

DUCKPADDLE NEWS

DECEMBER 2012



Whetstone
Parish
Council

Whetstone Baptist Church

Sunday 9th	10.45 Christmas Family Service
Saturday 15th	19.00 Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 16th	18.15 Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	10.30 Messy Church for children with their parents
	23.30 Midnight Candlelit Communion
Christmas Day	10.00 Christmas Family Service

United Reformed Church

Sunday 2nd	11.00 Family Service and Lunch
Sunday 9th	10.00 Worship Service
Sunday 16th	10.00 Worship Service
Sunday 23rd	10.00 Worship Service with Communion
	16.00 Carol Service
Christmas Day	10.00 Worship Service

St Peters Church

Sunday 16th	16.00 Christingle
Sunday 23rd	16.00 Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight
Christmas Eve	16.00 Crib Service
	22.00 First Eucharist of Christmas
Christmas Day	10.00 Family Eucharist

We are in the season of peace and goodwill, so we see relatives that only come at Christmas, we eat too many Brussel sprouts which we avoid all year and often attempt to be pleased with the present that wasn't what we had been asking for all year!

We then consume until January arrives, the credit card statement looms and we look back wondering what the season was all about and whether it was worth all the expense. Even if we think this year will be different, we tend to be creatures of habit, so the next few weeks will be similar to last year, even the year before as we choose to repeat our pattern and try and make it the best we can for ourselves and others.

Its very easy to miss the reason for the season, sorry but there aren't any new words to describe the donkey ride to Bethlehem, the star over the Stable, the visits of the Shepherds and the Wiseman. Even Herod the king, the baddie, doesn't manage to kill the new born baby.

Its about reminding ourselves that God – baby was born. Different publicity this year which reminds us that he cries, he wees, he saves the World. Reality has reached the Christmas story. Is it so shocking that our traditional picture of the sanitised stable has been challenged?

Don't want to spoil the detail of the story, or the visit to the various nativity plays that are performed angelically or not, at this time of year. The tea towelled head-dresses, the dressing gowned shepherds, the angels in their finery with their haloes precariously balanced.

Its all part of the season, hearing the script read from the Bible accounts, from St Matthew or St Luke, singing the traditional carols, going to church on Christmas Eve or on the day of His Birthday the 25th.

This is a real story about the real God who had real impact on the world then and as we listen to it again, will have an impact on our lives in our present situation.

On behalf of the local Ministers,
I pray that the God who came as a baby, grew up to be the saviour of the world will grant you joy, peace and love this Christmas and New Year.

Rev Frances Ballantyne URC minister.



A partnership between Churches Together in Whetstone, Whetstone Parish Council, The Co-op Whetstone, Badgerbrook School & St. Peter's C Of E School.

Santa arrives at the Co - Op Whetstone.

Santa arrives at the Co – Op on Saturday 15th December at 11.00 am. Please come along and visit with him in his Grotto.





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

St Peter's C of E (A) Primary School Whetstone

Does your child reach the age of 5 years between September 1st 2013 and August 31st 2014? If your answer is 'yes' you need to apply for a place at your chosen school by January 15th 2013. We would love it if that chosen school is St Peter's; we are a friendly, caring village school with a strong Christian ethos. Recent comments from parents:

"Being a C of E school gives the children (and parents!) a solid foundation from which to grow;" "Teaching children to care for others and their environment is the meaning of life and if children can grow to believe providing service to others is paramount to a happy and fulfilled life then they have had the best start possible" St Peter's is very community focused and inclusive".

