

Whitmore Parish Council
NEWSLETTER
July 2014



From the Chairman

Welcome to our latest Newsletter and following my comments in the April Newsletter, any hopes that 2014 would be a less hectic year I need to retract right away as things ain't got any easier yet!

Recently our AGM was held when the Chairman is elected and I'm afraid you are stuck with me again at present, so please don't let me bore you to death. Shut me up if you feel I'm wrong. It is very quiet on the HS2 front at present, although at a recent well-attended village meeting, Chris Dawes (our expert on HS2) gave an amazing insight into what exactly the village can expect. It is a daunting prospect, and unfortunately one that is not going to go away for some considerable time. The meeting was attended by our MP Bill Cash who opposed this scheme in his usual forceful manner. Unfortunately it is his party leaders who are pushing HS2 and supported by the other parties (UKIP excepted, who say they would abandon it given the opportunity).

The decimation of our countryside in and around our village, which is our main concern, is unthinkable, and coupled with Government desperation to build homes anywhere and everywhere (except where they should be built) is unforgivable.

This leads me on to the Gateway Avenue situation which, if you recall from my April report, was awaiting an Appeal from the developer, having had their original Application refused. The date of the appeal has now been set - a 6 day hearing on 6th, 7th and 11th to 14th November in the Civic Offices NULBC. One thing I can tell you, your Parish Council will give all it's got! Of course on this occasion, our Borough Council is on our side and has to oppose this Appeal with everything they have.

On a brighter note, what this speculative Appeal has done for me personally is given me the chance to meet so many more of our villagers and it is a particular bonus for me to have their comments and friendship. The Baldwins Gate Action Group has been amazing. The work they have put in to fight this Planning Application has been unbelievable and it has been a pleasure to work alongside them in helping to retain our village life.

We have continued in our desire to improve our Parish appearance and part of that was to consider the traffic damage to our grassed verges. We all know the danger of the A53, which we have to encounter daily, and it was considered that traffic calming measures i.e. white posts on the dangerous bend at the west entry to the village would highlight the danger and protect the verges. After consultation with Staffs C C Highways, these were installed, and I have to say some of the comments were interesting. If anyone has any serious thoughts and has not spoken to us – please do so. In the meantime, I think we will see what happens as we continue our appearance upgrade.

You may have noticed that our Christmas Tree has died – a big disappointment, but we have been assured that it will be replaced at the appropriate time.

It is Festival Year again and a programme of events from Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th September is included with this Newsletter. We hope you will find these events interesting and want to attend. Many of them are free!

...Cont/

I would personally like to thank all my fellow councilors for their continued support, and Wendy Kinson, our

Clerk, for keeping us all under control (some hopes! WK)

Lastly, but not least, in the recent Honours List, our own long-standing MP Bill Cash was given the honour of a Knighthood, particularly for his services to politics, and on behalf of you, I sent him our congratulations and best wishes. We will have to address him as 'Sir William' now but I trust he won't forget his many friends and supporters in the Whitmore area and we look forward to welcoming him again to our village in the near future.

'Letters to the Editor'

Please raise any issues concerning Whitmore Parish that you feel are important by contacting the Clerk (wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk. Tel **01782 680613**) or any of the Councillors. More details on the back page.

Alan Wilkinson

WHITMORE FESTIVAL.

Along with this Newsletter, you should receive a copy of the festival programme and a Schedule for the 'Best of British/Best of Whitmore' Show on Sunday 14th September. We hope there is something for everyone and we hope LOTS of you will take part in LOTS of ways, especially by supporting the Food and Craft Show. We know Whitmore residents are talented gardeners, cooks and artists – this is YOUR chance to show us how talented you are!

* (Whitmore Festival 2014)

Parish Appearance.

Efforts to improve the appearance of the Parish continue and the Parish Appearance Team are grateful for your comments.

Readers may remember we had a festive evening last December singing carols around the newly planted tree, provided by the Parish Council, at the Sheet Anchor. Christmas is well past now and regrettably, so is the life of the Christmas tree... its roots were disturbed during the February gales and it never recovered. Fortunately it was under warranty and so it will be replaced in time for Christmas 2014.

You will soon be seeing a smart new bench replacing the somewhat dilapidated seat by the bus stop opposite Baldwins Gate Chapel (by Sandyfields). Thanks to County Cllr David Loades who has given some of his Local Community Fund allocation towards this project.

