



Lapley, Stretton  
& Wheaton Aston  
Parish Council

# News & Views

Autumn 2015

## Open Spaces Improvement

The Parish Council is seeking to improve its maintenance of parish council owned land in 2016/17.

### Primrose Bank Play Area

It is proposed to remove the tired wooden play equipment at Primrose Bank Play Area and replace it with two new pieces of equipment with one additional piece of equipment each subsequent year until the area is complete.

It is also proposed to improve signage and carry out tree/hedge works.

(Please note that contrary to a recent newspaper article, the play area is safe to use. The council are choosing to remove the equipment, which is nearing the end of its life, before it becomes unsafe.)

### Marston Road

Sufficient funding has been secured to carry out a crime reduction project at Marston Road field which focuses on improving visibility from the road and overlooking properties. This will involve reducing the height of the hedges, felling a couple of trees, re-ordering the entrance, flattening the earth mounds and installing cameras.

Thanks go to Matthew Ellis, Police & Crime Commissioner, Staffordshire County Councillor Mark Sutton, Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council, Wheaton Aston Play Strategy Working Group and South Staffordshire District Councillors Roy Wright & Brian Cox for their funding of this project.

The council is also working on a habitat management plan to ensure that the area encourages as much wildlife as possible.

### Broadholes Lane

It is hoped that the orchard, grassed and wetland areas will be weeded and better managed in 2016/17, as well as the trees and paths. The willow dome will be attended to and wildlife encouraged to visit the area.

### Lapley Green

The Parish Council is proposing to carry out much needed repair work to the wall, fence and decorative posts & chains. Trees will be assessed and pruned/removed/replaced as necessary. A new noticeboard is planned and it is hoped that a defibrillator can be housed in the telephone kiosk.

## Parish Council Meetings

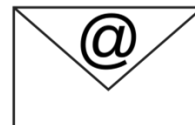
Please see below for the dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings:

- 10 December 2015 – Stretton Lodge Nursery
- 07 January 2016 – Village Hall
- 04 February 2016 – Village Hall
- 03 March 2016 – Village Hall

All meetings begin at 7.30pm with public participation, where members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions of the council and raise issues. After this they may stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

Why not come and see your Parish Council in action? They consider planning applications, playing fields, licensing applications, street furniture, local crime issues, Christmas lights, parking, highways issues and much more.

## How to Report Problems & Concerns



### Staffordshire Highways

Call 0300 111 8000

Email [highways@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk)

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### South Staffordshire Council

Call 01902 696000

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### First Response

Call 0800 1313 126

(Mon - Thurs 8.30am – 5.00pm, Fri 8.30am to 4.30pm)

0845 604 2886 (Emergency out of hours number)

Email [firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk)

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### Staffordshire Police

Call 999 – Emergencies / crime in progress

Call 101 – Non-urgent

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### Metropolitan Police – Terrorism Hotline

Call 0800 789 321

## Volunteers Desperately Needed

The Monday Lunch Club for the older members of the two parishes is in crisis due to a shortage of volunteer helpers.

Volunteers are needed between 10.00am and 2.30pm one Monday in four to: Lay tables; make tea or coffee; help plate up meals and wash up

You will not be expected to cook.

If you feel you would like to help, you are welcome to go along any Monday between the above times to see how the club is organised.

If the club are unable to find volunteers, they will reluctantly have to consider closing one of the Monday meetings, which would be a real shame as many elderly residents will miss out on a social day with good food and good company.

If you can help, please get in touch with:- Pat Horton 840675 or Angie Hassall 841024

## Small Business Saturday

Saturday 5th December 2015

Small Business Saturday is a grassroots campaign which highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities. It exists to support, promote and inspire small businesses, on the first Saturday in December and beyond.

Originating in the US in 2010, the campaign made its way to the UK in 2013 with great success. Businesses have reported increased footfall and takings and opportunities to engage with a new generation of customers both on the day and beyond. The two previous campaigns in 2013 and 2014 were received positively by both businesses and customers.

