



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



## December 2021

### Chairman's Report

Dear villagers, friends and fellow councillors.

I hope that you are all keeping well and safe. As has been said so many times recently, we are living in very strange times, and very difficult times for quite a number of us. A situation none of us could have predicted 2 years ago, but now more than ever it is important for us to keep our community spirit together like we have done for the past 2 years, chipping in and helping one another. The community togetherness shown during the previous lockdowns was heartening, and highlights the spirit and identify we have as a community. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world, but the togetherness of residents really does make it even more special.

The Parish Council has been going about its business in a socially distanced manner, working on our local priorities and responding to community concerns. A key priority for us this year is to work towards securing the funding to improve the play area with new equipment and surfaces. I thank all my councillor colleagues for the time and effort they put in to the community on your behalf.

It has been a shame that events are still being cancelled and even though we managed to hold the remembrance service for all those who have fallen fighting for our freedom, we are still very aware of national guidance regarding the carols around the tree this year and request that everyone is mindful of everyone's safety and keeps their distance. This is always a great event with local businesses providing their support, grape and the grain providing the Sherry, the tearoom supplying Christmas cake and mulled wine, Mayor and Sons coal merchants donating Christmas lights for the tree, and of course the tree from Fox and sons. Christmas will still not be the same this year, but I hope for all it is a peaceful one, where family and friends are able to come together in whatever way is possible and is safe and enjoyable.

May I on behalf of the Parish Council wish you all a safe and merry Christmas, and a peaceful New year.

Mathew Harper  
Chairman 2021/2022

News from your Borough Councillors  
Parliamentary Boundary Review

It may have escaped your notice, that the Boundary Commission are undertaking an exercise to redraw the boundaries for each parliamentary seat. This is to ensure that there is equal representation across the country, in other words, each MP has roughly equal numbers of constituents.

The proposals submitted for the Chorley North East Ward, of which Wheelton, Withnell, Brinscall, Withnell Fold and Abbey Village are part, would place us in a new Parliamentary Seat called West Pennine Moors. This covers a large geographical area, stretching across Darwen and Haslingden towards Bacup. The greatest confluence of voters, and likely the MP's base, would be in Darwen.

Please visit the following website for more information and to have your say on the next round of consultation

[https://  
boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-  
review/](https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/)

Chris and Margaret France

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

## Heapey and Wheelton Parish Council

### Advise residents that due to the ongoing Corona 19 Pandemic **Carols around the Tree**

**At The War Memorial/Clock Tower, Wheelton**



**Will still be taking place (subject to any additional  
Government restrictions but will be on a restricted  
basis).**

**The Parish Council wish everybody a safe Christmas  
and healthy new year and ask that, to ensure everyone  
is as safe as possible, face masks are worn if you're  
over the age of 12 or exempt (unless you are eating or  
drinking)**

**Entrance to the Memorial Gardens will be restricted to  
performers but we can not guarantee social distancing  
so please be mindful of others when attending to make  
everyone as comfortable as possible.**

**The event may have to be cancelled at the last moment  
if guidelines require so please keep an eye on the  
Parish Council Website.**

## Winter Advice for residents from the County Council:

- **Find out if you are on a gritting route** - If you are not, prepare ahead of winter. Gritting map.
- **Stock up on salt/grit** - stock up on salt/grit for your personal use from a range of DIY stores. It's also useful to have a snow shovel, a torch, batteries and a first aid kit handy.
- **Schools** - schools are classed as private grounds and gritting them is not a county council function. We do however give schools in Lancashire the opportunity to buy grit from us at the start of the winter. School closures.
- **Take extra care** - during freezing conditions do not assume a road has been treated and drive with caution, ice could have formed despite our efforts.
- **Clearing snow and ice yourself** - there is no law about clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property or public spaces. More information about clearing snow.
- **Support for businesses** - we give permission for some businesses to use, at their own expense, an approved contractor to clear snow from roads that are not on the county council's priority or secondary networks.
- **Travelling safely during the winter** - check the weather forecast before you set off and leave extra time for your journey during winter. Travelling safely.
- **Don't block the road for the gritter** - if you park your car on a main road or gritting route during winter, please make sure it's not causing an obstruction as blocked roads could mean we are unable to grit that road.
- **Looking after older and vulnerable people** - look after yourself and keep an eye on friends, relatives and older neighbours who may be more vulnerable to the cold weather, especially if they suffer from any ongoing medical conditions.

- **Grit bins** - how often we re-fill grit bins depends on a number of factors including weather, the number of grit bins needing to be filled, and the availability of material. Help everyone by not using the grit for purposes other than for gritting the roads and pavements in the vicinity of the bin. They are placed in strategic locations to help deal with specific hazards and using the grit for other purposes could lead to unnecessary risks to other people if the grit runs out.

### Share and post messages

- Help us by sharing messages on Facebook and Twitter and promote the work of our gritting team by posting positive messages which direct people to our winter website. Gritting updates are also posted on the website and our social media channels.

**Website** - [www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter)

**Twitter** - [www.twitter.com/lancashirecc](http://www.twitter.com/lancashirecc)

**Facebook** - [www.facebook.com/lancashirecc](http://www.facebook.com/lancashirecc)

- **Winter bulletins** - during continuous severe weather we will also issue regular winter bulletins to keep you updated on the weather forecast and gritting activity.

