

DUCKPADDLE NEWS

Whetstone Parish Council

www.whetstonepc.org.uk

CHRISTMAS 2014

Village Update



This year has brought about many changes which are now beginning to reshape the village.

Work on the 29 dwellings on the Davidson development is well underway and the first residents have now moved in.

The road bridge over the brook into the Cambridge Road development opposite the old GEC site is nearing completion and work has started on the Linden Homes development of 84 dwellings.

Work has now also started on the David Wilson Homes Springwell Lane development of 150 dwellings, with the infrastructure works being constructed ahead of building.

The planning application to build a new retail shop with flats above on the corner of Cambridge Road and Warwick Road was recently approved by BDC.

A planning application has been submitted by Strata Homes to build 102 dwellings on the old GEC site where the derelict offices currently sit opposite the Whetstone Youth Club on Warwick Road. Outline planning permission for this site was approved previously.

Work is well under way on the old Co-operative shop on High Street to offer retail premises below and offices above, with the inclusion of a car park at the rear accessed via a one way system off High Street and exiting onto Wale Road above the Park Vets.

The Baptist Church are moving ahead with their planned new build on Dog & Gun Lane.

Finally the Community Orchard and Spinney off Back Lane continues to establish itself and it is hoped that next year seating, picnic tables, signage and litter and dog bins will all be added to allow you all to fully enjoy its peaceful surroundings.

On behalf of all of your Councillors and Staff at Whetstone Parish Council, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.



Carols Around The Tree

Monday 1st December 2014

The Co-operative Food,
Dog & Gun Lane, Whetstone
Refreshments from 6.30 pm

Christmas Tree lights switch on by LCFC legend Muzzy Izzet

Carol Service begins at 7 pm

A partnership between Churches Together in Whetstone, Whetstone Parish Council, Badgerbrook and St. Peter's Schools and The Co-operative Food





Badgerbrook Primary School

We are very proud to announce that Badgerbrook has been awarded the International School Award 2014. This award is an internationally recognised accreditation awarded to schools which forge links with partner schools overseas and add an international dimension to the curriculum. Pupils have enjoyed working with schools in India and Spain exchanging work on the environment and sharing learnings about their cultures. Work included class assemblies on the World, projects on the Caribbean, Mexico, African Animals and the Rainforest. Pupils and staff, particularly Mrs Newcombe who co-ordinated the application, have worked hard to secure this achievement which represents our wider curriculum programme and we are very

proud to receive it. Pupils and parents have also been supporting The Rotary Shoebox Appeal. Our window sills are adorned with brightly coloured boxes filled with donations to assist disadvantaged families across the world.

Our Foundation and Year 1 pupils recently took part in a Rangoli workshop where they were invited to look more closely at symmetrical shapes and be creative themselves.



Pupils said "We designed our own patterns using their special powders" "We learnt all about Rangoli Art and it was brilliant".

As usual for this time of year we're looking forward to a busy diary around Christmas time. We have our Friends of Badgerbrook Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December 2014, 2 - 4pm. This year we hope to raise money to purchase additional IT equipment for use throughout the school. Pupils will be putting on Christmas Performances; we have Lunches, Parties, Cake Sales, Carol Singing, Non-Uniform Days and a Family Disco. We hope everyone enjoys this festive time of year and wish everyone a very Happy New Year.



St Peter's Church of England (Aided) Primary School

AMAZING WEATHER AND TIME AT BRANCASTER

During the first week of October the summer was definitely not over. Pupils from St Peter's Primary School enjoyed amazing sunshine in the National Trust Norfolk coastline which is a gorgeous area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Children through their activities achieved their National Trust Young Ranger Acorn Award which included lots of team work and coastal learning.

What a great experience for us all and wonderful to see the children caring for each other as some were away for the first time. Well done to those Year 5 & 6 children we are proud of you.



CHINA

The children that did not go on the residential trip this year enjoyed a great 'China' inspired week of activities. The children have learnt lots of facts about this amazing country. They made paper kites; practised calligraphy; made Peking Opera masks; learnt about the Chinese New Year story; made Xiangzi shuttlecocks and took part in an Xiangzi tournament; tried their hand at origami; made Willow Pattern inspired paper plates; ate fortune cookies and much much more!

