



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



## July 2021

### Chairman's Report 2020/21

What a year! Whilst disrupted by the events and issues of the last year the parish council has continued to work hard on behalf of the residents of Wheelton, meeting physically when possible, virtually when not, but always in communication to ensure we are able to resolve local issues and respond to residents requirements. This year the council has been investigating funding for our annual priorities, which this year is to gain significant investment to upgrade the village play area and replace some of the rotting wooden play equipment, which we hope to have confirmed in the coming months.

A key challenge for all who reside in Wheelton this year has been the influx of visitors, walking, meeting up, having takeaways, etc. This again highlights that we live in such a beautiful village, but has brought with it issues of litter, dog fouling, parking and churning up of the canal footpath. We have had new larger bins installed, and temporary ones are on the way for summer to ensure we keep our village as clean as possible.

Parish council representatives have continued Identifying issues with highways, boundary walls, blocked gulleys and reporting these to the relevant agencies. The chairman would like to express his gratitude to all the fellow councillors for their time and hard work representing the community, and all the volunteers and sponsors (such as those who generously funded the replacement of trees in the war memorial following some widespread disease) that make our village such a good place to live and visit

Mathew Harper    Chairman 2020/21

Don't forget to check our website  
[www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org](http://www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org)

Contact your Clerk: Mrs Joanne Carr.  
[clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org)  
17 Higher Meadow, Clayton-le-Woods,  
Leyland, PR25 5RJ

## Forthcoming Dates of the Parish Council

Meetings are held on Mondays at 8.00pm in Wheelton Village Hall



No meeting in August  
6 September 2021  
4 October 2021  
1 November 2021  
6 December 2021  
10 January 2022  
7 February 2022

Public participation is welcomed, just contact the Clerk at least 14 days prior to the meeting so that the matter you wish to raise can be researched and added to the agenda.

## Advertising in the Newsletter

We are asking local businesses to consider advertising with us as all money raised will go towards the Playground Trust

If you have any ideas you would like to share whether for or against then please can you contact the Clerk or email [tdickenson.td@gmail.com](mailto:tdickenson.td@gmail.com)

If we can help in any way we will!

Are you a member of a local club and would like to have a write up of club events or forthcoming events? Please advise the Clerk so that we



## Firefighters urge people to stay safe when out enjoying water beauty spots

As the current Covid-19 restrictions ease, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) is anticipating many people will head to coastal locations and inland water beauty spots. Few people would think they might become a water incident statistic. But the fact is in the UK in 2019 more people died from accidental drowning than cyclists did on the road.

Half of accidental drownings in the UK occur when people didn't intend to go in the water, so simple steps to raise awareness of the risks around water and how they can be reduced will help prevent these deaths.

Kirsty McCreesh, Group Manager for Prevention in Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service says "As the weather improves and we venture out to explore, please be mindful of the dangers of open water. Even on a beautiful, sunny day water temperatures can be dangerously low, strong currents can catch you out and there may be hidden hazards underneath the surface. Whilst we want people to get outside and enjoy Lancashire we also want people to understand the risks of water, follow advice and be prepared in the event of an incident. Drowning is one of the lead causes of accidental death in the UK and it is preventable.

- Never swim alone in case you need help
- Don't drink alcohol when undertaking water related activities, it impairs judgement and your ability to swim
- Avoid walking routes near water if you have been drinking alcohol
- Don't dive or jumping straight into open water, this can cause potentially fatal cold water shock even on the warmest day
- Actively supervise children in and around water - drowning happen fast and silently
- If you find yourself unexpectedly in the water, don't panic, extend your arms and legs out and float on your back until the effect of cold water shock pass
- Never enter the water to try and rescue someone, call 999 and ask for the Fire Service if inland and the Coastguard if you are at the coast.

