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March 2019

# Whittington and Fisherwick Connect Parish Magazine

'Whittington and Fisherwick Fund' Being Held in the Village Hall

See page 5

*Spring*  
in the village



## OUTCRY HEARD

Staffordshire County Council reverse decision to withdraw funding.

See page 4

## SAVE THE DATE

Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> June
CFS Open Forum	Community Litter Pick	Fairtrade Day	Church Fete	Open Gardens
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Your Parish Council

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*Have your say...*

We would like to point out that there are articles in Connect from the Parish Council and from representatives of some village organisations and societies. At the beginning of each article the author's name will appear. Articles written by members of the Parish Council represent current Parish Council policy and are endorsed by the Parish Council as a whole. However, views expressed in articles submitted to us from village organisations and societies do not necessarily represent Parish Council policy and have not been endorsed by the Parish Council.

If you would like to respond to any of the issues in Connect or to contribute to the next edition please write to or email any Parish Councillor.

Designed and produced by



Let's Go For Gold  
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Magnificent Magician Paul  
Page 11



Wine Tasting  
Is Back! Page 14

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**Community Litter Pick**

Cllr Garry Hyde - Vice Chairman WFPC

Save the Date - 20<sup>th</sup> April & 15<sup>th</sup> June  
Community Litter Pick

Your Parish Council works hard to keep Whittington and Fisherwick looking neat and tidy. Unfortunately there are some people who seem determined to spoil things. If you would like to help us tidy up then come along and join us for a Community Litter Pick on Saturday 20th April 2019 and Saturday 15th June 2019. We meet at the Village Hall at 10.00am. We provide necessary equipment but just bring your own gloves and appropriate clothing and footwear.

Please help us keep your Parish tidy, it reflects on all of us. So if you can spare just an hour, we would be extremely grateful.

## Funding of School Crossing Patrols

Cllr Garry Hyde - Vice Chairman WFPC

Many of you would have been aware and alarmed by the initiative proposed by Staffordshire County Council to save money by cutting the funding for ALL School Crossing Patrols. This was an idea proposed, along with others, to help save £35 million from their Budget. The Parish Council as a whole, together with many individuals, flooded the County Council Consultation Website with objections.

Following an excellent presentation and campaign by local residents at the Parish Council meeting in January, the Parish Council agreed to fund the School Crossing Patrols in our village for the next school year, should County Council funding be withdrawn. This would have safeguarded our children in the short term, while still being able to explore other avenues of funding for future years.

Whittington and Fisherwick appeared to be the only local Parish Council to take this action, but it was readily accepted by all Councillors that the School Crossing Patrols, especially at The Dog crossroads, were so necessary that these crossings could not be left unsupervised.

I am delighted to report that following extensive public criticism of the proposals, Staffordshire County Council was forced to rethink its latest cost cutting exercise. Here is an extract from the circulation from the Council to its members.

*"We have faced some incredibly difficult choices about which non-statutory areas we could continue to fund, including the school crossing patrol service. After listening to public feedback, we feel this is **not the right time** to pursue this option and therefore we will not be taking this any further **at this time**. Although this means SCC will continue to cost the council around **£1.4m** to run the [school crossing] service, and therefore brings with it other financial pressures which will need to be met, I am sure you will agree it is the right thing to do."*

Whilst applauding the change of heart I am concerned that the County Council document indicated on two occasions (highlighted by me)

that this is 'not the right time'. We have to ensure we are fully aware and abreast of any plans to go back on this decision in future years. The Parish Council is a conduit for residents to put forward their thoughts, ideas and concerns, and as demonstrated, we do listen.

We are currently working with many agencies in the Parish to plan for the future and to this end a meeting with the School Head teacher and the Parent Teacher Association is scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

If you do have any concerns or comments please free to contact us either personally or by e-mail.



