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November 2018

Whittington and Fisherwick  
**Connect**  
*Parish Magazine*

Remembrance  
Day Services

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Pages 12 - 13

**Autumn**  
in Whittington & Fisherwick



**A FOND FAREWELL**  
to our retiring Countryside  
& Craft Fair Organiser John Smith  
See page 4

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Remembrance Day Services	Whittington Wednesday Club Panto	Whittington Players present Caramba's Revenge	Senior Citizens' Christmas Party	Carols Around the Christmas Tree
Page 12 and 13	Page 18	Page 3	Page 12	Page 13

# Whittington and Fisherwick Connect Parish Magazine

## Your Parish Council

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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 or end 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.

## Have your say...

If you wish to respond to any of the issues raised in this edition of Connect please contact any Parish Councillor.

Designed and produced by



## A Message to Young Villagers



Facebook: CJ Walton  
Instagram: @connorjacques\_123

My name is Connor Walton and I have recently become a member of Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council. I am currently a student at the University of Oxford studying French and German literature, with modules in politics, history, and linguistics, and have lived in the village for over a decade. One of my key objectives for my time on the Council is to obtain a grant for the refurbishment of the play equipment in Bit End Field. In order to ensure that young people can help shape this communal space, I plan to share various stages of the project on a new Instagram page, on which we can use the Poll function to ascertain which equipment young people want.

I became a Member of Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council to act as a spokesperson for young people in the village. I would like to use social media – chiefly Facebook and Instagram – to ensure that

younger people in the Parish are kept informed about Council projects and can have their voices heard in Council Meetings.

I would also like to encourage teenagers to become involved in Parish Council events in order to gain invaluable experience in a local governmental organisation. There are so many opportunities for teenagers to get involved and gain experience which will make their CVs more competitive. If you're applying for a job, college, or university and you want to broaden your skillset, Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council can definitely help you.

If any young person in the village would like to get in contact with me regarding any village matter, or would like to get involved in Council events, they can do so by adding me on Facebook (CJ Walton) or Instagram (connorjacques\_123).



Britain in Bloom  
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Macmillan  
Coffee  
Morning  
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Whittington Players Present

## Caramba's Revenge

A black comedy by William Norfolk



4 elderly ladies have been sharing their lives in Violet's rented house, forming a co-operative to pool pensions and chores. After a mugging Violet dies but Marg, Lottie and Doris omit to tell the authorities, leaving her body peacefully in the cemetery. However, things get difficult for them when Violet's granddaughter, Ronnie, arrives from Australia in search of her grandmother.

Performances are on Friday 23rd November and Saturday 24th November 2018.

Tickets are £8. The performance starts at 7.30pm with doors opening at 7pm.

at Whittington Village Hall

# Countryside Fair 2018

John Smith - (Retiring) Fair Coordinator

The weather on the day of the fair was perfect and we all know that sunshine brings in people. It was a busy day from the start with a full programme of arena events and over 100 marquee and outdoor stalls, produce, flower and cake competitions. Plus the ever popular dog show, at times we seemed to have more dogs than people! There was plenty of opportunity to get something to eat or drink with the wide variety of catering outlets and a licensed bar.

Of course the fair is not just about making money. The entertainment and enjoyment of the many members of our community, people from the County and further afield is paramount to its success. Having said that, 2018 was a bumper year raising profits of over £15,000. Only once during the 15 years that the fair has been running has this figure been surpassed. Since the fair started, £120,000 has been ploughed back into the community in the form of grant funding to the many clubs, societies and organisations in the village, and there is more to come this year.

The Countryside Fair was the brainchild of the then Chairman of the Parish Council, Frank Bartlett, some 15 years ago. Along with the Parish Council I worked closely with Frank eventually taking over as both Chairman of the Parish Council and as Countryside Fair Co-ordinator in 2007.

I am now handing over the reins to Bob Wood, a local man from the village. I offer my support to Bob and wish him every success in the future. My thanks as always to the members of our community who have supported the event in so many different ways over the many years, but you all know who deserve the most thanks, the wonderful band of volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year just 'making it happen.'

Thanks a million. See you all on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019.



# Parish Council Update

Cllr Martyn Bennett - Chairman

The Parish Council wishes to acknowledge and to offer our sincerest thanks to John for his tremendous achievements, commitment and skills in organising the Countryside Fair for so many years. His efforts have enabled the development and support of so many community groups, for which all of us are really grateful.

