



Lapley, Stretton  
& Wheaton Aston  
Parish Council

# NEWS & VIEWS

ISSUE Spring 2024

## Ted Noblett BCA

On the 18th January the clerk, Amy, had the pleasure of accompanying Ted and his family to witness Ted receive A British Citizen Award for services to the community.

This is what they had to say about him:

For 40 years Thomas, known as Ted, has volunteered in his local parish and is the longest servicing councillor in its history. In addition, he coached local children's cricket for many years, volunteers on the sports club committee and helps with the luncheon club, aimed at older residents who are lonely and vulnerable. Ted helped install play areas in the parish, aided in the Platinum Jubilee allotment project, and supports the churches in the parish and clubs that they run.

The length of time Ted has volunteered and the variety of clubs he has committed his time to, has had a massively positive impact on the local community. Ted's commitment to his community is second to none. During the pandemic Ted turned 80 years old and was classed as vulnerable, yet he still organized and delivered Christmas hampers to even more vulnerable residents at Christmas with a mantra that 'their needs were of more concern than his own health'.

Ted is chair of the village hall committee and always looking at ways to bring the community together for events. He is working closely with the parish to reduce its carbon footprint and promotes a healthy lifestyle by making the local outdoor spaces attractive and accessible for all.

Ted was presented with the BCA Medal of Honor by Tom Redman, Managing Director from BCA supporters Big Bus London.

Many congratulations Ted (BCA)



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

7th December 2023 (Precept)

25th January 2024

7th March 2024

18th April 2024

23rd May 2024 Annual Parish Meeting of electors at 6.00pm followed Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7pm

11th July 2024

5th September 2024

17th October Full Council plus Community Meeting at 6.00pm

5th December 2024 (Precept)

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

## **Full Council Meetings update**

### **December 2023:**

The precept has been set with an overall budget increase of 4.59% on 2023/24 with the average Band D tax paying £124.05 compared to £118.60 in 2023/24.

The Christmas light switch on event has been set for Saturday 16th November 2024

Members of the community to approach SSC to install a flag pole on the green in Wheaton Aston. Residents are invited to form a focus group with members of the PC to assist with the renovation at Marston Field

The following updated policies were agreed: the Environmental and Sustainability policy ·Reserves policy ·Website accessibility statement ·Website privacy statement

### **January 2024:**

The council resolved to enter the BKV competition .

Following a successful first consultation on renovating the play area at Marston Field a second survey is currently being undertaken to find out what kind of gym equipment and play equipment is preferred. Both of these consultations are open until 31st March , please take the time to give us your opinions so we can get this project right!

The pump track has proven to be the favorite idea and one we will be exploring further.

A graffiti management policy has been adopted

A policy to manage cars parked at the village carpark has been adopted, if you need to park your car there for an extended period longer than 48 hours, permission must be obtained from the office prior or the car could be subject to enforcement action

## **Police contact details**

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

Gareth.Lloyd2@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk and PCSO Adrian Price

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.



Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council

Office FF-028, The Business Hub

Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PX

01902 327091, Clerk mbl 07495789051

office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

[www.facebook.com/WAstonParish](https://www.facebook.com/WAstonParish)

Recipient of the:



# Best Kept Village Community Competition 2024

Lapley and Wheaton Aston are entering the Best Kept Village Competition. As well as lots of encouragement to keep our villages tidy, litter picks from various community groups and lots of posters there are a number of competitions that can be entered into ran by the organizers themselves, Richard Winterton Auctioneers. The Children of St Marys First Academy have made us a posters to display, if your child doesn't attend the academy and would like to complete a poster that could be used in the competition please let the office know.

The categories for the competitions are:

## **Children's Poster Competition**

This competition is open to children between 5 & 11 years of age from villages which have entered the Best kept Village Community competition. Posters should be original and based on their community.

Villages are invited to submit three posters from each age group (either online or via post)

The age categories for the competition are: 5-7 years and 8-11 years Please include the child's full name, age, school and village on the back of the poster

The deadline for submissions is 1 June

## **Childrens' Poetry & Prose Competition**

This competition is open to children between 5 & 11 years of age from villages which have entered the Best Kept Village Community competition.

Villages are invited to submit three poems or prose from each age group (either online or via post)

The age categories for the competition are: 5-7 years and 8-11 years Please include the child's full name, age, school and village on the back of the entry

The deadline for submissions is 1 June

## **Spirit of BKVC**

This competition is open to entrants over 18 years of age. Entries can include photography, paintings, drawings, tapestry, cross-stitch, poetry and prose, short stories.