## Community Foundation for Staffordshire, Whittington and Fisherwick Trust Fund

Cllr Garry Hyde - Vice Chairman WFPC

On Wednesday the 17th April 2019 members of the Whittington and Fisherwick Trust and the Community Foundation of Staffordshire, who now administer the Fund, are holding an open forum at the Whittington Village Hall.

Although the forum will be running from 1.30pm to 4.30pm on this date, a presentation on the current situation and also information on how to apply for grants from the fund will be made at 1.45pm and this will be followed by a general discussion period.

However, don't forget

If you believe that you are eligible for a grant from the fund but are unable to attend the forum or find it difficult to fill in forms, you may get assistance from a volunteer from the Whittington & Fisherwick Good Neighbour Scheme. They will be able to give you practical help on filling in the form but will NOT be able to give advice on eligibility for a grant or anything else.

If you would like some help with the form, contact their duty officer on 01543 624410 on Monday Wednesday or Fridays between 10am and 12noon.

Information can be found on the Community Foundation for Staffordshire website,

The Chief Executive Officer, Steve Adams, will be hosting the event and all residents are cordially invited to attend. Tea and biscuits are going to be provided.

This is your chance to receive the latest information from the head of the organisation and raise any questions or concerns you have about how the fund is operating and the manner in which grants are applied for and granted.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Save the Date - 17<sup>th</sup> April  
Staffordshire Open Form

[www.staffordshirefoundation.org.uk](http://www.staffordshirefoundation.org.uk) or phone 01785339540



## Fly Tipping Incident

Cllr Richard Cotterill

Following a fly tipping incident in Blacksmith Lane just before Christmas, I would ask all residents to be vigilant. If you see anyone committing this offence and you can safely take pictures of the offender and their vehicle registration number then do so and inform the police on 101. Many thanks to Sarah who allowed the items left in Blacksmith Lane to be disposed of in her skip thus avoiding an

obstruction on the footpath and an eyesore over the Christmas period.



# HS2 Construction Update

Cllr John Cannon

Parish Councillors and other interested parties recently met representatives of HS2 Ltd and their appointed contractors, namely, Laing O'Rourke/Murphy (Enabling Works) and Balfour Beatty/Vinci (Main Construction Contract) to discuss overall progress and matters of concern.



HS2 Meeting

The timing of the meeting coincided with the gathering pace of preliminary/survey works, which can now be seen adjacent to Cappers Lane. In particular the PC had become aware of a recent planning application submitted to Staffordshire County Council by HS2 Ltd. This related to access arrangements for constructing the temporary slip roads from the A38.

Although Lichfield District Council was treated as a Consultee, Whittington and Fisherwick - as the community directly affected - were not. A direct approach to Staffordshire Highways resulted in a response which is summarised below:

After leaving the A38 northbound carriageway, construction vehicles will enter the main construction site from Cappers Lane just beyond the A38 road bridge. They will then emerge onto Broad Lane and pass under the WCML rail bridge before turning immediately north and into the materials transfer site. This will allow the slip roads to be constructed to minimise disruption to A38 traffic. Vehicles leaving the site will follow the reverse route rejoining the A38 southbound carriageway.

The following key points emerged from the meeting:

- Work on the A38 slip roads and associated haul routes is now programmed to start late March/early April - 3 months later than originally envisaged. Traffic light controlled single line working to be installed in the vicinity of the West Coast Main Line rail bridge is expected to stay in place until the end of the year.
- Although anticipated early in the New Year, final approval to proceed with the main construction contract is now expected by the end of March. Work planned in our locality for 2019 relates to advance works (e.g. site set up) and public utilities (e.g. service diversions etc). Main civil engineering construction will start in 2020 with completion planned for the end of 2022.
- Although unrelated to HS2 three way traffic light control will also be operational on the A51 from mid April to mid May whilst a new water main is installed

**As soon as we have more detailed information we will of course let you know via the Council's web site and Facebook page.**



# Let's Go For Gold

Cllr Garry Hyde - Vice Chairman WFPC



**Last year Whittington and Fisherwick Villages entered the Heart of England in Bloom award scheme and at the first attempt achieved a very creditable Silver Gilt award. Congratulations must go to all involved, especially Mike Kinghan and all of those in WFEG, who gave a lot of time to the project.**

This year, the Villages are entering again and we want to 'GO FOR GOLD'.

