



Whixall Parish Council Newsletter



Autumn/ winter 2017

Chairman's report

Hello all,
I am pleased to advise you that we have filled the vacancy, after the recent elections, on the Parish Council.

Our new colleague is Graham Turnbull. Graham is a recent newcomer to the area who brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm.

Graham had a career in the Royal Navy that saw him living in various parts of the country and abroad. Fortunately Graham and his wife decided to settle in Hollinwood, Whixall and they have actively immersed themselves into community life, Graham has taken on local roles as coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch, Marlot volunteer and he, and his wife Elaine, are committee members for the Social Centre. Welcome Graham and thank you for making time for the Parish Council.

People often ask me what the Parish Council does and why do we do it...

We are here to represent the views of locals, sometimes we have to represent opposing views and we are the first line of local representation. We can help support residents with other organisations and layers of government.

Recently we were able to support the Parochial Church Council in an effort to retain some glebe land adjacent to the church but unfortunately we were not successful.

As to why we do it; every councillor will have their own reasons but a desire to help our neighbours and fellow residents of Whixall underpins it together with a desire to ensure local views are taken into account.

Two of our significant dates are coming up, Remembrance Sunday and the "Seniors' Christmas Party". Further details will be found elsewhere in this letter but

please do your best to support these important events. Remembrance Sunday will be hosted by St Mary's Church and it is hoped that Whixall Primary School will also be involved.

The Parish Council wants to make better links with organisations that operate in Whixall and to that end we will use our Parish Meeting in May to offer a platform for an exchange of views, news and support. If you represent an organisation that is active in Whixall and would like to get involved please contact the Parish Clerk.

Finally, I would like to remind you all that there is a public session as part of every council meeting and you are all invited to attend. Council meetings are, usually, the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Social Centre.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and New year.

Ian Mercer, Chairman



Calling all Senior Citizens of Whixall!

Don't miss out on a free supper, drinks and entertainment at this year's **Christmas Party!**

This year the date for your diary is...

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER

Which doesn't clash with Wem's late night shopping event!

6:30 for 7pm at Whixall Social Centre

Children from Whixall Primary School will sing Christmas songs and carols

Local 'upcoming' singer/ songwriter Aaron Evans will be performing!

As always, we can arrange for a lift to and from the party if needed, our Clerk, Katie will be happy to help. Just drop her a line or give her a call: contact details overleaf.

Stark's Bridge

Many of you will be aware of the very long delays in the repair of Stark's Bridge that crosses Maltkiln Lane.

The bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and its repair is taking such a long time due to the need to obtain very specific materials and be subject to Historic England's procedures.

The Parish Council and Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings are in touch with the persons responsible for the repair and we will endeavour to ensure that the procedure is kept on track.

Remembrance Sunday, which this year falls on 12th November, is a day for the nation to unite to remember and honour all those who have suffered or died in war. Please join us for a Family Remembrance Day service, 10:45am at St Mary's Church, Whixall.

Following the service a poppy wreath will be laid at the war memorial at Brownsbrook and refreshments served at Whixall Primary school where you will also have the opportunity to see some of the work about the First World War that one group of pupils at the school are doing and hear about the Parish Council's plans to get involved with centenary celebrations next year to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War.

NORTH SALOP WHEELERS COMMUNITY BUS

Go to www.northsalopwheelers.co.uk or ring 01948 880037 for more information.

North Salop Wheelers is a voluntary organisation supported by local fundraising and by donations from town and parish councils, including Whixall Parish Council. **We are always on the lookout for volunteer drivers so if you can spare just a few hours now and then you could help us to provide this vital service.**

CONTACT US...

Contact details for all your councillors can be found on the back of a copy of a 'Community News' or by visiting our website: www.whixallparish.org

Please feel free to contact our Clerk, Katie by email or phone with any parish related enquiries and she will be happy to help.

