



Lapley, Stretton  
& Wheaton Aston  
Parish Council

# NEWS & VIEWS

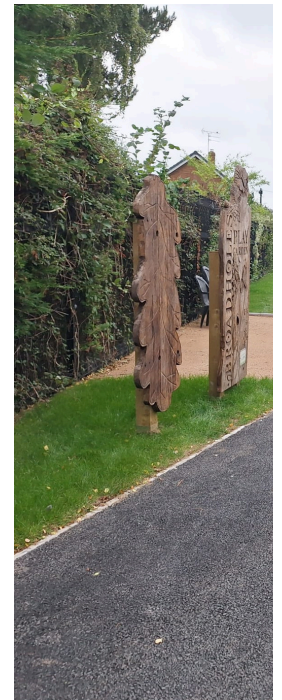
ISSUE Winter 2024

## Broadholes Lane Platinum Jubilee Garden Allotments

Broadholes Lane Platinum Jubilee Garden Allotments are finally finished !! Plot holders are on site and a variety of produce is well underway.

Whilst the plots are currently full there is a waiting list that you can be added to. If you are interested for the future please email the office for an application form.

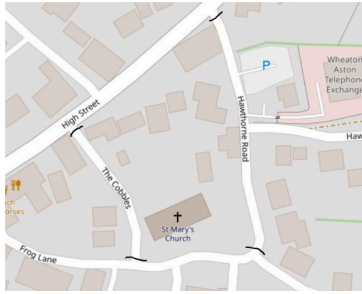
Thankyou for your patience whilst we completed this project. Its amazing to see the community that is 'growing' there.



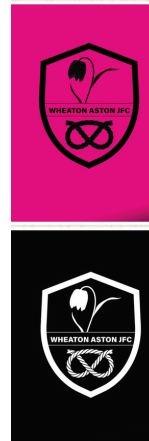
# Christmas Event

This year's Christmas Light's Switch On event will be held on Saturday, 16th November 2024 in Wheaton Aston 3pm-6pm. This is always a wonderful way for the community to get together to mark the lights switch on and the advent of Christmas.

This year we will be joined by a variety of stalls- mulled wine, alpacas, Pattingham Vineyard, bottle tombola, chocolate tombola, gifts, face painting, splat the rat, plus many more and Dangerous Sheep events will be compering all the action. The children of St Marys Academy will be on stage as will the performers from Davies Dance Academy and Wheaton Aston's own Abi Bowman to entertain us. We look forward to seeing you in what promises to be a special community event.



This year 'Phyllis' (Over the Rainbow Bakery) will be parked up along Hawthorne Road to serve you some seasonal treats! The entirety of Hawthorne Road and The Cobbles will be closed for the event. You can pop and visit the lovely alpacas from Wildwood alpacas at the cobbles from 3pm



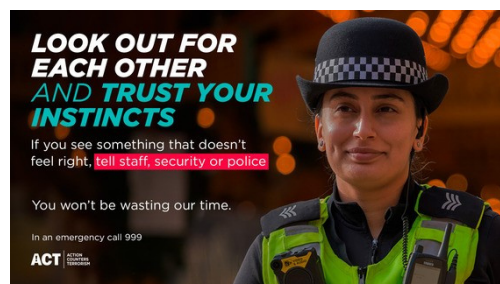
## Inclusive Parish: Communication Board installed at Primrose Play Area

A communication board has been installed at Primrose Play area, this board is an AAC device (alternative communication device) that provides information symbols, or illustrations to help people with limited language skills express themselves. The user can gesture, point to, or blink at images to communicate with others. This is especially useful for non-verbal children.



Communication boards help users express their immediate needs and preferences. Learning through play is integral to a child development and this board aims to make play all inclusive. We would love to hear your thoughts on if this board has helped you/someone you know.

This board uses the coloured borders that school age users are familiar with from their education setting to reinforce language learning.



## Bleed kits

Bleed kits can now be found in all of the defibrillator units that the PC have responsibility for. Literal life savers, these kits can be used in cases of significant bleed trauma. We encourage any business who operates machinery to consider purchasing one for on site or in work vehicles. More details can be found at <https://controlthebleed.org.uk/>



## Best Kept Village Competition

Congratulations to the first ever winners of the PC ran Front Garden Competitions: Longview, Lapley, Stretton House, Stretton and Bank House Wheaton Aston.

And an even bigger congratulations to our whole community as Wheaton Aston won the Community Spirit Ward at the BKV presentation evening held on 23rd October, attended by Cllr Smith, Cllr Ford and Cllr Renfrew.