Not only are our academic results good but we also offer children a wide range of enrichment activities. To look around and make an informed decision, please make an appointment by telephoning the school office on 0116 2775750. We look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Following are reports from recent activities with the Key Stage 1 children:

BIG BREAKFAST

Infant children at St Peter's had a brilliant start to the new school year with their 'Big Breakfast' topic. They learnt all about the importance of a healthy breakfast to start the day. The children were involved in 'taste challenges' – trying to identify different cereals and finding out about where their cereal comes from. They also learnt a great deal about the milk they have on their cereal. Thanks to the handy work skills of year 2 teacher, Mr Smith, the children all had a go at milking St Peter's very own cow! They discovered how hard it is to milk a cow by hand and now realise why farmers nowadays use milking machinery! The children were also keen to continue their learning at home where they completed different homework challenges, from designing their own brand new cereals and cereal boxes, to researching what different countries around the world eat for breakfast. Alongside their 'Big Breakfast' topic work the children read stories about farms and farm animals and also enjoyed a special story telling project based on 'The Little Red Hen' – and of course the smell of freshly baked bread quickly filled the school! In the last week of the half-term the children and staff enjoyed a visit a cereal and dairy farm which furthered their learning.



The Big Drip!

Quantum Theatre visited Key Stage 1 children this week, with their production 'The Big Drip'. The all-singing, all-dancing performance told the story of detective T. Copper and his assistant who needed the children's help and knowledge of materials to help solve the crime – a theft of special water from the 'Sparkle Lemonade Factory'! The production kept the children enthralled for an hour whilst reinforcing their learning about materials and their properties. The performance involved lots of audience participation; from joining in with actions for solids, liquids and gases to 'booing' the baddies. The children were very keen to volunteer for special roles and Molly became an apprentice scientist, dressed in a lab coat and goggles, to help out with an experiment!



Badgerbrook Primary School

Following a successful start to the Autumn term as pupils moved in to new classes with their respective teachers, the second half of term is already proving to be a busy one.

Our September 2012 new starters have settled in really well this year, the classrooms are such a hive of industry and we are all excited to notice the nativity costumes out and about, ready for rehearsals.

To date the staff, parents and pupils at Badgerbrook Primary School have enjoyed events such as the annual pet service where our school choir met a congregation of animals and owners and ALL join together for a sing along. This is an annual event and it is credit to the excellent vocal skills, enthusiasm and behaviour of our pupils and the organisation and commitment of our teacher Mrs White that we are invited back each year to attend this event.

Our school council held their first meeting of the year and we look forward to discovering their views and the projects they'll be working on.

Pupils at the school raised £157.00 for the RSPCA and were delighted when rescue dog Ozzie and his owner Mr Sellers came in to collect the cheque in person.

The number of children enjoying our healthy school lunches continues to rise as our on-site kitchen and Chef Jeanette flourish, and with the winter weather looking to be firmly now in place we anticipate a further rise in numbers. Over three quarters of all children in the school were able to celebrate bonfire night with a promotional 'Banger' and we are all looking forward to the next event, our 'Christmas Lunch.'

As we move on through the remainder of term we have exciting events planned including a visit from the Romans, a school trip for year 5's to Holdenby Hall, the School Christmas Fayre on the 1st of December and Carol singing around the tree at the local Co-op, not to mention numerous Christmas parties, productions and nativities.

If your child will be four years old before 1st September 2013 and you are interested in a place at Badgerbrook Primary School, the closing date for applications is January 15th 2013. To apply for your child's school place please go to www.leics.gov.uk/admissions.



VISIT OUR NEW LOOK WEBSITE WWW.WHETSTONEPC.ORG.UK



A Good day for Whetstone

After a long and agonising wait, the Planning Inspector finally issued his decision on the David Wilson Homes “Springwell Lane” proposed development. It was with great relief and also great pride for the Village that the decision was for dismissal and meant that the development will not go ahead.

The report was full in its reasons and there is a link to the full report given below:

<http://whetstone.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/uploads/17506d74467f85e997055870.pdf>

Highlights in the report were many but I have copied a few extracts which were welcomed by the Parish Council whose case against the application added great value to the final outcome.

“I **consider** that the main issues in these cases are whether, having regard to local and national policy, the proposal would amount to a sustainable form of development, with particular reference to: the character and appearance of the landscape; housing land supply and the Council’s ability to manage it; protected species; and, provisions made by planning obligations.”...

