

*Whitmore Parish Council*  
***NEWSLETTER***  
*January 2014*



## ***From the Chairman***

Hi everyone,

Let's start by wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year. I can't say I'll miss 2013 as it has been the busiest time for your Parish Council, certainly since I have been involved. If you recall, we had three major projects to deal with, one after the other.

It started with the Sheet Anchor development, followed by HS2, followed by the proposed Gateway Avenue development which, I can assure you, were way above anything I can recall. At such times, we believed we needed to know what you, the public, thought, so we organized Public Meetings for each. We were most gratified by the way the public turned out in droves to make their contribution to the future of our village.

You all agreed that the Sheet Anchor desperately needed to be upgraded and that the removal of the rat-infested bottling plant would be particularly welcomed. So, after talks and meetings with the developer, the Parish council supported his Planning Application and, as is now evident, our objectives and those of the developer, have been achieved. We wish the Sheet Anchor all the best for a long and happy future. At the end of the year, again by consulting with the Sheet Anchor, the Parish Council donated a permanent Christmas Tree, which we hope will continue to grow for many years. I had the personal pleasure of turning on the lights, along with Gavin and Carl from the Sheet Anchor, whose involvement was much appreciated. I was amazed at the number of people who turned up on the night, to enjoy the carol singing, mince pies and mulled wine. Thanks to all those involved.

I am not going to dwell on HS2 as there are many miles to go with this project. However, the devastation it will cause will blight our village for years to come, should it proceed. On your behalf, I and others had a trip to the Houses of Parliament on the day that the Hybrid Bill was debated. At 5,500 pages long (over 5,400 more than the bill for Scottish Devolution), 800 pages needing to be read and understood in the time allowed by Government. It appears to me that this is going to be bludgeoned through at any cost - £50 billion for a train - when many people can't pay their energy bills and ever more food banks are appearing.

Now the plan for 113 homes on Grade 1 and 2 farm land off Gateway Avenue, an Application that would increase our village population by 50%. The time spent on this by your Parish Councillors has been considerable. The consequences of 113 homes, supported by Planners at the Borough, mainly due to the shambles that they have created, and the meddling philosophy of the Government's policies putting them in an awkward position has left our village to pick up the pieces. At this point, I must say that County and Borough Councillor David Loades and Borough Councillor Ashley Howells have supported your parish completely. We have also had help from our MP, Mr Bill Cash and we may need more help from him. I would also mention the Baldwins Gate Action Group, who have been phenomenal, with especially Keith Lawton, Graham Paine and Lynette and Malcolm Johnson working their socks off. It is our belief that, with one small shop in Baldwins Gate and another in Whitmore, a part time Doctors' Surgery and one (full) school, our village is not 'sustainable'. There was a suggestion for a mini-roundabout at the end of Gateway, but your Parish Council has at least managed to bury that idea.

**Cont..../**

I was elected by the parishioners to support their hopes and ambitions, not to stand over them. This is why it is so disappointing not to have the support of the Borough in our aims to carry out YOUR views and protect YOUR village. The saddest thing about this Application is that, if it should succeed, will create a precedent such that any in the future cannot be stopped – and what a disaster that would be. We will try and keep you up to date with proceedings. At present, there is a site visit by the Borough's Planning Committee on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

We had a visitor to our Parish Council meeting in December, Gareth Snell, the Leader of the Borough Council. I have to say I found him knowledgeable and interested in our parish and village matters. Gareth has asked if he and perhaps other members of the Council can attend a future event where he will be available to answer questions about the aims of the Borough Council and how the future in 'NULBC' is envisaged. We will try to organize that in the near future.

2014 is a 'Festival' year for Whitmore, plans are being put into place for some interesting events, so try and keep your diaries clear for the 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Thank you again for all your support.  
Alan Wilkinson, Chairman.

**Alan Wilkinson**  
01782 680820



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## COMMUNITY CHEST



Two more application forms have been received for Whitmore's allocation of Community Chest 2013/14 and we hope to report on these in the next Newsletter. Donations have already been made to Whitmore Art Group.

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## SCOUTS

Following a 'taster' session in October, it was decided to start two new scout groups in Whitmore this month. The '96 Whitmore and Baldwins Gate Scout Group will open for business on Thursday 16 January 2014, holding two sessions:

**Cubs** (ages 8 to 10½): 6.30 – 7.30 pm

**Scouts** (ages 10½ to 14): 7.30 – 9 pm

**Boys and girls welcome**

There will be:

- ~ Games
- ~ Crafts
- ~ Camping Trips
- ~ and lots of fun!



The Parish Council is very grateful to County Cllr David Loades, who has actively supported this and has also approved an application of £500 from his Local Community Fund. All we need now is LOTS of youngsters! More details from the Parish Clerk (680613) or John Griffiths, Scout Leader (719450).

## SIGNS

Regular users of the Village Hall Playing Field and Car Park will shortly be seeing new signs asking for speeds of 5 mph in the Car Park and reminding dog owners that no dogs are allowed on the Playing Field.

## SPEEDWATCH

The trained Speedwatch Team have been operational in Baldwins Gate and they plan to go out regularly.

## WEBSITE

Whitmore Parish Council has a new website! For all sorts of information about the Parish and the Parish Council, who's who and what's what, go to [www.whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk)

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# WHITMORE FESTIVAL 2014

Is it really two years since the last Whitmore Festival? Not quite, but the Parish Council is already making plans for this year's. Keep the week of 7<sup>th</sup> –14<sup>th</sup> September 2014 free, because there will be a lot going on in Whitmore.

The following events are confirmed:

<b>September 2014</b>	
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Opening of Festival, followed by Social History walk led by Andrew Dobraszczyc
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Dobraszczyc will give a talk on the history of the 'Sheet Anchor'
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Women's Institute event
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Concert at Whitmore Hall with a World War I theme
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Family Fun Day
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	"A Time to Reap" – Best of British/Best of Whitmore. More details below.

### **Time to Plant and Time to Reap:**

The Time to Reap is the Whitmore September Festival 2014. The "Best in British/Best in Whitmore" Show needs your vegetables, fruit and flowers, so now is the time to get thinking and get planting. Themes for the Festival include World War I, growing, cooking and crafts. We want to celebrate good British food and a revival of country crafts.

Best Garden Produce awards are in three categories: vegetables, fruit and flowers, with children's sections in each. There will also be awards for baking and crafts.

Newcastle Borough Council will be judging and providing advice during the year. They run an annual "Best Garden" competition in the Borough – what about some entries from Whitmore this year that we could honour during our Festival?

Like the sound of all this? Let us know and if you want to help, even better!  
Cllr Graham Wheildon (681035 or email: [lynnandgraham@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnandgraham@hotmail.com))

## **VAST**

VAST is a charity providing services and support to Voluntary and Community groups in Staffordshire:

- It offers support and advice to local groups
- Has a team of dedicated and experienced staff who can support charities and voluntary organizations.

VAST also offers support and advice in all aspects of volunteering. If you want a volunteer or want to volunteer, you can contact VAST on 0300 303 8606 or email [development@vast.org.uk](mailto:development@vast.org.uk)

## **ICE BUSTERS**

Mercifully, we have had little snow so far this winter, but if that should change, the County Council's 'Ice Buster' initiative supports self-help groups such as Residents' Associations by providing them with advice and grit to keep footways and pedestrian routes clear of ice and snow.

More information from Community Highways Liaison Officer, Jeff Green, tel 01538 483027 or email: [jeff.green@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.green@staffordshire.gov.uk).

## **VILLAGE APPEARANCE**

A big "thank you" to all who brightened our surroundings with Christmas decorations and we hope you all enjoyed the new and permanent Christmas Tree provided by the Parish Council and located at the top end of the Sheet Anchor Car Park. This area continues to improve and our thanks to all involved.

The various Parish Notice Boards have been cleaned and smartened up. The information displayed is important and updated, at least monthly, so please read the notices.

The rusty old dog bins have gone and been replaced with modern new Bins. Almost all local dog owners are responsible people and make full use of this facility but there has been a case of a dog being allowed to run free on Whitmore's Recreation Ground. It can never be acceptable to condone dog fouling in an area where children play.

Comment has been made that various tree stumps in the grass verges are unsightly and make mowing the grass more difficult. We hope to remove these stumps and reseed/tidy these areas very soon.

## **NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

Copies of the Whitmore Newsletter are usually hand-delivered by your hard-working Parish Councillors, who each have their own "patch". However, Manor Road has proved a problem and some copies have been posted to ensure that every household gets a copy. If you are prepared to receive your Newsletter by email, perhaps you could notify the Parish Clerk.

# Whitmore Parish HS2 Action Group

## MEETING

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 7.00 pm**

### Whitmore Village Hall

- Update and Discussion on the High Speed Train Project
- HS2 Route Consultation Response
- Compensation: Focus & Action
- HS2 Hybrid Bill
- Local Community Rights & Wishes

**Please Support – We Need Your Input**



### **Newcastle Rural Locality Action Partnership (LAP)**

Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs) have been established across Newcastle-under-Lyme. They aim to bring agencies, local community groups and residents together to work in partnership to deal better with issues that affect local people. Parish Councils are key partners, working collaboratively.

Newcastle Rural LAP covers four rural parishes, including Whitmore. It is chaired by Cllr. David Loades, Councillor for the area for both Newcastle Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council.

Examples of activities planned by the LAP include:-

Supporting involvement in the Youth Parliament of young people in rural areas.

Identifying projects that help to meet the needs of isolated older people in rural areas; supporting existing projects and helping to support the development of new projects where needed.

The LAP is seeking more involvement from local residents and local community groups. This could involve participating in meetings, or in the developing & implementing activities or projects to meet your needs.

