



Lapley, Stretton  
& Wheaton Aston  
Parish Council

# News & Views

Spring 2018

## Spring is here at last!

This winter has been a particularly bad one in terms of snow and cold. This month we had to cancel the March Parish Meeting due to the weather. The Agenda items will be carried forward to the April Meeting.

Staffordshire County Council has used a record amount of grit trying to keep our roads clear this winter; Their primary gritting network covers A and B roads only. Other roads are only gritted in severe weather. If this year, your road or pavements were particularly bad, you can prepare for next year by requesting a new grit bin to be installed. You can do this by filling out the online form at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/Roads-and-highways.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/Roads-and-highways.aspx). Select 'Report a new fault', 'Weather related' and 'New grit bin'. Locations which qualify for grit bins are risk assessed against a set of criteria that includes but is not limited to:-Steep gradients, Severe bends and Junctions onto major routes.

**Ice Busters** - is an initiative to support self-help groups by providing them with grit and advice to treat footways and paths. To volunteer as an Ice Buster, please contact the highways team. They will help you to develop an action plan

**Clearing your path or driveway** - The Government advise:- Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully:

- Try and move the snow and ice as early in the day as possible as it is easier to clear away fresh snow than that which has packed together and hardened through people walking on it. Also, by moving the snow away early it will enable the person to put salt or grit down on the path to stop it freezing again overnight.
- Grit salt or sand should be used rather than water as that can refreeze and turn into black ice, therefore making the area more hazardous than it was before the snow and ice was cleared.
- People moving the snow around should take care where they are moving it to as it should not block other people's paths or drains. They should also try and clear from the middle of the area first and then move snow from the middle out to the sides.
- If possible try and clear neighbours' paths, especially if they are elderly or disabled.

## Parish Council Meetings

Please see below for the dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings held at Wheaton Aston Village Hall:

- 5<sup>th</sup> April
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Annual Parish meeting to begin at 6.30pm followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm)
- 7<sup>th</sup> June
- 5<sup>th</sup> July
- 6<sup>th</sup> September
- 4<sup>th</sup> October
- 1<sup>st</sup> November
- 6<sup>th</sup> December (Setting of the Precept)

All meetings begin at 7.30pm with public participation, where members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions of the Parish 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** - For details of the next surgery please contact the MP office direct on 01785 252477 or at [jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk)

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

**Wheaton Aston Post Office** - In January Wheaton Aston Post Office closed for a number of days. Their head office confirmed this was due to circumstances beyond their control. We are pleased to report this was just a temporary closure and that the Post Office will be staying at Doals for the foreseeable future,

**ASB Damage on Marston Field** - This year a number of fires have been started at Marston Field and have been reported to the Police. The Police have advised that the Parish Council should look to install CCTV cameras to tackle this Anti-Social Behaviour. This could also resolve the issue of the field being ruined by motor vehicles. Please note that vehicles are not permitted in the area. If you have any information, please call 101.

### **Wheaton Aston Arts - Community Art and Crafts Exhibition**



An art exhibition is being held by Wheaton Aston Arts on May Day, Monday 7th May 2018, from 11.00am until 4.00pm in St Mary's Church. There will be a mix of professional and amateur artists, displaying a wide variety of art and craft work, including paintings, sculptures, photography, and much more. Entry to the exhibition is free and the artists will be available to discuss their work. Everyone is welcome to come. Refreshments will be available from St Mary's church helpers and there will be a book stall. For further details, please contact Margaret Bailey on 01785 840830.

**Lapley Green** - The Parish Council is awaiting details from Landscape Architects on how to rejuvenate the area.

**New Bus Shelters** - The Parish Council has purchased and installed two bus Shelters in Wheaton Aston. One has replaced the shelter opposite the Coach and Horses on the High Street and the other one is a new one on Ivetsey Road

**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? 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 the office on 01902 851786 between 9.30am – 12.30pm weekdays for more information.