In order to achieve this, we need help from the Community. Last year the biggest criticism from the Judges was the poor condition of our gutters and pavements with all the weeds, plus the need to create a greater impact at the entrances and exits to the Villages, the amount of litter and overgrown hedges etc around the villages. In essence, the Villages did not show themselves at their very best.

We would like you to help the Parish Council and the villages by assisting in tidying around the area you live. You may not be aware but SCC are cutting back on services they are not required to provide by law, such as grass cutting, hedge and verge cutting, road sweeping, gully cleaning and highway maintenance. When approached, their answer is 'If you want it as a Community then pay for it or do it yourselves'.

The Parish Council has set aside funds to pay for extra maintenance. Unfortunately not everything we need to do in order to make our Villages more presentable can be achieved by the Parish Council; for example; we are not allowed to cut back private hedges which overhang or obstruct pavements.

You can help by joining in with the Community Litter Pick sessions (see page 3 for details), by keeping your property looking neat and tidy, cutting back hedges and maybe clearing a few weeds from the pavement and gutter in front of your house. I know some of you already do this and we are extremely grateful, but if we all spend a little time improving our surroundings, the villages could look so much better.

It may only be small things, but small steps climb mountains.

**LET'S GO FOR GOLD!!!**

**For more information please call me on 01543433190**

# Parish Council Budget 2019-2020

David Walton - Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

We will soon be receiving in the post from Lichfield District Council (LDC) our Council Tax bills and I want to explain the Parish Council's (PC) part of that bill. The PC's spending that cannot be met from fees, charges and grants, has to be met from the Council Tax payers within the Parish and is collected from you by LDC and handed over to the PC in the form of a "precept".

Every November and December the PC decides what it needs to spend in the following financial year after taking into account anticipated inflation, and the cost of regular commitments and new initiatives. For every £1 you pay in Council Tax, the Parish Council receives less than 3p.

This time last year I mentioned our income would reduce by £2,600 due to the ending of a Government Grant. Next year's Budget also has to take that into account. In addition to reductions in income, the PC has to fund additional spending pressures, such as inflation. The PC also supports Whittington's entry into the 2019 Britain in Bloom competition. Whilst last year's entry received excellent marks, one major issue flagged by the judges was the weeds in herb gutters. Main entrances to the village were also flagged by the judges as requiring improvement. The appearance of the Village has been affected by Staffordshire County Council's policy of cutting back on non-statutory services and the Parish Council has therefore decided to put money in

next year's budget for the first time specifically to address these maintenance issues.

We also want to make further improvements to the infrastructure of the Parish and during next year you will see improvements to the play equipment at the PC's parks. In addition, money has been set aside for a new Play Area. We will also be improving the BMX track at Jubilee Park, and putting money aside for tree surgery work.

The net effect of the above for the next financial year is that the PC will need to raise an extra £4,300 in total from council tax payers. The PC's part of your Council Tax bill will therefore increase from £42.18 to £44.71 for next year, or just an extra 5p per week for an average property. Incidentally the average for all Parish Councils within the Lichfield district is £48.36.

It is interesting to note that of all the Councils that raise council tax from you for their services, the Parish Council is the only one where the Councillors are completely voluntary and do not receive any remuneration. We recognise that the Government wants to ensure that you, the council tax payer, doesn't pay for large increases in council tax year on year and we have borne this in mind when producing our budget.

The full budget details are included on the Parish Council's website. Should you have any questions on the budget please email me.