Wheaton Aston also won the Best Large Village and Lapley was highly commended. Thankyou to you all for whatever part you played in these wins. We hope to get some more wins in next year and continue to live in a beautiful and thriving parish



## Upcoming road closures

We have been made aware of a number of planned road closures:

Bungham Lane, Penkridge from 26th -28th November

<https://one.network/?tm=140475288>

Pinfold Lane, Penkridge 6 Jan 2025 - 17 Jan 2025

<https://one.network/?tm=140149250>

## Mr Ted Noblett BEM BCA

On Tuesday 15th October Mr Ted Noblett BEM BCA was awarded his British Empire Medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire. This recognition and medal was awarded for Ted's service to the community. Many congratulations to Ted and his family on this outstanding recognition. A whole community is proud of you Ted, and we look forward to a huge round of applause as you are guest of honour at this years light switch on!



## Police contact details

The PCSO's who look after our area are PCSO Gareth Lloyd

[Gareth.Lloyd2@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Gareth.Lloyd2@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk) and PCSO Adrian Price

[Adrian.Price@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Adrian.Price@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk). Both welcome emails and will respond when they are on shift but please be aware that there could be a delay in response of several days due to shift patterns. In the first instance please use 101 or 999 dependent on the issues.



# Digital Angels

We care about your digital skills, and have a range of resources available that you can use to develop and support your knowledge.

Our Digital Trainers are highly skilled and motivated to delivery high class digital skills sessions to service users and the community. Our Trainers aim to foster a sense of engagement and learning that goes beyond expected boundaries. We support personalised drop-in Digital training sessions within the community at local Libraries. We have a mission to support the community with digital skills to promote digital inclusion and digital poverty by offering enriching supportive sessions

We offer digital support and guidance on the following areas:

- NHS App Drop-in Sessions
- Learn My Way
- CV and Job Hunting Advice
- Registering for Online Banking
- How to use a mobile phone - Text, calls, settings
- Installing WhatsApp
- Setting up Email Addresses,
- How to send/reply to an email/add an attachment.
- Microsoft Skills
- Websites that provide resident with local hobbies, shopping and translation services
- Applying for a passport
- **Newcastle-Under-Lyme Library**  
Every Wednesday 10:00am until 12:00pm
- **Rising Brook Library, Stafford**  
Every Friday 10:00am until 12:00pm
- **Heath Hayes Library, Cannock**  
Every Friday 13:30pm until 15:30pm



For more details see <https://www.mpft.nhs.uk/about-us/digital/training> or call

**Parish Meetings - All meetings will be held at Wheaton Aston & Lapley Village hall at 7:00pm unless other wise notified:**

**Remaining meeting for 2024:**

**5th December 2024 (Precept)**

**A Representative will be available from 6.30pm for a drop in surgery**

Recipient of the:



Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council  
Office FF-028, The Business Hub  
Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PX  
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[office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/WAstonParish](http://www.facebook.com/WAstonParish)



## Air Field Marker

Every October the Parish council holds a community meeting and encourages residents to attend and make suggestions of what they would like to see in their village.

Last October a resident wrote to us for this meeting and asked if we could look at a way to mark the Wheaton Aston airfields history. We are very grateful for this suggestion as it was something we hadn't considered, this rightly needs acknowledging.

In WW2 Wheaton Aston airfield opened in 1941 as a relief landing ground to Shawbury in Shropshire, at first assisting No 11 Advanced Flying Unit. In 1943 it gained independence and became home to No 21 Advanced Flying Unit. Twin engine airspeed oxford trainers predominated until the closure in 1946. The airfield being so heavily used that it was at one point one of Britain's busiest airfields. It was finally closed in 1947.

On looking into this we engaged with The Air Fields of Britain Conservation Trust and together located the perfect spot to install an Indian Granite marker.

An official unveiling ceremony took place on 27th September.

Cllr Winnie Millington, our Chair, was joined at the ceremony by Cllr Whittingham, Sir Gavin Williamson MP and the resident who made the initial request. Several members of the public came along too, including some ex RAF veterans.

We are honoured to have this memorial and the Parish Council plan to lay a wreath for Remembrance in November from now on.

**More details about the excellent work of the trust can be found here:**

**<https://www.abct.org.uk/>**

**Videos can be viewed here:**

**<https://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/airfield-finder/wheaton-aston/#>**

**<https://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/airfield-finder/wheaton-aston/>**

**<https://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/airfield-finder/wheaton-aston/>**



## Community Food Share Point

The community food share point is now back in the Spar for donations and can be found at St Mary's School every Monday for any donations or collections. We are still in uncertain times and the winter months can be a challenging time for many families. Please get in touch, in confidence if you need additional support.

**'Leave what you can and take what you need'**



# REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Service led by Cllr Sue Whittingham commemorating the sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces and of civilians.