At our next Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday 21st November we will be deciding on the criteria for the 2018 round of grants to local organisations. Details will be circulated after the meeting on how to obtain an application form and when the opening and closing dates apply.

## Sunbeams

Megan Barr

Do you know anyone in the village or nearby with a new baby? Or perhaps some grandparents who find themselves looking after their grandchild in the daytime?

We are very conscious that this can be quite a dramatic change of lifestyle, and would like to offer anyone in this position the chance of meeting up with other parents, grandparents and young children and babies on alternate Wednesday mornings in the church hall, where you will find drinks, toys, baby mats and crafty things for young hands to try, along with good company.

We are called Sunbeams, and the group is run entirely by experienced volunteers and is completely free (though a donation for refreshments is welcome!).

You are welcome to come to the church hall between 11.00 and 12.00, or to come into the church first where there are songs, stories, activities and instruments... this begins at about 10.30, and we move over to the church hall at about 11.00. If you would like to come along, the November and December dates are November 14th, November 28th and December 12th. It's an exciting time to join in, as we will be doing lots of Christmassy preparations!

If you would like to know more, or to 'book a friend' to come along with you in the first instance, do contact Megan Barr - 07870 100005 or Sue Jackson - 07540 447478

We would love to see you.



## Pride in our Parish

Clr Garry Hyde

As autumn was here we needed to clean up the Parish ready for winter. Our last Community Litter Pick was on Saturday 20th October 2018. We met at the Village Hall at 10.00am. We provided all the necessary equipment and just asked volunteers to bring their own gloves and appropriate clothing and footwear.

So far this year the 'Litter Pickers' have had three outings and, with assistance from the Guides, have amassed over 80 (yes eighty!) black bags full of litter. A fantastic achievement, and well done to all the volunteers who have helped. On the other hand, what a really sad indictment on the lack of pride and community respect of some

people that sees so much litter discarded onto the streets, verges and playing areas of our villages.

Recently, the Parish received a Silver Gilt award from Britain in Bloom, a fantastic achievement for our first ever attempt. A big thank you must go to all those involved. The comments were very helpful but did highlight the need for a tidier Parish.

Unfortunately, due to Government cuts, Staffordshire County Council no longer undertakes many of the environmental services previously provided and are encouraging Parish Councils to take up this responsibility. Grass cutting of verges has been restricted, street cleaning is a thing of the past, as is

the 'Gully Sucking' of our drains, which means they fill up and overflow in downpours. These tasks are not within the resources of the Parish Council but if there was a Community endeavour to tidy pavements and gutters then our Parish would be a pleasanter place to live in.

**Please help us keep your Parish tidy by taking your litter home with you and if you can spare just an hour at our 2019 'Litter Pick' events, we can get an even better result in Britain in Bloom next year. Look out for times and dates in the next edition of Connect.**

## Whittington School Nursery - Sept 2019 intake

**Do you know a child who will be 3 years old by 31st August 2019? Whittington School Nursery is now taking applications for September 2019!**

Applications are now open for children wishing to join our lovely village Nursery next academic

year. We are holding two Early Years' Open events on Thursday 15th November 2018 at 1.30pm and Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 10am for prospective families to have a look at our setting and see our current classes 'in action'! If you would like to attend either event, or would like to request a Nursery

application pack, please contact the school office.  
**Call 01543 432487**  
**or Email**  
**nursery@whittington.staffs.sch.uk**

What will your child discover at Whittington School Nursery?



## Shared Spaces: reclaim our roads, lanes & streets

Clr Jonathan Smith

**The Mercury headline was crystal clear. The County Council has to find £35M and cost savings of that significance don't come easy. County Highways will undertake road safety work that by law they must as well as when there is an emergency, but otherwise they are off loading responsibilities.**

The County Council has been responsible for employing School Crossings Patrol Wardens (lollipop ladies and men) but no longer. All contracts county wide will end in July 2019 and our wardens (two ladies) are no exception. The responsibility of our school for the safety of our children begins and

ends at the gates. It is for parents to ensure that their child attends school and that their child is safely inside the school gates.

Our community must decide what to do. If anyone of you have any ideas then tell your Parish Councillor, or even better let County Council Highways Department know on 0300 111 8000 or email: highways@staffordshire.gov.uk. But don't hold your breath; the ladies will not be back for a long time.

