



Putting Christ back into Christmas

A man went round to the tradesman's entrance of a big house and asked if they had any odd jobs that he could do. After a moments thought the owner said that he would pay him £25 pounds to go round to the front of the house and paint the porch. After only a couple of hours the man came back with the pot of white paint in his hand and declared that he had finished the job. 'That was very quick!' said the owner. 'Yes, well it's not all that big – and, by the way, it's a Mercedes, not a Porsche!'

This story speaks about people trying to communicate with each other but missing the point, getting things wrong in a BIG way! As we approach Christmas I feel that something of this is true for many people, they miss the real point about Christmas. If truth be told many people today would like to celebrate Christmas without Jesus being part of it at all. Some say we should not put his name or depictions of his birth on cards. Some even suggest that we should re-name the celebration so as not to cause offence, but offence to whom?

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Without Christ there is no Christmas. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of the most important man to have ever been born. CS Lewis said that at Christmas we remember **"the central event in the history of the earth - the very thing the whole story has been about"**.

Yet this Christmas as the world prepares to celebrate the birth of Jesus many people will miss the point of his birthday altogether. They will not bother to ask who he was or why he came. They will not show any interest in why the world still celebrates his birth over 2000 years later. They will miss the message of God's love for you and me, that Jesus came to bring. If you like they will paint the Porsche rather than painting the porch! With all its magic, stress, spending, glitter, trimmings and hype many will miss the real reason for the celebration. That; **"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life."** (John 3v16)

Jesus came to this earth to communicate a message to us. A message of vital importance to all humanity. A message that God could not trust anyone else to bring but his Son. A message of such importance that he could not risk it being mis-communicated, that he could not risk it being misunderstood or missed. And this is that simple message. God loves us and wants us to know him and his love in our lives. This gift of love from God in Christ came to us at a great cost. It cost God the life of his son to get his message of love through to us. It does not seem like much when I write it and yet it is the single most important message that this world has ever received.

So many people miss the real meaning of Christmas and dismiss it as a fairy tale. But there is real power behind the Christmas story. How it must sadden Jesus that he is often forgotten at his own birthday celebrations!

This Christmas the churches in the village would like to invite you to join with us at any or all of the listed events as we celebrate the birth of the most important person ever born, Jesus Christ. You are guaranteed a warm welcome as together we make sure we put Christ back into Christmas!

On behalf of all the churches in the village we pray that you will know God's richest blessing and peace this Christmas and New Year.

Rev Mark Clay
Churches Together in Whetstone

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES



URC

- December**
 Sunday 16th Christmas Carols by Candlelight, 6pm
 Sunday 23rd Christmas Family Nativity, 10am
 Tuesday 25th Christmas Day Family Service, 10am

WBC

- December**
 Sunday 9th Christmas Family Service with the children taking part, 10.45am
 'Contemporary Christmas Praise Service', 6.15pm
 Monday 10th Carol Singing Round the Christmas Tree at the Co-op, 7pm
 Saturday 15th Carols by Candlelight, 7pm
 Sunday 16th Carols by Candlelight, 6.15pm
 Monday 24th Christmas Eve Candlelit Service, 11.30pm
 Tuesday 25th Christmas Day Family Service, 10am

St. Peter's

- December**
 Sunday 16th Christingle Service, 4pm
 Sunday 23rd Nine Lessons and Carols, 6pm
 Monday 24th Crib Service, 4pm
 Midnight Holy Communion, 11.30pm
 Tuesday 25th Holy Communion Service Christmas day, 10am

CAROL SINGING AND SWITCHING ON THE LIGHTS OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

(supplied by Whetstone Parish Council)

MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER 7 PM

CO-OP STORE, DOG AND GUN LANE

Carol singing led by

Churches Together in Whetstone

CL & CGB Band; children from

St Peter's and Badgerbrook schools.

Refreshments afterwards

supplied by the Co-op

Switching on Tree lights by

Deputy Chairman of Whetstone Parish Council

Mike Bounds



Badgerbrook Primary School

It is hard to believe that Christmas will soon be upon us. There are so many things going on that the weeks race by! Spanish lessons for children, parents and staff are going well and our new Street Dance and Chess lessons for Key Stage 2 pupils are proving to be very popular. We continue to offer a wide range of sports activities as well as the school choir and a newly formed school band. The new Breakfast Club and the After School Club are well supported. Many children are joining in the Walk on Wednesday's scheme to collect badges and bringing fruit for their snack on Fruity Fridays to win stickers and awards.

A number of children have represented the school at outside activities this term. Members of the school choir sang at the annual Pet Service at St Andrews Church, Jarrom Street on Sunday 7th October. This is the 14th year that our school has participated in this event and our presence is always greatly appreciated. For the third year running we sent a group of children to a Curling competition at Loughborough. This time we were able to send two teams. The following children took part: George Collins, Brody Hale, Adam Honeyman, Callum Hearne, Rebecca Lyne, Thomas Munsey, Jessica Heanaghan, Jack Walker. Both teams performed very well and one of them reached the finals against Year 9 pupils. 75 children from Badgerbrook participated in *The Big Wild Read*, organised by the local library service.

The members of Environment Club have also been busy planting cabbage and broccoli as well as some spring bulbs. This group has decided to establish a composting club in order to produce their own 'Badgerbrook' compost for use in the Jubilee Garden. They will be called *The little rotters!* They are going to collect fruit waste on *Fruity Fridays* and mix this with paper from the office and teabags from the staffroom. Hopefully, they will be producing compost ready to plant vegetables again in the spring. The choir has once again been invited by Whetstone Parish Council to join the local community for an evening of carols and has also been asked to sing at the RSPCA centre. We are grateful to staff, pupils and their parents who generously give their time to represent the school on these occasions.

We have entertained a number of visitors in school this term. On a chilly November morning, two Romans arrived in the car park, complete with numerous artefacts and activities to share with Year 4. The children were able to reinforce their learning and increase their knowledge about life two thousand years ago. They thoroughly enjoyed their day. As part of their Science and Design and Technology work, Year 5 had a visit from Warburtons Bakery to demonstrate how to make bread. By the end of a very long day with delicious smells wafting through the school, all of the children had made their own loaf to take home.

We have also been busy supporting charity events. Families filled shoe boxes with gifts for Christmas and we were able to send over 169 boxes to Eastern Europe. Thanks to the hard work of the children and staff, we raised more than ever this year for Children in Need. Year 5 children sold cakes, Year 6 children sold books and games and a Year 6 pupil, Gemma Harper, sold some badges she had made at home. Together with 50p from children and £1 from staff for wearing their favourite clothes, we raised over £400.

We now have a new school prospectus. Copies are available from the school office on request. Please can we remind all parents of children born between 1st September 2003 and 31st August 2004 to let us know if you will be requesting a place at Badgerbrook next year so that we can make sure you receive an application form.

De-Silting Brook

The pictures on the left, below, were kindly supplied by ex Parish Councillor, John Ball. John took the photographs around the late 70's/early 80's when he then lived on Bridge Way.

The first shows the brook as it was looking down towards the bridge at the bottom of Brook Street (notice the bus stop on the left hand side). The second, looking in the opposite direction, shows workmen de-silting the Brook afterwards.

Fast forward 20 odd years and the Brook is due a make over again. Currently the Environment Agency are de-silting the Brook.. The area has been taped off and closed whilst the dredging takes place, from the bottom end to round on 'The Dicken'. A ramp has been cut into the banks at the bottom of Brook Street and on 'The Dicken' to allow machine access into the Brook, and then when the work completed, restored and reseeded.



De-Silt of Brook
By Environment Agency
November 2007



SANTA'S CHRISTMAS SLEDGE ROUTE December 2007

11th Springwell Ln Area - 12th Burnham Dr Area

17th Bridgeway/Attfield Dr - 19th Vicarage Ln/Spinney Halt

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning applications are available for viewing on the Parish Council Website
WWW.WHETSTONEPC.ORG.UK

Visit our Web Site
www.whetstonepc.org.uk

We also hold copies of all Whetstone Planning Applications which we discuss at our Planning Committee's, held 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month. Please contact the office prior to wishing to inspect these, as a member of the staff has to be available during inspection. Telephone: 0116 2751987
E.mail: whetstonepc@whetstone.org.uk



JUST A MINUTE

YOUR Parish Council 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 one week before. Parishioners are more than welcome to attend, whether you have a specific interest in an item on the agendas, or if you just wish to see Council in operation. Below are several extracts of general items of interest from the minutes of the last three meetings.