Within South Staffordshire, 98% of enterprises can be classed as small businesses and provide 78% of total jobs within the region. An integral part of the local economy, Small Business Saturday is a fantastic opportunity to put these businesses in the spotlight and raise awareness of the value they contribute for residents.

South Staffordshire Council is able to offer FREE support and promotion to all businesses that take part in the district, including:

- Promotional materials, to help advertise your participation with Small Business Saturday UK 2015
- Regular and routine mentions on social media
- Advice and ideas on how to make Small Business Saturday UK 2015 work for your business
- Continual updates on how the campaign is progressing

Small Business Saturday is a celebration of small, independent shops and services and here in South Staffordshire the district council is looking to raise the profile of all the fantastic small businesses we have right on our doorstep.

Encouraging residents to 'keep it local' and use small businesses in their local villages could increase your customer numbers and takings.

If you run a Small Business in South Staffordshire and would like to get involved with Small Business Saturday UK 2015, visit [www.sstaffs.gov.uk](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk) and follow their links to the registration form. **Registration is FREE.** Upon doing so you will receive further information about the campaign and how the Council will support you in the time before the 5th December 2015.

## Voluntary Car Scheme

The Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme organises lifts for local villagers, usually the elderly or housebound, who have no transport of their own but need to get to doctors surgeries, clinics or hospital appointments.

Could you help? Could you spare a few hours a week or even a month?

You really can contribute as little or as much as you like, on whatever days of the week that suit you or simply subject to your availability at a given time. Please give it some thought – all travelling expenses are refunded and you may be surprised to find just how enjoyable it is.

Please phone 01902 851786 between 9.30am – 12.30pm weekdays for more information.

## Telford Bus Dates 2015

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> & Dec 17<sup>th</sup>

To book a seat, ring Tony or David at Stafford Coaches on 01785 600786. Limited funding means only a 16 seater coach can be provided so please book your seat early. This service is free.

## Brewood Library

**Monday:** Closed  
**Tuesday:** 9.00am - 1.00pm / 2.00pm - 7.00pm  
**Wednesday:** 9.00am - 1.00pm / 2.00pm - 5.00pm  
**Thursday:** 9.00am - 1.00pm / 2.00pm - 5.00pm  
**Friday:** 9.00am - 1.00pm / 2.00pm - 5.00pm  
**Saturday:** 9.30am - 1.00pm  
**Sunday:** Closed

Call 01902 850087 for more details

## Mobile Library Service

### Wheaton Aston

30 November, 21 December, 11 January

Hartley Arms	10.00am -11.25am
St. Mary's Church	11.30am -12.40pm
Old School Court	12.45pm - 1.15pm
Ivetsey Close	2.05pm - 2.30pm
St. Mary's First School	2.35pm - 4.00pm

### Lapley

2 December, 23 December, 13 January

Bickford Close 1.25pm – 2.10pm

## Mobile Library Service from April 2016

Staffordshire County Council has reviewed its mobile library service. The proposed new route for our parish from April 2016 is as follows:

### Monday Week 2

Wheaton Aston (Church): 11.45 – 12.45

Wheaton Aston (Church): 1.15 – 2.15

Lapley (Vaughan Arms): 2.25 – 3.10

For full details visit

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/librariesnew/Mobile-Libraries/The-initial-proposal.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/librariesnew/Mobile-Libraries/The-initial-proposal.aspx)

## Lapley Stretton & Wheaton Aston Charity

The above charity is looking for applications for grants. Grants are available for people in need, charity organisations and educational purposes. If you feel you would be entitled to a grant for example to help in an educational course ring Roy Wright 01785 840342.