May be it's time to address the problem another, bigger way. It

barely existed in our community 70, maybe 80 years ago. But now the cross roads is a conflict zone between vehicles of all sorts with power, and pedestrians who lack it. That power imbalance needs to be rectified; how? Answer; by creating for drivers the same uncertainty felt by pedestrians trying to cross. So far it has happened in the centres of our towns and cities; shared spaces. Have look on YouTube at Poynton Regenerated. That community faced the same problem on a much bigger scale and look what they did.

Would a shared space work in Whittington? There's only one way to find out.

## Staffordshire Regiment Museum

Rosemary Smith

The Museum, between the Golf Club and the Barracks on the A51, is open every day 10 am till 4 pm. Lots to see, including the Trench system and the Air-Raid Shelter. Special events coming up;

10 November; Night in the Trenches  
15 December; A Wartime Christmas

For all information refer to the Museum website [www.staffordshireregimentmuseum.com](http://www.staffordshireregimentmuseum.com), or social media, or 01543 434394



Whittington & Fisherwick fund

# What you need to know

**What is it?** The Whittington Poor Fund became the Whittington & Fisherwick Fund in 2016 when the Community Foundation of Staffordshire became the administrators of it.

**What is The Community Foundation of Staffordshire?** It is a charity that provides professional charitable fund and grant management for a number of charitable funds across our county.

**Why change?** It was needed to comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

**This is all very different to how things used to be!** The administration of the fund has to be transparent and accountable to the Charity Commission; hence the change.

**Are the original trustees still involved?** Yes, but not as trustees. Local people are on the panel of donor advisers.

**Will they know about my personal circumstances?**

Yes, but in a limited way so that you cannot be identified. Decisions are based on what you put in the application form and if you leave the box at the end empty then your information will be kept confidential. If you tick the box to share your name we call you. We explain the reasons why it is useful to share and seek your permission to share the information you have provided. We can answer any questions that you have as well. If you share your information then the donor advisers will see a generalised version of it, with the exception of your name, address and banking details.

**What if I share my name and one of the donor advisers knows me?** He or she will not be involved in that discussion or decision.

**Who can apply for a grant from the Whittington and Fisherwick Fund?** Any residents of the parishes of Whittington and Fisherwick with a financial, social, medical or health need.



The  
Community  
Foundation  
for Staffordshire

**What do those terms mean?** Lack of income to cover bills, or unexpected costs. Social needs means wellbeing; funding to attend a social club or group. Medical or health needs; cost of attending hospital, visiting someone in hospital, special equipment or the cost of treatment.

**How do I show that I need a grant?** Complete s.2 of the application form and tick all or any of the boxes.

**Why do I have to provide details of my income and expenditure?** To demonstrate why you are in need, but without evidence of your income and expenditure, just a list of what it is. Don't forget incidentals; newspapers, an extra bottle of milk, bus fares...

**How much can I apply for?** For individuals, £100 once a year in one of two rounds per year.

**When should I apply?**

At any time. There are two grant distributions a year.

**Why do I need to reapply each year?** Because your circumstances may change year on year.

**Why are you asking for my bank details?** All payments are made by bank transfer. It's quicker.

**What can I spend my grant on?** Whatever you state in paragraph 2.5 of the application form. If your heating costs have gone up then please tell us.

**Is there anything that I cannot spend the money on?** To settle a debt or add to your savings.

**Are there any other things that I can apply for?** Emergency funding; for example your hot water supply has died in the middle of winter, but the Community Foundation arranges the purchase, delivery and installation of the equipment of a brand and colour we chose.

**Am I guaranteed to receive a grant?** No.

**What if I don't provide enough information?** We will call you and ask for more information if you tick the box. It's up to you how much you provide; the more you give the easier it is for us.

**What if I am not successful?** Does that mean that I am not in need? No; lack of information is the usual problem but we will tell you why you were not successful.

**If I am turned down once, does that mean I cannot apply again?** No. Please apply in the next round.

**Further information?** Help with the form? Contact our grants team on 01785 889540.

## How to apply

Apply on line at [staffsfoundation.org.uk/grants](http://staffsfoundation.org.uk/grants)  
email [office@staffsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:office@staffsfoundation.org.uk) or call 01785 889540.

# Whittington W.I.

Anne Hiskins

Since the last edition of Connect, Whittington WI have been quite busy. Unfortunately the sausage making experience was cancelled through lack of support but we did go to The Coffin Factory in Birmingham, this was not a gruesome place, far from it.