FOOD FOR LIFE PARTNERSHIP

This year sees a new initiative at St Peter's as we have decided to take part in the Food for Life Partnership Programme (FFLP). This programme aims to help transform food culture in school by building on our work with the Healthy Schools initiative. Its focus is to make healthy, tasty and nutritious meals the norm for all to enjoy, reconnecting people with where food comes from, teaching the children how it's grown and cooked and enhance understanding of the importance of using well-sourced ingredients. By the end of the year we hope all our hard work will result in gaining a bronze award for our participation!

The programme focuses on transforming food culture in school, improving food education (including cooking and growing activities) the quality of food and working with the community to share our learning.

It's the Deputy Clerk's Christmas Quiz

1. Who was the first British monarch to broadcast a Christmas message to the nation?
2. Who banned Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660?
3. What spirit goes into making a 'snowball' cocktail?
4. What is the popular name for little baked sausages wrapped in rashers of streaky bacon?
5. Which of the Wise Men gave the gift of gold to baby Jesus?
6. What did Frosty the Snowman have for a nose?
7. What is the name of the traditional German Cake eaten at Christmas?
8. Which token vegetable is often included in the ingredients of a Christmas pudding?
9. What is the chemical formula of snow?
10. What was the cyclone named that hit Darwin, Australia, in Christmas 1974?
11. What was Queen's 1984 Christmas single called?
12. What is the title of biggest selling Christmas single, around the world?
13. In the song The Twelve Days of Christmas, how many pipers are there?
14. At which of her homes does the Queen traditionally spend Christmas?
15. Bethlehem is a tiny village in which country?
16. If you were born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign?
17. Which English author wrote the book 'A Christmas Carol'?
18. In the Christmas song 'Jingle Bells', how many horses pulled the sleigh?
19. Who helps Santa Claus to make toys for Christmas?
20. What did Mary wrap the baby Jesus in?
21. How many sides does a snowflake have?
22. Why is the day after Christmas Day called Boxing Day?
23. Who composed the music for the festive season ballet 'The Nutcracker'?
24. What significance is holly in celebrating Christmas?
25. What country did poinsettias originally come from?
26. The following all mean 'Merry Christmas' in which language?
 - a. Hyvaa joulua
 - b. sung tan chuk ha
 - c. froehliche weihnachten
 - d. nollaig shona dhuit
 - e. mele kalikimaka
 - f. god jul
 - g. boas festas
 - h. kala christouyenna



How did you do Find the answers on the next page

Santa's coming to Whetstone.

Mon 15th Dec Vicarage Lane, Spinney Halt
Tue 16th Dec Attfield Drive, Trinity & College Road.
Wed 17th Dec Franklin Way, Coales Avenue, Dog & Gun new estate
Mon 22nd Dec Burnham Drive.
Tue 23rd Dec Springwell Lane.



Christmas Ideas

Santa's Missing Sleigh Bell

This is sure to make the kids' eyes as wide as their smiles. Simply buy a sleigh bell, then attach it to a piece of ribbon. On Christmas Eve, put it in the garden somewhere visible from inside the house. In the morning, 'spot' the bell and point it out to your little one. They'll feel really special to find a bell from Father Christmas's very own sleigh.



Memory Jar

What could be more comforting at the end of a long and difficult day than a jar full of memories from someone you love? Write memories, stick photos or draw pictures of the person the gift is for on business card-sized pieces of card and pop them in a jar.

Plant pot surprise

Choose a recipe or two which call for herbs. Then buy the seeds and a plant pot from a garden centre. Decorate the plant pot and attach the recipe, but don't say what the herb is (eg, 'recipe for garlic and ---- foccacia bread').

Plant the seeds in the pot and tell the recipient they'll have to wait for it to grow to find out what they can use the recipe for.

Alternatively, you could do the same with flowers, but leave a cryptic clue instead of a recipe and see if they can guess what it is (eg, bovine error = cowslip; please remember me = forget-me-not, etc).



Quiz answers

1. George V in 1952. **2.** Oliver Cromwell. **3.** Advocaat. **4.** Pigs in Blankets. **5.** Melchoir **6.** Button. **7.** Stollen
8. Carrot. **9.** H2O. **10.** Tracey. **11.** Thank God it's Christmas. **12.** White Christmas. **13.** Eleven **14.** Sandringham.
15. Wales. **16.** Capricorn. **17.** Charles Dickens. **18.** One. **19.** Christmas Elves. **20.** Swaddling clothes. **21.** Six.
22. After the custom of giving Christmas boxes/tips to workmen-tradesmen. **23.** Tchaikovsky. **24.** The early church banned mistletoe so holly was substituted. **25.** Mexico. **26.** a) Finnish b) Korean c) German d) Irish
e) Hawaiian f) Norwegian g) Portugese h) Greek.