## News From The Church

Thank you to all of you who came and supported our Autumn Fair on September 12th. This was a new venture for us this year, as we did not have a Church Fete earlier in the summer, and it was a great success. We held it at St. Mary's Church, not relying on the weather to be good enough to use the school grounds, but it stayed dry and a few people opted to sit outside in the churchyard for refreshments. Sandwich lunches were popular, as well as all the usual stalls, plus a new one selling homemade jams, preserves and chutneys.

A couple of weeks later we celebrated Harvest in both churches, always an important festival in our rural community. Some of you came to the First School Service, which was held in St. Mary's, the children sang really well and brought their harvest gifts up to join those of the rest of the congregation. There were so many gifts of food to go to the Food Bank in Wolverhampton that the bottom fell out of one of the large plastic containers that we use to transport our regular donations. Thanks to all of you who gave so generously.

On the subject of generosity, many thanks to those of you who have contributed clothes and other items to the appeal for the refugees from Syria. The campaign to collect clothing, tents, sleeping bags, pots and pans, toiletries and more has been running in church throughout October, and will continue until the end of the month. If you would like to know more, there are leaflets available in church, or contact Rev Rachel (details below) The chancel of St. Mary's is piled high with cardboard boxes which will be passed on to the nearest verified collection point/organisation. Monetary donations are also welcome and will be passed to UNICEF to be used to keep children safe.

Anne and Dave Wright are once again co-ordinating the collection of Christmas Shoeboxes that go to needy families in Eastern Europe. Leaflets are available in church or at the Paper Shop in Wheaton Aston, that explain suggested items to go in the boxes, whether it is destined for a family or an elderly person. If you would like to fill a box, they need to be at church early in November, or, if you cannot manage to fill a box, small items or cash donations can be given to Anne and Dave (840656) which will be put together to fill extra boxes.

**STOP PRESS!** an exciting new venture is happening at St. Mary's church. Every Wednesday evening from 7-9pm during the winter months, except during holiday times, there will be a Youth Drop In for young people aged 11-16 years old. There will be tea and coffee available, board games, craft activities and computer area, as well as a warm place to sit and chat with friends.

The Lapley Church Restoration Fund continues to work to upgrade the facilities at All Saints' Church, please watch the Grapevine, Church Noticeboards and Watershed News for details of upcoming events. The latest booklet entitled Memories of Yesteryear recording day to day memories and social history of the parish. These are available from the team members and at LCRF events. Please contact Barbara Holt - 840258, Margaret Holmes - 840241, or Janet Fox - 840334.

Of course, we are all aware that Christmas is coming and the Christmas Lights Fair, when the village lights are switched on is on November 28th There are lots of stalls provided by various village organisations in the church, the Village Hall and on the Green, lots to eat, lots of fun, and maybe even a little early Christmas shopping. Details of Christmas services and events will be available soon, watch the usual places for the date of the Messy Church Christmas meeting.

The Drop In continues every Wednesday morning from 10.00am-12noon in St. Mary's Church. Come along and have a chat and a cuppa, and internet access is available as well as on Tuesdays, church computers and help is always on hand for the 'technically terrified'

For more information about any services, events or other matters please contact Revd. Rachel Dale on 01785 840395, rachel.livesey@googlemail.com

## Christmas is a coming...



## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Get to the square for 4pm to catch a glimpse of Father Christmas on his way to the grotto, before enjoying seasonal food and drink, games and a carousel whilst listening to a variety of entertainment on stage.

We are pleased to welcome the Cannock Citadel Salvation Army Band this year who will lead carols in the square. There will be lots of stalls in the square and a carousel for the children to enjoy, who can also climb aboard a fire engine!

There will be lots on offer in the village hall and church too. The fun lasts until 6pm so there's plenty of time to enjoy everything. We're keeping our fingers crossed for dry weather with maybe a sprinkling of snow for a true festive feel.

