



Lapley, Stretton  
& Wheaton Aston  
Parish Council

# News & Views

Autumn 2018



### **On the Stage**

- 4:00pm Welcome by Chairman and appearance by Father Christmas
- 4:20pm Salvation Army Band
- 5:00pm Special Guest appearance
- 5.05pm St. Mary's First School Choir
- 5:30pm Light Switch on by Parish Chairman, Cllr Ted Noblett & Special Guest
- 5:40pm Carols and meet our special guest

### **On the Village Green and in the Church Hall**

Santa's grotto, stalls, children's rides, Refreshments and much more!

Welcome to our Autumn Edition. The kissing gates and fence has now been installed at Marston Field. I think you'll agree it looks great. Thank you again to The Staffordshire Police Commissioners People fund for the grant which helped to part fund this.



Sadly, there have been some issues of them being vandalised in an attempt to access the field. Therefore in collaboration with the local PCSO's we have installed CCTV in Marston Field. If anyone has any information regarding the damage done to the gates, please call 101 to report it or email the office in confidence.

### **'Tommy'**



The Parish Council has installed a 'Tommy' Shadow soldier by the war memorial at Wheaton Aston to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War I (1914-1918)

### **Lapley Green Graveyard**

There have been many concerns raised recently regarding the Parish Councils decision to stop paying for the maintenance of the graveyard at Lapley. This decision was not taken lightly. The Parish Council took advice from the Governance Department of South Staffordshire District Council.

The Parish Council is only able to act where there is a power to do so.

### **Drive Carefully Sign**

The Parish Council would like to thank County Councillor Mark Sutton for his kind donation of £120.75 towards a new sign on Primrose play area,, Wheaton Aston.



**Jeremy Lefroy MP Advice Surgery** - For details of the next surgery please contact the MP office direct on 01785 252477 or at [jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk)

**Citizens Advice South Staffordshire** – This has now been taken over by the Citizens Advice Staffordshire South West. Contact 01902 897377

**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? You 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 the office on 01902 851786 between 9.30am – 12.30pm weekdays for more information. A voicemail service is in operation outside of office hours.

**Potholes** - The quickest way to get potholes/damaged pavements / problems with lighting columns and road signs repaired is to call Highways on 0300 111 8000, email [highways@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk) or download the “My Staffordshire ” app, which lets you send in photos and locations straight from your phone.

**Community Speed Watch Volunteers still needed!** - Can you spare some time to help with the newly formed Community Speed Watch Group? Would you like to be a volunteer trained by Staffordshire Police? The training will last for about 2 hours, is free and will cover all elements of Community Speed Watch. If you are interested please email the Parish Clerk: [office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**If you see it, report it!** - If you see a crime in progress, call 999 immediately. Please also report any non-urgent crime including graffiti, damage and anti-social behaviour by calling the police on 101. Officers can only investigate matters which are reported.

**Good Life Energy** – Join us at the next Parish Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm to hear a presentation from Goodlife energy. Learn about how they could save you money on your household bills.

**Staffordshire Police Smart Alert** - Get free, localised crime alerts and community safety advice

with the Staffordshire Smart Alert App. This can be downloaded for both Apple and Android devices at: [www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk](http://www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk)

**Crime Prevention / Cybercrime** - There is a wealth of advice on the Staffordshire Police website. For more information please visit: [www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention) [www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime)

**Civil Weddings** - The new Ceremonial Suite at the District Council Offices at Codsall has now been completed. The suite offers an elegant and relaxed setting for civil weddings and partnership ceremonies, renewal of vows and naming ceremonies.