Fouling by dogs – a 'foul' problem 'dogging' Whitmore Parish.

Despite the dog-waste bins (in various locations across the Parish), notices that are already in existence and the regular patrolling by Craig Brown, the Dog Warden of Newcastle Borough Council, some local dog-owners continue to be irresponsible by not clearing up after their pets.

As our Chairman has pointed out, we are trying to improve the whole appearance of the Parish and it is let down at the moment by the failure of a few dog owners to play their part for the community. The area from Jubilee Gardens through to Meadow Way has been a particular problem – very worrying, as this area includes Baldwins Gate School and so is used by the schoolchildren. I hope we all know the diseases that 'dog poo' can carry.

As well as being anti-social, failure to act as a responsible dog-owner has legal penalties. Breaking the rules can lead to a fine of up to **£1,000** which, if not paid, will be referred to the Magistrates' Court.

We realize that parishioners may be reluctant to speak out when they have suspicions that a dog-owning neighbour may not be acting responsibly. Craig Brown is happy for individuals to report any suspicions directly to him and he will go and see the person concerned – no names need to be reported. You can email Craig at craig.brown@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or ring **01782 742590** or **717717 ext 2546**.

ALL DOG OWNERS ARE REQUIRED TO 'CLEAN UP' WHEN THEIR DOG FOULS IN ANY PUBLIC PLACE – BAG IT AND BIN IT!

Youth Matters

Whitmore Festival 2014.

From Saturday 6th – Sunday 14th September, it will be **WHITMORE FESTIVAL WEEK.**

A varied week, with lots going on, something for everyone and many events are free!

There is a brief synopsis below and contact me for more details.

Wendy Kinson. 680613. wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk

Saturday 6th	Barn Dance at Snape Hall Farm
Sunday 7th	Mayor to attend Whitmore Church, 11 am History Walk. Village Hall. 2.30 pm Talk on trees. Butterson Church. 6.30 pm
Monday 8th	'History of the Sheet Anchor' 7.30. Village Hall
Tuesday 9th	Music Memories Singalong 2.30 pm. V Hall Local Ales and Cheeses. Sheet Anchor. 7 pm
Wednesday 10th	WI event with Geoffrey Smith. V Hall 7.30pm 'Behind the Scenes at Chelsea Flower Show'
Thurs 11th	Coffee Morning and Chat. Methodist Chapel. 10.30 am Whitmore Art Group 'Taster' V Hall 10 am. Indoor Bowling Club 'Taster'. V Hall. 2 pm Champagne Reception and Concert by Daleian Singers. Whitmore Hall. 7.30 pm
Friday 12th	'Strictly Come Whitmore'. Latin and Ballroom Demonstrations and 'a chance to dance'. 7.30 pm V Hall
Sat. 13th	FUNDAY DAY! 11 am – 3 pm. V Hall
Sun 14th	'Best of Whitmore' Show. 11.30 am. V Hall

PLUS – other regular hirers of the Village Hall – Karate, TaiChi – are holding FREE open session in Festival Week.

Scouts

96th Whitmore and Baldwins Gate Scout Group meets at Whitmore Village Hall, Thursdays in term time, at 6.30 pm. Contact Graham Wheildon on **01782 681035**.

Being a member of the Scouting movement offers all sorts of opportunities:-

- Basic Indoor Climbing permit training – courses on 18th and 25th September
- Hill walking permit training – weekend course, March 13th – 15th 2015.

Contact Helen Wilcox (**01889 567018**) at the County Office.

Bonfire at Beaudesert Park Campsite. November 5th. Tickets from www.beaudesert.org or call 01543 682278. These events and lots more with the Scouts and Cubs!

Boys and girls come and join us at the Village Hall!

We are hoping to have an overnight camp locally in October.

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'Drop-in Sports Session'

Four **FREE** Drop-in Sports Sessions have been arranged for the summer holidays on the Playing Field at Whitmore Village Hall. This is in conjunction with Lucy Taylor, Sports and Events Manager, Newcastle Borough Council. There will be a selection of sports equipment to try out. Dates are:

- Thursday July 24th, 2 – 3.30 pm
- Thursday August 7th, 2 – 3.30 pm
- Thursday August 14th, 2 – 3.30 pm
- Thursday August 21st, 2 – 3.30 pm.