## Calling all Residents—Can you help!

I am reaching out to you with the hope that you may be able to assist me. I am the Community Fundraiser for The Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal for your area, due to the retirement of our Poppy Appeal Organiser for Wheelton we are looking for an individual or group to help deliver the Poppy Appeal. I really appreciate any help with this and fingers crossed we can successfully ensure that everyone in the Wheelton area has the opportunity to purchase a Poppy and partake in the act of Remembrance.

**Sylvia Laing**  
**Community Fundraiser Lancashire**  
Mobile: 07808261064  
email: [slaing@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:slaing@britishlegion.org.uk)



Royal British Legion, Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA

[rbl.org.uk](http://rbl.org.uk)

Follow us   

## Be a know it all

Find out what's really happening in your area - receive regular crime updates, information on road closures and learn about what your local neighbourhood policing team is doing.

In The Know is the free messaging service brought to you by Lancashire Police where you decide when and how you are kept informed about the issues that matter to you.

Visit: [www.stayintheknow.co.uk](http://www.stayintheknow.co.uk)

## The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2022

Do you know a voluntary group that deserves recognition for the work it does? Why not consider nominating it for a national award?

Terry Hephrun, Chair of the Lancashire Panel for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) said "In 2002, in celebration of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee, The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service by Groups in the Community was established. Its purpose is to recognise exceptional groups of individuals who are giving their time freely for the benefit of others and are making a real difference in the communities they serve. It is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon groups of this kind and is equivalent in status to the MBE.

"As such, The Queen's Award not only serves to provide recognition of volunteer groups, but also demonstrates the high respect in which volunteering is held. We all know the value of voluntary effort to support communities not least in the difficult circumstances we are continuing to face in 2021.

"Groups must be nominated for the Award - self nomination is not permitted. A group (three or more people) can be nominated if it is based in the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The group has to have been volunteering for the benefit of people in the UK or overseas for at least three years and more than half its members must be volunteers who have the right of residence in the UK. It must provide a specific local benefit and Groups solely concerned with fundraising for charitable purposes or operating solely for the benefit of animals are not eligible."

The Award is overseen by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). As part of the Cabinet Office, DCMS works across government departments to provide support to voluntary and community organisations.

Further details on entrance criteria and the nomination process (which is a fairly straightforward online system) are available from: <https://qavs.culture.gov.uk/>

Nominations for the 2022 awards can be made from 1 April and the closing date is 15 September 2021.

## Check your trees for Ash Dieback disease

Lancashire County Council is urging anyone with an ash tree on their property to check its health this summer to ensure it does not become a danger to themselves or others.

Ash Dieback is a highly destructive disease caused by a fungus which has spread throughout the UK in recent years. It can lead to infected trees shedding branches or limbs, or potentially collapsing as the tree dies.

The county council estimates that around 127,000 ash trees next to roads throughout Lancashire will need to be regularly checked to ensure they do not pose a threat to safety.

As some of these trees are on private land, the council has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the issue among residents, businesses and landowners to inform them of their responsibility to make sure their trees near roads and pavements are safe.

There is no cure for the disease and it is fatal in the vast majority of cases. Contamination is beyond the point where the spread of infection can be stopped and the disease is now known to be present across 56% of the UK, including 96% of Lancashire.

The county council will be contacting tree owners over the coming months if their tree is a danger to the highway, but if you have an ash tree which could be a hazard to people or property, you should get it checked out by a qualified arborist. Now that trees are in leaf is the best time to look for signs of the disease in your ash tree/s. It's important to use a properly trained and insured person to carry out work as infected trees can be particularly dangerous.

The council's website has more information on identifying ash trees and signs of the disease, permits and licences you may need, and finding a professional to undertake any work.

Visit [Lancashire.gov.uk/ashdieback](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/ashdieback)

**Don't forget to check our website  
[www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org](http://www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org)**

Hello all,

I would like to draw your attention to the document released on Tuesday, which details the plans to draw new Constituency Boundaries across England.

The document is online at <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>

and I would like to draw your attention to the plans for our new Borough Ward, Chorley North East. Together with Adlington, we would be joined to a new seat called West Pennine Moors, the main confluence of residents in this seat would be Darwen and Rawtenstall.

