

# DUCKPADDLE NEWS

## Whetstone Parish Council

[www.whetstonepc.org.uk](http://www.whetstonepc.org.uk)

Twitter @clerk\_parish

Email : [whetstonepc@whetstone.org.uk](mailto:whetstonepc@whetstone.org.uk)



## Summer 2016

Welcome to the Summer edition of your Duckpaddle.

At the Annual meeting of Council held in May, Richard Simmons was elected as your new Parish Council Chairman. He took over the Chain of Office from outgoing Chairman Mike Bounds. Richard looks forward to representing you at various functions throughout his year in office. Janet Shore was elected as Vice Chairman.

Congratulations to them both and good luck.

Blaby District Council have recently made a decision to allow your Parish Council to acquire two pieces of land formally owned by the District. These being the "Ragworts Field" the allotment site and the Victoria Road mural site. These are now currently in the process of acquisition by Whetstone Parish Council.



We have all seen Virgin Media working throughout the village laying their new superfast cabling ready for those of you who choose to take advantage of their services. They have a job to do and on the whole are doing an excellent and on schedule job, although at times it is noisy, inconvenient and very messy. They do have a full commitment to reinstate everything back as found. The footways, footpaths and roads are the responsibility of the County Council and they will inspect to ensure reinstatement is to the correct level. If any of you have concerns about the work being done, now is the time to contact Virgin Media on the helpline number **0870 888 3116**. Remember, if they know about a problem, they can help solve it for you.



Finally, a big welcome from Whetstone to James Thorsby who started employment in April as our replacement Groundsman for Roger Gryzb, who will retire from full time employment next April.

The photograph shows Roger, James and Graham Hamilton, your Ground staff Supervisor, ready for duty.





## Badgerbrook Primary School

Badgerbrook has had quite a sporty start to the Summer Term! Foundation Stage classes have been learning about the importance of keeping fit and healthy.

They enjoyed a trip to the King Power Stadium to learn about how football can help keep them fit and healthy. This was a great opportunity at such an exciting time for Leicester City FC. The children had a guided tour of the grounds, including the team changing room, and had a picnic in the stands. They were very

lucky because Filbert Fox came to meet them. He was very funny and showed them his football



skills. The children decided he wasn't quite as good as Jamie Vardy!

The sports teams have also had a fantastic start to the term. They became Blaby/Harborough champions in hockey at both year 4 & 6. The tag rugby team emulated this winning the tag rugby championships and the boccia/kurling team performed outstandingly to win five of the seven events in their county competition. Badgerbrook sit on top of the basketball table, with thirteen wins out of thirteen.

The netball season is in its early stages. Both year 5 & 6 teams are unbeaten in their Blaby leagues, and both have qualified for the knockout cup semi-finals.



Badgerbrook's girls' and boys' teams both enjoyed unbeaten seasons in winning clean sweeps of the Blaby competitions – Danone Cup, league and knockout cup. Last Saturday, the final game of an outstanding season saw Badgerbrook retain the Rice Bowl at the King Power Stadium against Elizabeth Woodville, in a pulsating, high quality match; which saw them become the first school to win the competition outright in consecutive years since 1961.



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

St Peters school on BBC TV! Yes on BBC's the One show on Mon May 9<sup>th</sup> St Peters teachers pupils and parents featured in a report on the SATS tests in school for year 6. Well done to all who took part including those parents who sat the tests too! In tune with the rest of the city and county, the school was overjoyed about Leicester City's success in winning the Premier League Cup. A rousing "We are the Champions" started the early May assembly which just goes to prove that with hard work, a great team spirit and self belief no dream is too small. A lesson for us all! This was followed by a sunny celebration of May day with dancing round the Maypole in the play ground. A



simple simple act but the children loved it. The school were proud to win a **Silver Award** for Food! We have been following the **Food for Life** programme which aims to help pupils learn about where their food comes from and how to make and enjoy healthy food. Food also featured in a Grandparents day on April 20<sup>th</sup> when the arrival of 13 keen and brilliant Grandparents turned up in

school, armed with wellies,

trowels and a 'Can Do' spirit. There were 5 different projects underway with potatoes being earthed up, beds weeded, stepping stones laid, new beds opened and wild flowers sown. Both generations worked their wellies off and rounded off the morning with a delicious chicken dinner cooked by our fantastic kitchen. One Grandparent noted things had changed since his day as the cabbage was tasty and hadn't been cooked for 3 days! Mrs Shahor was delighted to meet such a valuable source of expertise and muscle. Thanks so much to the "volunteers" for your time and dedication to the green fingered arts! If you have any vegetable plants/soft fruit bushes/fruit trees you could donate to the school please drop off at the office.