We saw the heavy presses and were told how the young boys were set to work in the acid room which was a very dangerous environment. Having worked our way through the different floors of the factory we ended up in the sewing room and saw all the satins, lace and rows of sewing machines. Originally the machines were 'Singer' but then they replaced them with more modern German machines. This was a very interesting outing.

The WI sponsored the cake competition at The Countryside Fair and had 20 entries, this was a good turnout. The judge had her work cut out tasting all the Cherry Cakes. The winner was Lynette Collison, second was Brenda Phillips and third was Simon Collison.

By the time this is printed we will have done a special catering job for a very good cause in the village, will let you know in the next edition how we got on!!



# Whittington Cricket Club

John Butler

The Club believes that the 2018 season has been the most successful since the club was re-formed in 1971. There have been successes right through from senior level right down to the youngest in the junior section.

Notable successes include;

The senior first XI finished fourth in the Staffs Clubs Championship Premier Division, narrowly missing coming second, it was the highest ever achieved. The second XI were second in Division Two, so hopefully promotion. The third team finished a creditable sixth in Division 5. The firsts also reached two T20 knock out finals, but narrowly lost both. The Sunday XI, a development side, will be part of the Lichfield & District League second Division next season.

The Junior Section had a great season. All age groups were engaged in the Burton and District Youth League. The Under 11's clinched their league title on the very last day of the season, just defeating local rivals, Lichfield. The Under 13's claimed their runners up spot, a notable achievement for this squad.

Also good news to report is the development of the 'All Stars', the initiative brought about by the England & Wales Cricket Board, to introduce youngsters from age 4 into the cricket scene. The Club is rightly proud of the fact that over 70 girls and boys signed up, the biggest intake for any club in Staffordshire. The club looks forward to even greater success with this excellent venture again next season.

Other key notable points to look back upon. We were invited by the county to host a Junior County match; this time Staffordshire under 14's v Buckinghamshire. For the first time Staffs lost the match even though the standard of play produced was exciting. Late in the season, we hosted an inaugural '50 ball' tournament, a charity event, which brought in many outstanding cricketers from all over the country, several with previous international experience. It was another day for the club to remember.

Throughout the autumn and winter months, the Pavilion is available for hire, so if you do have an event coming up, why not let us have the opportunity of looking into that for you.

# HS2 Construction due in 2019

Cllr John Cannon

Although initial survey work and localised environmental enhancement works have been in progress for some time the first significant construction works are due to start early in the new year. These will see the Preliminary Works Contractor (Laing O'Rourke/Murphy) constructing temporary slip roads off the A38 to provide contractor traffic access onto the Main Construction Site for our locality which will be set up on land bounded by Cappers Lane, Broad Lane and the A38 itself. Once established the site is planned to remain in use for a further 6 years.

At present major construction works are scheduled to start later in 2019, although this is dependent on final approval of the Main Works Contractor's (Balfour Beatty/Vinci) detailed design proposals by HS2 Ltd. This is expected by the end of this year or early next. We are currently planning to meet contractor representatives later in the autumn when they should be in a position to provide us with more definitive detail.

Although we will rightly focus on construction works planned within Parish boundaries (road diversion works on Cappers Lane, Broad Lane, Damford Lane and the A51 plus the Lichfield Road overbridge) the potential for disruption outside these boundaries must not be forgotten. Reference has already been made above to the slip road construction work which could well prompt traffic to use minor roads to avoid congestion on the A38. This could also be compounded by proposals for marina construction works adjacent to the canal arm that runs towards Cappers Lane which have been the subject of a recent planning application submitted by Lichfield Cruising Club.

Access to the village via Flats Lane could also be subject to similar pressures. After crossing the A5 (where a new road bridge and major approach works will be required) the track also cuts across Flats Lane, similarly requiring significant diversion and bridge works. We will be seeking evidence of robust traffic management

arrangements to minimise the potential for disruption both within and outside the village as the detail emerges and of course will let you know the implications as we see them.

Post Script

After vigorous lobbying by one of the residents directly affected by the works proposed in his locality over the last year HS2 Ltd have now agreed in principle to include additional mitigation works along the affected part of Flats Lane. This will involve re-contouring adjacent land and introducing landscape planting to reduce the line's visual/acoustic impact. The exact scope of the work is still to be defined and will in part depend on the outcome of current studies evaluating the feasibility of lowering the track bed height as it crosses the A5. As we found in securing the decision to lower the line to pass below the West Coast Main Line and the A38 sustained determination and persistence does in the end pay off!