New Or Experienced?  
All Are Welcome

## Whittington Duplicate Bridge Group

Pat Wilson and Glenda Leach

As discussed at our meeting on Wednesday 6 February 2019, it has been decided to finish the Wednesday Duplicate Bridge Group on 20 February 2019 and to form a Sunday Duplicate Bridge Group on every Sunday afternoon from 2-4 pm in the Maurice Fisher Lounge at the Whittington Village Hall. The charge is £1.50, including a drink. This was a majority decision and we are hoping that meeting during the day on a Sunday will attract new members as well as existing members as many of us are elderly and prefer not to be driving at night. We accept that some members may not find the change convenient and we thank you for your support of the Wednesday Duplicate Bridge Group and

hope that it may be possible for you to join us on a Sunday in the future.

We started the new group on Sunday 24 February 2019. It will be helpful if you could let Glenda or me know if you are unable to join us or unable to attend a meeting. I am on 432453 and Glenda is on 304968. It would also be helpful to have an email address or telephone number. My email is [patsywilson@ntlworld.com](mailto:patsywilson@ntlworld.com). We look forward to welcoming new members, including those wishing to learn as well as experienced players.

We are meeting every Sunday afternoon but will not be able to meet on June 2<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> or on November 17<sup>th</sup>

## Whittington Art Group

Pat Wilson

The Whittington Art Group which started in January 2019 is now established with members enjoying spending Tuesday afternoons painting and drawing together. We meet in the Maurice Fisher lounge at Whittington Village Hall from 1-3 pm every Tuesday. Further information from Pat Wilson on 432453 or [Patsywilson@ntlworld.com](mailto:Patsywilson@ntlworld.com)



# Celebrate Easter 2019 at Your Churches

Father Jason

## Palm Sunday - 14<sup>th</sup> April

- 8.00: Palm Sunday Said Eucharist at St Giles',
- 9.30: Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist at St Giles',
- 18.30: Palm Sunday celebration of readings and music for Palm Sunday at St Giles

## Monday of Holy Week - 15<sup>th</sup> April

- 10.00 -16.00: A reflection day - You, God and the landscapes of your soul at St Giles'
- 19.00: Contemporary Praise and Worship for Holy Week at St Giles', Whittington

## Tuesday of Holy Week - 16<sup>th</sup> April

- 10.00 -16.00: A reflection day - You, God and the landscapes of your soul at St Giles'

## Good Friday - 19<sup>th</sup> April

- 8.15: Pilgrim Walk to Lichfield Central Hall starting at Whittington Pharmacy

## Holy Saturday - 20<sup>th</sup> April

- 20:00: Easter Vigil Service at St Giles', Whittington

## Easter Sunday - 21<sup>st</sup> April

- 6.00: Traditional Dawn Eucharist for Easter Day at St Bartholomew's, Hints
- 8.00 and 9.30: Parish Eucharist for Easter Day at St Giles', Whittington
- 18:30: Festival of Nine Lessons and Songs for Easter at St Giles', Whittington

Everyone is warmly invited to these special services  
Make your Easter special this year!

# Improving Facilities for Hospitality at St Giles' Church

Father Jason

The Church will be displaying some drawings of changes to the church showing how they will be improving facilities to enable the church to develop its hospitality and welcome and to support the needs of the congregation. Villagers are welcome to view the plans if you are interested and to offer a view of how they may be further improved. They will be

displayed during March. Any views and ideas to refine the plans can be emailed to the priest at [fatherjason@fastmail.co.uk](mailto:fatherjason@fastmail.co.uk) or posted under the church door for his attention. If you would like to make a donation towards these improvements, then please do contact Father Jason.

# St Giles' Church Whittington - Summer Fete

Jane Booker

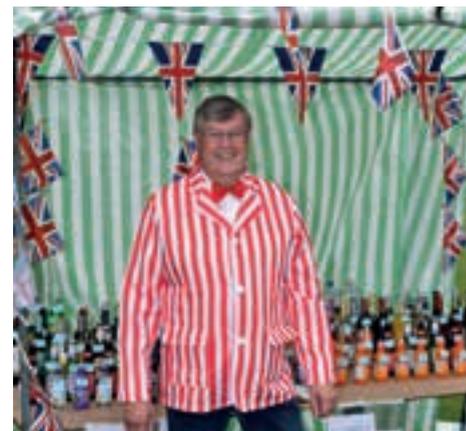
Last year's event was a wonderful day with huge crowds sitting drinking tea, eating homemade cakes and listening to wonderful sounds from the Amington Brass Band. Children, young and old alike, were entertained by the magnificent magician Paul of 'Magical Mayhem Magic Show' who is returning again this year due to popular demand. Numerous displays will be taking place again this year throughout the day. Lots of stalls offering a range of activities including a competition for the 'Best Dressed Stall'.

Fun for all the family! Come along and support your local village.

Save the Date - 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Summer Fete



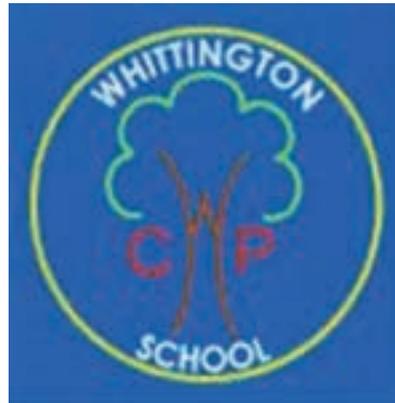
Magnificent Magician Paul  
"Back by popular demand"



# Whittington School Nursery

What could your child discover at Whittington School Nursery?

Did you know that Whittington School Nursery now provides all day childcare for 3-4 year olds in a school environment during term time? Applications will open in November 2019 for children wishing to join our lovely village Nursery in September 2020. Keep an eye on our website calendar for details of our open mornings/afternoons when prospective families are invited to come and have a look at our setting, meet our staff and see our children 'in action'! <http://www.whittington-school.co.uk>  
For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 01543 432487 or [emailnursery@whittington.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:emailnursery@whittington.staffs.sch.uk)



## Whittington WI

Anne Hiskins

We all enjoyed our Christmas Party and New Year meal out and are now looking forward to the open meeting in February which I will tell you all about in the next edition of Connect.

There is a new programme of events and speakers which will be revealed at our AGM in March. We also run a very popular Book Club as well as Ladies Who Lunch Out on a monthly basis; these are both well attended.

Please save the date of Friday 5th April when we have our Big Quiz and Pudding Night. Tickets are £7 each, in Whittington Village Hall to begin at 7.30pm. Please advise us in advance so we can provide enough puddings to cater for everyone and as those who have been before know you are not restricted!!



Book Club Available

## Would You Believe It?

Megan and the Team

Pram Service/Sunbeams has been happening for 40 YEARS!!! There must have been many hundreds, if not thousands, of people who have enjoyed the songs, the stories, the instruments, the crafts, and the company in that time. If you are part of that crowd, we would love to invite you to join us on SUNDAY, JUNE 30th, our Ruby Anniversary Day. There will be a focus on Sunbeams/Pram Service at the 9.30 service in St Giles Church. Then at 2.00pm there will be a short celebration in church followed by a Grand Tea in the church hall. It would be wonderful to meet up again with children, parents, grandparents, leaders and helpers on this special occasion, so do book the date in your diary now.

It will be a lovely village weekend. Open Gardens is happening that weekend too, so it will be a great opportunity to invite back old friends who may have moved away, perhaps to enjoy both events. We are trying to trace back through our gradually dimming memories to make a list of past attendees at Pram Service, in the hope of being able to send out personal invitations nearer the time. If you can help by adding to that list... it may be yourself, your child or a friend or relative... do please let Megan know, and do pass the date on!

Many thanks, and hope to see you there.