**Community Cobbles** - A group of volunteers have transformed the area behind St Mary's Church with the support of South Staffordshire District Council. Mrs Margret Bailey has led this task and would welcome additional help. If you would like to help please call Mrs Bailey on 01785 840830

**V Festival** - Staffordshire Council have received formal confirmation that there will be no "V" festival at Weston Park in 2018. As you may have seen from the press V have withdrawn as the sponsors of the event and the organisers have confirmed that they are not running a festival in 2018 but intend to return in 2019.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

**New play Equipment at Primrose Play Area** - This has now been installed. A trim trail, gravity rider and a unit with a slide called 'Hong Kong' are the exciting new additions. All of the equipment is aimed at toddlers from 18 months plus. We hope the younger residents enjoy them.

**Potholes** - The quickest way to get potholes/ damaged pavements / problems with lighting columns and road signs repaired is to call Highways on 0300 111 8000, email [highways@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk) or download the "My Staffordshire" app, which lets you send in photos and locations straight from your phone.

**BKV 2018** - The Parish Council has taken the difficult decision not to enter this year's Best Kept Village Competition as we have struggled to get the community involved over the past few years. We will however still be holding the Children's poster completion.

**Community Speed Watch Volunteers still needed!** - Can you spare some time to help with the newly formed Community Speed Watch Group? Would you like to be a volunteer trained by Staffordshire Police? The training will last for about 2 hours, is free and will cover all elements of Community Speed Watch. If you are interested please email the Parish Clerk: [office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**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. Officers can only investigate matters which are reported.

**Police News** - This month we say goodbye to PCSO McAree who is moving to Lichfield, we wish him all the best.

**Joint Police and Parish Council Surgery** - Due to commitments for PCSO Lloyd, the Joint Police and Parish Council Surgery's are on hold until further notice.

**Staffordshire Police Smart Alert** - Get free, localised crime alerts and community safety advice with the Staffordshire Smart Alert App. This can be downloaded for both Apple and Android devices at: [www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk](http://www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk)

### **Crime Prevention -**

There is a wealth of advice on the Staffordshire Police website. For more information please visit [www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention)

### **Cybercrime -**

You can also find out more about cybercrime and how to report it on the Staffordshire Police website: [www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime)

### **Stop The Gailey Freight Hub – Update from the Committee**

We have become aware that residents living on the perimeter (i.e. Calf Heath) have received updates on the Community Park and so have the properties near to where the electric cables are to be buried in Gailey.

We are also aware that some residents that have shown an interest in selling their properties to Four Ashes Ltd have received letters sent by registered post asking them to sign to give permission for FAL to have the option on their properties should planning permission be granted. FAL state that they will pay the asking price and some of the legal fees but have not specified how much. Residents now are reluctant to sign up to this.

The planning application will be submitted to planning inspectorate in February/early March. This has been pushed back from original planned timing. The committee are trying to get as many MP's and as many of the 27 parish councils on board as possible, and continue to raise funds to utilise in the best way possible and are taking advice from professionals on these matters.

South Staffordshire Council are opposing this development.

The group continue to work on the different aspects of the application

such as roads, environment, health etc and it will be the next consultation paper that will be key for us. Again we are taking professional advice as to how to tackle the key points.

We are visiting and communicating with other groups that have been involved/ opposed to these kind of developments. Our key points to tackle are: Greenbelt, wrong location, rail line capacity and roads and motorway capacity.

**Civil Weddings** - The new Ceremonial Suite at the District Council Offices at Codsall has now been completed. The suite offers an elegant and relaxed setting for civil weddings and partnership ceremonies, renewal of vows and naming ceremonies. The Council will be hosting its first Wedding Fayre on Sunday 3rd June 2018 from 11am until 3pm.

**South Staffs Community Lottery** - Win up to £25,000 and help support local good causes by taking part in the South Staffordshire Community Lottery. This weekly online lottery takes place every Saturday night at 8pm and you can purchase lottery tickets by telephoning 01902 213777. or at [www.southstaffslottery.co.uk](http://www.southstaffslottery.co.uk)

**New Election System** - A new election results system has gone live on the District Council website, allowing visitors to view interactive election results on their smartphones, tablets and desk top computers. The system is completely responsive and has interactive charts to show results.