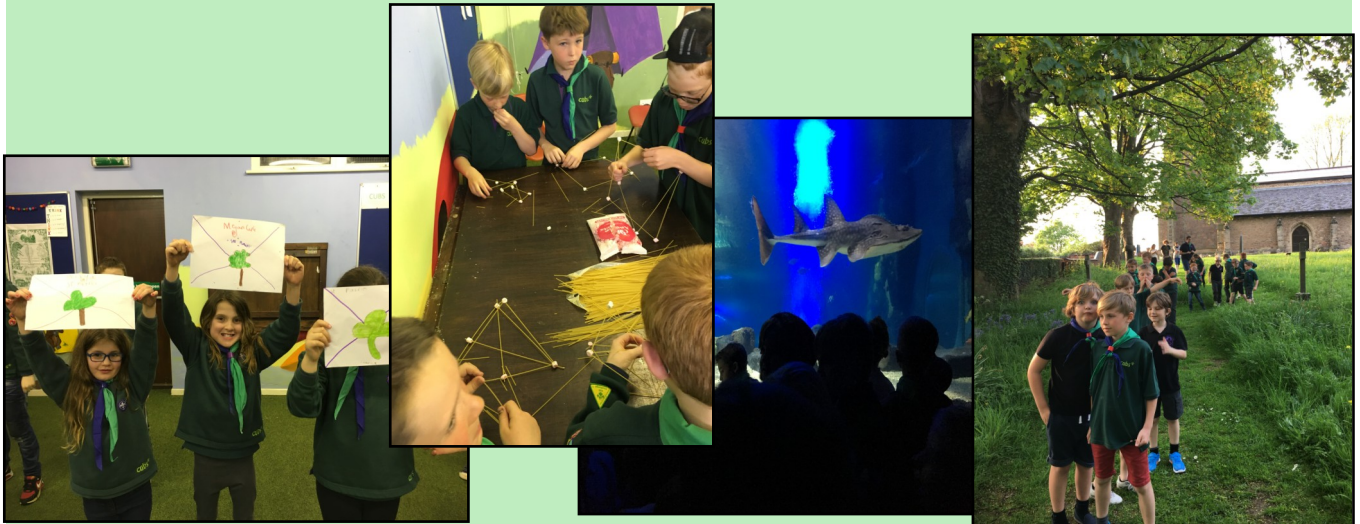
## 1<sup>st</sup> Whetstone Cub Pack

Celebrating 100 Years of Cub Scouts

Did you know that Cub Scouts are 100 this year? We have a year of celebrations planned and we have 4 special badges to work towards that require each child to complete 100 challenges!

This has included having a patron saint parade around the outside of the memorial hall, taking a walk through the meadow in the St Peters Church yard, and building towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows.

We have also been away with the whole scout group; Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to sleepover at the Sealife Center in Birmingham. This was an amazing night sleeping with the fishes, we had a personalized tour to meet all the amazing creatures and learn about their habitats. We will never forget watching the penguins go to sleep!



Whetstone CLCGB have been busy over the past few months with setting up and teaching our brand new training band. This band consists of young people from the age of 7. The band has been running for almost a year now. On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of May both the training band and the senior band entered the National CLCGB band competition. This was the training bands first competition. They were judged against other bands in seven criteria, where they came first place in all seven awards, and were crowned novice band champions 2016. The senior band did equally as well, with six first places and one second place award, crowning them the open class champions 2016. Both our commanding officer Chris Lawrence and our bandmaster Paul Brown are extremely proud of the young people's efforts and we now have the very difficult task of making some space in the trophy cabinet! Whetstone CLCGB is now preparing to travel to Europe in July to commemorate the fallen members of the church lad's brigade in the first world war. Whilst away our young people will lay crosses at the graves of the fallen and learn about the events of the first world war. Our bands will be busy too. The band will be playing at the Menin gate in Belgium as part of the daily service. They will also be playing at a number of memorials throughout France. As a treat for the young members, on the last day of our trip we will be visiting Disneyland Paris. We have just had some great news that our band will be leading the main Disneyland parade throughout the attraction, and honour that is normally reserved for professional military bands. I hope that Mickey and his friends have been practicing there drill and deportment! For any more information about our trip to France, please visit

[www.highwood2016.clcgb.co.uk](http://www.highwood2016.clcgb.co.uk). Whetstone CLCGB is always looking for new members, either for our band, our youth group or both! Why not give us a try. Visit [www.clcgb.co.uk](http://www.clcgb.co.uk) for more details.