Tel: 01948 880851

Email: clerk.whixallpc@hotmail.co.uk

If you are interested in the wider community you can keep up to date with county wide issues by going to www.shropshire.gov.uk

Whixall is lucky to have two very proactive and supportive Shropshire Council members: Cllr Pauline Dee and Cllr Chris Mellings who are both tirelessly working on Whixall's behalf on many levels.

Shropshire's Economic Strategy was recently launched which focuses on economic growth in the county and whilst it may not seem to directly affect Whixall there are various proposals that will have a bearing on our neighbouring towns, Wem and Whitchurch.

OUR COMMUNITY

Whixall is lucky to have a well managed Social Centre. The hall has been recently re-decorated and is looking great. Its committee has organised a number of superb community events this year and one member is looking into the possibility of getting a defibrillator installed at the centre; so look out for further information on the Community Facebook Page about getting involved with that project.

Whixall also has a fantastic, community focussed, primary school which opens its doors to members of our community, on specific dates, for a two course lunch. *For more details contact Whixall Primary School on 01948 880330.*

There are various clubs and groups in the area such as Whixall Bowling Club, 'Whixall in Stitches' and a Parent and Toddler Group. Details of what is going on in Whixall, Tilstock, Edstaston and Coton can be found in the **Community News** monthly magazine. *To get your copy contact Madeline Harris on 01948 880494.*

It is hoped that all these groups and others can come together in May (date to be confirmed) at the **Annual Parish Meeting**, which, although it is led by the Parish Council, is **not** a council meeting, and celebrate what we have and bring any ideas to the table to support, protect and develop Whixall's community.

THE MARLOT

The Marlot has been mentioned in a previous issue of the newsletter. It is an area of common land of about 6 acres, situated alongside the canal at Roundthorn Bridge. Under the stewardship of the Parish Council, it is managed as a wildlife site and a volunteer force is required to maintain it as such.

In recent months, work has been done in readiness for short-term autumn grazing. It has also been necessary to deal with damaged trees and there is ongoing monitoring of the ponds, woods and meadows to keep an eye on the wildlife, some of which is quite rare.

In the summer, common spotted orchid appeared, white-legged damselflies visited and southern hawk dragonflies were present, along with numerous butterflies and birds.

Common land is available for everyone's enjoyment, but if you can also spare some time to assist with the maintenance work, then please do step forward to join the **Marlot Conservation Group**.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

With the nights getting darker it is important that we keep our homes, property and neighbourhood safe from crime and anti-social behaviour. Neighbourhood Watch is based around the idea of an active community working in partnership with the police and a shared value focussed on bringing local people together.

Neighbourhood Watch exists to:

- Prevent crime and the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Reassure local residents and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce the incidence of domestic fires and environmental damage to residential property.
- Encourage neighbourliness and community cohesion.
- Improve the quality of life for local residents and tenants.

It does this by being a community-based organisation which involves residents and tenants working together. Sharing information and working in local partnership with the police, local authority, fire and rescue service and other agencies to prevent crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and the risk of fire and environmental damage.

There are two Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Whixall. If you are interested in joining please contact the following scheme coordinators: Hollinwood, Sandy Bank, Stanley Green and Welsh End scheme – Graham Turnbull (01948 880856) or Waterloo area scheme - Mrs Rita Welch (01939 234243)

Whixall History Group, formed out of the Meres & Mosses initiative, still quietly exists as various individuals pursue their own particular interests.

The Group website, used to publicise work and findings:

<http://www.whixallhistory.co.uk/>

has gone quiet of late as we are migrating it to a new software platform hosted by the Whitchurch Heritage Centre; and are introducing a new structure for content. This all takes time but should go live again in the next couple of months.

If you have a particular project, photographs, stories or artifacts you would like to share please get in touch, email: whixallhistory@gmail.com

The History Group, in association with other partners, is submitting a bid for funding to undertake a feasibility study prior to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant application to put into place some additional protection and development at the Fenn's Old Works on the moss, which is a grade 2* listed site.