**Additional Green bins** - You can now book additional green bins and collection of bulky waste items on-line from "My Account" the Council's personalised service giving residents on-line access to Council services 24/7

**Fit For Sport** - Looking for ways to keep your children active in the school holidays? Fit For Sport offer holiday clubs at Cheslyn Hay Codsall, and Wombourne Leisure Centres. [www.fitforsport.co.uk](http://www.fitforsport.co.uk)



**South Staffs Leisure Centres** - offer affordable memberships with the use of 4 leisure centres for 1 great price and a list of benefits including:

- 14 day advanced booking
- Free public swimming\*
- No joining fees
- No long term contracts
- 12 months for the price of 11 if you pay in full\*

\*(excludes privilege members)

Free member health checks and programmes available on request  
Discounts for students, apprentices, and corporates.

Anyone can join between 26 March 2018 and 8 April 2018, pay £10 and then nothing else until May 2018. More information about memberships can be found at [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/memberships](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/memberships)

**South Staffordshire Work Clubs** - If you are out of work, there are 7 Work Clubs throughout South Staffordshire to help you find work. You can find more details on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

Agencies working within the Work Clubs are CAB, Support Staffordshire and SSDC Revenue and Benefits team and all working to full capacity.

**Thank you to Huw Jones** - The Parish Council wish to thank Huw Jones for serving as a Parish Councillor. Mr Jones has been a much valued member of the Parish Council and we will miss his dedication and passion for the community. Mr Jones will still be an active member of the Community Speed Watch. We wish you well in your new career, many thanks.

Are you a resident in South Staffordshire?  
Do you need assistance with Digital Skills?



Do any of your friends or family want to know more about:

- Setting up an email address.
- Connecting to the internet.
- Your smart phone.
- Your tablet.
- Skype.
- Staying safe on the internet.
- Online shopping.
- Your laptop.

Why not come and have a cup of tea with us?  
On the last Thursday of every month between 2pm and 4pm at the Council Offices.  
Contact us to reserve a place on 01902 696000 or email: [info@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:info@sstaffs.gov.uk)

## SAFE + SOUND Over 60s Event

Tuesday April 10, 2018

South Staffordshire Council Offices,  
Wolverhampton Road, Codsall WV8 1PX

9am start. 1pm finish

Attend all of these useful workshops!

- Fire safety in the home – Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Scams and internet safety – Staffordshire Police
- Basic life support, CPR and use of a defibrillator – Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent NHS Partnership Trust
- Assistive technology in the home – Medequip
- Wellbeing Toolbox – South Staffs Network for Mental Health

Book your **free** place by email on  
[safeandsound@staffordshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:safeandsound@staffordshirefire.gov.uk)  
or call 01785 898791

Refreshments provided  
Freebies available

### A note from Reverend Rachel of St Mary's Church, Wheaton Aston

The following events and special services are planned at All Saints and St Mary's over the next few months. Please see notices or The Grapevine for more details. Alternatively, contact Rev Rachel at [revracheldale@gmail.com](mailto:revracheldale@gmail.com) or on 01785 840395

Maundy Thursday 29th March - Last Supper and Footwashing

Good Friday 30th March - Messy Church For Easter

Good Friday 30th March - The Last Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday 1st April - Easter Communion Services

Sunday April 15th - Lapley Church Restoration Fund AGM

Monday April 16th - Lapley with Wheaton Aston Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Friday April 20th - Women's World Day of Prayer. All are invited to this service written by the women of Suriname. (Postponed from 2nd March)

Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> - St George's Night Dinner

Saturday April 28th - SACRED Brunch

Thursday May 10th Ascension Day service

Thursday May 10th - Sunday May 20th Thy Kingdom Come: ten days of prayer activities open to everyone

Sunday May 20th - LCRF Royal Wedding Celebration Lunch

This years Church fete will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June

Our curate, Revd Cath, will be ordained priest on 23rd June and will celebrate her first Eucharist on Sunday 24th. All are welcome.. Other Dates in June are still to be confirmed.

Don't forget our regular drop-ins, Sunday services and quiet services, too.