Contact your Clerk: Mrs Joanne Carr.  
Clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org  
17 Higher Meadow, Clayton-le-Woods,  
Leyland, PR25 5RJ

# Lancashire Firefighters Plea To Prevent Christmas Cooking Dangers



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

1<sup>st</sup> Wheelton Brownies have enjoyed meeting face to face again following the removal of restrictions in September 2021.

We have been working on Take Action Theme, and as part of this, Brownies have been identifying issues that are close to their heart and saving the environment, this includes looking at World Issues, Conservation, Waste and becoming greener. We have written letters to the Speaker of the House of Commons to highlight these issues and hopefully in the New Year will receive responses of how we can tackle these issues together. We have even made an outfit of clean household rubbish.

We have welcomed a number of new Brownies into the unit, including some transferring from another Brownie unit which has had to close due to insufficient volunteer leaders.

We have awarded 2 Bronze Awards, 4 Silver Awards and in the New Year we will be delighted in presenting two of our older Brownies with their Gold Award, the highest award a Brownie can work towards and we are extremely proud of them, especially as 15 months of their time in Brownies was during lockdown.

We have been flexible with our Brownie meetings as over the last few months, at different times we have had Brownies having to isolate as part of their household.

We hope that 2022 will be a more steady year and that more Brownies will be welcomed into the unit and earn badges and awards as well as having fun.

**Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) is asking Lancashire to “Stay there and cook it” to prevent cooking fires this Christmas.** Whether it’s a visitor at the door, a phone call or the kid’s new toys, simple distractions can have devastating effects when cooking.

Around half of all accidental house fires that fire and rescue services attend each year are cooking related fires. Research carried out by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service shows most cooking fires were caused by the person becoming distracted by something in the home, with 119 cooking fires caused by distractions in 2020 and half of these occurring in December! This is why LFRS is campaigning to raise awareness of the dangers of cooking fires, with the message **“Stay there and cook it!”**

From January to December 2020, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service were called to 386 cooking related accidental house fires; encouragingly however we have seen a 3% decrease in cooking incidents compared to 2019. We hope that if people follow the “Stay there and cook it!” message and remember distractions could be disastrous, this figure will reduce again for 2021.

Group Manager Kirsty McCreesh, the Prevention lead for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service explains more; “Our data shows that cooking fires can happen to anyone, they are the most common type of fires in people’s homes that we attend, and we want to see the number significantly reduced and an end to injuries. We always see a rise in cooking related incidents in the festive season and there are plenty of simple things that people can do to drastically reduce the chance that they will experience one and these include staying with cooking, not getting distracted and keeping the hob and surrounding area clean and clear. Make sure that you have working smoke alarms and, should a fire occur, get out, stay out and call us out.”



We are only a small unit at the moment, and have places available. 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.



# Girlguiding

## Jobs in the garden for Winter

You can plant over wintering onion sets, Broad Beans and Garlic.

December is a good chance for you to prepare your soil, clear weeds and add organic matter to your soil before winter sets in. Collect any fallen leaves from your garden especially your lawn, as they act as a blanket that may encourage moss, bag them up and use them as leaf mould next year.

Remember to feed the birds in your garden and provide fresh water.

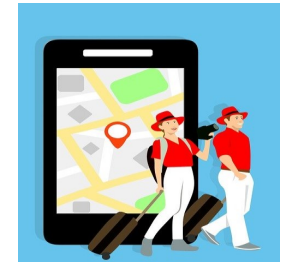


Don't forget to check our website  
[www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org](http://www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org)

## Using what3words

Lancashire Fire and Rescue are now using what3words. This means if you get into an accident and are having trouble describing where you are (if you're out walking, for example), you can use the app to tell them your exact location. what3words has labelled every 3m x 3m square in the world with an address made of three random words from the dictionary. For example, the 3 word address of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square is `///this.fantastic.notes`

All you need to do is download the free what3words app. You'll be able to see and share the 3-word address of your current location and also to find out the 3-word address of your home (by typing in your address and selecting the square containing your front door). If you're renting your property on Airbnb or any other accommodation sites, you can also use it to make sure guests don't get lost by just sending them the 3-word address of the front door/property entrance (especially if your postcode goes to the wrong place!). Visit [what3words.com](http://what3words.com) or download the app to find out more.



## Table Tennis -Sport for all and just plain fun!

Monday nights at the Village Hall are rocking to the sound of movement and laughter all because residents can play table tennis. Equipment is available for all to use plus coaching available should you want. Some interesting points have come out with research into the sport-TT (table tennis) has come out as the most sociable of all sports, it also can make the most inactive person active. So why not come along to the sessions, they are 6 to 8 pm on Monday nights- why not give it a go, you'll surprise yourself !



## Forthcoming Dates of the Parish Council

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



10 January 2022  
7 February 2022  
7 March 2022  
4 April 2022  
9 May 2022  
6 June 2022  
4 July 2022  
No meeting in August

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

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Joanne Carr.

[Clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org](mailto:Clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org)

17 Higher Meadow, Clayton-le-Woods, Leyland, PR25 5RJ

## Your Parish Council

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## Borough Councillors

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## County Councillor

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## Member of Parliament

Lindsay Hoyle

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01257 271555

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