40 Years Active  
And Going Strong

## The Fallen of the Great War

John Smith

This wonderful book written by Bill Jackson is the history of those from Whittington who died during service in the First World War. If anyone would like to borrow it (on short loan) please give me a ring, John Smith 01543432848. It's a great read, magnificently researched by Bill, and provides details of the life and service of these dedicated soldiers, the majority whose names are on our Whittington memorial.



# Whittington and Fisherwick Fairtrade

Steve Barr

By the time you read this, the 2019 Fairtrade Fortnight will be (almost) over, and some readers will have called in at the Coffee Morning, which this year was run in conjunction with the Good Neighbours Scheme and Sunbeams at St Giles and targeted the whole age spectrum from 0 to 100+. However, the coming months will see much Fairtrade activity in Whittington. The Village Market on The Bell car park (third Saturday of every month) restarts on April 20th and locally made delicious Fairtrade goodies will feature, as always, on the St Giles Church stall. Two other popular events are also returning, so read on...

## World Fairtrade Day, Saturday

11th May

Annamarie and Andy Stone are again making their newly refurbished facilities at Woodhouse Farm available to mark World Fair Trade Day but this year they will be providing not just Tempting Teas in the afternoon, but also a Big Fairtrade Breakfast from 9.30 in the morning, with many of the items on the menu having clocked up no food miles at all. As well as all that food and drink, the impressive walled garden is looking better than ever, and there are always plenty of animals around the farm to keep younger (and not so young visitors) entertained.



The news you have been waiting for – the date of the 2019 Whittington Fairtrade Wine Tasting has been confirmed: Tuesday 2nd July, at the Cricket Club. As usual, we will feature six or seven Fairtrade wines from South Africa, South America and possibly other areas. This is not just a wine tasting – there is food as well. This year we are aiming to provide a variety of local produce, using Fairtrade ingredients where possible. Please reserve your tickets as soon as possible. We have to limit numbers and the event is always a sell-out. Ticket price to be confirmed, but there is likely to be a reduction – possibly only £10 a head. Please contact [stevebarruk@yahoo.com](mailto:stevebarruk@yahoo.com) to guarantee your place.



Wine Tasting Is Back!

If you would like any more information about these events or Whittington Fairtrade, or would be interested in joining our friendly and informal steering group, please call Steve or Megan on 01543 432605, or email as above.

# Join Your Parish Council

Cllr Jonathon Smith

Why doesn't the council do something about it. Have you said it? Heard it? So which council and with whose taxes?



Over centuries the Government has established responsibilities for various aspects of civil administration. So Staffordshire County Council deals with child, adult and elderly social care, education, all **highways** (footpaths, bridle paths, roads) libraries, environment issues, business development etc.

Lichfield District Council? Planning and building control, household and commercial waste and recycling, environmental health, council tax collection and benefits, local sports facilities, licensing and permits (alcohol, events, taxis, animal related, camping...), collection and distribution of council tax.

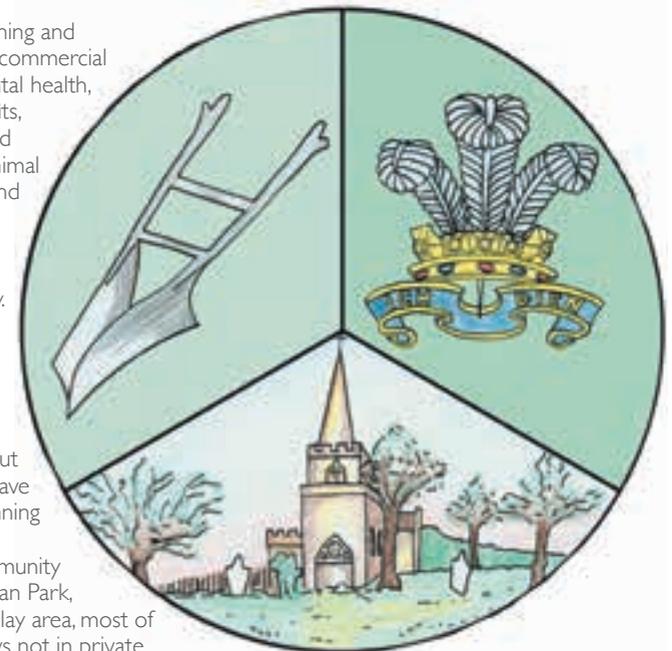
So what does your Parish Council do? We are as the eyes and ears of our local community. Our most important function is planning. The planners in Lichfield can't visit every site, so we review all applications within our parish and advise the planners of any applications about which you, if you tell us, or we have concerns. But we can't stop planning being granted.

