

Welcome

As the warmer spring and summer arrives (hopefully) we are pleased to provide our residents with a series of updates and information on our village.

Our Parish Council

We are delighted to welcome two new councillors onto our Parish Council.

Oi Mei Wrightson will be known to many of you as our Neighborhood Watch coordinator and for her role in publicising information on village events via our email circulation list. Oi Mei and her husband Michael have lived in the Old School House for many years and during that time have maintained the war memorial and kept the cobbles clear of moss and weeds.



Sarah Clemson may also be known to many residents. She moved to the village as a 10-year-old with her parents Susan and Trevor Dawson. University and work commitments meant a temporary move away, but she returned to the village as a full-time resident in 2010. Sarah has coordinated arrangements for the Wiswell Ladies Christmas meal and has been part of a group of residents who have helped to organise a range of social events in the village.



Parish Council Representatives

Contact details for the Council's current representatives are shown below. For the first time in over 12 months, we now have a full complement of Parish Councillors.

Cllr. Steve Houghton (Chair)	01254 824 472
Cllr. Alan Scholfield (Vice Chair)	01254 823 140
Cllr. Judith Pursglove	07969 831 033
Cllr. Oi Mei Wrightson	07495 459 516
Cllr. Sarah Clemson	07932 639 008
Clerk and RFO Mike Hill	07375 801 052

Whilst there are several statutory duties the Council undertake; our fundamental aim is to work with residents and agencies to organise community events and to maintain a pleasant village environment.

We are well supported by our excellent Parish Clerk Mike Hill who as well as ensuring that we meet our legal obligations is always on the look-out for additional grants and finances to help fund our work.

Minutes and agendas of all our meetings are included on our web site (www.wiswellpc.org.uk) and we are happy to receive suggestions on how we can improve and maintain a strong village community so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Information is also available in the Council's Noticeboard.

Coronation Garden

As reported in a previous newsletter we are delighted that Sue Walmsley and Sarah Yeowart have taken on responsibility for the maintenance of Coronation Garden and associated flower troughs around the village.



The eagle eyed amongst you might have noticed, following advice from a professional gardener, the removal of the misshapen holly tree at the back of the garden.

With the help of a Lancashire County Council Bio-Diversity Grant, we will be replacing the holly bush with a Rowan tree that we can carefully shape and manage. In addition, the Rowan provides a good source of berries for our local bird population.

In early spring watch out for the unveiling of our new Lancashire Flag.



We plan to use our Union Jack Flag for designated occasions with the flying on the Lancashire flag adding some colour to the area on other days during the spring and summer seasons.

Phone Box Library

In our survey several residents indicated that they would welcome the reintroduction of our “Phone box” library and we intend to do this in spring 2023 when we have completed some minor decorations to the interior.

We will contact residents by email / WhatsApp to ask for book donations and to explain arrangements for borrowing / returning books.

Due to dampness, we think we can only operate this service during the spring and summer months. Early thoughts are that at the end of the summer season we will invite residents, if they wish, to retrieve any books they have donated. After that process has worked through, we would store 50% of the remaining books over winter and donate 50% to charity shops.

In Spring 2024 we would hopefully be able to supplement our book stock with new donations. What do you think? Please let us know.



Village Walks

Several residents have asked about the potential to start a “village ramblers” group. If there was demand the group could initially explore the footpaths and rights of way that are accessible from the centre of the village including some aspects of local history / folklore. In spring /summer we will test

demand via the email/WhatsApp circulation list and see who is interested. There are several interesting “off road” routes that some villagers may not be aware of.



Carol Singing - 19 December 2022

Our carol singing event is always a popular occasion in the village and this year was no exception. We had an excellent turnout and a rumbustious rendition of carols and Christmas favourites|fueled by mulled wine and mince pies was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Judith and Alan for organising the refreshments and musical backing tracks with a special shout out to Becci Williams whose natural energy, vocal skills and enthusiasm succeeded in cajoling something resembling a tuneful response from the assembled throng.



Due to the generous donations from residents last year, we had almost enough money carried over from 2021 to cover the costs of our Xmas tree in 2022.

As always, we were indebted to Alan Scholfield's professional expertise in "rigging" our Christmas lights and sound system whilst simultaneously averting a village "black-out" which is no mean feat.

