

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. R. Thompson Borough Councillor	cllr.thompson@ribblevalley.gov.uk
Lancashire Volunteer Partnership	Lvp@lancashire.gov.uk
Love Clean Streets (report it on the go)	Visit... lancashire.gov.uk/report

Wiswell Parish Council has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this newsletter and cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors, omissions or advice given.



NEWSLETTER

Autumn/Winter 2022/23

Welcome

Welcome to the Wiswell Parish Council's latest newsletter. After a relatively mild October and early November colder weather is on the way as we start to prepare for our Christmas festivities.

Our Parish Council

After many years of selfless public service to Wiswell Parish Council, Robert Thompson has stepped down from his councillor duties. Robert was one of the last pupils to attend our village school before its closure in the 1960's and is one of our longest serving residents with many a fine tale about the history and development of our village over the post war decades. He has now made the decision to move to the north-east of England to be closer to his daughter and grandchildren. We will all miss his experience and wise counsel and wish him well for the future.



Robert's departure means that we are now served by just three councillors with our full complement being five. We are keen to appoint a further two councillors and details have been posted on our village notice board. If there are any residents who are interested in the role of Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk or any of the Parish Councillors (see contact details on page 2).

To support the council and to meet its statutory duties we employ a Parish Clerk. In April 2022 we secured the services of Mike Hill. Mike's previous career spans a wide range of public sector roles including most recently at RVBC. In his short time with us he has already made a significant positive impact on the work of the Parish Council.

Parish Council Representatives

The table below shows the contact details for the Council's current representatives:

Cllr. Steve Houghton (Chair)	01254 824 472
Cllr. Alan Schofield (Vice Chair)	01254 823 140
Cllr. Judith Pursglove	07969 831 033
Clerk and RFO Mike Hill	07375 801 052

Funding the Parish Council

Parish Councillors are not paid for their services; they volunteer their time for free to work on behalf of their community. We hold six formal Parish Council meetings a year at Pendleton Village Hall, with each meeting lasting about an hour and half.

Outside of these formal meetings we work with a wider group of residents and agencies to organise community events and to maintain a pleasant village environment. We endeavour to work closely with LCC, particularly with the Highways and Rights of Way departments and with RVBC. In addition, we share a Lengthsman with other parishes to carry out minor works.

We have access to a small amount of funding, the parish precept, this is included in the council tax and supports our work. We try to supplement this income by applying for grants as appropriate.



Parish Council Website (www.wiswellpc.org.uk)

On the web site you will find Parish Council agendas, minutes, dates of meetings and news items. Under the Galleries Section there are some excellent photographs of our successful Platinum Jubilee event held in summer 2022. A summary of the responses from the recent survey have also been published on the web site on the News Tab.

It is our intention to develop the site further with the inclusion of historic photos of the village.

Remembrance Sunday

We were pleased to welcome Jonathan Carmyllie (St. Mary's Church Whalley) to officiate at our Remembrance Service on the 13 November. As always it was a well-attended and poignant event. In addition we were delighted to welcome our local MP, Nigel Evans, Stuart Hirst (Mayor RVBC), representatives from our neighbouring Parish Council of Barrow and our local school, Oakhill.

We provided some background information on those named on the memorial stone and it is our intention to upload this information, along with other local history information onto our web site.

Some of you will have noticed that three of the named soldiers died in the same year on the same day presumably in the same battle in the Dardanelles theatre of operations. Sadly, this is a well-worn narrative for many of those serving in World War 1. Growing up together in a tight knit community such as ours, enlisting together and serving together. As always thanks to Oi Mei and Michael Wrightson (Wiswell School House) for maintaining the memorial to such a high standard.



Defibrillator

We have managed to locate our village public access defibrillator on the wall of the clean water pumping station facing Coronation Garden. We are indebted to United Utilities for agreeing to install and provide the electricity supply for the defibrillator.

The code for the defibrillator is C159X (this code will be passed on to users when 999 is contacted and they think the use of a public access defibrillator is appropriate).



Coronation Gardens

Many thanks to Sue Walmsley and Sarah Yeowart for taking responsibility for the maintenance of Coronation Garden, our planters near the village noticeboard and the boundary stone on Whiteacre Lane.

Thanks also go out to Maureen Robinson for taking the lead with managing Coronation



Garden and raising funds for many years and to Malcom, Jenny and Yvonne for their hard work in the garden.

Through Parish Council grants we have secured a small amount of funding to develop further the garden area. Some new planters have been purchased and a Lancashire County flag is on order. Sarah and Sue aim to take some horticultural advice on the existing plants and shrubbery in the garden and consider whether other improvements can be made.

Christmas Carols

By the time you read this Newsletter our village Christmas tree should be in place. Our annual Carol Singing event around the tree will take place on Monday 19th December at 7:00pm. As usual we are planning to provide some mince pies and mulled wine to lubricate the vocal chords. This year Steve Smith has kindly agreed to open the Freemasons for those requiring further refreshments.



We would like to thank the villagers for the funds brought forward from last year and have been used this year towards the purchase of the Christmas tree.

Christmas Meals

Thanks to Mike Cavanagh and Sarah Clemson for once again taking responsibility for organising the men's and women's Christmas meals. Both events will be hosted at the Freemasons. Men's lunch Friday 2 December, women's evening meal Thursday 8 December.

There is much "friendly gender rivalry banter" on the village What's App Group. Advance warning to residents regarding excessive rowdiness in the vicinity of the Freemasons on the evening of the 8th.



Walking in Lancashire

At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Lancashire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/lancs has hundreds of walks to download and print free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.



John Harris (the custodian of the website) said '*There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Lancashire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you*'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

Library

Several residents have made enquiries as to whether we intend to re-introduce our lending library in the red telephone box in Coronation Garden and we intend to do that in Spring/Summer 2023. We thought at one stage that the telephone box might be the only possible location for our defibrillator but thankfully we have now made alternative arrangements. We still have a bit of internal painting to complete but once that is done we will be asking for book donations.



Make a Difference – Become a Councillor

As mentioned earlier, we are keen to appoint a further two councillors and details have been posted on our village notice board.

As a councillor you can become a voice for Wiswell and affect real change.

Councillors are community leaders and represent the aspirations of the public that they serve. Parish councillors are the most local part of our democratic

system and are closest to the public. By standing for your parish council you could make a real difference to your local neighbourhood.



Social Events

In the recent Parish Survey, several residents mentioned the potential to increase opportunities for social gatherings in the village.

Following last year's successful Platinum Jubilee event, we aim to hold another event next summer and a quiz night in early spring (details to follow). In addition, we are exploring the feasibility of having an open gardens event every 3 to 4 years.