We manage the land our community owns, including Bit End Field, Swan Park, Jubilee Park, Noddington Lane play area, most of the grassed areas and hedgerows not in private ownership in the Parish and all the trees. We are a line of communication with the other councils about the needs and concerns of our community,

though we can't force either of the councils to respond positively to our requests.

A new duty has appeared on the horizon. The District and the County Council will carry out the obligations required of them by government, but not those over which they have discretion. You want it; you pay for it; they provide it. So now we pay for our brown bins. In September 2018 we were told that if we wanted our school crossings wardens then we had to pay for them; **£6.87p** pa for a band 'D' property had the proposal not been scrapped. District and County Councils have budgets that are capped; Parish Council budgets are NOT capped (yet) and your Parish Council can request whatever council tax is required for services we believe are needed here. Trust us to do that or...

...join your Parish Council.



# Whittington Wednesday Club

Fred Stack



Here we are well into 2019 with Christmas & New Year festivities behind us for another year. Here are a few programme details which may interest you. On March 13th we shall be eating our annual Fish & Chip Lunch and on 27th we will be entertained by the Accidental Harmonies Choir. Looking further ahead we have trips to the Black Country Museum and Oswestry. Future entertainment will include Ascot Race

Day, comedians from the Black Country and speakers on various subjects, e.g. St Giles Hospice. I know it's far too early to mention Christmas, so watch this space.

If you are interested in any of the above why not come and join us. We meet in the Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month (apart from August) from 2pm – 4pm. For further information, ring Fred on 01543 432217.

## Can YOU Help Your Village Hall?

Garry Hyde

The Village Hall is in the Centre of the Village and provides a valuable asset to the whole Community. It caters for all age ranges, diverse activities, and helps to bring the Community together and alleviate social isolation.

The Village Hall is administered by a dedicated Management Committee, all of whom are volunteers. There is always room on the Management Committee for willing volunteers with practical skills to bring their expertise along to help run our wonderful Community Facility.

If you have organisational skills, financial skills, managerial skills, I.T. skills, practical skills or just wish to be of benefit to the Community at large the Management Committee would welcome you on board. Training and mentoring is available for those who are interested.

Would you like to give something back to your Community?

Contact: - Garry Hyde, Chairman Village Hall Management Committee on 01543 433190 for further information or:

Come along to the AGM on 8th April 2019 in the Maurice Fisher Lounge at the Village Hall at 7.15pm. Hope you can make it.



Open Gardens

## Whittington Open Gardens

Karen Tatlow

Following the success of 2017, the 'Green Fingered Folks' of Whittington and the surrounding area will be opening their gardens again for Whittington Open Gardens 2019. With a fabulous variety of gardens, many of which having an emphasis on being wildlife-friendly, including the Community Orchard in Jubilee Park, Swan Meadow, Woodhouse Farm and St. Giles Hospice, this year's event will take place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June.

During the weekend, gardens will be open between 11.00am and 5.00pm (last ticket sales 3.00pm, last entry 4.00pm), with many garden owners providing refreshments and plant sales to raise money for causes close to their hearts.

