

Whitmore Parish Council
NEWSLETTER
November 2014



From the Chairman

This being the final Newsletter of 2014 gives me the opportunity of bringing you up to date with the many local matters within the Parish that we are asked to deal with.

Firstly, the Gateway housing appeal which will be over, one way or the other, by the time you read this, starting as it does on November 6th. You would have thought our Borough Council officers would have appreciated every assistance to fight this appeal, considering they had appointed consultants to do just that. But you would be wrong. The Officers flatly refused to engage with us. Is this the 'localism' that the government officials talk about? Or are there some other motives? We shall have to wait and see. It's a good job the elected Councillors that sit on the Planning Committee went against the Chief Planning Officer's advice, hence the appeal. We learn now that the consultants are not in agreement with the Planners' housing figures and neither are the Parish Council and Action Group, and upon delivering that news to the applicants, major concerns have been expressed. As your elected Councillors, honouring the mandate from you at our local public meetings, we are extremely concerned at this behaviour and have to wonder exactly what a Parish Council is for. That said, along with the Action Group, we have submitted the most comprehensive proof of evidence to the Inspectorate that we could muster, comprising ninety or so pages and leaving no leaf unturned. We are told that some six or seven applications similar to the Gateway proposal are awaiting the outcome of this appeal, so that if it is approved, expect the floodgates to open.

No doubt, you will have seen and heard the latest from HS2 which has every intention of proceeding, causing disruption to our area for the best part of ten years. I'll say no more at present – but I'm afraid it is not going to go away – unless, of course, UKIP get elected.

I'll end by wishing you all the very best for Christmas and trust that 2015 will be a quieter year and a more peaceful year, for us all.

'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

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON!!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7th...SHEET ANCHOR...6 pm.

All our residents are invited to the Switching on of the Christmas lights on the fine new Christmas tree that is in place in the Sheet Anchor car park.

This was a great event last year and the 'Sheet' are again offering mulled wine and mince pies. There will also be a chance to join in some Christmas Carols around the tree.

DON'T FORGET – SUNDAY DECEMBER 7th - 6 pm.

ALL WELCOME.



Christmas Church Services

Thursday 18th Dec	Carol Service, Baldwins Gate Methodist Chapel, 6.30 pm.
Sunday 21st Dec	Carol Service, Maer Church, 6 pm
Christmas Eve	Carols at the Sheet Anchor, 6 pm Communion for Christmas Chapel Chorlton Church, 9.30 pm Midnight Communion. Whitmore Church, 11.15 pm.
Christmas Day	Family Service, St Peter's Maer, 9 am Family Service, Whitmore Church, 10.30 am

Inside your Newsletter, you will find a survey organized by the Locality Action Partnership to which Whitmore belongs. If you were able to complete it, it can be returned (marked 'For the attention of Irene Lee') to

- The Parish Clerk
- Any Councillor
- 'Station Stores'
- The Madeley Centre
- The Guildhall or the Civic Offices, Newcastle.

By the end of the year, please. Many thanks.

Whitmore Festival 2014

Whitmore Festival 2014..... 2016??

We would really like to know what you thought of this year's Festival and, more importantly, would you like another one?

What would you like to see happening on the Recreation Field? Do you want an annual Garden/Horticultural Show?

For the last decade or so, there has been a week-long Festival every two years, funded (although it is not really about fund-raising) by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council's budget (which we set ourselves) for Community Events is £1,500; this year's Festival cost £1,882 but we were fortunate enough to have £700 from County Cllr David Loades' Local Community Fund towards the cost. So the actual cost to the Parish Council was £1,182. Do you think this is money well spent or would you prefer other community events?

Would you like another Festival in 2016? If so, what would you like to see on the Programme?

Give your feedback to any of the Whitmore Councillors or to Wendy (680613. wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk)

New bench for Sandyfields

With the help of some money from Staffs County Council's Local Community Fund, there is a fine new bench next to the bus stop as you approach the Parish from the west (opposite the Methodist Chapel).

