



PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



December 2024

Chairman's Report

Dear villagers, friends and fellow councillors, As we move towards Christmas and look forward to spending time with those close to us, we realise how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful place, with a supportive and warm community. Made all the more poignant in contrast to the increasingly uncertain world in which we live.

The parish council has continued working on our local priorities and responding to community concerns. As a council we managed to upgrade and add to the equipment and will continue to monitor it all. As usual local developments have been a key focus for the council, and we have strived to ensure that Wheelton remains a village in the truest definition of the word. Sometimes the decisions we make may prove controversial, but the postponement of the Carols Around the Tree was in response to a number of concerns raised by residents, community groups and other stakeholders, who had raised serious concerns around the safety of an event, which had become victim of its own success - the decision was not taken lightly, but to protect the event for the future. For all involved it truly meant the start of Christmas, but with the increasing interest, and growth in numbers, combined with a number of incidents of concern, it was felt that if this was not tempered it would jeopardise the long term future. We appreciate the strong feelings towards the event, and want this event to remain, and be a celebration for our community for years to come. When the village comes together, it is very special and really highlights the strength and warmth of our community.

Remembrance Sunday enabled us to give thanks and show our respect to all those from our community who have fallen fighting for our freedom.

I thank all my councillor colleagues for the time and effort they put in to the community on our behalf.

May I on behalf of the parish council wish you all a safe and merry Christmas, and a peaceful New year.

Mathew Harper
Chairman 2024/2025



Local, trustworthy pet services

**Dog walking, petsitting, pop-ins and feeds
Cat and other small animal visits**

*Insured, first aid trained, DBS checked
See our Wheelton Walkies Facebook page for reviews*

**Contact Pauline on 07779476988
or Terri on 07762762712**

Don't forget to check our website
www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org

Contact your Clerk: Mrs Joanne Carr.
clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org
17 Higher Meadow, Clayton-le-Woods,
Leyland, PR25 5RJ



Planters needed!

Chorley Borough Council have once again made bags of daffodil bulbs available to the Parish Councils for planting around the Parish. A lot of the nodding yellow heads you see in Spring have been planted over the years by Parish Councilors, and this year the Parish Council would like to enlist the help of volunteer planters to bury as many as you'd like on the roadside verges, footpaths, byways and public grasslands around the Parish. No specific skillsets or experience needed; dig a shallow hole, chuck a couple in and put the soil back on top. Now is about the time to start burying them so lets get on with it.

Parish Councilor Nick Hayes is co-ordinating the effort this year and has supplies of bulbs to issue to anyone interested in planting a few. Call on 07756936173. Or email at victerr4@hotmail.com to arrange collection/delivery.

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Bogus roofing cold callers

Beware cold callers knocking on doors offering to carry out roofing work. Traders did some work on one householder's roof and asked for £1,500 cash. They returned, at a later date, asking for another £6000 claiming the first payment was only for materials. The traders were abusive and threatened the householder and a carer. The cold callers were described as men of large build with Irish accents, they didn't provide any paperwork or cancellation notices.

Beware cold callers alleging there is a problem with householder's roofs which they can fix. When householders refused the traders tried to charge them £150 for jet washing their drives which they were doing without agreement and with cars still on the drives.. In one instance they claimed they were contracted to do roofing work for the resident's neighbour and would sort out some loose slates on the resident's roof cheaply using left over slates. The traders are pushy and aggressive and offered to take the householder to the bank to get cash to pay for work done. The men also made threats to a neighbour who tried to help.

Do not deal with cold callers even if they insist you need emergency repairs urgently. Get quotes, giving you time to think and to get other prices for the work. Remember, if you agree to a contract in your own home you will have a 14 day right to cancel.

Trading Standards advice is to always say no to cold callers. The Safetrader scheme can help you find a trader in your area, contact [0303 333 1111](tel:03033331111) or go to www.safetrader.org.uk.



Scam winter heating subsidy text

Beware receiving a scam text claiming to be from the 'Winter Heating Subsidy Office' alleging that, although the Government has reduced the number of people receiving winter heating bill subsidies, you have obtained the qualification to apply and can do so via the link in the email. This is a phishing scam seeking personal identity details. Do not click on the link.

Information regarding eligibility for the Winter Fuel Payment can be found on Gov.uk website or by ringing the Winter Fuel Payment Centre on 0800 731 0160.

Scam texts can be reported, for free, to the National Cyber Security Centre by forwarding it to 7726.

Fake universal credit App

Beware downloading a **Universal Credit App** claiming to let users manage their accounts. It is understood that no such official government App exists, and users may be at risk of giving away personal information. Only use the DWP Universal Credit Website

Contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on [0808 223 1133](tel:08082231133).

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Girlguiding

1st Wheelton Brownies

1st Wheelton Brownies have enjoyed various activities this term including planting of bulbs in readiness for Christmas. We have learnt how to make a kite, a paper rose and a Christmas decoration and also learnt sign language courtesy of some of the Brownies working towards their Brownie Gold Awards.

Badges some of the Brownies have been working on at home are Zero Waste, Jobs and a very popular Baking Badges, with us all tasting their wares.

We had the honour of attending the Mayor's Parlour recently, where we learnt about the chains of office, the mayoral robes and what the job of Mayor of Chorley consists of and how you become Mayor. A lovely evening which we hope the Brownies will remember for years to come.



Girlguiding

1st Wheelton Brownies

We joined 1st Wheelton Guides, Scouts and members of the public and Councillors at the Annual Remembrance Sunday Service at Heapey and Wheelton Clock Tower in November.

A number of our Brownies have also visited Guides and made a bonfire from biscuits and icing and hundreds & thousands.

We are thrilled that more Brownies have been working towards and been awarded their Bronze and Silver Awards and a number of Brownies have been awarded their Gold Award, the highest award a Brownie can gain.

We do currently have spaces available, if your daughter is aged between 7 - 9 and interested in joining 1st Wheelton Brownies, or you wish to volunteer to help with Brownies, or a Rainbow unit please contact Jacqueline Berry on 07834 069562 or jberry.brownie@gmail.com or visit the Girlguiding website and "Join Us"

KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAN

Please, please, please. Pick up after your dog. Carry a roll of poop-and-scoop bags with you; you are rarely more than a few hundred meters from a Waste bin that accepts pet poo, and clearing Up your pet's mess will help protect livestock, nature, and make it nicer to walk around the village.. Please help to keep our village clean and tidy for all to enjoy. Thank you.



Table Tennis -Sport for all and just plain fun!

Monday nights at the Village Hall are rocking to the sound of movement and laughter all because residents can play table tennis. Equipment is available for all to use plus coaching available should you want. Some interesting points have come out with research into the sport-TT (table tennis) has come out as the most sociable of all sports, it also can make the most inactive person active. So why not come along to the sessions, they are 6 to 8 pm on Monday nights- why not give it a go, you'll surprise yourself !



Jobs in the garden for Winter

You can plant over wintering onion sets, Broad Beans and Garlic.

December is a good chance for you to prepare your soil, clear weeds and add organic matter to your soil before winter sets in. Collect any fallen leaves from your garden especially your lawn, as they act as a blanket that may encourage moss, bag them up and use them as leaf mould next year.

Remember to feed the birds in your garden and provide fresh water.



Don't forget to check our website
www.wheeltonparishcouncil.org



Lancashire firefighters are urging residents to heat their homes safely this winter.

It comes as the colder weather hits and many households have lost the Winter Fuel Payment they relied on in previous years. LFRS predicts this may prompt households to use alternative methods to heat their home, including gas or open fires, log burners or electric heaters.

The 'Stay Safe & Warm' campaign aims to raise awareness of the risks of using these appliances, share guidance on how to use them safely, and how to keep them maintained.

The advice includes:

- Gas heaters and fires should be well ventilated, maintained regularly and a carbon monoxide alarm should be placed in the room in case of any functional problems and to keep the household safe and healthy.
- Residents who plan to use open fires and log burners should use fireguards to prevent embers spreading to flammable items, while the chimney should also be swept regularly.
- Electric heaters should be kept in good working order and kept away from flammable materials.
- Outdoor heaters, barbecues, hobs or ovens should not be used to keep a room warm and, if gas-powered, pose a carbon monoxide poisoning risk.
- Everyone should ensure they have working smoke alarms – at least one on each level of the home.

Liam Wilson, Group Manager for Prevention at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service: "It's really important that we all cope safely with the rise in the cost of living and we don't put ourselves or our loved ones at risk. We want to encourage people to heat their homes safely whilst be energy efficient, reducing the risk of fire in the home."

We also encourage people to register for a home fire safety check for themselves or their loved ones. By answering a few simple questions, it will provide fire safety advice specific to you and tips on how to keep you and your household safe from fire. For those most at risk, we can visit the home to provide help and advice. [Register online](#) or call **0800 169 1125**.

Forthcoming Dates of the Parish Council

Meetings are held on Mondays at 8.00pm in Wheelton Village Hall



6 January 2025
3 February 2025
3 March 2025
7 April 2025
12 May 2025
2 June 2025
7 July 2025
No meeting in August

Public participation is welcomed, just contact the Clerk at least 14 days prior to the meeting so that the matter you wish to raise can be researched and added to the agenda.

Advertising in the Newsletter

We are asking local businesses to consider advertising with us as all money raised will go towards the Playground Trust

If you have any ideas you would like to share whether for or against then please can you contact the Clerk or email tdickenson.td@gmail.com

If we can help in any way we will!

Are you a member of a local club and would like to have a write up of club events or forthcoming events? Please advise the Clerk so that we

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Joanne Carr.

Clerk@wheeltonparishcouncil.org

17 Higher Meadow, Clayton-le-Woods, Leyland, PR25 5RJ

Your Parish Council

Kathleen Berry
01254 830360

Terry Dickenson
01254 830591

Richard Scambler
01254 830244

Nick Hayes
01254 830851

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Ronnie Wheale
07801 816778

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County Councillor

Alan Cullens

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Member of Parliament

Lindsay Hoyle

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01257 271555

Don't forget to check our website
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