These are FREE sessions, but please bring own drinks and refreshments.

Fishing Competitions

Our local PCSOs (Community Police Officers) have arranged 4 free fishing competitions, over the summer for 8 – 16 year olds.

- Event time: 10 am – 3 pm (arrive at 9 am)
- 20 competitors per event
- Supervised by local policing team – Families welcome.
- Saturday 19th July – Madeley Pool
- Saturday 26th July – Cloggers Pool, Halmerend
- Wednesday 6th August – Cudmore Fisheries, Whitmore
- Saturday 16th August – Madeley Pool
- Wednesday 27th August - Cudmore Fisheries, Whitmore
- Saturday 6th September – Bateswood Pool, Halmerend.

Contact PCSO 16736 Sarah Forrest or PCSO 16266 Colin Hodgkinson on 101 to book a place.

University of the Third Age.

The older members of our community also matter!

Madeley has a very successful University of the Third Age that welcomes members from Whitmore. If you fancy joining any of the following groups, look at their website

(www.madeleydistrictu3a.wordpress.com)

or contact Steve Hurd (s.j.hurd@btinternet.com. **01782 750338**) or the Madeley Centre.

Groups already up and running – walking groups, book groups, Latin, Music, Card and Board games, Military History, Tennis, bird-watching, boules, a Dining Club, film and theatre group, French conversation...and even a ukulele group!

Debt to Debbie

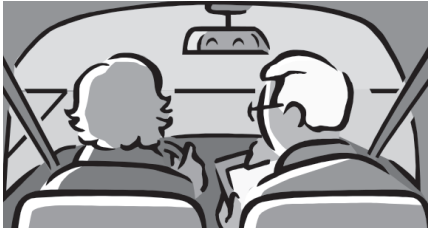
Whitmore Parish Council has for many years had a long and successful link with Debbie Burns. She was our Village Agent and masterminded a number of events in the Parish, notably the last few Festivals and the Jubilee celebrations in 2012. The 'Trim Trail', adult exercise machines at the Village Hall, were largely due to Debbie's hard work and expertise, working alongside Cllr Ian Webb, to organize the funding and get the whole project up and running.

Debbie is still here – thank heaven – but her role has changed, especially now that she is employed by Madeley Community Association. In that role, there is an ad from her elsewhere in this Newsletter. She has been a huge help in arranging our coming Festival, especially the Funday on Saturday September 13th. So although she isn't disappearing, we would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to Debbie for ALL that she has done for Whitmore and wish her all the best in her new job.

*('Volunteer Drivers Required')

*'Easy Fundraising'

Volunteer Drivers Required



Living in a rural area can make it very difficult for some people to get to the doctors ,hospital etc

Could you become a volunteer driver and offer people in your area a lift?
Just one hour a week could make all the difference

All expenses are reimbursed

To find out more please contact
Debbie Burns

01782 751164 or **07977561989**

Madeley & District Community Association

National Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The Whitmore District of the NSPCC held a very successful day at Wilkins Pleck Gardens, Whitmore, off Three Mile Lane, on Sunday 29th June, in aid of this very deserving charity.

Chris and Sheila Bissell, owners of Wilkins Pleck, open up their wonderful gardens four times a year for various charities.

The weather was kind to us and helped us to attract in excess of 350 people who all benefited from a wonderful afternoon along with magnificent afternoon teas served on the house terrace.

Music was provided by the 'Nightingales' who are part of the University hospital Choir and are all employed in a number of capacities by the local University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

The NSPCC benefited by a total of £3,857 being raised on the day which was way above their expectations for their first ever event held at this venue.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who helped to make this event the tremendous success that it was.

Sue Alcock, NSPCC.

PS Please watch this space for the next NSPCC local charity event that is planned for the Sheet Anchor on 17th September 2014 to include a buffet and much much more.

Community News.

Speeding motorists continue to be a problem in and around Whitmore Parish. We understand there have been 36 recent convictions for speeding.

The Community Speedwatch Team continue to do sterling work.

Libraries

Staffordshire County Council is about to begin a major consultation on its Library Service. It is proposed that there will be Three types of Library across the county –

- Library Extra – a community hub, with access to IT services (eg Newcastle)
- Library Core – Full library service (eg Clayton)
- Library Local – volunteer support (eg Loggerheads)

To have YOUR say, go to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/help shape your library service.