No longer would we have a Chorley MP, our MP would be presumably based in Darwen, which is part of the Blackburn with Darwen Unitary Authority - the ramifications being that this part of the world would have little significance in such an environment!

There is a six week opportunity for individuals and organisations to respond. The Labour Group at Chorley Borough will be responding, but we will have to come up with a viable alternative. Individuals and Parish Councils are not expected to do but can simply express an opinion - support or object.

Cllr Margaret France

Wheelton and Withnell Councillor

Chorley Council

## Caution when out and about

Earlier this year whilst walking between White Coppice, Logwood and Brinscall, evidence was found on several occasions of a variety of nails and tacks having been scattered on footpaths and bridleways, seemingly maliciously with intent to cause punctures and inconvenience to off-road cyclists. Regardless of perceived disruptions caused by cyclists, the tacks and nails were found and picked up on a bridleway, thus cyclists are within their rights to be there.

Inconvenience and damage caused to cyclists notwithstanding, there has to be concerns for the welfare of dogs being exercised on the same paths, not to mention small children in the flimsily soled wellies commonly seen, and local wildlife.



The incidents have been reported to Parish and Borough Councils, and have in turn been reported to the Rural Crimes Officer at Chorley police station. Any similar incidents should be reported to Rural Crimes at Chorley Police.



There have also been reports of 'arrestor wires' strung between trees across trails commonly used by offroad bikers. There is no evidence of these being deployed locally, but prudent downhill mountain bikers will walk or ride a trail slowly before a full speed descent. The prospect of riding into a strategically positioned wire at full speed doesn't bear thinking about.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Wheelton Brownies

### 1<sup>st</sup> Wheelton Brownies are back meeting face to face

1<sup>st</sup> Wheelton Brownies have enjoyed their first face to face meeting for over 14 months, by playing games, planting cress seed towards their Grown Your Own Badge and a special treat of Pizza.

During our zoom meetings we have played games, baked lots of biscuits and cookies and as part of the Skill's Builder Badge have looked at what DIY tools can be used for different jobs, including a spirit level, a hammer and a screw driver. We have even played snakes and ladders on zoom with a difference, the snakes were receipts and the ladders were money stacks, and we either lost money due to buying a friends birthday present, or earned money by selling an unwanted toy.

We have been working towards our Skills for the Future Theme and have "interviewed" a paramedic and a lady who co-ordinates apprenticeships for the Construction Industry across North West England.

Within the next few weeks we are hoping to "interview" a science teacher.

Hopefully by the end of the term, most of the Brownies will have gained their Skills for the Future Theme Award which will lead to a Bronze or Silver Award.

At the moment we have places available within 1<sup>st</sup> Wheelton Brownies. If your daughter is aged between 7 - 10 years old and is interested in joining in the fun or just trying it for a couple of weeks, then please contact Brown Owl, Jacqueline Berry on 07834 069562 or [jberry.brownie@gmail.com](mailto:jberry.brownie@gmail.com). If your daughter is not quite 7 but is interested, then still please make contact.

## Monday night at the Village Hall, Westview, Wheelton SORTED!

Fancy doing something different on Monday evening WELL here's your opportunity!

The Table Tennis Group are starting up again after the enforced closure by the pandemic. It's a very friendly group open to all ages (if you can see over the table then you can join in). Hours of opening are 18:00 to 20:00 and equipment is available and if wanted, coaching too.



Did you know that Table Tennis is ranked one of the most social of all sports and no matter your ability is open to all!

Hope to see you soon!

## Jobs in the garden for Summer

Hoe borders to keep down weeds  
Position summer hanging baskets

Outside Mow the lawn once a week or more if needed. Plant out summer bedding. Stake tall or floppy plants.

Shade greenhouses to keep them cool & prevent scorch. Prune may/spring flowering shrubs



Clerk to the Council: Mrs Joanne Carr.

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## Borough Councillors

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