



PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



December 2022

Chairman's Report

Dear villagers, friends and fellow councillors,

As we leave one set of challenges in the form of the pandemic and head straight into another set of challenges in the form of a cost of living crisis, we can at least look forward to spending the festive season with our nearest and dearest. The past couple of years have shown us just how important human bonds are, and friends, family and community are something money can't buy.

The parish council has continued working on our local priorities and responding to community concerns. A key priority for us this year is to secure the funding and consents to improve the play area with new equipment and surfaces. We are proud to say that this work should start imminently and will ensure the villages youngest have an excellent play area to keep them entertained for years to come. I thank all my councillor colleagues for the time and effort they put in to the community on your behalf.

We have finally seen a return to community events, enabling us to give thanks and show our respect to all those who have fallen fighting for our freedom. We can also look forward to our carols around the tree this year, as always a great event for our community with local businesses providing their support, the Grape and Grain and the Village Tearoom supplying refreshments, Mayor and Sons coal merchants donating Christmas lights for the tree, the tree from Fox and sons, and most importantly the villagers themselves gathering to celebrate Christmas together.

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

Mathew Harper
Chairman 2022/2023

News from your Borough Councillors Parliamentary Boundary Review

You may remember that we have been concerned about the ongoing Parliamentary Boundary Review which sought to move our Ward (Chorley North East) from Chorley and into a new constituency called West Pennine Moors, stretching across Haslingden and Darwen, almost to the outskirts of Bacup.

Thanks to everyone who commented on the Boundary Review website, I'm so glad to say we had a great deal of people expressing their objections.

As a result, the revised map shows Chorley North East, together with Adlington and Anderton, remaining in the Chorley constituency. To balance the numbers, rural wards in the West of the Borough will move into South Ribble.

As Chorley and South Ribble have worked alongside each other for some time now, under Shared Services agreements, then this makes a great deal more sense than the first proposals.

The Boundary Review is now under second stage consultation, so I shall be posting my appreciation of this decision. I'm told there is very little chance of it being changed again under second stage because of the overwhelming numbers objecting to the lack of transport, education, health or social links that we have with the Darwen area.

Gordon and Margaret France

Don't forget to check our website
www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org

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

Heapey and Wheelton Parish Council

Carols around the Tree

At The War Memorial/Clock Tower, Wheelton



5.30pm

24 December 2022

Entrance to the Memorial Gardens will be restricted to performers as last year so please be mindful of others and traffic when attending to make everyone as safe and comfortable as possible.

**Come along and enjoy the magic of Christmas,
and refreshments.**

There will be a collection at the end of the event.

Hooray!

A great big vote of thanks to all dog owners in the parish and to all dog owning visitors who come to enjoy the footpaths, tracks and byways hereabouts. There seems to be fewer incidents of dog walkers bagging the poo and leaving the bag hanging from a branch or whatever; and that is great! There also seems to be less dog poo littering our pavements and footpaths too. Great credit to Chorley Borough Council for encouraging the use of all litter bins in the Borough for depositing dog poo in.

There are still some instances of dog poo being left on paths and tracks across farmland, and along the canal towpath. Pet waste can be injurious to the health of farm animals if ingested. Animals that represent a huge investment on the part of farmers and livestock managers.

And contemplate for a moment insect and bug life. As conscientious pet owners we invest in worming treatments, and flea/tick treatments for our dogs and cats. And as effective as they are in preventing infestations in our family pets, they will also kill any beetle or invertebrate that sees animal faeces as a nutritious meal and forage on it as part of the process of breaking it down and re-assimilating it into the soils. Thus interrupting that part of the food chain relied on by higher orders.

Please, please, please. Re-think your dog walks. Carry a roll of poop-and-scoop bags with you; you are rarely more than a few hundred meters from a waste bin that accepts pet poo, and clearing up your pet's mess will help protect livestock, nature, and the livelihoods of those people who rely on them.

Thank you.



Planters needed!

Chorley Borough Council have once again made bags of daffodil bulbs available to the Parish Councils for planting around the Parish. A lot of the nodding yellow heads you see in Spring have been planted over the years by Parish Councilors, and this year the Parish Council would like to enlist the help of volunteer planters to bury as many as you'd like on the roadside verges, footpaths, byways and public grasslands around the Parish. No specific skillsets or experience needed; dig a shallow hole, chuck a couple in and put the soil back on top. Now is about the time to start burying them so lets get on with it.

Parish Councilor Nick Hayes is co-ordinating the effort this year and has supplies of bulbs to issue to anyone interested in planting a few. Call on 07756936173. Or email at victerr4@hotmail.com to arrange collection/delivery.

Contact your Clerk: Mrs Joanne Carr.
Clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org
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Stay safe and warm this winter

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service has joined forces with energy networks Electricity North West and Cadent, as well as partners including Lancashire Age UK to encourage residents to be safe when heating homes this winter.

It comes as the rise in the cost of living may see households use alternate methods to heat their home, including gas or open fires, log burners or electric heaters.

