



Lapley, Stretton
& Wheaton Aston
Parish Council

News & Views

Spring 2015

Busy Times Ahead



Retired now after running our post office for 15 years Chris and Phil Elson are not saying goodbye to Wheaton Aston! Happily for us the couple are planning to continue living in the village that they have come to love and convert their 45 year old shop into a house. Look out for big changes. I'm sure you'll join us in wishing them a long and happy retirement.

Defibrillator Unit Moved

The defibrillator unit has been moved to the doctors' surgery. If you think you may need to use the defibrillator, please ring 999. The operator will give you the code to open the security box. When you get the unit back to your home it will talk you through everything that you have to do by which time a First Responder should be with you.

Wheaton Aston Parish Carnival & Show

This year's Carnival & Show will take place on Saturday 11th July 2015, 11:30 am till 5:30 pm at St Mary's First School. Application forms for the Carnival Queen and two attendants are available from St Mary's School and members of the Committee on request.

Any local groups, teams or clubs wishing to enter the traditional Carnival Float should contact a member of the Carnival Committee or visit their Facebook page: Wheaton Aston, Lapley, Stretton Parish Carnival & Show.

Could you enter the American themed Scarecrow Competition and showcase your artistic abilities? If so, your Scarecrows need to be visible outside of your home, from Friday 10th July at 4 pm until 2 pm on Sunday 12th July, to allow our nominated judges to view your entries. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places. Entry costs £1 and you will need to submit an entry form, available from various outlets within the parish & also the Committee.

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

If you could spare some time to help the team please contact Angie Hassell on 01785 841024.

Potholes

The whole parish is affected by potholes. The quickest way to get them repaired is to call Highways on 0300 111 8000, email highways@staffordshire.gov.uk or download the "My Staffordshire" app, which lets you send in photos and locations straight from your phone.

Council Budget Set

The Parish Council has set its budget for 2015/16. The expenditure budget has increased by just over 1%. This would have meant an increase of 2% to the average household in the Council Tax Band D.

However, South Staffordshire Council have decided not to pass on the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax Support Grant which was provided by Central Government to help councils keep council tax increases low. This means that the Parish Council has lost £4630 of income.

In order to continue maintaining the parish to the same level and supporting our community groups, the Parish Council has had no choice but to reclaim this withheld funding from residents. This will mean an increase of £6.05 per Band D household in 2015/16 which equates to 7.66%.

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.

Voluntary Car Scheme

The Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme organises 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 01902 851786 between 9.30am – 12.30pm weekdays for more information.

Parish Council Meetings

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

- 02 July 2015
- 03 September 2015
- 01 October 2015
- 05 November 2015
- 10 December 2015
- 07 January 2016
- 04 February 2016
- 03 March 2016

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.

Why not come and see your Parish Council in action?

Jeremy Lefroy MP Advice Surgery

To contact Jeremy, call 01785 252477 or email jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk

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!

Telford Bus Dates 2015

July 23rd
Sept 17th
Oct 22nd
Nov 19th
Dec 17th

To book a seat ring Tony or David at Stafford Coaches on 01785 600786. Limited funding means only a 16 seater coach can be provided so please book your seat early. This service is free.

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.

Motley Meadows Hay Festival

On Saturday 20th June, the hay festival is being run by the Friends of Motley Meadows, along with staff from Natural England, from 12.00 noon – 5.00pm on the Motley Meadows fields which are owned by Natural England in Wheaton Aston.

This is a celebration of hay making on one of England's finest series of hay meadows with activities for all the family.

Come and enjoy all types of rural crafts, guided walks, wildlife displays, birds of prey, children's activities, tractor rides, bee keeping exhibition, willow weaving, etc, and refreshments will also be available. Natural England purchased a field from the Weate family in recent years, to add to those already at Motley Meadows and the festival site will be here.

Parking will be available at St Mary's school, Wheaton Aston, and transport to the festival site at the end of Broadholes Lane will be available on the tractor and trailer. Entry is free and no booking is required.

For further details, please contact Mel Brown on 01952 812111.

Brewood 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

Mobile Library Service

Wheaton Aston

15 June, 6 July, 27 July, 17 August, 7 September

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

17 June, 8 July, 29 July, 19 August

Bickford Close 1.25pm – 2.10pm

Lapley Stretton & Wheaton Aston Charity

The above charity is looking for applications for grants. Grants are available for people in need, charity organisations and educational purposes.