As your Duckpaddle editor I often get asked about the history of Whetstone, So here is the first article which I hope you will enjoy . This has been sent in by the former Head of St Peters School and previous Parish Councillor and Clerk David Garratt, whom I wish to thank for starting the ball rolling. If you have something to share please contact me in the office.

### A Potted History of St Peter's School, Whetstone.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, St Peter's School celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

What actually happened on 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1864 was that the Master, Fellows & Scholars of the College of the Holy & Undivided Trinity at Cambridge made over a piece of land at Whetstone



to the Vicar (Rev'd Richard Newby) & Churchwardens Robert Hind & Samuel Herrick for the erection of a school building (the present Parish Centre) & a house for the schoolmaster (this fell down in 1965). This land had been the site of 2 cottages, which Trinity College had demolished, and the building to be erected in their stead was to house an already existing school.

The story begins in 1839 when, on 1<sup>st</sup> July, the intending subscribers to a proposed school met & appointed a master. The list of subscribers makes interesting reading, with Trinity College giving the most at £10 per annum. Other subscribers (there were usually 10 or 12 each year) giving anything between £1 and 2 shillings. There seems to be no record of where this school met, but it had premises, for which the subscribers were responsible. For example – Receipt May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1851 “for paint & stone for the repair of Whetstone School 8 shillings & 9 pence – ordered by Mr Hind of Thomas Sewell”. There are others, including receipts for desks & forms, & a repair of the Master's writing desk.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of December 1850, advertisements were placed in the “Leicester Journal & Midland Counties Advertiser” for a schoolmaster to be appointed to Whetstone School. Thomas Hind paid 13 shillings for these adverts, quite a lot. Josiah Bonshor was appointed. His predecessor, Arthur Swinden, was told by the Churchwardens that his services would not be required after midsummer because his work was unsatisfactory. Things seem to have picked up under Josiah, who held the job until 1870. There's a receipt from “SPCK, through J.S. Crossley, Bookseller, Gallowtree Gate, Leicester, ordered by The Rev'd JP Newby, 25 each of “Psalms”, “Miracles”, “Parables” & “Catechisms”. These were for the school.

There were slight problems with subscriptions, as a 1850 letter from Rev'd J.P. Newby suggests. He wrote apologising for being unable to attend a meeting of subscribers. He writes “I was sorry to hear that, in consequence of the falling off the the annual subscription, the schoolmaster's salary is likely to be reduced to £20 per annum”. It was, however, Josiah Bonshor remained in post beyond the school's move to the 1864 building (present Parish Centre) to 1870. He left the post then & became assistant secretary to the Whetstone Gas Company. The school continued to serve the parish as an all age school, except for pupils who won scholarships to Lutterworth Grammar School &, later the “Intermediate School” at South Wigston. All this changed with the 1944 Education Act which established the pattern of primary & secondary education that persisted until the recent vogue for Academies, Free Schools, & similar novelties.





The school fought off a closure threat in the early 1950s, largely through the efforts of the then Vicar, Canon S. H. Rumsey who established the "New School Fund".

The new school, the present Wale Rd buildings, was opened, gradually, between 1972 & 1975.

On the opening of Badgerbrook School in 1992, the school became known as "St. Peter's" - a name resisted some years earlier as the Governors, following the view of Canon Rumsey, felt it sounded exclusive, whereas the school exists as a service, by the church to the secular community, and there was, at the time, no other school in Whetstone from which to distinguish it.