# Lest we forget

CLlr Jonathan Smith

They named it the Great War, the war to end all wars resolved, so it was hoped, at the Armistice signed on the 11th November 1918, though by report of one perceptive French general the terms on which peace was settled were such that it was no more than an adjournment. And so...

By the early years of the next decade, when the tragic reality of the waste of young men's lives lost from villages, towns and cities all over the country and beyond was painfully clear then came the clarion call 'we must remember them'. Walter Bramley the headmaster of the primary school for over 20 years, educator of many of those who died, raised funds by public subscription for the construction of our memorial.

Then in 1939 it began again and worse.

Our legacy of these horrendous conflicts is that each community remembers those who fell in both wars and since each year. So on Sunday 11th November, a century after the carnage ended we will meet at St Giles Church at 9.30am for our Annual Service of Remembrance followed by a service at 10.45am by the War Memorial.

Everyone is invited to attend either or both services.

As there are likely to be many people congregating at the Memorial the Parish Council have obtained an order to close Church St to through traffic from 9.00am until 12.00 noon. Signs and cones will identify the closed areas. There will be access to all frontages on Church St including the church car park from the junction with Back Lane.

We will remember them.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November

## Whittington and Fisherwick Senior Citizens' Annual Christmas Party

We are delighted to invite you to the Senior Citizens' Christmas party to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 8th December 2018.

Doors open at 5pm and the meal will be served at 5.30pm.

If you would like to attend, please complete and return this page by the 20th November to ensure we cater for everyone who wishes to attend.

Replies please to the Whittington Pharmacy or Langton Surgery

If you know someone new to the village or anyone who has not received an invitation, please contact John or Rosemary Smith tel.no 01543432848.

Would you be kind enough to bring a small raffle prize? We look forward to seeing you on December 8th.

If you require transport to and from the event, please write your telephone number here and we will phone you nearer the day to make the arrangements.

NAME

ADDRESS

ANY SPECIFIC DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

The Anglican Parishes of Whittington, Weeford and Hints

### Season of Remembrance 2015

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> October 18:30 Service to remember loved ones who have died @ St Giles

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> October 18:30 Service to remember loved ones who have died @ St Mary's

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> November 10:00 Remembering World War One: There but not there

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday Services

10:00 to 10:45 - with Act of Remembrance at The War Memorial at 10:45

10:00 to 10:45 - with an Act of Remembrance at St Mary's with an Act of Remembrance

THERE BUT NOT THERE

The Anglican Parishes of Whittington, Weeford and Hints

### Christmas 2018

Sunday 2nd December 15:30 Godparents and Godchild Sunday - bring a bauble with your godchild's name on for our Christmas tree @ St Giles Whittington

Sunday 9th December 15:30 Godparents and Godchild Sunday - bring a bauble with your godchild's name on for our Christmas tree @ St Mary's Weeford

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 11:00 Barn Nativity @ Sheepwash Farm Whittington (WS14 5BN) for young and older alike

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 18:30 Parish Carol Service with Christingle and mince pies @ St Mary's, Weeford

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 18:00 Parish Carol Service with food to follow @ St Bartholomew's, Hints

ROYAL AIR FORCE 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

RAF 100

RAF 100

### A Candlelit Celebratory Evening Service

at St Giles' Church Whittington

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 18:30

100 YEARS RAF 1918 - 2018

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 18:30 Traditional Candlelit 9 Lessons and Carols @ St Giles, Whittington

Christmas Eve Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December

- 10:00 Lesser sung carols, readings and refreshments @ St Giles, Whittington
- 18:00 Carols and Crib Service for everyone @ St Giles
- 18:00 Christmas Eucharist @ St Bartholomew's, Hints
- 20:00 Christmas Eucharist @ St Mary's, Weeford
- 23:15 Christmas 'Midnight Mass' Eucharist @ St Giles

Christmas Day Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

- 08:30 1st Eucharist for Christmas Day (MCP) @ St Giles
- 18:35 Carols, Prayers and Presents for Christmas Day @ St Giles, Whittington (No Eucharist)
- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December New Year's Eve 22:30 Celebratory Snacks, Prayers and Bells @ St Giles

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Everyone is invited to the annual "Carols round the Tree" 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm, Village Hall. Come along to enjoy a Village get together with drinks and mince pies afterwards.