The deadline for submissions is 1 June

## **Spirit of BKVC (11-17 years)**

This competition is open to entrants age 11-17 years (submissions either online or via post) Entries can include photography, paintings, drawings, tapestry, cross-stitch, poetry and prose, short stories.

The theme of 'Community'

The deadline for submissions is 1 June



## First year of this competition!!

To support the villages entry into the Best Kept Village (BKV) competition the Parish Council challenge you to create a fantastic front garden! If the competition is successful we can bring it back each year! No entry required, members of the BKV working group will chose the winner on walks around the Parish in May and July. One top prize for each village!

## What can you do to help?

Lots!!! Look after the area of street outside your home, weed it, sweep it, whatever you are able to do is much appreciated. See a dirty street sign, wipe it! (always paying attention to health and safety!) See the office for more details

### 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:hodgkiss@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">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	<a href="mailto:Gareth.Lloyd2@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk">Gareth.Lloyd2@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk</a>	
PCSO Adrian Price	<a href="mailto:Adrian.Price@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk">Adrian.Price@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk</a>	
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>		

## **New benches**

The new benches are now all installed at Badgers End, Sunnybank and Marston Field. The Marston Field bench is extra special, please pop down and take a look!

## **Problems with parking around the Cobbles and High street**

We have been made aware that cars parked at the Cobbles and High street, mostly during the day times, are causing an issue for individuals trying to pass by on mobility aids or for those with pushchairs. Please be mindful where you park, the pavements are narrow and for pedestrians in the first instance. Delivery drivers are also having issues delivering medications to the Doctor Surgery as they cannot gain access. Parking on the double yellows is illegal (unless there is an exemption) and also affect the visibility for vehicles, this is a road safety issue. Please report issues to the relevant authority

## **Air Field Marker**

We have been working closely with Church Eaton PC to find a suitable location for the air field marker to commemorate Wheaton Aston Air Field (which sits outside of our parish) A location has been found and we are trying to obtain the relevant permissions to install the marker. We remain in contact and grateful to The Air Fields of Britain Conservation Trust who have been hugely helpful in progressing this project.

## **Community Food Share Point**

The cost of living pressures still seem to be increasing and the winter is lingering. If you can spare any items to donate, the Community Food Share Point box will be in the Spar, apart from a Thursday when it will be at St Marys Academy.

Please leave what you can and take what you need. Items added do not have to be purchased from the Spar. Anyone can contact the PC Clerk in confidence if you are in need of support.

## **Village Hall Committee**

Village halls are essential community spaces ran by a committee of volunteers. Our village hall committee need some more support and need new people to form the committee. the commitment would be regular meeting's and a proactive approach to improving the future of the village hall. Can you help? if so please get in touch

Another way you can help is to use the hall, it can be hired for social events, meetings, community groups etc.

Enquires can be made to Jean Jones,

geljean1@tiscali.co.uk

01785 501472

07904 320567

Tariff: non-profit making groups £10.50per hour

Profit making groups £13.50per hour

# RESPONSIBILITIES – WHO DOES WHAT

Local Government in South Staffordshire operates under a three-tier system, working up from Parish Council to District Council to County

## Council.

### STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**LSWA PARISH COUNCIL**  
office@wheatonastonparish  
council.gov.uk  
01902 327091

**SOUTH STAFFS DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
info@sstaffs.gov.uk

contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk

01902 696000

0300 111 8000

Allotments  
Bus Shelters  
Hawthorne Rd Car Park  
Christmas Decorations  
Community Development & Grants  
Council Land & Property  
Crime Prevention (Jointly)  
CCTV (Marston Field)  
Defibrillators  
Entertainment Venues & Events  
Grants for Voluntary Organisations  
Noticeboards  
Parish Councillors  
Playground, Parks & Grounds  
Maintenance  
Planning Applications (Responding To)  
Public Services & Meetings  
Sports & Recreation Facilities  
Village Planters & Floral Displays  
Trees (LSWA PC owned)