“I **conclude** that, considered in isolation, scheme A, which would conflict with LP Policy C2, would be likely to have a significant detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the landscape..... I consider that the adverse effects on the environment of granting planning permission in relation to schemes A, B and C, whether considered individually or together would be likely to significantly and demonstrably outweigh the economic, social and environmental benefits. I conclude on balance, having regard to local and national policy, that schemes A, B and C would not amount to sustainable development and they would conflict with the Framework. Schemes A and B would conflict with CSe Policy 18. Furthermore, whilst I have had regard to the conditions suggested by interested parties, in my judgement, it would not be possible to make the proposals acceptable in planning terms through the imposition of reasonable conditions.”....

“For the reasons given above, I **conclude** that the appeals A, B and C should be dismissed.”

Well done to everyone who campaigned and worked so hard to fight these applications. It does prove that hard work can pay off sometimes.

Meanwhile, Back to Business

With regards to the planning application, **12/0663/1/OX** - proposed residential development (maximum 78 dwellings) associated landscaping and infrastructure with access from Leveret Drive (outline)(re-submission) – land at Cambridge Road, Whetstone, [the application will now be heard on Thursday 3rd January 2013 at 4.30 P.M](#) at the BDC Council Chambers in Narborough. The previous approved application with access off Cambridge Road, via the proposed bridge was amended from the original 5% upto 25% affordable housing under a possible legal challenge to the Planning Authority by David Wilson Homes whose Springwell Lane Appeal case clearly argued that this lower level of affordable housing “broke planning rules”.

The Parish Council is still trying to help in securing a solution involving the original lower level of affordable housing. This involves justifying a viable reason to decrease the affordable level. This is not a simple process and as we go to press, it is still unresolved. We will keep you informed as to the progress of this application.

And Finally

The Parish Council would like to wish Pc Nick Taylor all the very best for his new role within Leicestershire Police. Many thanks for everything that you have done for the village of Whetstone. Congratulations also go to PCSO Tom Sharpe on his success with his Police Constable appointment.





Edward Wright Room “Whetstone Parish Council” Your Place for that Perfect Party

Looking for a venue to hold a small intimate family/friends celebration in quiet pleasant surroundings with 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. Please enquire for details. We have just the room for you at Whetstone Parish Council, Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone Tel: 0116 275 1987— Email:whetstonepc@whetstone.org.uk

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 items of interest from the minutes of the last two meetings.

August

Ms Sue Tomlinson was co-opted onto Council representing the North Ward. (Sue previously had been the Financial Administrator working for many years in the Parish Office and is passionate about representing the views of her parishioners). She was welcomed on board by her fellow councillors.

A discussion was held regarding the speeding and noise issues along the Blaby by-pass. The bypass had been resurfaced with chippings and it was felt that this had created even more noise. A petition was handed into the Council by local residents which was duly forwarded to County Hall for consideration.

The Clerk had placed the order for the fencing / gating on Back Lane Meadows which will allow the public safe access to the facility.

September

Whetstone Baptist Church have acquired a new site at the corner of Cambridge Road and Dog and Gun Lane for a new Church, a leaflet was circulated regarding this.

The quality of road resurfacing work around the village was regarded as being of a poor standard and concerns had been passed to Leicestershire County Council Department.

The Clerk showed photographs to Councillors regarding the theft of the Kissing Gates on Warwick Road Sports Ground. These have now been reordered at a cost of £1,200.

The Clerk showed members the footpath of Otter Drive along the brook which required remedial work due to tree root damage, the Clerk is to obtain quotes regarding this.

The Clerk had received a request from a Parishioner regarding keeping the skateboard ramp on Trinity Road Park, as there had been a suggestion that it was going to be moved to the Boys Club as part of a possible joint project. It was confirmed that the Skateboard ramp was staying at Trinity Road Park for the benefit of the local community.

The next three meetings of Council take place on 20th December 2012, & 17th January, 21st February 2013

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning applications are available for viewing on the Parish Website WWW.WHETSTONEPC.ORG.UK, We also hold copies of all Whetstone Planning Applications which we discuss at our Planning Committee Meetings. 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 for Fun, can you find the 49 street names I've hidden in the grid along with our very own Special Super Hero! (WATER VOLE) For more information on the water vole please visit our website www.whetstonepc.org.uk

They may be horizontal, diagonal, backwards or forwards. Hope you enjoy.