# Bloomin' Whittington

Mike Kinghan

**A great result from the Parish's first entry in the Heart of England in Bloom competition has helped cement our reputation as Staffordshire's most environmentally progressive village.**

From a standing start we received a Silver Gilt award - the second highest rating after gold! The judges said that we had 'achieved remarkable improvements to the village and surrounding areas with a wide range of volunteers working on many new projects - an admirable first entry'. You can read the entry we made to the competition at <https://tinyurl.com/y9hcnxuw> - it's an inspiring read!

The judges commented very favourably on the troughs and hanging baskets round the village and on the work at Jubilee Orchard, St. Giles Hospice garden ('a splendid display of colour and landscaped areas'), Middleton Bridge garden ('a remarkable display of sustainable planting carried out by volunteers'), Woodhouse Farm and 'the wildflower meadows in various locations, the best being the one at Swan Meadow'.

Our entry received very high marks on Community Participation (92%) and no suggestions for improvement in that area. The score on Environmental Responsibility was also very high at 86%.



On 'Horticultural Achievement' there were lots of positives but some marks were lost because of weeds within the gutters around the village; floral displays at the Dog Inn being rather limited and entry/exit to the village needing to be improved to create more impact. These are all matters that WFEG, the Parish Council and other partners will be seeking to address over the coming months - and in 2019 will be looking for the coveted 'Gold' award!

Another great boost for the Parish was the fact that the regional Chairman of the Heart of England in Bloom gave his special award for 'outstanding horticultural achievement across the region' to Irene Rushton supported by husband Mark, for the fantastic work that they have done over many years to create and sustain the lovely garden along the lane leading up to Middleton Bridge - off Spring Lane. Our congratulations go to Irene and Mark for their inspirational work using surplus plants from her garden and gifts from friends and neighbours.

There is much still to do in the Parish to improve our environmental standards still further - there are many challenges as we look to lower our carbon footprint, make our village even more beautiful and restore our dwindling wildlife. Heart of England in Bloom is one strand and this award is a boost to our efforts. Let's go for gold in 2019!



# 9 Ways to Reduce Your Plastic Use

Mike Kinghan

**We've all seen the headlines about the huge environmental problems caused by single-use plastics. Governments and corporations have a responsibility to take action - but what can we do to cut down our personal plastic footprints? Making just a few small changes can have a big impact on the amount of plastic we use on a day-to-day basis. Here's our 9 top tips:**

## 1. Carry a reusable bottle

In the UK we use over 35 million plastic bottles every day! Carrying a reusable bottle is a great way to cut your plastic use and save money too!

## 2. Say no to plastic straws

Plastic straws are bad news for our oceans. Next time you order a drink, think about whether you need a straw - and if you don't, just say no!

## 3. Take a reusable coffee cup

2.5 billion coffee cups are thrown away every year in the UK - and less than 1 in 400 are recycled. Carry a reusable cup with you - some cafes even offer a small discount if you use your own cup (and if they don't ask them why not!)

## 4. Avoid excessive food packaging

Whether it's making different choices in the supermarket or choosing a different place to shop, we can all try and cut down the plastic we buy. As an added bonus, loose fruit and veg is often cheaper than pre-packaged alternatives! Take your own containers or shop at the Clean Kilo [thecleankilo.co.uk](http://thecleankilo.co.uk)

## 5. Use refill stations for detergents

There are some products where it's difficult to avoid a plastic container (for example washing up liquid or laundry liquid) - the good news is that there are an increasing amount of places where you can refill your old bottles. The nearest we know is in Digbeth at [thecleankilo.co.uk](http://thecleankilo.co.uk)

## 6. Say no to disposable cutlery

We've all been there - caught out in a cafe or at a train station when we've bought a salad or a yogurt but the only cutlery on offer is plastic! Whilst it's hard to plan for every opportunity, consider carrying a spoon or fork (or spork!) in your bag or keeping cutlery in your desk at work.