**South Staffs Community Lottery** - Win up to £25,000 and help support local good causes by taking part in the South Staffordshire Community Lottery. This weekly online lottery takes place every Saturday night at 8pm and you can purchase lottery tickets by telephoning 01902 213777. or at [www.southstaffslottery.co.uk](http://www.southstaffslottery.co.uk)

**Additional Green bins** - You can now book additional green bins and collection of bulky waste items on- line from “My Account” the Council’s personalised service giving residents on-line access to Council services 24/7

**Fit For Sport** - Looking for ways to keep your children active in the school holidays? Fit For Sport offer holiday clubs at Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, and Wombourne Leisure Centres. [www.fitforsport.co.uk](http://www.fitforsport.co.uk)

**South Staffs Leisure Centres** - offer affordable memberships with the use of 4 leisure centres for 1 great price and a list of benefits including:

- 14 day advanced booking
  - Free public swimming\*
  - No joining fees
  - No long term contracts
  - 12 months for the price of 11 if you pay in full\*
- \*(excludes privilege members)

Free member health checks and programmes available on request. Discounts for students, apprentices, and corporates. More information about memberships can be found at [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/memberships](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/memberships)

**South Staffordshire Work Clubs** –

If you are out of work, there are 7 Work Clubs throughout South Staffordshire to help you. Tel: Cllr Val Chapman 07718 911367 or email: [v.chapman@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:v.chapman@sstaffs.gov.uk)



## Are you paying too much for your energy bills?

Good Life Energy has been set up by South Staffordshire Council to help you get the best energy deal and save money.



Many people find their energy bills confusing and feel they don't have time to switch. Our team is here to help you find the best deal so you get the savings you deserve.

Here's how we can help:

- Best deals for you.
- Personal advice.
- Home visits if preferred.
- Best deals on LPG and oil as well.
- Complete after-care service.



As a local and impartial advisor, we aren't tied to a handful of energy providers. You don't have to worry about switching again as we'll continue to take care of you, year on year, to guarantee you're always getting the best deal.

### Don't delay, Switch and Save today!



Call our friendly Good Life Energy Team who will be happy to talk you through how they can get the best deal for you.

Call Freephone: **03333 058671**

Email: [info@cebitd.com](mailto:info@cebitd.com)

[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy)

**I saved £300**  
Karl, Great Wyrley

**They helped me and they could help you**  
Neil, Walsingham

**It was quick and easy**  
Jan, Colwich

South Staffordshire Council

01902 20000

## Home alone at Christmas... come and join us!

Celebrate Christmas at our tenth annual Christmas lunch for retired residents of the district who are over the age of 60 and don't have any family or friends visiting them on Christmas Day.

Join us for a festive celebration on Friday 21 December, 12 midday (for 12.30pm)



• Christmas lunch at the Catering Academy

• Transport provided

• An appearance by Santa and a present for everyone

• Entertainment including carols played by the Salvation Army band



South Staffordshire Council Restaurant, Wolverhampton Road, Colwall, WV8 1PX



South Staffordshire Council



## SAFE + SOUND Over 60s Event

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

[www](http://www)

Haling Dena Centre, Cannock Road  
Penkridge Staffordshire ST19 5DT

9am arrival (9.30 start), 1.30 finish

Attend all of these useful workshops! (9-1)

- Fire safety in the home – Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Fraud and Cyber Crime Awareness – Staffordshire Police
- Basic life support, CPR and use of a defibrillator – HMB Training
- Older Road Users – Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership
- Wellbeing Toolbox – South Staffs Network for Mental Health

Book your **free** place by email on [safeandsound@staffordshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:safeandsound@staffordshirefire.gov.uk) or call 01785 898791

Refreshments provided  
Freebies available

Tea and teach – bring your tablets/phones/laptops – an opportunity to have 1:1 instruction and problem solving with an expert following Safe+Sound workshops.

## **What's happening at St Mary's, Wheaton Aston and All Saints,**

### **November**

Wednesday 21st November (7.30pm) Service of Healing and Wholeness, St Mary's

Saturday 24th November Lights Fair

### **December**

Saturday 1st December (11.00am) SACRED brunch, St Mary's

Sunday 2nd December (10.30am) Toy Service, St Mary's (bring a new toy for the Salvation Army)

Sunday 2nd December (2.00pm) LCRF Santa Fun Run

Friday 7th December (9.45am) Messy Grownups, St Mary's

Saturday 8th December (10.00am) Messy Church for Christmas, St Mary's

Saturday 8th December (7.30pm) LCRF Christmas Concert, All Saints

Saturday 15th December (10.00am - 3pm) Quiet Day for Advent

Saturday 15th December (6.30pm) Cafe Church, St Mary's

Monday 17th December (9.30am) School Christmas Celebration, St Mary's

Thursday 20th December (4.00pm) Wives Carol Service, St Mary's

Thursday 20th December (7.30pm) Blue Christmas - A Quiet Service, St Mary's

Sunday 23rd December (6.30pm) Carols by Candlelight, All Saints

Monday 24th December (3.00pm) Christingle, St Mary's

Monday 24th December (6.00pm) Carols on the Green, St Mary's

Monday 24th December (9.30pm) Bethlehem Midnight Mass, All Saints

Tuesday 25th December (10.00am) Christmas Morning Family Communion, St Mary's

Sunday 30th December (10.30am) Carol Praise, St Mary's

Saturday 5th January (11.00am) SACRED brunch, St Mary's

Sunday 6th January (6.30pm) Quiet Service for Epiphany, St Mary's

Wednesday 16th January (7.30pm) Service of Healing and Wholeness, St Mary's

Saturday 19th January (6.30pm) Cafe Church, St Mary's

Sunday 27th January (1.00pm) LCRF Burns Lunch

## **What's on at Brewood Community Managed Library – December 2018**

Unless specified there is no need to book the activities listed. All activities are for adults unless the activity specifies it is for children.

Tel: 01902 850087

Fireside Fable and Winter Ghosts – Tuesday 4th Dec 7pm. Wintry & Christmassy stories. All ages.

Police & Parish Council Surgery – Saturday 15th Dec 10.30-11.30am

Storytime – suitable for pre-school children. Free. Tuesdays. Every week, term-time only. 2.15-2.45pm

Reading Group. Read and talk about books. Books supplied by the Library. Free. First Thursday in month – 6th Dec: 3.15-4.15pm

Mindfulness and Meditation Sessions. £5 minimum donation. Booking required, please contact the Library on 01902 850087. Every Thursday 11-12noon

'Brewood Walk and Talk' – Free. A great way to get more exercise and improve your health. Part of the Health Watch Walk Scheme. For all ages. Please arrive 15 minutes early if it is your first walk. Car Parking at Library, meet outside the Library. Every Friday 10am.

Brewood Quilters — Third Tuesday afternoon in the month: 18th Dec: - 2.30pm to 4pm.

December Opening Hours (NB. We close 1-2pm for lunch)

Weekly: Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday 5pm-7pm; Saturdays 9.30am-1pm

## Your Council

| <u>WARD</u>                          | <u>COUNCILLOR</u>   | <u>EMAIL</u>                                     |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Stretton                             | Mrs A Anderson  | a.anderson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk      |
| Wheaton Aston                        | Mrs B Cox   | b.cox@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk           |
| Wheaton Aston                        | Mr P Elson  | p.elson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk         |
| Lapley                               | Mr M Fox  | m.fox@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk           |
| Lapley                               | Mr M Griffiths  | m.griffiths@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk     |
| Wheaton Aston                        | Mrs W Millington  | w.millington@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk    |
| Wheaton Aston                        | Mr T Noblett (Chairman)   | t.noblett@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk       |
| Wheaton Aston                        | Mr P Timson   | p.timson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk        |
| Stretton                             | Mr B Wells  | b.wells@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk         |
| Wheaton Aston                        | Ms S Whittingham  | s.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk   |
| Wheaton Aston                        | Mrs S Whittingham   | sue.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Parish Council Clerk:                | Mrs Amy Watson  | office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk          |
| Assistant Clerk:                     | Mrs Karen Daker   | assistant@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk       |
| Office Address                       | Office F7, South Staffordshire Business Hub. South Staffordshire District Council<br>Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PE |  |
| Telephone                            | 01902 842556  |  |
| Website                              | <a href="http://www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.co.uk">www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.co.uk</a>                              |  |
| Also find us on Facebook and Twitter |   |  |

## Other Key Contacts

|                                |                                     |  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Jeremy Lefroy MP               | 01785 252477                        | <a href="mailto:jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk">jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk</a>     |
| County Councillor Mark Sutton  | 01902 851682                        | <a href="mailto:mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk">mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk</a> |
| District Councillor Roy Wright | 01902 745587                        | <a href="mailto:r.wright@sstaffs.gov.uk">r.wright@sstaffs.gov.uk</a>                   |
| District Councillor Brian Cox  | 01785 840482                        | <a href="mailto:b.cox@sstaffs.gov.uk">b.cox@sstaffs.gov.uk</a>                         |
| South Staffordshire Council    | 01902 696000                        | <a href="http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk">www.sstaffs.gov.uk</a>                             |
| Staffordshire County Council   | 0300 111 8000                       | <a href="http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk">www.staffordshire.gov.uk</a>                 |
| Police                         | 101 (non-urgent)<br>999 (emergency) | <a href="http://www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk">www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk</a>     |
| Crimestoppers                  | 0800 555 111                        | <a href="http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org">www.crimestoppers-uk.org</a>                 |
| Highways                       | 0300 111 8000                       | <a href="mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk">highways@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>       |

## Parish Council Meetings

Please see below for the dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings held at Wheaton Aston Village Hall:

- 2018 - 6th December (Setting of the Precept for 2019-20)
- 2019 - 17th January, 8th February, 4th April, 16th May (Annual Parish meeting and Annual General meeting 6pm start for APM), 4th July, 5th September, 24th October, 5th December (Precept 2020-21)

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

## Be a voice for your community

Want to stand up for where you live or work and make real changes? If you are over 18, then you are probably eligible to be a parish councillor for the parish where you live or work, tackling issues that matter to your local area – like the provision of leisure facilities, youth projects, community centres and community transport, festivals and celebrations.

There are 180 parish and town councils in Staffordshire. Councils strive to provide services efficiently and increasing numbers are taking on delegated powers from other tiers of local government. Responsibilities can vary from parish to parish, but services they can take on may include street lighting, parks and open spaces, public toilets.

Parish council meetings are generally held monthly or perhaps once every other month, depending on the size of the Parish and the range of activity. With few exceptions the proceedings at all meetings are open to the public in order that the decisions being made on the work of the council and the reasons behind them are made fully apparent. Attending a council meeting is the best way of finding out what it does, so see your village noticeboard or give the council a call and find out when the next meeting is due.

Staffordshire's town and parish councils will be holding their next elections on 2nd May 2019. If you wish to stand for election you need to submit your nomination by 4pm on 3rd April 2019 to your local District or Borough Council elections officer.

## Why is it important that everyone votes in local elections?

Did you know that your local councillors are consulted on nearly everything that happens in your area? They take an active part in influencing what services are and are not provided - and that affects you and your family!

Parish and Town Councils are responsible for many things like: bus shelters, litter bins, local halls and community centres, parks, public clocks and footpaths to name but a few. They are also consulted on planning applications, highway improvements, street signs, grant funding and projects that affect where you live and what facilities your community has or receives. Local councils are delivering more services for residents than ever before and with District/Unitary/County Council reviewing their services, Parish and Town Councils will be in a position to do even more in the future.

Everything we come into contact with on a daily basis affects how we feel and what we do - so how much effort do you actually make to get your opinions known? Voting in local parish and town council elections takes so little time, but will have a daily impact on you for the next four years, because councillors remain in office for a four year term and their decisions affect the future for your whole community. If you leave voting to others your opinions and wishes will not be heard and simply by voting for a candidate you feel will reflect your view sends a clear message of your opinion to the decision makers.

It is said 'people get the local council they deserve'. Do you know who in your community is standing for election and what they hope to achieve? The names of your councillors should be on your parish notice boards, in local post offices or displayed around your community. If you cannot find this information locally your District/Unitary Council may be able to advise you. Councillors live side by side with you in your community; they are the most local level of government, being easily contacted and directly answerable to the community every time they walk out of their front doors. They raise money primarily through your council tax to administer their decisions and you need to be sure that you have voted for the right people to look after your community. If you do not vote, others will and their views may change your life. Have a voice - vote in the local elections on 2nd May 2019

## What does a councillor do?

Most people's impression of what a councillor does is that they just attend council meetings and nothing could be further from the truth. The duties and pleasure, of being a local councillor are many and varied, however it is the ordinary day to day contact with local people in their own community that is the most important part of being a councillor. A Parish or Town Councillor signs a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thereby undertakes to observe an ethical Code of Conduct when dealing with matters on behalf of the community. A councillor also completes a register of interests.