Saturday 9th November 2024  
 10.45am start ready for 11am silence at the memorial stone Wheaton Aston village green.  
 Tea, coffee and cake to follow in St Marys Church

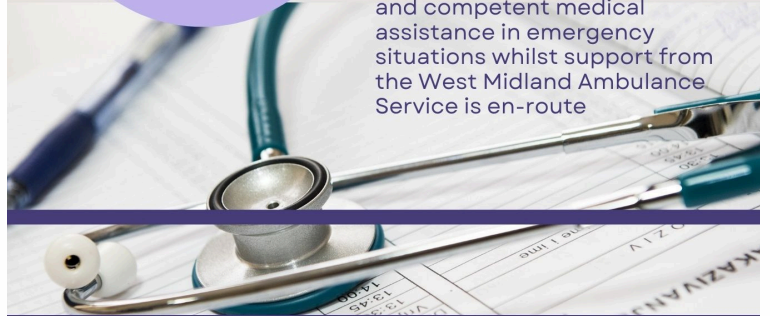
**+** **First Responders**

**Can you help?**  
 Email [daleaper@gmail.com](mailto:daleaper@gmail.com)

**Volunteers Needed**  
 To keep this essential service functional

**Medical Assistance**

Serving the parish to offer fast and competent medical assistance in emergency situations whilst support from the West Midland Ambulance Service is en-route



**Volunteers need to:**

- Live within the parish.
- Aged over 18 years.
- Willing to book on call for a minimum of 24 hours per month.
- Be generally fit and well.
- Be willing to undertake a training course over three consecutive weekends and an annual update (1 day).
- Hold a full drivers licence with no more than six points and no previous driving convictions.
- Willing to allow a DBS check.

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

COUNCILLOR	WARD	EMAIL
A Anderson	Stretton	<a href="mailto:a.anderson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">a.anderson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
D Hodgkiss	Stretton	<a href="mailto:d.hodgkiss@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">d.hodgkiss@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
M Griffiths	Lapley	<a href="mailto:m.griffiths@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">m.griffiths@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
J Hodgkiss	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:j.hodgkiss@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">j.hodgkiss@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
W Millington (Chair)	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:w.millgton@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">w.millgton@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
R Nelson (Vice)	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:r.nelson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">r.nelson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
D Weate	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:d.weate@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">d.weate@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
V Renfrew	Lapley	<a href="mailto:v.renfrew@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">v.renfrew@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
M Smith	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:m.smith@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">m.smith@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Sue Whittingham	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:s.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">s.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
J Ford	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:j.ford@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">j.ford@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>

## OTHER KEY CONTACTS

County Cllr Mark Sutton	01902 851682	<a href="mailto:mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk">mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>
District Cllr Rob Nelson	07881946919	<a href="mailto:r.nelson@sstaffs.gov.uk">r.nelson@sstaffs.gov.uk</a>
Staffordshire County Council	0300 111 8000	<a href="http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk">www.staffordshire.gov.uk</a>
South Staffordshire District Council	01902 696000	<a href="http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk">www.sstaffs.gov.uk</a>
Police	101 (non-urgent) 999 (emergency)	<a href="http://www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk">www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk</a>
PCSO Gareth Lloyd	Gareth.Lloyd2@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk	
PCSO Adrian Price	Adrian.Price@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk	
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	<a href="http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org">www.crimestoppers-uk.org</a>
Highways	0300 111 8000	<a href="http://www.highways@staffordshire.gov.uk">www.highways@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>

# Beware Flooded Roads!



Driving through flood water is extremely dangerous: Advice from the RAC

How deep can I drive in water?

Just to be clear – driving on flooded roads is both dangerous and ill-advised. You could end up irreparably damaging your vehicle, getting stuck, or creating a situation where you endanger yourself and other road users.

As a general rule, do not drive in water deeper than 10cm. This can be increased to up to 30cm in some modern cars, larger SUVs, or off-road vehicles.

Driving in heavy rain is already challenging enough and should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

If you're approaching a puddle or small body of water, then there are some important things to remember.

When driving through the water, don't increase your speed as you hit the water. Drive slow and steady and try not to disturb the water and create a wave. If possible, drive in the middle of the road, as the water should be at its shallowest at this point. Do not stop until you reach the other side of the flood water.

Should the depth be acceptable to drive through, then once you're at the other side, pull over and let any water drain out before carrying on your journey. This is at your own risk, and isn't advisable if you're unsure about the road ahead.

Once you've pulled away again slowly, and gently tap your brakes to create some heat, which will help evaporate any excess water. This will help test the effectiveness of your brakes. Should they feel different, then visit a garage as soon as possible.