## 7. Get your milk delivered

Although the early morning sight of a milk float is not as common as it used to be, there are still lots of places in the UK where you can get milk delivered in glass bottles - which are then collected and reused. At least two companies deliver to Whittington: Wilmott Dairies (01432252033) and Milk and More [milkandmore.co.uk](http://milkandmore.co.uk)

## 8. Avoid microbeads

The good news is that the UK government have announced a ban on microbeads! However until the ban comes into force in 2018, there will still be products on the shelves, so keep checking those labels before you buy and avoid products containing polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and nylon. [beatthemicrobead.org](http://beatthemicrobead.org)

## 9. Carry a shopping bag

Since the plastic bag charge was introduced in England, there's been a massive 85% drop in their use. Many of us are used to carrying an extra bag with us - if you still find it hard to remember, try a foldaway one that you can carry in your normal day bag.

# Whittington Bowling Club

Dave Jones

If you happen to pass the green, at Bit End Field, on almost any day of the week, you will hear the unmistakable sound of Crown Green Bowls - the crack of the woods and the sound of people enjoying one of the most popular sports in the country. Crown Green Bowls is accessible to people of all ages, from 16 to 90 or more! It requires a minimum of equipment, just a pair of bowls and immediately introduces you to a friendly but competitive group of people.

Social bowling takes place on Saturday afternoons during the season, from April to September, with anyone welcome to come

and try this absorbing sport. The Club has around 80 members, with an eclectic mix of temperaments and interests. Some are content to play in a leisurely fashion, enjoying the gentle exercise and social atmosphere, while others choose to become involved in the competitive side.

There are teams in the Lichfield League, Cannock League and Walsall League as well as the Lichfield over 50s and Needwood Veterans. Many matches are played in the evenings, while over 50s and Needwood Veterans are in the afternoon. Thursday mornings are kept for the ladies to enjoy.

The Club also has a social side, with 'friendly' matches at weekends with local clubs, usually involving cake and camaraderie! There is an Annual Presentation Dinner as a finale to the club competitions held each year. In addition, there are other activities such as Race Nights, Open Days, Floodlit Bowls and a Barbeque.

If you'd like have a try, contact Bob Russell on 01543 432356 or Dave Jones on 07429 074758. The Club welcomes newcomers!

# Whittington Flower Club

Rosemary Smith

**MacMillan Support Coffee Morning; Whittington Flower Club is delighted to announce that £452 was raised at the Coffee Morning on 5 October. Many thanks to all who supported us with cakes, raffle prizes and donations, and help on the day and coming along.**

Thank you to everyone who entered their designs at the Countryside Fair, a source of great interest to the many visitors.

We have National Demonstrator Nick Grounds doing his big Christmas Demonstration on Wednesday 28 November in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 for visitors and £3.50 for our members, available from Rosemary 01543 432848, or at the door subject to availability.

### Coming programme includes

- **23 January** Alison Cooper "When Passions Collide"
- **27 February** Practical Workshop
- **27 March** Jonathan Moseley (star of Chatsworth, Malvern, Harrogate and TV) "Spring into Action"
- **24 April** AGM and Speaker

# Summer Social

Frank Knighton

**The venue for our Summer Social was again at Terry and Jane Tricker's home and garden. The marquee was festooned with fairy lights and filled with tables and chairs. The weather forecast was not too promising so extra tables and chairs were set up inside the house. This certainly paid off as it rained heavily! Chris and Terry Dell, who kindly loaned the marquee, will be glad to know that it is waterproof!**

The rain did not spoil the fun, laughter and conversation. Seventy- four service users and scheme volunteers enjoyed a choice of main courses and desserts provided and cooked by volunteers along with a choice of beverages from the 'bar'. Special thanks to Brenda Stewart-Jones who provided all the desserts and on her birthday too!

We have received some lovely 'Thank You' letters and cards, quotes from some of them follow.

"After being confined to the house for the last five weeks after an operation, it was lovely to get out and see so many people that I have known for years in the village – also to meet some new ones"

"The organisation and care was faultless and the food just so good! To everyone who made the evening such a success, my sincere thanks for your much appreciated help at all times"

"Despite the weather the atmosphere was superb and so welcoming. What a wonderful scheme the Good Neighbours of Whittington has become"

"I hope I never have to leave Whittington, a village with so much given to so many by a few"

Special thanks to Jane and Terry Tricker, their daughter Amanda and her family, Annette and Dave Holder, the 1st Whittington Scouts and all the volunteers who helped to prepare and serve the food and to provide transport to

enable folk to get to the event and home again.