Thanks to County Cllr David Loades for his support with this.

New litter bin on the Recreation Field.

It is good news that the Recreation Field, by Whitmore Village Hall, is being used more and more. Parish Councillors had noticed that the existing litter bin was proving inadequate so a new, larger bin has been purchased.

As with all the litter bins and dog-waste bins across Whitmore Parish, they are there to be used!

Keep Whitmore clean and tidy!

Encouraging businesses in Whitmore Parish!

There are a number of Businesses in the parish that operate either from business premises or from home. The Parish Council would like to help these businesses in a number of ways.

Firstly, we would like to create a business directory that can be included on the Parish Council website. Secondly, we would like to facilitate a get-together so that business people can meet and get to know one another and as a result perhaps be able to help one another generate more business.

If this is something that appeals to you, please get in touch with either of the two Parish Councillors below:-

Carl Evans: 07775 774 730
Email: carl@carlevans.co.uk

David Alcock: 07748 637752
Email: david@synchronmortgages.co.uk

Friends Of Jubilee Gardens – Interested?

There are two entrances to Jubilee Gardens, one at the end of the railway bridge on the A53, the other is located off Fairgreen Rd near the BT exchange. The Parish Council has recently resurfaced the entrance from the A53. With your help and support, it might be possible to bring about further improvements over time.

To make sure any changes are relevant to our local community, the parish council would like to set up a 'Friends of Jubilee Gardens' group. This group of local people would be able to work with the Parish Council to develop a long term plan of improvements. These improvements might just be planting schemes or layout of paths or improved manicuring of the gardens or children's planting areas or better seating or local edible plant areas. The group might also want to get involved in working on the gardens or fund raising for projects or organizing small social events. The aim will be to make this valuable outdoor space relevant to the wants and needs of local people.

***If you're interested, please get in touch with me,
Councillor Carl Evans on 07775 774740 or email carl@carlevans.co.uk.***



Scouts

The cub pack has grown now to 11 and there are 3 Scouts. If we are to start a Beaver Group, we will need new leaders. Scouting can be a rewarding activity for children (girls and boys) and parents. The cubs have undertaken many badges and had many new experiences. More details from the Parish Clerk 01782 680513. email: wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk



Community Chest

Over the years, many local organizations have benefited from Community Chest money. Whitmore Parish Council has a small annual allocation and there is still some money in the kitty.

If you are involved in a local community group or charity and have a specific project, it is worth contacting the Parish Clerk to find out more information (Wendy: 01782 680613. wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk)

Elections 2015.

As 2014 draws to a close, a date to enter in your 2015 Diaries is **MAY 7th.**

On that date, there will be Borough Council Elections and Parish Council Elections. We also can expect a General Election .

Nomination papers for the Parish Council will need to be delivered 19 days before the elections, so by the time the next Newsletter goes out in the Spring, these dates will be getting close.

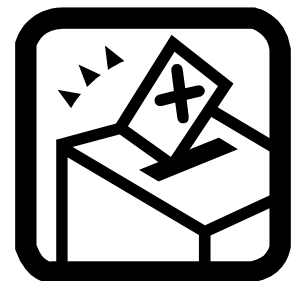
So now might be the time to consider whether YOU would like to stand as a Parish Councillor.

Unlike for our MPs, no salary is offered but the work is immensely varied and can be very rewarding. It is a chance to engage with your local community and to make a real difference to that community.

At present, Whitmore Parish elects 8 Councillors.

Parish Council meetings are held once a month, normally on the first Wednesday of every month, at Whitmore Village Hall at 7 pm.

These meetings are open to all – if you are interested, why not come along to observe?



Register your mobile.

Did you know you can register your mobile phone for free and improve your chances of getting it back if stolen?

