

WHIXALL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

April 2013



WELCOME. Whixall Parish Council produces this short, bi-annual newsletter to keep you up to date with fundamental council and parish matters. It also endeavours to ensure that every household in the parish has contact details for their local councillors and their clerk should the need to contact them arise.

In this issue, our seventh newsletter, we will cover topics such as your council tax charges, the Parish Council's annual expenditure, the forthcoming elections and a new local landscape project. If there are any issues that you would like future newsletters to address then please feel free to contact the Clerk with your suggestion. (Contact details below).

Many thanks for taking the time to read this and for taking an interest in your community.

Your Councillors

Chairman

David Edgerton 01948 880271

Vice Chair

Sim Beer 01948 880656

David Astbury 01948 880414

Joan Demet 01948 880416

Dave Evans 01948 710396

Jill Jarrett 01948 880216

Jennifer Spenser 01948 880818

Clerk to Parish Council

Katie Hatton 01948 880851

clerk.whixallpc@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council website

www.whixallparishcouncil.org

Elections

2nd May 2013

Although the list opposite is a current list of your parish councillors; Local elections will be held in Shropshire on May 2nd for all parish, town and unitary (county) council seats and therefore this list is subject to possible change. Please see the Parish Council notice boards at the Social Centre or Moss Cottages for an updated list that will be displayed on May 7th

If you have any queries about who to get in touch with please contact the Clerk.

We very much regret to announce that we have recently received two resignations: Cllr D McNeish is relocating to Yorkshire and Cllr J Phillips' work commitments have meant that he has decided not to stand for re-election. The Parish Council would like to express their sincere thanks to these members for their contribution over the last year.

North Salop Wheelers

Community Bus Project

We want to make you aware that **ALL RESIDENTS OF WHIXALL, WHO ARE ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTER, ARE AUTOMATIC MEMBERS OF THE NSW GROUP.** The Parish Council pay a nominal membership fee of £15 per year on behalf of the community. This means that you can enjoy their transport services for a **very low cost.** Please visit their web site or drop them a line for more details.

www.northsalopwheelers.co.uk

Tel: 01948 880037 or Text: 07943275757

Email: js.harrison@btinternet.com

www.whixallparishcouncil.org

**Annual Companion
Dog Show
At Whixall Social Centre
On
Sunday 16th June 2013**

Chairman's Report

As always, the Senior Citizens' Christmas party was well attended; a big thank you to the children of Whixall School who sang so beautifully at the start of the evening.

Community Led Plan

I would like to thank the parishioners for responding to the Community Led Plan survey that was delivered to you with the last newsletter, towards the end of October. The steering group have informed me that they had a 25% response. The committee hope to produce the plan ready for launch in June.

Financial Report

April sees the end of the financial year 2012/13. And the Council's Annual Return will be submitted for scrutiny by auditors over the summer. A brief breakdown of expenditure for 2012/13 is as follows:

Staff costs	£2,245.14
Donations	£1,370.60
Grounds maint.	£1,135.11
Admin.	£946.53
Sen. Cit. party	£543.58
Subscriptions	£300.60
Insurance	£179.52
Training	£140.00

Our donations have been to North Salop Wheelers for

improving accessibility on one of their buses, to Whixall Primary School towards the cycle shelter and for signs at the picnic and play area, to St. Mary's church and Welsh End Chapel towards grounds maintenance and to the Royal British Legion for a wreath to lay at the cenotaph on Remembrance day.

Your council tax bill will have shown a small percentage rise in the amount collected from you in tax this year. The Parish Council requested a little bit more this year to hopefully protect from a potentially bigger increase in future.

Down to Earth has landed in Whixall!

Before Christmas a meeting was held in the social centre where Luke Neal, with the help of tasty mince pies and mulled wine, invited locals to get involved with an exciting landscape project called 'Down to Earth'.

Luke asked people to put forward names of local people who could form a steering group to help decide what aspects of the landscape were important to the people of Whixall and Bettisfield. The Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme will then be able to fund a project based around that landscape feature.

The steering group, made up of local residents, volunteers, landowners and councillors had its first meeting at the beginning of March. Luke Neal plans to run some fact finding events open to all to help discover the local landscape in the Spring.

There will also be many other opportunities to get involved with wildlife recording, from plants to water voles. Luke also hopes other local groups will be able to take advantage of the Community grant on offer.

If you have an interest in your local landscape or want to find out more then get in touch with Luke Neal from Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Community Officer on the Meres and Mosses project.

**The first Spring 'Down To Earth' event
has been decided already!**

WHIXALL – THE WAY WE WERE

Local History of People, Peat Cutting,
Farming, Market Gardening,
Waterways, Flora and Fauna

Your Whixall needs YOU!

We will be gathering and displaying as much of the recorded history of Whixall and around as we can get our hands on, but that is not all...

Do you have any old photos or stories to tell about life in Whixall in times gone by? Have your parents or grandparents told you any stories?

We want to record these stories, scan the photos and create a resource for the future.

Please come to Whixall Social Centre on Saturday 11th May any time between 10am and 4pm to enjoy a cuppa and cake with like minded people and to share your memories. Bring your photos for us to scan and share, bring forgotten memorabilia, write down your memories or have an interview to record them.

We would like to make this a really enjoyable fact finding day.

Any queries to Luke Neal – see left for contact details.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust- Tel: 01743 284275

LukeN@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

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