JUST A MINUTE

YOUR Parish Council usually meets every third Thursday of the month, 7.30pm at the Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone. The agenda for the meeting is posted on the Parish Notice Boards. Parishioners are more than welcome to attend, whether you have a specific interest in an item on the agenda, or if you just wish to see Council in operation. Below are several extracts of general items of interest.

- ◆ Fly tipping is on the increase. The Clerk explained that the Blaby District Council (BDC) website had useful information and a list of contact numbers on their website.
- ◆ The suggestion of a Doctors surgery had been raised, a discussion took place and the Clerk suggested that a questionnaire in the form of a mini village appraisal should be included in the next Duckpaddle News to gauge what facilities parishioners wanted.
- ◆ Speeding was still an issue in the village; members discussed the incidents of reckless and mindless driving in the village. The Clerk was still waiting to share the data off the existing speed cameras with the Police.
- ◆ The Clerk had spoken to BDC regarding the cracked wall on the old Electroform wall and also the state of the Wheatsheaf Public House. Members asked the Clerk to invite a Senior Manager from BDC to attend the next meeting of Council to discuss action for enforcement.
- ◆ The external auditors report had been received, this was a clean audit and thanks were given by members.
- ◆ The Clerk reported that the repainting of the Cemetery railings was now nearing completion and looked very smart.
- ◆ The Clerk reported that he had attended a final meeting with Bloor Homes regarding the Shelduck open space and bund. It was now cleaned up and the Clerk had asked that the legal documentation be prepared so that the Parish Council could undertake the formal adoption of the area on behalf of the parishioners.
- ◆ An update was given by the Clerk on the Davidsons development on Dog and Gun Lane, this was progressing well and the first residents had moved in.

**The next four meetings of Council take place on 18th December, 22nd January, 19th February and 19th March . e-mail: office@whetstonepc.org.uk
Tel: Leicester (0116) 2751987—Fax: Leicester (0116) 2753395**



BLABY & WHETSTONE YOUTH CLUB (THE BOYS CLUB)

THE BUILDING WORKS ARE NOW ALL COMPLETED.

COME AND HAVE A LOOK ROUND THE NEW SITE.

YOUTH AREA / FUNCTION ROOM / MEETING ROOM.

OPEN EVENING THURSDAY 4TH DEC 6PM TO 8PM

Everyone welcome, ideal venue for parties.

Further info email dave@theactivitycentre.org.uk

Edward Wright Room - Whetstone Parish Council

Looking for a venue to hold a business meeting/conference/children's party/activity class or a family/friends celebration in quiet pleasant surroundings with newly refitted kitchen facilities, disabled access and toilets, car parking for up to 25 cars all inclusive for £12 per hour, plus projector/computer links available at a small extra cost. We have recently refurbished the small front office and this is also available to hire.

Please note we now also have availability on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings

Tel: 0116 275 1987— Email:office@whetstonepc.org.uk

STOP PRESS

Due to a cancellation the Room is now available all day Tuesday between 9 - 5

Community safety

These days, there are a number of ways in which you can contact or obtain information from the Police. If you wish to telephone them there are two national numbers you can use.

Ringling **999** has always been, and still is, the number to ring in an emergency. This would include

- ◆ When a crime is in progress
- ◆ When a suspect is nearby
- ◆ When there is a danger to life
- ◆ When violence is being threatened.

Another number you can ring is **101**. This is a new national number to contact the police in a non emergency situation. You can use this to

- ◆ Report crimes
- ◆ Report minor traffic collisions or incidents
- ◆ General Enquiries

If you use this number, the system will determine your location and tell you that you are being connected to the police for that area.

The Leicestershire Police web site at www.leicspolice.uk has helpful information about the force in general and your particular area. You can use it to find out about such things as

- ◆ The officers in your area
- ◆ Crime in your area
- ◆ Advice and information.

You can also use twitter or face book to get similar information.

WHETSTONE CRIME FIGURES

Local crime figures are now available on the national Police website: www.police.uk. This website provides you with helpful information about crime and policing in your area. Enter your postcode, town, village or street into the search box, and get instant access to street-level crime maps and data, as well as details of your local Policing team and beat meetings

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