David Garratt June 2016

### Old Time Whetstone

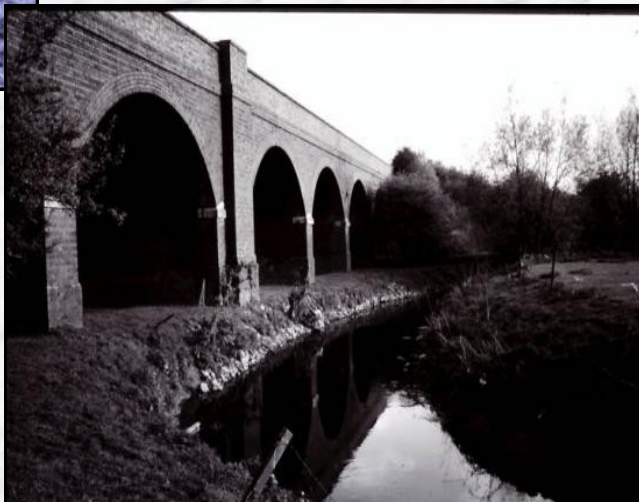
The following information was extracted from a description of our village found in an old edition of 'Kelly's Directory' believed to be dated around the early 1920's.

Whetstone was a large village and Parish 5 miles south of Leicester, the area being 2119 acres of land and 4 of water—the brook following through the village, being a tributary of the River Soar, the population at the 1921 census numbered 1388.



There was a station on the main Great Central Way station (Station Master William Shaw) approximately 4 miles south of Leicester and 98 miles from London (Marylebone). A daily bus service between Leicester and Broughton Astley passed through the village, and local carrier Joseph Biggs provided a regular parcel service to Leicester and the surrounding area.

At nearby Blaby a station on the Leicester-Nuneaton L M S Rly. A unique feature of the railway system at that time was the viaduct of thirteen arches, spanning low lying washlands and a connecting 'loop' known locally as the 'Coal Bank' providing a facility to run from one company's line to the other, this being built during the 1914-1918 war emergency (now demolished, but drainage culverts can still be found





The local Gas works, erected in 1866, supplied light to the village and also to Narborough, Blaby and Enderby.

There was a sub Post Office with Arthur Harrison as postmaster, letters through Leicester, telegrams through Blaby with Daniel Charles as the deliveryman. There was also a telegraph office at the aforementioned railway station( although this was closed on Sundays)

The land in the village was well farmed, the principal crops being grown were wheat, oats, barley and root crops with some pasture land,

There was a review of the village commercial aspects siting the agricultural farming details

as 'Attfield, Sons and Daughters of the Brooklands, a large ivy covered house situated near the Brook Street/Attfield Drive area, this farm being well known for its horses ( and probably the last farm to install a tractor and go mechanised) William Bruce and his sister Mary at Park Farm (facing the Kaffir Inn now the Lime Tree) now demolished due to the ever expanding G E C works complex( now the Strata homes development), however a barn and outbuildings can still be recognised at the corner of Warick Road. (now demolished)

Ralph Charlton described as a grazier situated in King Street(facing the old Baptist Chapel) now the scene of town houses, Ralph and his family retailed milk around the village for many years. Sam Curtis and Sons, High Street, their premises, now demolished stood where is now the new Avon Drive residential development.

Alfred Curtis (son of Sam) farmed in the Nook and the old farmhouse is still standing, now being run as a small poultry farm,( now demolished) the Curtis family having moved to the Springwell Lane area on the outskirts of the village.

John Holden– High Street facing Avon Drive—after farming ceased the outbuildings later became the AGM Crisp factory, now a small industrial site. (The old Electroform site)

Mrs Florence Mary Herbert, Whetstone pastures, situated off the Lutterworth Road in the area known as Whetstone Gorse, probably having the largest acreage of any farm at that time– with all their field being identified by immaculate white painted gates.

### Is Graffiti a problem on your property ?

Although it is not the remit of Whetstone Parish Council, we may be able to assist with the removal of this problem with the hot pressure washer we have on site.

Whetstone Parish Council would not however have any responsibility for any damage the hot pressure washer may cause to private fences or walls. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office - 0116 2751987

### Whetstone Baptist Church Holiday Bible Club

This club will run from the 1st to 7th August 2016  
Monday to Friday 9.30 - 12 for children aged 5 - 11  
Saturday Fun Day and a special service on Sunday  
Come and join in the fun .

Are you green fingered, want to grow your own vegetables, or just have a space to relax and unwind after a busy day.

Is an allotment for you ? - if you would like to find out more and are interested in having an allotment in Whetstone, please contact the Whetstone Allotment Association.