Check more details at **www.immobilise.com**



Information from Staffordshire Police

Your local officers for this area are

- PC 4628 Neil Coward
- PC 4932 Tim Taylor
- PCSO 8870 Jon Cartwright
- PCSO 8964 Susan Durber
- PCSO 16266 Colin Hodgkinson.

If it is not an emergency, use the '101' number to call.

You can email individual Officers at 'Officers.name'@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk.

Staffordshire Police are currently running a Rural Crime Prevention campaign, offering advice to prevent vehicle, livestock and fuel thefts – sign up for OWL (www.owl.co.uk) which keeps communities safe, helps to reduce crime and keeps people informed of what's going on locally.

Police Speed Monitoring in Baldwins Gate Village

The Parish Council, and most residents of Baldwins Gate, recognize that safety issues arising from the speed of vehicles traversing Baldwins Gate on the A53 are a major concern. Numerous collision accidents are being recorded.

As a result, in order to reduce this risk, arrangements have been in place for some time now for police speed monitoring using a camera van. During May and August last, the van was on site on a total of 5 occasions and led to 37 motorists being summonsed for excessive speed within the village. The Parish Council dares to hope that few if any parishioners were involved....

Community Speedwatch

Speedwatch counts and monitors vehicle speeds in the village. One third of vehicles on the A53 are being driven at more than the maximum speed limit. There have been many accidents which generally are a result of vehicles traveling too fast and too close together. We need more volunteers to join the group if we are to make an impact on road safety in the village.

There are groups in Loggerheads and Madeley. More details from the Parish Clerk 01782 680513. email: wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk

Other 'Highways' News

Speed restrictions on the A53 east of Baldwins Gate (that is, towards Newcastle) will soon be changed so that the 30 MPH will be extended to the bend and all remaining 60 MPH between this stretch and the roundabout at the Trentham Road junction will be lowered to 50 MPH.

A sign limiting waiting to 20 minutes will be installed at the lay-by outside Station Stores in February 2015.

Safety signs alerting motorists and pedestrians to the presence of horse riders will be installed in Acton and a campaign is taking place in 2015 concerning the dangers of horse riding in rural areas.

Do the Honours for Staffordshire.

Who would you suggest be nominated for an Honour?

There are many unsung heroes who deserve to be honoured and Staffordshire is an under-represented region.

If you have a name in mind, you might like to consider the following questions: has your nominee:-

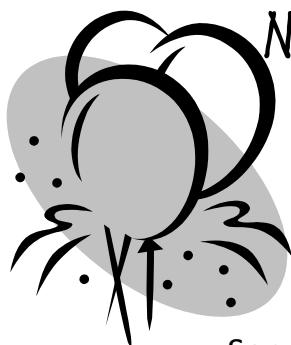
- Changed things for the better;
- Improved the lives of those less able to help themselves;
- Exemplified sustained and selfless voluntary service;
- Made a real impact in their community or workplace;
- Gained the respect of their peers?

It usually takes at least 18 months from the date a nomination is made until the successful candidate appears on a honours list. There is no need to apply for a specific Honour as the specialist honours committees decide which level of award is appropriate.

A nomination form can be downloaded at www.gov.uk/honours/overview.

Whitmore and District Village Hall

New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance

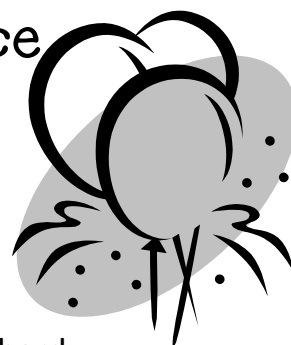


7.00 pm – Punch

7.30 pm – Dinner

Entertainment –

Songs from World War One with Margaret, Don and Richard.
followed by modern, sequence and line dancing



BALLOON BURSTING AT MIDNIGHT.

Dress Optional

Bring your own wine.

Tickets £20 from Doug Newton 01782 680593.

What's On at the Village Hall.

Sundays	Tai Chi	6 pm
Last Sunday of the Month	CAR BOOT SALE	8 am
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 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