For further details, please contact the Partnerships Team at Newcastle Borough Council on (01782) 742569/742493 or [robin.wiles@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:robin.wiles@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

Cllr. David Loades, Chair, Newcastle Rural LAP

# **FIND OUT NOW ABOUT NOROVIRUS – BUT KEEP IT TO YOURSELF**

Norovirus, sometimes known as the winter vomiting bug, is the most common stomach bug in the UK, affecting people of all ages. Local doctors are urging people to know the signs of one of winter's least welcome visitors, and to know what to do about it.

Cases of Norovirus usually rise considerably during the winter months. The virus causes a short but unpleasant illness that is normally self limiting in two-three days.

It's important that people know the symptoms, know what to do if they think they have it, and try not to spread it to others.

There are a small number of vulnerable people; such as small child and babies, the elderly and those with a pre-existing medical conditions, who should take extra advice by calling their GP surgery or visiting the NHS Choices website (<http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx>)

For everyone else you don't need to visit the doctors, in fact, because the virus is so contagious, people should stay away from their surgery and A&E for the sake of other patients.

Doctors cannot prescribe anything that will cure Norovirus and the most important health advice is to take plenty of drinks as the illness can cause dehydration because of the amount of fluids lost.

You should also stay away from school, work or other places where you could pass on the illness for 48 hours after your symptoms stop.

Norovirus is most commonly spread by touch, so good hygiene is the best way to avoid spreading it, washing hands regularly and thoroughly with soap and water, not alcohol gels.

If problems persist for more than 48-hours then contact your GP surgery (by phone) for further advice.

NHS choices has a wealth of information on the symptoms, treatment and prevention of the Norovirus check out there page here  
<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Washing hands regularly can help protect yourself & others from infection & the spread of germs that can lead to cold, flu & other illnesses. Follow some basic tips for good respiratory hand hygiene and help reduce the spread of winter bugs and viruses – go to  
<http://bit.ly/2q5Sng>

Stay healthy: Washing your hands for 15-20 seconds with hot soapy water is a must! Avoid visiting anyone in hospital until 48 hours after your symptoms of Norovirus have gone  
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

# WHITMORE VILLAGE HALL - WHAT'S ON

<b>Monday</b>	9.45 am 6.00 pm	Yoga (term time only) Tai Chi 1
<b>Tuesday</b>	11.30 am 7.00 pm	Pilates Karate Club
<b>Wednesday</b>	12.15 pm 2.00 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm	Weight Watchers Indoor Bowling Club (October to March) Parish Council Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> week of month) Maer WI (2 <sup>nd</sup> week of month, September to February)
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30 am	Art Group
<b>Friday</b>	2.00 pm 8.00 pm	Indoor Bowling Club (October to March) Dance Club
<b>Sunday</b>	6.00 pm	Tai Chi 2
<b>Last Sunday of month</b>	8.00 am to 12 noon	Car Boot/Table Top: Cost is £6/table indoors or pitch outside. The tables are provided indoors. No booking is required. (Advance notice is given of any changes) <b>Future Car Boots:</b> 27 October, <b>No</b> Car Boot in November, 1 December

If you require more information or are interested in joining any of the above activities, just turn up at the Village Hall on the day and time specified. The Village Hall is available for parties, such as weddings, wedding anniversaries, birthdays (all ages), Charity and fund raising events. For further information on the availability of the Hall and Meeting Rooms, contact the Bookings Secretary: Krys Holbrook, telephone 01782 680481.

<b>COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS</b>	
<b>Chairman: Cllr Alan J Wilkinson</b> "Ravenswood" , Snape Hall Road, Whitmore Heath ST5 5HS	01782 680820
<b>Vice Chairman: Cllr Ian D Webb</b> "Evergreens", Acton ST5 4EF	01782 680522
<b>Cllr Geoff R Corbett</b> New House, Newcastle Road, Baldwins Gate ST5 5BT	01782 680645
<b>Cllr Carl Evans</b> "Sanacryn", Eastwood Rise, Madeley Park Wood, ST5 5EX	01782 681122
<b>Cllr Bill Murray</b> "Windermere", Birch Tree Lane, Whitmore Heath ST5 5HE	01782 680252
<b>Cllr Mrs Audrey Pedley</b> "Sixes & Sevens", Station Cottages, Baldwins Gate ST5 5BY	01782 680985
<b>Cllr David Alcock</b> 15 Heronpool Drive, Baldwins Gate ST5 5LJ	01782 680178
<b>Cllr Graham Wheildon</b> 6 Pasture Close, Baldwins Gate ST5 5DQ	01782 681035
<b>Clerk to the Council:</b> <b>Mrs Wendy Kinson</b> The Old Laundry, Maer, Newcastle ST5 5EF	01782 680613 wendykinson@tiscali.co.uk
<b>Village Support Co-ordinator:</b> <b>Debbie Burns</b>	07977561989 (mobile) 01785 242525 debbieburns123@hotmail.co.uk