September

- Broken fencing on Smack Alley— Low branches on trees, junction Attfield Drive/High Street—Delays in the Traffic Calming measures, Dog & Gun Lane—Possibility of a Flagpole in the Village, were items of concern to parishioners. Clerk to take appropriate action.
- Mr. James Gamble—Director of Community Environmental Action Projects (CEAP) - gave an informative presentation regarding his organisation and how they might be able to assist with projects within the village.
- District Councillor, John Kenney, updated council on the work of BDC scrutiny committee's work regarding alcohol licensing work in the district. District Councillor, Karl Coles, updated council on his work as BDC Youth Champion.
- Clerk reported - Cemetery resurfacing complete.— Quote obtained for the removal of the large poplar tree at the rear of the depot, work to be done late October. - Letter from solicitors confirming lease of land on Trinity Park for play equipment would be on a 15 year term—After obtaining quotations it was agreed to schedule the War Memorial cleaning work for early November.—Receipt of letter from Samantha Day (BDC Youth Worker) on the Summers Activities using the 637 Youth Bus.
- Discussion regarding the financial implications of funding a fulltime PCSO and an Alcohol Street Ban for Whetstone. Agreed a separate meeting on the subject in October.
- An invitation from Blaby Parish Council to attend a meeting on 21/11/07 regarding the re-opening of Blaby Railway Station.

October

- Cut backs to the 45 bus service—Messy footpath, Oliver Park—Poor grass cutting Trinity Park, were items of concern to parishioners. Clerk to take appropriate action.
- County Councillor, David Jennings, reported that the search for suitable sites for the two county incinerators were continuing, but confirmed Whetstone was not one of the sites being considered. District Councillor, John Kenney, invited all members to a scrutiny meeting on 13th November where underage drinking was to be discussed. District Councillor, Karl Coles, informed the meeting of specific ASB incidents within the village that had been discussed at the BDC JAG meeting.
- Clerk and Ground staff supervisor had met with the Environment Agency regarding de-silting of the Brook.
- BDC confirmed that the new De Montfort Housing Association properties being built off High Street would be known as Pullen Court.

October (Special Meeting)

Specifically to discuss provision of PCSO and Alcohol Street Ban for Whetstone. Resolved - write to appropriate authorities to seek a 24 hour, 7 day a week ban on the consumption of alcohol in the streets and public open spaces in Blaby District. Resolved—A letter, to be sent to appropriate bodies, MP, County, District, Chief Constable and Chair of Police Authority asking for a fulltime Police Constable to be allocated to Whetstone.

November

- Speed humps, Dog & Gun Lane causing confusion—Non removal of old street lamps, Cambridge Rd.—Glass on junction Trinity/Enderby Rd.—Damaged fence, Smack Alley, were items of concern to parishioners. Clerk to take appropriate action.
- District Councillor, John Kenney, reported on the scrutiny committee meeting regarding street alcohol sales. A letter from District Councillor, Karl Coles, was circulated regarding his work as BDC Youth Champion.
- Agreed a full discussion required on the way forward to provide a sports pavilion on the Warwick Rd. Recreation Ground. To be added to the January agenda.

The next four meetings of Council take place on Thursday 20th December 2007, 17th January, 21st February 2007 and 20th March 2008

E-mail: WhetstonePC@whetstone.org.uk Tel: Leicester (0116) 2751987 Fax: Leicester (0116) 2753395

The office is open Monday to Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am-1pm (an answer machine is in operation at all other times)

YOUR ELECTED DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor	John Kenney	100 Spinney Halt, Whetstone	2864508 Whetstone North
District Councillor	Alan Tanner	White Barn Farm, Cosby	2841596 Whetstone South
District Councillor	Karl Coles	96 Enderby Road, Whetstone	2774138 Whetstone North
County Councillor	David Jennings	122 Station Road, Countesthorpe	2774263

WHETSTONE YOUTH COUNCIL

For all you young people- 13 to 18 years old - who wish to make your voices heard

If you are interested, wish to know more, please contact by: E.Mail: youthcouncil@whetstone.org.uk or ring John on 2864508, or check-out the website www.whetstone.org.uk



WAR MEMORIAL

From the pictures on the left to the picture on the right, it is hard to imagine that this is the same War Memorial. Over the last three years trees and shrubs, which almost swallowed the Memorial, have been replaced by gravel and pots containing plants to give a more open and accessible feel.