A huge thank you to all who continue to support our churches in so many different ways. There is plenty to do - from gardens to bells, from leading worship to being on the church council and back again - so if you would like to explore how you can help we'd love to talk to you. Blessings, Revd Rachel



# What's on at Your Brewood Community Managed Library April 2018

April Opening Hours Weekly: Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturdays 9.30am-1pm. Unless specified there is no need to book the activities listed. All activities are for adults unless the activity specifies it is for children. Tel: 01902 850087

- Storytime – suitable for pre-school children. Free. Tuesdays. Every week, term-time only. 2.15-2.45pm
- National Memorial Arboretum Display – on daily (during normal opening hours) until 13th April
- Reading Group Read and talk about books. Books supplied by the Library. Free. First Thursday in month 5<sup>th</sup> April 3.15-4.15pm
- Rent-a-Beast (come and see bugs, creepy crawlies and slimy slitherers!) Thursday 5th April 2.30pm. £2 per child. Booking essential. ‘
- ‘Crack the Code’ – an introduction to coding by the School of Coding: Wednesday 4th and 11th April 10am-12 noon. Suitable for 5-14 year olds. Booking essential, please contact library for booking and cost.
- Brewood Craft Club. Cost £2per person to cover hire of the room and materials. We like to try out new techniques, though some come for the company and continue with their own projects. Wednesday 4th and 18th April 2.00-4.00pm
- Mindfulness and Meditation Sessions. £5 minimum donation. Booking required, please contact the Library on 01902 850087. Every Thursday 11-12noon
- ‘Brewood Walk and Talk’ – Free. A great way to get more exercise and improve your health. Part of the Health Watch Walk Scheme. For all ages. Please arrive 15 minutes early if it is your first walk. Car Parking at Library, meet outside the Library. Every Friday 10am.

## Your Council

### WARD

Stretton  
Wheaton Aston  
Wheaton Aston  
Lapley  
Lapley  
Wheaton Aston  
Wheaton Aston  
Wheaton Aston  
Stretton  
Wheaton Aston

### COUNCILLOR

Mrs A Anderson  
Mrs B Cox  
Mr P Elson  
Mr M Fox  
Mr M Griffiths  
Mrs W Millington  
Mr T Noblett (Chairman)  
Mr P Timson  
Mr B Wells  
Ms S Whittingham

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Parish Council Clerk:  
Assistant Clerk:

Mrs. Amy Watson  
Mrs Karen Daker

office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk  
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Telephone

01902 842556

Website

www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.co.uk Also find us on Facebook and Twitter

## Other Key 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 (non-urgent) 999 (emergency)	www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	www.crimestoppers-uk.org
Highways	0300 111 8000	highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

**NOTICE UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (Section 87(2))**

**VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

that a casual vacancy has occurred in the office of Councillor for the ward of Wheaton Aston, Parish of Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council following the resignation on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 of Councillor Huw Jones

Rule 5(2) of The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules, 2006 now applies.

The rule allows **TEN ELECTORS** for the parish [ward] in which the casual vacancy has arisen to request the Returning Officer to hold an election to fill the vacancy.\* That request must be made within **FOURTEEN DAYS**, calculated in accordance with the rules,\*\* of the date of this notice. The fourteen-day period ends on **11th April 2018**.

**What if a request to hold an election is not received during the permitted time?**

Rule 5(5) of the above Rules will apply. The Parish Council must, as soon as practicable after the expiry of the fourteen-day period, co-opt a person to fill the vacancy.

The Returning Officer's address is:

**Electoral Services, South Staffordshire District Council,  
Council Offices, Codsall, WV8 1PX**

The telephone number for further guidance is 01902 696121.

**This notice is dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Amy Watson, Parish Clerk**

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\* There is no form of words for this request, which might simply be a letter headed with such words as "We the undersigned being electors for the [Ward of] ... Parish, call for an election to fill the vacancy arising from the [death] [resignation] of ...". A template entitled "Request for an Election" is available from the Parish Clerk. It is helpful if the ten signatures are accompanied by printed names and addresses.

\*\* In calculating the notice period, day one is the day following the date of this notice; a Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a Bank Holiday or day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning shall be disregarded, and the period closes at midnight on the fourteenth day after the date of this notice. Rule 5(2) of The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules, 2006 now applies.

If you have something that you want to share in the next edition of News and Views then please email Amy (Clerk) on office@wheatonastonparishcouncil or Karen (Assistant Clerk) on assistant@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Wishing you a  
Happy & Peaceful Easter**