastern Europe. The boxes are distributed by volunteers to people who are struggling to survive and for whom a bar of soap or a toothbrush is a luxury. Leaflets are available from both churches and Wheaton Aston Post Office that give guidance about what to put in the boxes, which can be for families or elderly people, or you can call Anne on 840656 for more information. Please help if you can.

Forthcoming Events and Services

The Christmas Lights Fair is on November 29th. Come along and see the Christmas lights switched on and enjoy all the stalls, games and refreshments on offer from different village organisations and

the church. A great way to start the festive season.

On December 6th there will be a Christmas Concert at All Saints' Church in aid of Lapley Church Restoration Fund.

At the time of going to press we do not have all the details of Christmas Services, but there will certainly be Christingle and Carols on the Green at St. Mary's and Midnight Mass at All Saints'. More details of these and other services will be on the noticeboards, in the Grapevine and on Watershed News nearer the time.

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

Jeremy Lefroy MP Advice Surgery

21st November 3-4pm Wheaton Aston Village Hall

Details of Jeremy Lefroy's later surgeries will soon be published. In the meantime he can be contacted on 01785 252477 or at jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk

Day Centre Help Needed

Every Monday, the Wheaton Aston and Lapley Old People's Welfare run a day centre from 10.00am – 2.30pm in the village hall for housebound and/ disabled residents or for pensioners who live alone, where a hot two course lunch is provided, followed by a game of bingo. There are currently 4 teams of helpers who cook and serve the meals. If you could spare some time to join the teams to help, you would be most welcome. If you would like more details, please contact Angie Hassell on 01785 841024.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council has made a donation to South Staffordshire Citizens' Advice Bureau.

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

Christmas Lights Switch On

The switching on of the Christmas lights will take place in Wheaton Aston Village Square on Saturday 29th November.

Come along and join in the fun from 4pm to 6pm. There will be entertainment, food and drink, Santa's grotto and lots of stalls to browse as well as a children's carousel.

Nursery & Out of School Care

St. Mary's First School have a nursery, out of school club and breakfast club located within the school.

Childcare is offered during term time for 3-13 year olds. For more information contact the Nursery Leader on 01785 895342 or office@st-marys-wheatonaston.staffs.sch.uk.

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.

Day Centre Vacancies

There are currently vacancies for more people to attend the day centre held every Monday by the Wheaton Aston and Lapley Old People's Welfare from 10.30am – 2.30pm in the village hall for pensioners who are housebound and/ disabled, or for pensioners who live alone. A hot two course lunch is provided, followed by a game of bingo.

If you have difficulties in leaving your home or are disabled, or are feeling lonely, and would like to come to the day centre on Mondays, the Wheaton Aston and Lapley Old People's Welfare would like to hear from you. Please contact Pat Horton on 01785 840675

Voluntary Car Scheme

The Brewwood 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 Claire on 01902 851786 between 9.30am – 12.30pm weekdays 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 have been extended to the police. Those parking on double yellows and/or causing an obstruction beware!

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.

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 the police on 101. Our local police officers can only investigate matters which are reported.

Broadholes Lane Play Garden

Broadholes Lane Play Garden is now closed for the winter in order to allow maintenance and the draining of water from the wetland area. It will re-open on 1st April 2015. Thanks go to Jayne Whittingham for the daily opening and closing of the garden on behalf of the Parish Council.

Potholes

The whole parish is affected by potholes. The quickest way to get them repaired is to call Highways on 0300 111 8000 or email highways@staffordshire.gov.uk. If you are unhappy with the way in which they are repaired and feel that the method used is damaging your car you should call the number above and register your complaint.

Mobile Library Service

Wheaton Aston
8 & 29 Dec, 19 Jan, 9 Feb, 2 & 23 March

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
2.35pm - 4.00pm

Lapley
10 & 31 Dec, 21 Jan, 11 Feb, 4 & 25 March

Vaughan Arms
1.25pm – 2.10pm

Brewwood Library

Storytime (0-4yrs)

Tuesdays (term-time) 2.15pm

Baby Bounce & Rhyme (0-4yrs)

Wednesdays (term-time) 2.00pm

Health Walk

Alternate Thursdays 10.00am

Walk & Talk

Fridays 10.00am

Chatty Readers (7-12yrs)

2nd Wednesday in month 3.30pm

Reading Group

1st Thursday in month 3.15pm

Call 01902 850087 for more details

Sometimes Things Are Black and White



Wheaton Aston's own artist and wood carver, Mr Rob Cox is seen here erecting a new finger post in Lapley. Rob's meticulous work designing, constructing and maintaining all the finger posts in our parish is much appreciated.

The finger post work keeps Rob away from his first love, wood sculpture, large and small. Many of you will have seen examples of Rob's amazing gallery sized work at the W.A. Arts exhibitions and local galleries. Rob's larger outdoor commissions and designs feature all around the district and beyond. Check out the one at the entrance to the Broadholes Lane play area

Could You Be A Parish Councillor?

Town and Parish Councils are the first tier of Local Government in England. Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council usually meets on the first Thursday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm. Elections take place every four years with the next election in May 2015. This is a great opportunity to take on responsibility for making decisions that affect residents in our parish. If elected you would help to make decisions on things such as council tax, planning applications, new housing, play areas, bus shelters, grounds maintenance and community facilities. It is a voluntary role but full training is offered free of charge. There are 7 seats in Wheaton Aston, 2 in Lapley and 2 in Stretton.

The Parish Council Manager will be running information sessions in the New Year. If you would like to attend a session at 7.30pm in the village hall on Thursday 22nd January or Thursday 19th February please contact the Parish Council Manager to register your interest on 01785 841639 or at office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

New short course to be launched January 2015

There are five things that adults can do to improve wellbeing in their middle years. A new short course will help people learn what they are and plan for their older age.

The course

- consists of an interactive two hour workshop
- follow on material
- it is ideal for groups of people aged fifty and over or newly retired.

If you own a business and would like to find out more about how to help your middle aged workers prepare for retirement please get in touch with course tutor April Lewis by email: info@aprillewisconsultancy.co.uk or telephone 07794 710 927

If you are aged fifty plus, live in South Staffordshire and can get a group of people together this one off workshop can come to you, please contact April to make a booking.

Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council

Chairman	Wheaton Aston	Mrs. B. Cox	01785 841639	b.cox@wheatonastoparishcouncil.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	Mr. T. Noblett	01785 840927	t.noblett@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Wheaton Aston	Mr. A. Richardson	01785 841639	a.richardson@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