DID YOU KNOW.....

The Domesday Book of 1086 records Whetstone as having 24 peasants, 11 villeins, (a person who is bound to the land and owned by the Feudal Lord) one man at arms (a Medieval Cavalryman) and a windmill.

Agriculture was once a prime source of employment in Whetstone, in the 1890's school records show large absenteeism in September when the local children were helping with the harvest.

The name Whetstone is probably derived from a corruption of West-Town. (Abbreviated Weston)

Records of 1801 show that there were 128 inhabited houses with 295 males and 303 females.

A stone in the east wall of St Peters Church is inscribed MCCCXXXV (1335) although it is believed an earlier church dating back to 1270 was once built on the site.

Villagers are known as the Duckpaddlers, the origin for this name is widely believed to have derived from the fact that the brook regularly overflowed and the ducks then paddled in the roads. Another popular explanation is that due to the large amounts of ducks owned, people were supposedly born in the village with webbed feet.

The area of the Parish is 1,980 acres (800 hectares)

Whetstone has four listed buildings..... St Peters Church, Whetstone Grange, Whetstone Pastures Residential Home and the War Memorial

Sunnyside, Pork Pie Yard, Bug Row, Pig Lane, Smack Alley, The Clippet and New Row are amongst the more imaginatively named streets of Old Whetstone.

It was in Whetstone that the first aero jet engines were manufactured in 1942 at what is now the Alstrom complex.

V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A	X	E	P	U	R	B
I	S	O	T	N	O	O	T	T	E	R	X	O	R
C	F	A	L	I	C	E	T	L	A	E	T	E	I
A	E	L	A	W	R	N	O	A	R	P	G	B	D
R	O	E	A	E	S	V	W	R	U	D	F	U	G
A	H	S	V	M	P	K	A	T	A	I	O	C	E
G	A	E	O	S	I	I	H	B	M	C	U	K	L
E	L	S	N	O	N	N	S	R	E	K	L	A	L
N	F	I	H	M	N	G	G	O	R	E	D	I	E
I	O	T	E	B	E	R	G	O	P	N	S	V	W
U	R	R	X	I	Y	W	A	K	E	L	I	N	G
Q	D	U	T	G	H	O	B	S	T	E	N	K	N
E	H	C	E	G	A	R	S	I	O	V	W	C	I
L	E	I	R	S	L	K	E	D	I	O	O	I	R
R	G	N	N	E	T	T	L	E	L	R	R	W	P
A	D	O	E	D	A	E	R	L	L	G	S	D	S
H	I	I	L	T	I	N	A	X	E	M	H	U	N
A	R	T	T	F	K	F	H	C	H	E	E	R	O
R	B	A	T	O	O	S	C	O	N	A	F	T	T
R	M	T	I	X	O	W	A	T	E	R	R	S	X
O	A	S	H	E	N	Y	N	N	E	K	A	T	U
P	C	O	W	O	O	T	T	O	N	E	L	C	B

AVON	EIDER	HALFORD	VICTORIA
ALICE	EAST	KENNY	VICARAGE
ATTFIELD	ELLIOT	KING	WORSH
BIGGS	FLAMINGO	LEVERET	WALE
BRIDGE	FOULDS	MAURA	WAKELING
BADGER	FOX	NOOK	WOOTTON
BUXTON	FALLOW	OTTER	WHITTLE
BROOKSIDE	GREBE	ROEBUCK	
CAMBRIDGE	GROVE	SPRINGWELL	
CHARLES	HART	STRUDWICK	
COALES	HARROP	STATION	
CURTIS	HARLEQUIN	SPINNEY HALT	
CHEER	HEXTER	SHAW	
DICKEN	HIND	UPEX	

WALKING WITH SANTA

SANTA WILL BE VISITING NEAR YOU FROM 6PM ON

Monday 10 th December	Vicarage Estate
Tuesday 11 th December	Old Whetstone
Monday 17 th December	Burnham Drive
Tuesday 18 th December	Springwell Lane



CRIME AND DISORDER



Beat Officer Pc Kirti Chauhan



CSO Amy Stokes



CSO Tom Sharpe



Beat Officer Pc Nick Taylor

"Evening All" from PC 845 Nick Taylor

Unfortunately we have to report a couple of daytime house burglaries in Whetstone. These occurred during week commencing Monday October 15th on the Dog and Gun estate.