If you feel you would be entitled to a grant for example to help in an educational course ring Roy Wright 01785 840342,

25 Years of Friendship



Wheaton Aston and Wheaton, Illinois are celebrating 25 years of friendship this year. Celebrations have included Mayor Gresk making a proclamation in Wheaton, Illinois, this celebratory issue of News & Views, a visit by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wheaton, a presentation of a framed photograph commemorating 25 years of friendship and later this year, a proclamation from the Parish Council Chairman will be recorded and new village entry signs featuring the twinning will be installed.



Mayor Mike Gresk and his wife, Kathleen took a day out of their vacation to visit Wheaton Aston in March. Accompanied by Ray and Diana Cowley, they visited All Saints Church, Lapley, enjoyed coffee at St. Mary's Church, Wheaton, had a pub lunch at The Hartley and visited St. Mary's First School.



News From The Church

Many of you will already know that **Margaret Foxall**, one of our Lay Readers sadly died in March. Margaret was born in the village and lived here all her life. She taught at the First School for many years, long enough to have taught some of you and your children! In later years she trained as a Lay Reader in the church and had as great an affinity with the elderly as she did with the children - she regularly took Communion services at Wheaton Aston Court, and also took Home Communion to many of our housebound church members.

Margaret set up both the Prayer Partners, where groups of people meet each week to pray for those in need and the community at large, and also the Prayer Chain, by which urgent prayer requests can be circulated quickly by people phoning one another. She fought a long battle with her illness over more than two years, and throughout it all her positive outlook, and determination to continue to pray and support others was a testament to her trust in the God she loved. We give thanks for all that she gave to us, and greatly miss her presence among us.

Happily there is some good news too. Rev Linda Beech will be ministering among us again by the time you read this. Linda retired as Associate Minister last August, and there was a statutory (and well earned!) six month period when she was not allowed to exercise her ministry in our Benefice, but now we are delighted that the Bishop has authorised her to have a 'Retirement Ministry' in the Watershed Benefice. This means that she will be able to take a limited number of services and other duties. Linda and Roger have been greatly missed, and we are all rejoicing to see them back in our churches.

This year there will not be a Church Fete in June, as this is a time when many people are away, but instead we are having an **Autumn Fayre on 12th September**. As we are a rural community it seems appropriate to celebrate at the time of harvest. Please watch Grapevine and Church Notice Boards, as well as future issues of News and Views for further information nearer the time.

The **Lapley Church Restoration Fund** continues to work to upgrade the facilities at All Saints' Church. The LRCF team are appealing for help from those parishioners who are 'old villagers', as they would like to record some of the social history of parish. There are several booklets recording the history of the parish, with the main emphasis on Wheaton Aston, but we don't think there are any publications recording the social history, the day to day life of the villagers. In our rapidly changing world it is important to record these memories, so if you have any anecdotes or stories, maybe even just a couple of lines that tell us how life has changed, please contact Barbara Holt - 840258, Margaret Holmes - 840241, or Janet Fox - 840334.

The **Drop In** continues **every Wednesday morning from 10.00am-12 noon in St. Mary's Church**. Come along and have a chat and a cuppa, and internet access is available as well as on Tuesdays, church computers and help are always on hand for the 'technically terrified'.

There is a **Service of Healing and Wholeness in St Mary's Church** every Third Wednesday of the month, to which everyone is welcome. This service is quiet and less formal, and we pray for ourselves, those we care for and our wider community. If you would like to know more, there are leaflets in both churches.

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

Your Council

Chairman	
Mrs. B. J. Cox	01785 841639 b.cox@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Vice-Chairman	
Mr. A. Richardson	01785 841257 a.richardson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr. D. Crudginton	01785 841620 d.crudginton@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr. P. Elson	01785 840443 p.elson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr. M. Fox	01785 840334 m.fox@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr. H. Jones	01785 747693 h.jones@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk @wmashuwjones
Mr. T. Noblett	01785 840927 t.noblett@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr. M. Griffiths	01785 712534 m.griffiths@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr. P. Timson	01785 841639 p.timson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr. B. Wells	01902 850343 b.wells@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ms. S. Whittingham	01785 841225 s.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Parish Council Manager	
Mrs. D. Bate	01785 841639 office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk Twitter: @WAParish Facebook: Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council

Useful Contacts

Jeremy Lefroy MP	01785 252477 jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor Mark Sutton	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
or download the "My Staffordshire" app