Car parking will be provided at Back Lane, with Blue Badge parking at St Giles Hospice, where tickets and programmes for the event will be on sale, as well as at the individual gardens themselves. Disability-friendly minibuses

will be available to transport visitors between the gardens all day, and organisers will also be working closely with The Good Neighbour Scheme in the village to arrange an assisted transport schedule for members.

New participant gardens are always encouraged and we would be delighted to hear from anyone that might like to open their garden to visitors too!

Please contact David Murcott at [ospregreen@hotmail.com](mailto:ospregreen@hotmail.com) or call on 07823 324056. Please also contact David if you would like to volunteer in one of the gardens during the weekend, helping out with visitor management (not gardening!)

Save the Date - 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June  
Whittington Open Gardens



# Whittington and Fisherwick Good Neighbour Scheme - Update

Frank Knighton

Over the past year, through our close link with St. Giles Hospice, the Good Neighbour Scheme has been involved in an alliance with other voluntary sector organisations in South Staffordshire to explore how we can assist to improve the quality of life and well being of those in the later years of their lives. At the most recent conference we heard presentations from two well respected people in the fields of local health services and community development who outlined studies and projects in other parts of the UK that are proving that the well-being, health and happiness of the elderly, those suffering from ill health and those with disabilities or issues of mobility, are greatly improved through their involvement with opportunities for social contact and activities. There is further proof that this involvement enhances social relationships and reduces social isolation.

Our trial programme of events last year, some in partnership with other village groups, provided positive feedback from both clients and volunteers and, together with the evidence of these studies, has given us impetus to further develop our programme during this year. The events planned will further our aim to encourage those we are in contact with to join with the activities of other village organisations providing additional routes for regular community involvement. Our programme for this year includes:

- Involvement with the recently held Fair Trade Coffee Morning.
  - Our Annual General Meeting in The Village Hall on Tuesday 9th April starting at 12.30. The short meeting will be followed by a tasty lunch and a glass of wine and opportunities for conversation.
  - In partnership with WFEG and St. Giles Hospice, who will provide transport, to enable our clients to visit village gardens during the Open Gardens Weekend on the 29th and 30th June.
  - The annual summer event for clients and volunteers that recognises and thanks them all for making the scheme so successful. Held in The Village Hall on 17th August with the kind support of the Hall Committee and in partnership with Whittington Scouts.
  - A lunch in October, again to be cooked for us by Whittington W.I.
  - A Christmas Lunch. Details to follow
- We continue to expand our services and welcome new enquiries from those we can assist and from neighbours who would like to join our volunteer team.
- Ring our Duty Officers on 01543 624410 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday (10 a.m. – 12)**

# Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council Welcomes Two New Councillors

Bob Wood and Paul Jansz

Bob Wood



After an extended career within the military roaming the world, and having had a connection with the Village for 35+ years through either family or house ownership, Whittington seemed the ideal place to establish roots. For the past 10 years I've occupied myself with volunteering, with Staffordshire Education Appeals process, Lichfield & Hatherton Canal Restoration, in addition to helping out with local charitable events - all of which has led to my becoming a member of the Parish Council with the specific responsibility for coordinating the Village Country Fair (7th September 2019). I must thank John Smith for the excellent work he has done in ensuring this event is well established as the main Village summer gathering, with the added bonus of being a fund generator for good causes.

I am actively seeking local business sponsorship for the Country Fair. Do you know of any business willing to sponsor this worthy local charitable event? I am always interested in ways that this event can be improved for the good and benefit of the Village. Should you feel the need to volunteer your expertise or wish to be involved in this event please feel free to contact me either through the PC or via my email: [bursley2@icloud.com](mailto:bursley2@icloud.com).

Paul Jansz



I live in Whittington with my wife and two children who both attend Whittington Primary School.

We are keen gardeners and environmentalists who have an allotment and occasionally help out with the WFEG as well as other local projects. I am keen to help ensure that Whittington and Fisherwick Parish remains a safe and enjoyable place to live.