The 'Be Safe & Save' campaign sees funding from the electricity and gas network operators support the Fire & Rescue Service and Age UK to raise awareness of the risks of using these appliances, share guidance on how to use them safely, and how to keep them maintained.

The advice includes:

- Gas heaters and fires should be well ventilated, maintained regularly and a carbon monoxide alarm should be placed in the room in case of any functional problems and to keep the household safe and healthy.
- Residents who plan to use open fires and log burners should use fireguards to prevent embers spreading to flammable items, while the chimney should also be swept regularly.
- Electric heaters should be kept in good working order and kept away from flammable materials.
- Outdoor heaters, barbecues, hobs or ovens should not be used to keep a room warm and, if gas-powered, pose a carbon monoxide poisoning risk.
- Everyone should ensure they have working smoke alarms – at least one on each level of the home.

LFRS is working with a range of partners to protect the most vulnerable members of the community and raise awareness of the fire and carbon monoxide risk associated with finding alternative ways to cook and heat the home. See ways you can stay safe while saving on our website. We also encourage people to register for a home fire safety check for themselves or their loved ones. By answering a few simple questions, it will provide fire safety advice specific to you and tips on how to keep you and your household safe from fire. For those most at risk, we can visit the home to provide help and advice.

Register online or call **0800 169 1125**.



1st Wheelton Brownies

1st Wheelton Brownies are going from strength to strength and due to the popularity of our unit, we are currently at full capacity with a waiting list of girls wishing to join us.

We have enjoyed working out of doors, and have learnt how and where to build a camp fire safely. How to pitch and strike a tent and even toasted marshmallows on a small camp fire for one of our last meetings.

We were pleased to welcome Mrs Gill Steele, Chorley Division Commissioner to the unit at the beginning of November for presentation of our 3rd Brownie Gold Award. A proud moment for all concerned, and well deserved, having worked on the activities during lock-down.

We have presented 1 Bronze Award, and 3 Silver Awards as Brownies complete their Skills Builder badges in unit and continue to work on and gain their interest badges at home, including Painting, Baking, Languages, Mindfulness.

We have taken part in the village Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service in front of the Clock Tower War Memorial in November, joining Guides and Scouting and plans are well in place for the tableau at Carols Round the Tree on Christmas Eve.

December is a busy month as some of the Brownies are joining with other Rainbows and Brownies in Heapey Moor District for a Christmas Party and some are attending the film showing of Matilda, which Girlguiding have linked with Children in Need to provide a special screening of the film and badge,

If you are interested in joining 1st Wheelton Brownies, or wish to volunteer to help with Brownies, please contact Jacqueline Berry on 07834 069562 or jberry.brownie@gmail.com or visit the Girlguiding website and "Join Us"



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 !



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
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Christmas/New Year Hunts

The Holcombe Harriers will be meeting with hounds and riders as is customary over the festive period. This year New Years Day itself falls on a Sunday so the event will take place on Monday 2nd Jan. Hounds will be meeting at a local farmers private premises at Brinshall Hall Farm from where they will do a parade of hounds with riders through the local area and demonstrate legal trail laying with hounds following an artificial scent dragged along the ground by a trail layer in advance of hounds being tested to pick up the scent in the normal countryside traditionally used on the day. The meet will congregate to move off at 12 noon and pass through Brinshall and Wheelton with a traditional stirrup cup served at The Red Lion, courtesy of the landlord. Consequently this area may be busy for road users between approximately 12.30 and 1.30pm approximately. I strongly stress that the Holcombe Harriers lay only artificial trails and no live quarry is pursued. The Holcombe history dates back a thousand years to Norman times when the Chiens de Gascogne were brought over from France, and the hunt enjoyed Royal patronage at several visits which took place at Hoghton Tower. The most famous of these being when King James 1 knighted the Sir-Loin of beef at a hunt dinner in the great hall in August 1617. In this way we continue to maintain our rural heritage, provide employment to hound staff and equestrian service providers and are proud to support our harrier hounds which are now and 'endangered breed' with only 8 packs of stud book harriers left in the country.

There is no meet from the Dressers Arms this year, which will purely be for the pubs own customers and their parking and not allied to the Holcombe Harriers on this day. All the land used on the day for the event is at the private behest and permissions of the very generous landowners to whom we are very grateful as they ensure in so doing that a tradition can continue in its 'modern and legal' form of today. We do hope that the local community will appreciate the ethos of this modern activity & enjoy the spectacle as they usually do.

We fully welcome their support & wish everyone the best for Christmas and the New year ahead in these economic and financially testing times.

Kind Regards

Sue Simmons Senior MH
Holcombe Harriers

Susan Simmons



Forthcoming Dates of the Parish Council

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



9 January 2023
6 February 2023
6 March 2023
3 April 2023
15 May 2023 - TBC
5 June 2023
3 July 2023
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

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

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

Your Parish Council

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Don't forget to check our website
www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org