As reported by email we are also pleased to report that our charity collection raised £419 for cancer research. There are few families that have not been touched by this terrible illness and we are pleased to contribute towards research costs.

The evening was brought to an excellent finale in the Freemasons with an enjoyable pie supper and further liquid refreshment provided by Steve Smith and his colleagues. All in all, an excellent and enjoyable night.

Thanks to all volunteers for helping with the tree, especially to Bruce Mitchell for providing a "cherry picker" and to Edmund and Jean Sandham for their chain saw expertise.

Outcomes from the Parish Survey

As mentioned in our winter newsletter a summary of the outcomes from our village survey are included on the Council's web site.

We have now drafted an Action Plan to address some of the key points raised in the responses where we think we can have some influence and make a positive impact. To this end we have renewed our relationship with the RVBC Planning Enforcement Team, and we recently welcomed a representative from that Team into the village to discuss some of the issues concerning residents. Whilst the discussions are necessarily sensitive and confidential, we have verbally reported on outcomes to residents most directly affected by developments.



Christmas Meals

Thanks to Mike Cavanagh and Sarah Clemson for organising the men's and women's Christmas meals and of course to Steve Smith and the Freemasons staff for hosting the events. Both meals were well attended and enjoyed by all. As well as meeting up with old friends it was an opportunity to meet some of our newer arrivals to the village.

In the case of the men's meal evidence of a "good time" can be measured by the fact that the drinks bill exceeded the cost of the meal. We gather that a few hard-core stalwarts (names withdrawn to avoid possibility of super injunctions) succeeded in staggering down to Whalley Wine Bar for further carousing.

In the case of the women's meal, we are pleased to announce that this year there were only two formal reports of excessive rowdiness to the local constabulary.

Arrangements for The King's Coronation

We are pleased to confirm that we will be holding a village social event over Coronation weekend on Sunday 7 May.

Paula Davies has again kindly agreed to host the event in Lantern Cottage gardens and at the time of writing we think the event will run from 2pm – 5pm.

We are in the process of confirming precise details but are hopeful of securing the services of a live band as we did for our successful platinum jubilee event. Naturally we hope as many residents as possible will be able to attend. Further details of our May Coronation event will be circulated by email and leaflet in March.



Quiz Night - 27 February

On a cold Monday evening in February, eleven teams, comprising 45 residents battled it out for the honour of 'Wiswell Quiz Champion.'

Our Quiz Master Paul Marlow prepared and delivered the questions covering diverse topics such as Geography, Food and Drink, Music and even a Celebrity Picture round. In addition, Paul somehow managed to keep us all in some form of order amidst humorous banter and competitive marking which required skilful adjudication. In the end Team **Jones / Clemson** emerged as winners by a narrow margin of just two points.

Many thanks to The Freemasons staff for hosting the event and for providing an excellent pie supper. Huge appreciation to Paul for all his preparation and work on the night and to Mike Cavanagh for helping to coordinate arrangements. Most importantly, thanks to everybody for supporting the event with such an excellent turn out on a cold Monday evening.

Useful Contacts

Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non-Emergency	101
Police – Clitheroe/Whalley	01200 458 766
Lancashire Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Lancashire County Council (LCC)	0300 123 6701
LCC - highway matters	0300 123 6780
Ribble Valley Borough Council	01200 425111
National Grid - Report Gas Emergency	0800 111999
United Utilities - Report Water Emergency	0345 6723 723
Environment Agency Floodline	0345 988 1188
Power Outage (all electricity providers)	105
Electricity North West Ltd	0800 195 4141
NHS Non-urgent medical advice	111
Ribble Valley Citizen's Advice Bureau	0300 330 1182 / 01200 427 336
Ribble Valley Age UK	0300 303 1234
Cemetery Registrar	01254 722811 registrar@wwbjbc.org.uk
Nigel Evans: MP for the Ribble Valley	evansn@parliament.uk
Cllr. Mirfin: Lancashire County Councillor	gerald.mirfin@lancashire.gov.uk
Cllr. Birtwhistle: Borough Councillor	cllr.david.birtwhistle@ribblevalley.gov.uk
Lancashire Volunteer Partnership	Lvp@lancashire.gov.uk
Love Clean Streets (report it on the go)	Visit... lanacashire.gov.uk/report

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