Abandoned & Burnt-Out Vehicles  
Alcohol Licence  
Anti-Social Behaviour  
Asbestos Management  
Bereavement Services  
Bin Collections  
Blocked Drains & Sewers  
Building Control  
Business Hub Services  
Car Park on High Street  
CCTV Surveillance  
Commercial Development & Regeneration  
Community Safety (Alarms & Telecare)  
Community Transport  
Conservation Areas  
Council Garages & Lettings  
Council Housing & Repairs  
Council Tax Collections & Business Rates  
Council Tax Discounts & Benefits  
Crematorium  
Crime Prevention (Jointly)  
Cycling & Walking to School  
Dead Animal Removal  
Decision Notices (Planning)  
Derelict Properties  
Disabled Facilities Grant  
Dog Offences, Strays & Wardens  
Elections & Electoral Register  
Environmental Health: Nitrous  
Oxide Cannister Disposal  
Fly Posting & Tipping  
Food Hygiene & Safety  
Garden Waste Disposal  
Graffiti Removal  
Grass Cutting  
Grass Verges Home Care Support  
Homelessness Prevention  
Housing Advice & Allocation  
Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support  
Housing Exchanges & Transfers  
Housing Grants (Disabled Facilities)  
Leisure  
Litter Bins & Dog Bins  
Litter Removal  
Noise & Nuisance Pollution  
Pest Control  
Planning Applications, Policy & Enforcement  
Premises Licence  
Recycling Collections, Bags & Containers  
Registering for Council Property  
Road Sweeping (Routine Only)  
Road Signs  
Street Cameras  
Street Name Plates  
Street Party Permission  
Taxi Licences & Private Hire Cars  
Tourism  
Trees (SSDC Owned)  
Tree Preservation  
Verge Maintenance  
Voting  
Waste Collections (Household, Hazardous, Clinical & Garden)  
Homes Plus: 0800 048 8955

Adapting Homes  
Adoption  
Adult Social Care (Benefits)  
Advertising  
Allowances & Welfare/Social Benefits  
Archives (Local & Family History)  
Blue Badge (New & Renewal)  
Bus Passes (Disabled & Senior Citizens)  
Car Park – Community Centre  
Car Parking Permits  
Care Needs Assessment  
Childcare  
Child Performance Licence  
Childminders  
Children's Services  
Citizenship Ceremonies  
Community & Day Care Centres  
Community Support Groups & Organisations  
Concessionary Fares  
Direct Payments  
Disabled People's Access & Parking  
Drain & Gully Clearance  
Dropped Kerbs  
Education  
Entertainment Licence (Children)  
Family Information Services  
Family Support  
Footpaths  
Fostering  
Free School Meals  
Grass Verges: Diane Firkins  
Highways (Potholes, Closures & Diversions)  
Home Adaptions & Aids  
Home Schooling  
Library (Joining, Loans, Renewals, Facilities & Catalogue)  
Meals On Wheels  
Mobile Libraries  
Nursery Schools  
Parking Fines, Penalties & Permits  
Pavement Maintenance & Obstructions  
Pedestrian Crossings  
Primary School Places  
Public Transport  
Public Weighbridges  
Recycling Centres  
Registering Births, Deaths & Marriages  
Respite Care for Children & Young People  
Road Safety, Spillages, Obstructions, Flooding & Gritting  
School Attendance & Truancy  
School Closures  
School Clothing Grants  
School Term Dates  
School Transport  
Secondary Schools  
Sheltered Housing  
Social Activities & Support Groups  
Social Services  
Special Educational Needs Transport  
Speed Limits  
Street Furniture  
Street Parking Enforcement (Including On Street)  
Street Lighting  
Studies & Qualifications (Post 16)  
Trading Standards  
Traffic Lights  
Transport Policy  
Walking to School  
Waste Disposal Management  
Weather Related Issues  
Young People's Learning (Studies & Qualifications Post 16)  
Youth Services & Activities  
Zebra Crossings



Hey, Community!



Let's have a  
get together!

Annual meeting of electors

Thursday 23rd May 2024 6.30pm at Lapley and Wheaton Aston Village Hall

Volunteers! come and show case your community group, get more support, apply for funding!

Come and hear about what the parish council has been doing over the past year

Received funding from the PC? Come and tell us how your community group benefited from it

Got an idea? Come and tell us!

RSVP  
office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk  
07495789051

Canal & River Trust Canal & nettle clearance

Street Scene: Rubbish & Dead Animals



Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council

Passionate about caring for our environment?

Can you spare a few hours a month?

We are looking for individuals who enjoy gardening to look after the wet nature area at

Marston Field.

Please get in touch if this is you



Office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

07495789051

WHEATON ASTON & LAPLEY ARE ENTERING THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2024!!



When?

Judging takes place between May and July

What can I do to help?

LOTS!!!!