The team are investigating reports of door to door canvassers or leaflet droppers being seen in the area during the week and as a result foot patrols have been stepped up in the village as part of a burglary initiative, "Op Baton".

We have also had reports over the past few days of a small number of vehicles which have been entered overnight where property was stolen. These crimes have occurred on roads off of Enderby Road where some of the vehicles had been left insecure. This gives the criminal the upper hand and means they don't have to worry about being stopped in possession of screwdrivers and other implements. **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE**, secure your vehicle and property.

We know suspects have been seen trying vehicle doors in this area, especially during night time hours, so this is a timely reminder to secure your vehicles, even on your own property and also your houses. Even small windows left open can make your address a target to the opportunist criminal. We have seen this far too often and even simple security measures are being overlooked.

During our patrols the team will be identifying unlit houses where the occupants are clearly out and we will be leaving a light bulb card which reinforces the need to leave a light on to give them the impression that someone is at home. Burglars will often target addresses where it is clear that the occupants are out. Light timers, which are available from DIY stores, are a good idea which automatically switches your lights on in during the dark evenings.

Our Current Problem Solving Plan is still the issue of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Blaby. Northfield Park and the Precinct being the areas we are focusing on. We are pleased to report that Whetstone has seen little in the way of ASB lately.

The team have been busy distributing the No Trick or Treat posters within the village and encouraging local stores not to sell eggs and flour to under 18s. Over the past few years we have found these tactics dramatically reduce incidents of ASB and distress caused especially to the elderly. We have also been doing school talks aimed at advising youngsters on staying safe and within the law during Halloween.

Next we have Bonfire Night and the team will be looking to enforce Firework Law. We shall also be present at the Vipers Bonfire and Firework display on Monday 5th November. On Remembrance Sunday we will be assisting the Whetstone and Blaby parade followed by Christmas and New Year.

In January there will be some restructuring within the Neighbourhood Teams and some staffing will change. The finer details of this will be announced in due course. However, January will see me move off the beat into another role. After some 8 years or so keeping an eye on you all, you may welcome this. I have built up many friendships and contacts in my service on the beat, and I will miss you all.

Also Congratulations to PCSO Tom Sharpe who has successfully become a Police Officer. We wish him well in his new role, where he will hang up his PCSO Uniform for good in February. Tom has been a great asset to the beat and I have no doubt he will make an excellent Officer.

The Blaby Christmas Light switch on will be on Friday 30th November. I've heard a rumour that a certain bearded man in a red suit may be in attendance. We will be present on the night where we will ensure his safe arrival into Blaby.

Please continue to follow us on Twitter @ LPBlaby for news and crime updates for Blaby, Whetstone, Cosby and Glen Parva where we try and give you some top tips on security, and let you know where we have been.

And the final message we want to get across is; SEEN IT, REPORT IT. If you see suspicious behaviour please report it immediately. If a crime is in progress or life is in danger then call 999.

For all other calls dial 101, and to provide information about crime anonymously you can call Crimestoppers direct on 0800 555 111

You can also email the beat team direct, for myself PC 845 Nick Taylor on Nicholas.taylor@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

For PC 4214 Kit Chauhan on kirti.chauhan@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk For PCSO 6176 Tom Sharpe Thomas.sharpe@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk and for PCSO 6588 Amy Stokes amy.stokes@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

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

Whetstone Parish Council
Council Offices
Cemetery Road
Whetstone
Leicester LE8 6LL

Telephone: (0116) 2751987

Fax: (0116) 2753395

E. mail: whetstonepc@whetstone.org.uk