**Listening:** One of the most important tasks of a Parish or Town Councillor is listening to and understanding the views of people in their community. Many public bodies or organisations acknowledge this is the hardest information for them to capture and they in turn use the skills and local knowledge of the parish or town council for advice to assist and inform their services.

**Meetings:** A councillor agrees to attend all meetings (reasonably possible) that he or she is summoned to. In a smaller council this may only require one meeting of full council a month (there are however a few small councils that still only meet once every two months). In medium and larger councils however, along with full council meetings, there are further committee meetings or working groups. Most meetings are held in the evening but some committees and group representation may be during the day. Some of these committees may include planning, finance and staffing, properties or policy. Where committees are used however the council usually consists of a larger number of councillors and therefore each councillor is only expected to serve on one or two committees.

**Representation:** Parish Councils also need representation at other local government meetings or on local bodies/organisations and councillors may be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the parish council. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on District/Unitary, County and regional changes. Councillors represent the voice of their community as a whole, whilst being aware of and considerate to, specific minority needs.


**Ceremonial Duties:** In some larger councils there will be times when councillors are asked to attend civic functions as part of their duty to the community. This may entail Remembrance Parades, civic dinners or attendance at public functions to name but a few.

**Extra skills:** Through all of these functions councillors will draw on their own skills and experiences and it is the sharing of these skills that makes a strong team. Parish and Town Councils provide a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects and endeavour to solve them locally themselves. Councillors working as a team will need to deal with employment issues, budgeting, asset management, staff management, project management or grant funding and probably lots more if they are creative and involved. All councils must be aware and owe a duty to their community to manage staff considerately, whether it is employing one parish clerk or a whole host of office and grounds' maintenance staff. Accounts must be kept and whilst the clerk (or Responsible Financial Officer) will be employed to carry out this duty, councillors together as a team are responsible for the financial decisions made and implemented. A clerk is employed to advise and seek advice on behalf of councillors to assist them in their decisions. Councillors are there to consider the information gathered and make a group decision on all matters. No individual councillor is responsible for any single decision. This is democracy at its best.

**Training and support:** Training is available to any council, large or small. Legislation allows for councils to pay for training and ongoing training for councillors is sound business management. The County Secretary for the Association of Local Councils in your area will be able to provide details of professional training programmes designed specifically for councillors, see the useful contacts section in this pack for contact information.

**Responsibility:** All councillors are expected to abide by the Parish Councils Code of Conduct. Each local council must adopt and publicise a Code of Conduct that is in line with the Nolan principles. The Code deals with councillors obligations about their conduct, including the registration and disclosure of their interests.

If you would like to know more about parish councils or becoming a parish councillor, a useful booklet entitled "The Good Councillors Guide" is available in electronic format from your local council.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <h2>Stand as a Local Councillor</h2>   |   |
|  <p>Lapley, Stretton<br/>&amp; Wheaton Aston<br/>Parish Council</p>   | <h1>Polling Day</h1> <h2>Thursday 2nd May 2019</h2> |
| <b>Make a difference to Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council</b>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Get involved with your community</b></li> <li>• <b>Have a say about the local issues people care about</b></li> <li>• <b>Influence local service delivery</b></li> <li>• <b>Decide how local money is spent to improve your community</b></li> </ul> |   |
| <b>For nomination packs contact: The Elections Team: <a href="mailto:elections@sstaffs.gov.uk">elections@sstaffs.gov.uk</a> 01902 696000</b>   |   |

The Parish Office will close on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December for the Christmas Period and will reopen on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Emails and calls will not be monitored during this time.

Have a great Christmas from all at Lapley,  
Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council