Tidy/weed the kerbs around your property

Join us at the Hartley Arms at 7pm on Tuesday 19th March to arrange dates for community litter picks and receive seeds to plant

Clean village signs

Pick up litter daily

Become a street warden to identify needs in your street

Let us know about graffiti

Help your neighbour



Thankyou for your support



Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council

## Marston Field renovation

The parish council have been doing a lot of work behind the scenes to begin the process of a overhaul for Marston Field. Thank you to all of those that took part in our initial survey. It is clear from the comments that the parish would like to see this area better used, would like to feel safer to be there and would like more activities for all ages. The bike pump track has come out hugely popular and is a definite on the PC's want list. Gym equipment and improvement of the play equipment are the next sources of our surveys. We hope to find the right mixture for all ages for the gym equipment whilst also utilizing the track. The play equipment is aimed at 8years plus with Primrose play area aimed at the under 8 years age range. If you would like to complete the survey but don't have online access, get in touch with the office and they will take you through the process.

The gym equipment survey can be found at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/C5UqrxSMBB>

The play equipment survey can be found at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/ffXG2QyTbt>

## Allotment update

We are really pleased to say we are at the final hurdle for the allotment project! Once the final funding source has been secured work can begin, we anticipate work to begin in April. If you have applied for a plot, you are still on the waiting list and we will be in touch as the project progresses

Marston Field Gym Equipment Survey



Marston Field Play Equipment Survey



## Funding opportunities

**Funding of £351,000 is up for grabs to help improve the health and wellbeing of communities in South Staffordshire.**

The financial boost, facilitated by South Staffordshire Council and partners, is available through four different pots, each of which have different eligibility criteria.

**The first funding stream is the £236,000 Health Inequalities Fund from Staffordshire County Council to tackle health inequalities in the district.**

Examples of projects which could be eligible include initiatives to enhance public spaces; reduce social isolation; improve energy efficiency; provide cost of living support; improve community cohesion; prevent falls; offer play provision; reduce damp and mould; and promote healthy eating.

This funding must be allocated by September 2024.

**Next is the South Staffordshire Community Wellbeing Fund, which offers a total of £20,000.**

This funding is to support community and wellbeing projects which meet local priorities. The maximum funding available for each project under this stream is £1,000.

**The West Midlands Interchange (WMI) Project Community Fund is a £65,000 pot granted to the district council by the site's developers as mitigation for the project.**

This will be available for community projects within a three-mile radius of the site.

The types of projects which may qualify include schemes to enhance public spaces and facilities and initiatives to maximise public use of the community parks to be provided at WMI.

**The Community is the Best Medicine fund offers a £30,000 pot to support community groups and initiatives.**

This funding is for projects which support the most vulnerable in the district.

## Update from The Watershed Benefice

We said a sad farewell to Rev Rachel in February, with a service at Blymhill followed by afternoon tea, which was attended by over 90 people, gathered to wish Rachel and Crispin good luck in their new parish in North Wales, and to present them with gifts to thank them for their ministry and friendship over the last twelve years. We are now working with the Diocese to begin the process of finding a new rector, but in the meantime we wish to assure everyone that church is still open! All of our services and events as well as weddings, baptisms and funerals will continue as normal with the services of Retired Minister Rev. Linda Beech, a team of volunteers and priests from outside the Benefice to cover services when needed. If you need more information please contact the churchwardens or Rev. Linda/

Karen Williams 01785 841170. karenwilliams11@btinternet.com

Mike Fox 01785 840334 fox.lapley@btinternet.com

Rev. Linda Beech (Retd) 01785 841918 lindabeech7@gmail.com

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

Every week :Monday @ 10.00am. Tinies, Toddlers & Toys, St Mary's Wheaton Aston

Wednesday @ 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary's Wheaton Aston

Wednesday @ 10.00am Drop in, St Mary's Wheaton Aston

Thursday @ 9.00am Morning Prayer, All Saints Lapley

Thursday @ 10.00am Places of Welcome, All Saints Lapley

Every month Fourth Thursday @ 2.00pmwww.cafe, Old School Court, Wheaton Aston

Easter Services:

March 24th Palm Sunday – Holy Communion at 10.30am in St. Mary's, Wheaton Aston

March 28th Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion at 7.30am in St. Mary's, Wheaton Aston

March 29th Good Friday – Messy Church at 10.00am in St. Mary's, Wheaton Aston

Good Friday – Quiet Reflections at 2.00pm in St. Mary's, Wheaton Aston

March 31st Easter Sunday – Easter Communion at 9.00am in All Saints', Lapley

Easter Sunday – Easter Communion at 10.30am in St. Mary's, Wheaton Aston

Details of all our services and events can be found on the Notice Boards outside each church, in the Grapevine magazine and on our website [www.watershedbenefice.org](http://www.watershedbenefice.org)

We also publish a weekly news sheet, "The Shed" which can be delivered straight to your email. If you would like to receive it, please contact Elaine on [E.townsend34@outlook.com](mailto:E.townsend34@outlook.com)