If possible, park your vehicle up before the water and check the depth. Don't take the risk if it's too deep or you can't see what's under the water. You will need to find an alternative route to get around the flooded road.

Once you are through, find a safe spot out of the weather conditions – if possible – and try and air out the vehicle. Open the doors, windows, and sunroof to help with this process. Use the car's internal heating and remove your items from the vehicle.

RAC statistics show breakdown numbers increase significantly during periods of wet weather – so take extra care! In fact, the Environment Agency urges all drivers to stay away from floodwater.



## Marston Field renovation

We are still in the very early stages of this redevelopment, a quote has been received and the PC are due to meet and consider if this meets the needs expressed by the parish in the surveys conducted. If it does then we will share these plans with the parish to gain feedback. We need to raise a lot of money for this project but are aiming for a top spec gym and play area for all to enjoy

## Brewood Voluntary Car Scheme

Brewood & District Voluntary Car Scheme provides passenger travel for three local parishes, covering the villages of Coven Heath, Coven, Brewood, Bishop's Wood, Lapley, Stretton, Wheaton Aston, Blymhill, Calf Heath and Weston-under-Lizard.

A total of 805 passenger journeys were undertaken during the 2023/2024 financial year, covering a total of 11,826 fare miles.

The scheme desperately needs more drivers from our parish, if you can spare some hours to volunteer please get in touch. 01902 851 786

Given the recent changes to the bus timetable we anticipate that this scheme may be required more than ever, please help where you can

# Update from The Watershed Benefice

## News from the Church

We would like to say 'thank you' to all of you who have supported events at our churches through the summer, including our stall at the Carnival. The church became an art gallery in July, when the talented folk of Wheaton Aston Arts (plus a few friends) showcased paintings, photographs, wood turning, embroidery, video and more. Lapley hosted a Treasure Hunt around the village with clever clues that helped people learn more about the history of the village. St. Mary's was open for a Summer Scheme for children on three days during August, finishing with "Messy Creation" when the children learned about the changing seasons through craft. The Table Top sale in September was well supported, with lots of bargains to be had, and we also held a Quiet Day with a harvest theme. All of our usual services events went on too, as listed below, and our links with St. Mary's First School and Wheaton Aston court are flourishing thanks to Lay Reader (PtO), Anne Wright, Rev. Linda Beech and Val Cox.

Services of Remembrance will be on November 8th at 9.30am (School Service); November 9th at 10.45am (at the Wheaton Aston Memorial) and November 10th at 10.45am (at All Saints')

Christmas Events begin on November 16th at 3.00pm when we will be joining the rest of the village community for the Lights Fair. Although we do not yet have a new rector, all of the usual Christmas services and events will take place, but we have had to change the timing of one or two, so please do check the list below and keep an eye on Church Notice Boards, Grapevine and our website, [www.watershedbenefice.org](http://www.watershedbenefice.org). Everyone is welcome at any (or all!) of our services and events.

## Christmas Services and Events

November 30th	10.00am	Quiet Day for Advent in St. Mary's.
December 1st	2.00opm	Messy Christmas - Craft & fun, food & the Christmas story for all the family in St. Mary's.
December 6th – 8th		Christmas Tree Festival in All Saints'
December 19th	9.30am	School Christmas Service in St. Mary's.
December 21st	3.00pm	Christingle Service in St. Mary's (Note changed date!)
December 22nd	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight in all Saints'
December 24th	6.30pm	Carols on the Green outside St. Mary's (inside if weather is inclement !!)
December 24th	9.30pm	Bethlehem Midnight Service in all Saints' (so called because at 9.30pm in the UK it is midnight in Bethlehem)
December 25th	10.00am	Benefice Family Communion at St. Andrew's, Weston under Lizard.
December 29th	10.30am	Benefice 'Turning of the Year' service at St. Mary's.

## Contacts

Karen Williams	01785 841170	<a href="mailto:karenwilliams11@btinternet.com">karenwilliams11@btinternet.com</a>
Mike Fox	01785 840334	<a href="mailto:fox.lapley@btinternet.com">fox.lapley@btinternet.com</a>

Sunday Services : 1st and 3rd Sundays, 9.00am at All Saints' Church, Lapley  
2nd and 4th Sundays, 10.30am at St. Mary's Church, Wheaton Aston

## Weekly Events:

Monday	@ 10.00am.	Tinies, Toddlers & Toys, St Mary's
Wednesday	@ 9.00am	Morning Prayer, on Facebook Live
Wednesday	@ 10.00am	Drop in, St Mary's Wheaton Aston
Thursday	@ 10.00am	Place of Welcome, All Saints Lapley