## News & Views

If you would like to submit an article to be included in News & Views, please email it in a word document, with pictures if possible to office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The deadline for the next issue is as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Delivery</u>
Winter	18 <sup>th</sup> December	w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> January

## Carnival Fun

It is with huge regret that the carnival committee have decided not to hold a Carnival in 2016. For reasons beyond the committee's control, almost all of their funds are needed to repair the damage to the school playground caused in 2015. The committee would like to thank everyone for their support and offer their sincere apologies that they cannot put on the event next year. They will concentrate on fundraising and applying for grants in the near future and will hopefully be back in 2017.

## Is Your Car Winter Ready?

The weather is getting wetter have you checked your tyres?

Tyres **MUST** be correctly inflated to the vehicle manufacturer's specification for the load being carried. Always refer to the vehicle's handbook or data. Tyres should also be free from certain cuts and other defects.

Cars, light vans and light trailers **MUST** have a tread depth of at least 1.6 mm across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tread and around the entire circumference. Mopeds should have visible tread.

Find out more about keeping your tyres safe here: <http://www.tyresafe.org/tyre-safety/tread-depth>

## Communication

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that it is now online. Please visit [www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk) for agendas, minutes, financial information, councillor contact details, policies and procedures. It is hoped that further information will be added over the next few weeks and months including a community and business directory.

The Parish Council is also active on social media. If you're on Facebook or twitter please like or follow us for the latest information on council business and other useful articles.



Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton  
Aston Parish Council



@WAStonParish

## Who's Taking the Poop Bags?

The Parish Council currently provides poop bags at Marston Road Dog Walk, Stretton Lay-By & Lapley Green for dog owners who may have run out or forgotten their own bags. They are also available at Doal's Food & News.

They have been used fairly for a number of years but recently someone has been emptying the entire stock at Wheaton Aston and Stretton. The Parish council cannot continue to replace bags at this rate. If the system continues to be abused, the council will have no choice but to remove the dispensers completely.

## Any Witnesses?

Marston Road Field has been subjected to more vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Plastic bottles have been melted on tarmac, the skate ramps have been burnt, red and purple paint sprayed on the wooden play equipment and dogs allowed to foul on the playing field. If you know who has done this please call the police on 101 or the council on 01785 841639.

## Are Your Children Water Savvy?

Do you have children in Wheaton Aston? Do you know where they play? We have received reports of children playing at the canal-side off Dirty Lane.

Several trees have been damaged but of more concern is the children's safety. Please ensure your children are aware of the dangers of playing near open water. You may find the following link helpful.

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/families](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/families)

## On Yer Bike!

Want to get out on your bike more but don't know where to start? Used to ride a bike but you're a bit out of practice? A new cycling initiative in South Staffs might be just what you're looking for!

The South Staffordshire Cycling Scheme is keen to attract new riders of all abilities and ages as well as volunteer rider leaders to the scheme.

For more information visit their Facebook page "South Staffordshire Cycling Scheme", follow them on Twitter @SSCyclingScheme or contact them via email [Neilsscs@gmail.com](mailto:Neilsscs@gmail.com) / [Aprilsscs@gmail.com](mailto:Aprilsscs@gmail.com) or by phone Neil Postins on 07910 023306 and April Lewis on 07794 710927

The three areas of South Staffs where regular rides take place at the moment are Penkrudge, Perton and Wombourne with rides planned for other areas as more ride leaders come forward.

## Your Council

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Twitter: @WAParish  
Facebook: Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council

## Useful Contacts

**Jeremy Lefroy MP** 01785 252477  
[jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk)

**County Councillor Mark Sutton** 01902 851682  
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**District Councillor Roy Wright** 01785 840342  
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**District Councillor Brian Cox** 01785 840482  
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**South Staffordshire Council** 01902 696000  
[www.sstaffs.gov.uk](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk)

**Staffordshire County Council** 0300 111 8000  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)

**Police** 101  
[www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk](http://www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk)

**Crimestoppers** 0800 555 111  
[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

To report potholes, damaged roads or pavements, or problems with lighting columns and road signs contact:  
**Highways** 0300 111 8000  
[highways@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk)  
or download the "My Staffordshire" app