In addition to our Summer Social we are piloting a programme of events this year to give our service users and volunteers opportunities to get together. A Strawberry Tea, was held earlier in the summer and was deemed a real success. Two more later this year are; a lunch in the Village Hall on 30th October prepared and delivered by the WI and a Christmas lunch in the Church Hall on 18th December supported by the Men's Lunch Group and delivered with the help of Margot Christie and her team of ladies.

To find out more about the Scheme look us up on the Parish Council website, whittingtonandfisherwick.org.uk, or to ask for assistance or become a volunteer call 01543 624410 between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday or leave a message at any time.



# Whittington and Fisherwick Fairtrade Fairtrade 2019 Calendar

Steve Barr

## Fairtrade Calendar 2019

The Whittington Fairtrade Calendar has been an established part of the village scene for a few years now, supported by a number of Whittington organisations and businesses. St Giles Hospice has always sponsored a month, and we are delighted that the 2019 calendar is being rebranded as the Whittington Fairtrade and St Giles Hospice Calendar. This change means that the circulation will increase, raising the profile of both Fairtrade and the Hospice. By the time you read your Connect magazine, the calendar should be available to purchase – along with a wide selection of Christmas cards and other seasonal items – from the Reception at the Hospice. Why not call in?

## Other news for 2019

We are planning our usual range of events for next year, all to be confirmed, including a coffee morning to mark Fairtrade Fortnight (February 25 – March 10), Tempting Teas at Woodhouse Farm on World Fair Trade Day (Saturday 11th May) and the ever popular Fairtrade wine and food tasting at the beginning of July.

## Whittington Village Market

On the theme of food, don't forget that delicious home made goodies, with Fairtrade ingredients, are always available on the church stall at the Village Market (on The Bell car park) on the third Saturday morning of the month.

## Social Media

At the time of writing, our website [www.whittington-fairtrade.co.uk](http://www.whittington-fairtrade.co.uk) is still up and running, but this is likely to be replaced by a Facebook presence in the New Year. In the meantime, if you would like any more information, or would be interested in joining our friendly and informal steering group, please call **Steve or Megan on 01543 432605, or email [stevebarruk@yahoo.com](mailto:stevebarruk@yahoo.com)**



# Whittington Wednesday Club

Fred Stack

**On Wednesday, 14th November the Whittington Wednesday Club "Players" will perform their version of Cinderella – Oh yes they will!**

They would like to invite adults (sorry, no children) interested in attending this performance to be at the Village Hall just before 2pm. Due to limited capacity, if you are not a club member please ring Fred to reserve your seat and have a fun afternoon. You'll see people

you meet every day in a new light. There is no charge, we only ask for a donation to cover the cost of refreshments. Who knows? You may consider joining the club when you discover we are not just old people drinking tea and playing bingo. Come along, let your hair down and enjoy a good laugh.

Any questions please give Fred Stack (aka Lady Fuchsia) a ring on 01543 432217



# Whittington Men's Lunch Club

Terry Tricker

**Whittington Men's Lunch Group was formed in November 1999 specifically for men from within the community who, for a variety of reasons, missed men's company. The Group aims to provide friendship and mutual support or practical help when needed.**

The Group needs a contingent of fit, retired men who welcome the opportunity to provide the practical help and support that others might need, whilst at the same time enjoying socialising with male company over lunch.

The inspiration for the Group came from the late, great 'Fairy' Gopsill. At our first meeting in the Church Hall in November 1999 there were just 6 of us. We persuaded Margo Christie to cook

a meal for us and a very good time was had by all. Little did we know that 'Margo's Boys' would expand to a membership of 60 within a few years.

We believe the Group is successful because it retains the simple formula set out in our 'Mission' above, which was produced a few months after our launch. Unlike many 'clubs' there are no rules and no officers, just helpers to set up tables, serve the wine and collect the money to cover the costs. Margo now has a small team of volunteer helpers who between them cook and serve an excellent 3 course meal each month.

Unfortunately we can only accommodate a limited number of members, 60 being the maximum.

Margo and her team do a fantastic job consistently producing high quality meals. The average age of the group is over 80! If we find somebody whose disabilities, physical or mental, prevents them getting out and having a meal we make sure we can accommodate them. Unfortunately we have in the past had to reluctantly turn away fit and able men from the village who have wanted to join us.

If you know somebody who would really benefit from joining our group, then please contact us.

**Equally, if you feel that you could be part of the fit and able support team & would like to join our waiting list then please give us a ring. Terry Tricker 432747 Brian Woodgate 432559**