Mrs Eileen Jackson (Chair)

Whetstone Allotment Association  
c/o 8, Biggs Close,  
Whetstone.  
Leicester.  
LE8 6WG.

M Jackson Secretary 0116 2861928



## JUST A MINUTE

**YOUR** Parish Council meets every fourth Thursday of the month, 7.30 pm 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.

- The Blaby underpass was discussed as being in a poor state of repair. Various options were discussed including the option that Whetstone Parish Council paint the whole walls a base colour over the defaced mural, which could then be easily painted over should the need arise. Permission would have to be sought from LCC.
- A presentation from Virgin Media was received by members prior to the start of the work in the village. The Deputy Clerk would ensure that all communications were placed on the website for Parishioners to access should there be an issue.
- The road naming request for the Strata homes development had seen them use Henson Road. The DWH development had used Hall, Cooper and Abbott. Linden Homes had used Jet plane names as a link to the Whittle story.
- The stone mason was currently working in the cemetery effecting some safety repairs on damaged headstones, this work is ongoing.
- The Clerk informed members that the ragworts field allotment site and the Victoria road mural site would be transferred into the ownership of the Parish from BDC. Covenants would be added to the agreement to limit future usage.
- James Thorsby had joined the groundstaff team on a full time basis, to cover the impending retirement of Roger Gryzb.
- Concerns were raised regarding the possible increase of fly tipping following the decision by LCC at the "Whetstone tip". The Clerk informed members that the groundstaff team were always alert to the issue of flytipping and would keep a close eye on the village.
- It was reported that the Londis shop in the village had now closed.
- The Clerk showed members a drawing he had received from DWH regarding the style of a bridge they were looking to install from Springwell Lane Development into the Elliot Close POS. Members considered this but asked the Clerk to relay back that a ramp was a preferred structure to allow pushchair, bike and wheelchair access.

**The next three meetings of Council take place on 28th July, 25th August and 22nd September 2016.**

**e-mail: [office@whetstonepc.org.uk](mailto:office@whetstonepc.org.uk)**

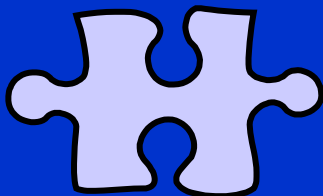
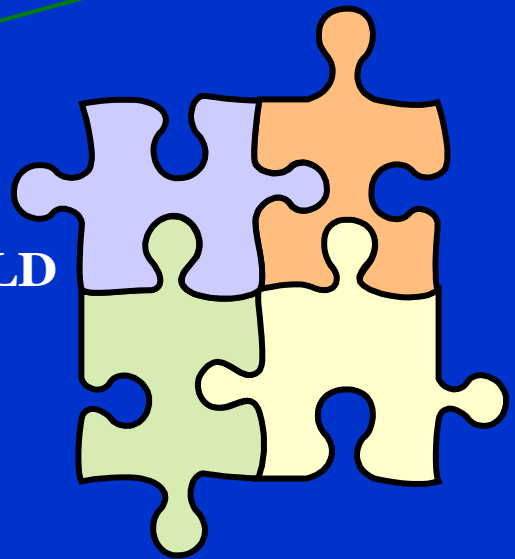
**or**

**Tel: Leicester (0116) 2751987**

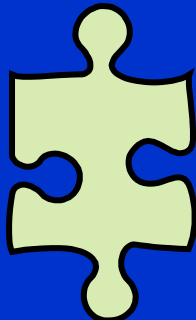


# THE EDWARD WRIGHT ROOM

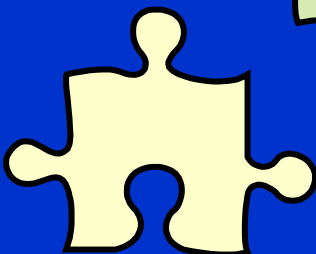
**IS IT A PUZZLE WHERE TO HOLD  
YOUR PARTY, CELEBRATION,  
MEETING, FITNESS CLASS ?  
LET US SOLVE THE PROBLEM**



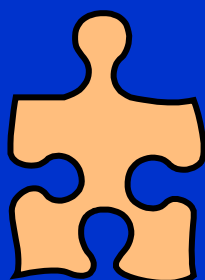
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Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester. Tel 0116 2751987.  
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