With monies accrued in the 2007/08 budget, early November this year, in time for remembrance Sunday, the Memorial was cleaned and the lettering repainted.

It is intended in the new year to re-lay the front path to make it more Wheelchair friendly.



Village Sign

Monies are to be accrued in the 2008/09 budget for a 'Village Sign'. Any Parishioner with thoughts/ideas or willing to be part of the process please contact the Parish Council.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ALWAYS WELCOMED



Beat Officer Pc Nick Ward



CRIME AND DISORDER



CSO Teresa Frain



Beat Officer Pc Nick Taylor



'BEAT WALKING'

Pc Nick Ward

I would like to start this article by saying a very big thanks to everyone involved in this years bonfire night & Halloween celebrations within Whetstone.

Firstly because there was a noticeable reduction in incidents of egg throwing etc. which I feel sure is accredited to shop keepers & parents in the area assisting the Police in restricting access to such missiles. Secondly because yet again the 'Vipers' rugby club produced a spectacular firework display which was well attended & organised. With the exception of a few irresponsible people, incidents of fireworks being thrown in the street were confined to isolated locations within the village. Fortunately there appear to have been no casualties reported from this type of behaviour, although this may have been as much down to luck than judgement. As a result of the continued presence of teenagers regularly behaving anti socially throughout the week, PC Taylor & I have been spending much of our time walking the streets of Whetstone at night. This appears to have had some success with arrests having been made, offenders being put through the judicial system & several drunken persons being taken home to parents. As Blaby Police Station has a new inspector in the form of Inspector Mark Chell, who himself assisted in the implementation of Neighbourhood Policing within Leicestershire Constabulary, it is anticipated that this & other measures will remain in place to combat this unacceptable behaviour.

On a separate note, it has been identified that there have been quite a few instances of graffiti in the area. Much of this has involved the use of the same graffiti 'tag' sprayed in black. Following our consultation with officers at a neighbouring Police Station, the offender has been identified & plans for his arrest are imminent.

I'm sure there are some people out there that are fed up with the incessant whine of moped engines being ridden at full throttle, especially when this is often in an irresponsible manner. Already we have had some success dealing with such offenders & at least one unregistered moped has been seized & crushed. Whilst I accept & understand that the majority of moped riders are responsible, this should be taken as a warning to those that don't buck their ideas up or suffer the consequences. I would actively encourage anyone witnessing irresponsible behaviour such as driving along the pavements or careless inconsiderate driving, to pass on any vehicle details to the Police so that such action can be taken.

Finally I would like to pass on my congratulations to the reception year of Badgerbrook Primary School who as part of my community talk, were set a competition to draw a picture of 'someone that helps us'. There were many excellent entries with everyone getting a prize, but ultimately two first prizes were awarded to Jonathan Tao & Olivia Merricks. Again well done to everyone involved & I look forward to giving talks at the school in the future.

And remember.....If the next time you open a tin of beans if it has Kawasaki stamped on it somewhere, you know where it's come from.

PC Ward, PC Taylor and CSO Teresa Frain are contactable on 0116 2485675 collar number 1716, 0845 and 6111 respectively.

General switchboard to report non emergency 222222 id. No. 1716, 0845 and 6111 respectively Email address for Blaby Local Policing Unit blaby.lpu@leicestershire.pnn.co.uk

For independent confidential advice on alcohol abuse. : Drink Line 0800 917 8282

Enquires about parking enforcement in Blaby District should be directed to John Wells or David Knight at Blaby District Council tele: 0116 272 7545

Do you live in the District of Blaby?
Are you a victim of Anti-Social Behaviour?
 For free and confidential advice call the Community Safety Team on:
 **0116 272 7677**

If you have information about any crime, phone

0800 555 111
 ■ Your call is free
 ■ You are not asked for your name
 ■ You may receive a reward

Sat Nav Cloths—Combat Car Crime

Police in South Leicestershire are helping motorists keep their Sat Navs secure by giving out free microfibre cloths to clean off tell-tale marks.

The cloths will be available at the front enquiry offices of Blaby, Wigston, Hinckley and Market Harborough police stations.

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