Highways Hotline

Although the Parish Council is happy to report any 'Highways Matters' on to the Highways Hotline, any member of the public can do so. You will be given a unique reference number and if you pass this on to the Parish Council, it can be followed up.

The number to ring is **0300 111 8000** and it is always helpful to have the Postcode of the matter you wish to report.

Fly tipping

Whitmore is not immune to this blight!

Staffordshire County Council will remove rubbish which is left on the highway. Rubbish on verges will be removed by Streetscene (Newcastle Borough. Ring 717717 and ask for 'Streetscene'). It is advisable to let the relevant local authority deal with the matter and not try and move it yourself, however public spirited you may be being!

WHITMORE & DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall committee continually strives to maintain, improve and upgrade the village hall facilities as will be apparent to those who have visited the Hall in recent months. The ongoing support from local residents and user groups is greatly appreciated.

As a registered charity, apart from hall hire income and hard-earned grants, the village hall is reliant on donations and income from fundraising events and initiatives which we hold from time to time. Additionally, as I outlined in my article in this publication last year, we are registered with a fundraising initiative entitled "Easyfundraising" aimed at anyone who shops on-line and wishes to support worthy causes.

You can shop with over 2000 well known stores and each will donate up to 15% of what you spend. For example, John Lewis will donate 1%, Amazon 1.5%, Body Shop 6% and so on. Donations vary from retailers but an average figure is around 5%.

Your shopping will not cost any more than if you visited each retailer's website directly plus there is the opportunity to take advantage of voucher codes and special discounts so you can actually save money whilst helping your good cause. There is no cost to the good cause either – the service is totally free and we receive total donations each quarter.

There is no catch – you still deal with the retailer but through the Easyfundraising website and they will simply record your selected cause when you make the purchase. This is a reputable member of the Institute of Fundraising and all you need to do to support the Village Hall is visit their website www.easyfundraising.org.uk for full details and to register for free.

I am delighted to report that following my last article, the Village Hall has benefited significantly from Easyfundraising donations as a result of local residents and users shopping on-line and nominating us as their chosen charity. Please do consider supporting your Village Hall in this way and to those who have already done so, many thanks!

David Platt

Honorary Treasurer

www.whitmorevillagehall.org.uk

What's On at the Village Hall.

Sundays	Tai Chi	6 pm
Last Sunday of the month	CAR BOOT SALE	
Mondays	Yoga Tai Chi	9.45 am 5.30 pm 6 pm
Tuesdays	Karate	7 pm
Wednesdays	Indoor Bowls	2 pm (Winter)
1st Wednesday of the Month	Parish Council	7 pm
2nd Wednesday of the month	Women's Institute	(September to February)
Thursdays	Art Group Cubs	9.30 am 6.30 pm
1st Thursday of the Month	Village Hall Committee Meeting	7.30 pm
Fridays	Indoor Bowls Dance Club	2 pm 8 pm

More details or to book the Hall: Kris Holbrook (tel 01782 680481)

COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS	
Chairman: Cllr Alan J Wilkinson 'Ravenswood', Snape Hall Rd, Whitmore Heath ST5 5HS.	01782 680820
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Ian Webb 'Evergreens', Acton ST5 4EF.	01782 680522
Cllr Geoff Corbett 'New House', Newcastle Rd, Baldwins Gate, ST5 5DA.	01782 680645
Cllr Carl Evans 'Sanacryn', Eastwood Rise, Madeley Park Wood ST5 5EX.	0775774740
Cllr David Alcock 15 Heronpool Drive, Baldwins Gate ST5 5LJ.	01782 680178
Cllr Bill Murray 'Windermere', Birch Tree Lane, Whitmore Heath ST5 5HE.	01782 680252
Cllr Audrey Pedley 'Sixes and Sevens', Station Cottages, Baldwins Gate ST5 5BY	01782 680985
Cllr Graham Wheildon, 6 Pasture Close, Baldwins Gate ST5 5DQ.	01782 681035
Clerk to the Council: Mrs Wendy Kinson The Old Laundry, Maer, ST5 5EF.	Tel: 01782 680613. email:wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk