Possible changes to your Mobile Library Service

Saturday 5th September
Whittington Countryside and Craft Fair

Whittington Countryside Fair
Whittington Countryside Fair
YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Since the elections in May the Parish Council has co-opted 4 new members. However the Council is still 5 members short of a full compliment of Councillors, see page 7 ‘Be a Voice for Your Community’.

These are:

**Martyn Bennett**  
Wisteria Cottage, 4 Tamhorn Farm Cottages, Fisherwick  
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7 Main Street, Whittington  
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**Roger Leek**  
11 Heritage Court, Lichfield  
TEL 07866 937156  
EMAIL roger.leek@hotmail.co.uk

**Rob Mallaber**  
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**Chris Millar**  
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19 Spring Lane, Whittington  
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**Julia Spencer**  
Crossroads, Back Lane, Whittington  
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**Phil Taylor**  
4 Sandcroft Cottages, Fisherwick Road, Fisherwick  
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**David Walton**  
Park House, Fisherwick Road, Fisherwick  
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...
If you would like to respond to any of the issues in Connect or to contribute to the next edition, please write to or email the Council Clerk.

See inside front cover for contact details.
Welcome to the August edition of Connect.

Let me introduce myself – I am Martyn Bennett and am delighted and privileged to have been elected as Chair of the Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council. Anna and I have lived in Fisherwick since 2002, relocating from Lichfield. I retired in 2010 from being an Assistant Headteacher in Aston after 40 years in education. I joined the Parish Council in 2012 and became Vice Chair two years ago. I have been a Community First Responder and Chair of the Allotment Society for Whittington.

My first action is to say a big thank you to Steve Rushton for the excellent work he did as Chair over the last two years, and to Steve Barr, Thia Knowles, Sally Hackett, Karen Brittan and Sarah Beswick who stepped down after the May elections. Tremendous work has been done by these elected councillors over the years and we are truly grateful for their commitment and effort.

The achievements of the WFPC over the last 11 years, under the chairmanships of Frank Bartlett, John Smith and Steve Rushton, have been recognised in June this year by being voted ‘Parish Council of the Week’ by the National Association of Local Councils. Bearing in mind there are some 9000 local councils across the UK we should all be very proud of this award.

We are here to represent the views, activities, needs, thoughts, ideas and concerns of all parishioners. To achieve this we need you to take part, get involved, volunteer your skills, get to know who your Councillors are and talk with them, keep up to date by going onto the website, look at the Parish Council Notice Boards and read the Connect newsletter.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you so together we can make Whittington and Fisherwick an even better place to live and bring up our families.

We will all be at the Craft and Country Fair on September 5th – see you there.

Martyn Bennett
Chairman Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council
WHITTINGTON AND FISHERWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

As previously reported, the Steering Group met with five interested developers during March, and they made presentations on their outline proposals for possible building in Whittington and Fisherwick. These developers were; Cala Homes, Elford Homes, CZero, CT Planning and Lyalvale. They were interested in developing sites in Huddlesford Lane, Back Lane, Common Lane (2) and the Lyalvale Site at Fisherwick.

As a consequence of these meetings with the Steering Group, an open event was envisaged, to allow residents to gain more information on the Development Proposals and to meet with and question all possible developers.

This Open Forum was subsequently held on SATURDAY 16th MAY, at WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL, between 1pm and 5pm. This gave all residents the opportunity to see for themselves what the future MAY hold for our Village’s growth. Over 200 residents attended and completed information on feedback forms, a magnificent response. The developers themselves were amazed at the interest generated and were given very good verbal feedback on the day.

The feedback forms have now been analysed and the results are currently being examined. A further information bulletin will be issued in due course, outlining the results and comments.

Starting in July, there will be 5 Working Interest Groups, looking at Traffic, Housing, Services, Family and the Environment. These groups will look in depth at the responses we have received and start to formulate the Plan itself. These are an important part of the Neighbourhood Plan and will be instrumental in getting to the actual core of the results we have obtained and looking at what the Plan can and cannot deliver.

If you are interested in assisting with these Working Groups please get in touch with either myself, the Chairman, Garry Hyde on 01543 433190 or the Secretary, Julia Spencer on 01543 432238.

Once again, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to thank all those who came to the open forum, for their participation, their questioning and their excellent feedback; we cannot produce a credible plan without this kind of excellent support.

Garry Hyde
Chairman, Whittington and Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan Group
STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL’S CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MOBILE AND TRAVELLING LIBRARY SERVICE

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) intends to reshape the Mobile and Travelling Library Service over the next year for, as with static library provision, use of the Mobile Library service is changing. Between April 2013 and April 2014, less than 1% of the population borrowed an item from a Mobile or Travelling Library, and visits continue to fall.

As an authority, SCC envisages needing to spend an extra £20 million on the care of vulnerable children and adults this year, which is their priority. Unfortunately, every visit to a Mobile Library or Travelling Library is now costing the council tax payer nearly £7 which SCC considers to be unsustainable.

A full public consultation on the proposed changes runs until midnight on Wednesday 2 September and is designed to ascertain people’s views on the principles and the proposed stops and will ask for any ideas may help to ensure that the Mobile and Travelling Library Service can continue to reach those in greatest need whilst achieving the necessary savings.

The public will be able to take part through a number of different ways:

- On a Mobile Library - either by attending a drop-in session (details are available at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries) or by filling in a paper consultation survey.

- Filling in a paper consultation survey at any Staffordshire library.

- Online - by filling in a short online survey (available at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries).

- Via email to connectedlibraries@staffordshire.gov.uk or via social media.

The principles for the review are to prioritise people in greatest need whilst maximising access across the county. SCC proposes to do this by making sensible changes to the communities that receive a stop, the length of time that the library stops for and how often the library stops.

SCC are proposing that the mobile and travelling libraries visit locations that are more than two miles away from a static library, currently receive three or more visitors or where there are people in greatest need. Mobile visits in the most deprived areas of the county will be retained where they are used.
Each community identified as needing a Mobile or Travelling Library Service will receive one stop from a Mobile or Travelling library at least once every three weeks. The length of time the library stops for will be determined by the level of use at that stop.

More information about the initial proposals, including proposed routes and drop-in sessions, are now online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries

**BE A ‘VOICE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY’**

Want to stand up for where you live or work and make real changes?

If you are over 18, then you are probably eligible to be a parish councillor for the parish where you live or work, tackling issues that matter to your local area.

Following the recent uncontested elections in the Parish of Whittington and Fisherwick, the Parish Council still have some vacancies.

It’s an important way of having your say on the issues you care about and in choosing who will take decisions on your behalf. From the right to make representations on planning applications, to the state of footpaths and street lighting, parish and town councils have a wide range of ever increasing responsibilities and duties. They make decisions which affect your everyday life.

Parish council meetings are generally held on the first Monday of every month, except August, at 7.30 pm at Bit End Field Sports Pavilion. With few exceptions the proceedings at all meetings are open to the public in order that the decisions being made on the work of the council and the reasons behind them are made fully apparent. At every monthly meeting fifteen minutes are set aside for public participation. If you wish to raise an issue with the Parish Council, do come along and voice your concern. Attending a council meeting is the best way of finding out what it does, so see your village noticeboard, log onto the Parish Council website at www.whittingtonandfisherwick.org.uk or give the Parish Clerk a call (see inside front cover for details) and find out when the next meeting is due.

If you would like to know more about parish councils or becoming a parish councillor, a useful booklet entitled “The Good Councillors Guide” is available in electronic format from your local council.

Contact the Clerk for further details on janine_arm@hotmail.com or ring 01543 450181
MORE ON HS2

Most of you will remember that in the May edition of Connect we included an update on current proposals being developed by HS2 Ltd following the decision to route the line under the West Coast Main Line, the South Staffordshire Railway and the A38 which were presented to Parish Councillors and other residents directly affected by the route in early March. Since then we have again met HS2 representatives when more detailed information was presented, including Cross Sectional profiles at key points within or close to the village.

These measures are intended to largely conceal the track and gantries from view, and consequently reduce noise levels for a substantial proportion of the track as it skirts the western edge of the village and include:

• Cuttings to accommodate a track bed height significantly lower than surrounding ground levels (e.g. at Freeford Home Farm).
• “False” cuttings created by land re-contouring to relatively natural gradients (e.g. adjacent to Ellfield House and Mill Farm).
• A combination of the two (e.g. where the line crosses Darnford Lane).
• Screen planting and possibly acoustic fence lines in specific locations (yet to be confirmed).

One notable exception would be where the line would emerge from the golf course onto a visually prominent over-bridge where the track bed height is currently set at some 9m (29’) above road level with gantries extending some 7 – 8m (23 – 26’) above that. HS2 Ltd maintain that it is not feasible to lower this because of operational limits on track gradients. Nevertheless we will continue to press for refinements in this area.

Many will be aware that the selected route would cut the course in two and require the demolition of the clubhouse and that consequently the Golf Club is currently in detailed negotiations with HS2 Ltd over proposals to re-locate the club house and establish new greens and fairways on the eastern side of the existing course south of Sandy Lane. The Parish Council is not party to these negotiations but will in due course be able to comment on any planning application submitted.

In July HS2 Ltd published a revised Environmental Statement, which takes account of and illustrates the revised scheme, entitled Alternative Proposals 2 (it incorporates some intermediate updating of the original 2013 ES that was published in September 2014). The full document plus associated documents and drawings runs to several thousand pages. Even the Non-Technical Summary – which represents the simplest and most direct means of appreciating and understanding the scope of works now proposed for the whole length of the line – runs to 170 pages!
What clearly emerges is that, with the possible exception of the Euston area where no detail is provided, the changes asked for and conceded in our locality are by far the most radical along the whole route. The report for our area (designated Community Forum Area 22 Whittington to Handsacre) alone runs to 325 pages, evaluating anticipated effects both during construction and operation related to approximately a dozen major subject areas in considerable detail.

This will of course repay careful reading prior to future meetings with HS2 Ltd but an initial look has highlighted a number of key issues:

- The land used for the West Coast Main Line 4 tracking project adjacent to the A38 on Cappers Lane will become the Main Construction Site serving a number of other satellite construction sites in our locality.

- Although the Secretary of State for Transport is talking in terms of “shovels in the ground” in 2017 work would start in our area in the first half of 2018 with site offices etc. remaining in use until 2024.

- On site living accommodation would be provided on the Cappers Lane site and a second construction site next to the A51 near the barracks (housing about 30 workers in each case).

- HGV vehicle movements would be substantially reduced from those anticipated in the original proposals. Once onto the Cappers Lane site haul routes along the line trace would be used wherever possible, avoiding the use of Cappers Lane beyond that point.

- Exceptions would be Lichfield Road to facilitate the construction of the overbridge and related abutments and the western end of Darnford Lane (to allow for the altered alignment and related bridge construction over the track).

- Broad Lane, which skirts the eastern side of the Cappers Lane Construction site and would be re-aligned at an early stage and incorporate two new overbridges (one over the track and one over the diverted canal arm), would also be subject to a substantial increase in HGV traffic during the construction stage.

- Temporary but substantial alterations would be made to A38 slip roads to provide direct access to construction sites in the Streethay area including bridge works related to the South Staffordshire line. It would also facilitate the introduction of speed restricted 2 way traffic flows during bridge construction works where the track crosses below it.

Clearly more will emerge from detailed study and further meetings with HS2 Ltd. As ever we will keep you advised of progress.
WHITTINGTON COUNTRYSIDE AND CRAFT FAIR - SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2015 - 10AM TO 4.30PM

Fair time again, our 12th consecutive year. By the time you read this, most of the pre fair planning and organisation will be done; the marquee booked, stalls and activities confirmed, fair programme at the printers, a few more raffle books to be sold and the field plan in its final draft. We now await the final couple of days before the event when the fervent activity really begins. Thursday sees the marquee going up and the field marked out with a place for everything. Friday is the real activity day with volunteers working from dawn to dusk putting up gazebos and small marquees, collecting chairs and tables from venues throughout the village, setting out the arena, putting up signs and marking out the parking areas, securing the field boundary, setting up the ‘gates’, preparing the Dog Show area, marking out the marquee to squeeze in 50 stalls and the Produce and Flower Competition areas and a whole host of other activities. At 7.00am on the day of the Fair the gates open and in excess of 150 vehicles have to be directed to their allocated sites to off load their goods, equipment, flowers and produce in order to set up their pitches. All vehicles then have to be clear of the field by 9am prior to the fair commencing an hour later. Thanks to some very experienced volunteers, in the eleven years of running the event the Fair has always started on time. Then at the end of the day everything has to be cleared up and put away. That’s why we need a host of volunteers. Do join us on the Friday or after the Event on the Saturday afternoon, even if you can only put in half an hour. Fair entry prices remain the same as the previous years: Adults £5.00, Concessions, (including children) £3.00, Family ticket (2 x adults + 2 x children) £10.00. Children under five are admitted free of charge.

COUNTRYSIDE FAIR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Animals - ferrets, meerkats, llamas, horses, birds of prey, ducks, ponies, mini ponies and parrots
2. Tug of War Contest
3. Dog Show
4. ‘Off the Hook’ live music
5. Falconry Display
6. Savage Skills Mountain Bike Stunt Team
7. Agricultural Machines and Bygones
8. Bee keeping
9. Punch and Judy Shows
10. Doggie Assault Course Racing Competition
11. Reach Up Tower
12. Pony Riding
13. Craft and Trade Stalls
14. Children’s Slide and Obstacles
15. Wood Carving Exhibition
16. Tractor and Trailer Exhibition
17. Classic Cars
18. Kiddies’ Train
19. Food Outlets
20. Licensed Bar
21. Tea Room
22. Produce Competition
23. Large Agricultural Farm Machinery
24. Flower Arranging Competition
25. Face Painting
26. Thatcher
27. Basket Making
28. The Dog and Duck Show
29. ‘Off Road’ Vehicles
30. Ice Cream
31. Children’s Roundabout
32. Hurdle Making and Besom Brooms
33. Bungee Trampoline
34. Ferretworld Road Show
35. Horse Drawn ‘Gypsy Bowtop’ Caravan

COMPANION DOG SHOW

The Companion Dog Show is again being organised by Lindsay and Rob Mallaber of The Grove Luxury Dog Boarding, Whittington. (Held under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations). Registration starts from 10.30am and Judging commences at 1.00pm.

PEDIGREE CLASSES: £2 per entry. Rosettes to 4th place. (As always a treat for every exhibitor).

1) Any variety puppy - dog (6-12mths)
2) Any variety puppy - bitch (6-12mths)
3) Any variety sporting
4) Any variety non-sporting
5) Any variety open
6) Best crossbreed/mongrel
7) Best junior handler (under 18yrs of age, dog owned by exhibitor or exhibitor’s parents)
8) Best rescue
9) Best veteran (over 7 years)
10) Dog with the ‘waggiest’ tail
11) Most appealing eyes
12) Prettiest bitch
13) Handsomest dog
14) Dog and handler most alike
15) Best fancy dress
16) Dog which the judge would most like to take home

Also there will be rosettes for Best in show, Reserve best in show & Best puppy

Dogs which have won any of the above awards are not eligible to enter any of the pedigree classes, Challenge Certificate, Res. Challenge Certificate or Junior Warrant.
**STALLS**

This year as ever there will be a large craft marquee accommodating over 50 stalls. Bookings for both the marquee and outside stalls have been coming in steadily. In the marquee, as well as a wide variety of jewellery, stationery and country craft stalls, there will again be a food section, ladies’ handbags and accessories, hand knitted jumpers, all manner of things made out of recycled goods and many charity stalls promoting and raising awareness of their causes. Outside there is a huge variety including plants, locally produced cider, tombolas and children’s games, home-made produce, home-made sweet and cake stalls and organic products to name but a few. So, put 5th September in your diary and start your shopping list now! For trade stands contact Chris Millar on 07752976388 or Sally Hackett on 01543 432757.

**PAVILION TEAS**

St Giles Church will be serving teas in the pavilion and would be very grateful for offers of homemade cakes or helpers to join a rota to serve. If you can offer help please contact: Sara Dyott 262300 or Barbara Gray 433442.

**GARDENING MARQUEE**

Gardening will again be the focus this year and the large marquee will be extended to house the related attractions. These will include a Garden Produce Competition and a Floral Art Competition.

**FLORAL ART COMPETITION**

Whittington Flower Arranging Society is kindly sponsoring the Floral Art Exhibits competition which will be judged by Anne Brown of Tiaras and Flowers Shenstone.

Schedule of Classes: Adult: (£1 per entry)

Class 1 IT’S JUST LEAVES! An all foliage exhibit. Space allowed 90cm wide x 60cm deep, height unlimited.

Class 2 IT’S VINTAGE. An exhibit, accessories may be included. Space allowed 90cm wide x 60cm deep, height unlimited.

Children (50p entry) Helpful suggestions available on request.

Class 3 DECORATE & FILL A JAM JAR Age group 4 to 8 years.

Class 4 GLASS VASE provided beforehand to be creative. Age group 9 to 15 years.

If the early time is a problem contact Sue 319613 or Lynne 432202.
Staging to take place between 7.30 – 9am and cleared between 4.30 – 5.30pm.

PRIZES 1st £10.00, 2nd £5.00, 3rd £3.00.

Prizes for all categories.

ENTRY FORM:

Name: ......................................................... Tel. No........................................................

Class entered ............................................. Age (of child): ............................................

Please return the completed form and fee to: Lynne Lacey, 21 Fisherwick Road, Whittington, WS14 9LL, 01543 432202, lynnelacey123@btinternet.com by Wednesday 2nd September 2015. Call or email for any information required.

GARDEN PRODUCE SHOW

All entries for this year’s Produce Show need to be booked in by 9am latest on the day when the judging will take place. The cost remains the same as last year at 50p per entry

Prizes - 1st £8.00, 2nd £5.00

The categories are listed below and further details are available from the Post Office or from John and Rosemary Smith tel. no. 432848.

1. 5 potatoes
2. 3 carrots with tops
3. 3 onions, neck tied
4. 5 runner beans
5. 3 beetroot, tops removed to 3ins from crown
6. 3 parsnips, tops removed to 3ins from crown
7. 2 courgettes
8. 5 tomatoes with calyx
9. 1 unusual vegetable
10. Largest pumpkin
11. Plate of 10 soft fruit with stalks
12. Vase or pot of mixed garden flowers 6 stems
13. 3 apples of a named variety

Prizes and entries may be collected between 4.30 and 5pm.
CLASSIC CARS

The Countryside Fair is opened by classic cars parading through the village to the Fair. Vehicles assemble at the Village Hall car park by 9.30 and drive along Main Street to the Fair and into the main ring at or a little after 10.00a.m. After the ring parade with commentary, the cars proceed to a display area. Entry Forms and further information are available from Rob Hilyer tel. no. 01543 432721 or email rob617@btinternet.com.

COUNTRYSIDE FAIR SPONSORSHIP

Tempest Ford, Lichfield has again kindly agreed to provide major sponsorship for this year’s 2015 Countryside Fair. Without financial sponsorship the Fair Committee would be unable to cover the Fair set up costs. This sponsorship ensures that in the eventuality of bad weather, we don’t make a loss. Tempest Ford is no stranger to Whittington and has supported the Fair over a number of years. We thank the Company for its generous support. We are also grateful for the support of our other sponsors, including Arthur Price for the main Grand Draw prize and several anonymous sponsors.


Silver Sponsors: New Farm Produce.

Would you like to sponsor this popular and prestigious event and take advantage of an ideal opportunity to showcase and promote your organisation? There is always a great deal of publicity attached to the event, using local radio and a wide circulation of local newspapers. We can also offer free tickets which you can use as corporate entertainment for your clients, including reserved seating in the main arena. You can help us by buying advertising space in the official event programme or pre-event flyers or by making a donation. If you feel able to sponsor or donate to our 2015 or future events, please contact Steve Barr on 01543 432605 or John Smith on 01543 432848.

RECYCLING BY FORTRESS

Fortress is very kindly providing all the waste bins for our Countryside Fair. In an effort to focus on the environment, a variety of bins will be provided in order to separate rubbish and recycle where possible. May we appeal to visitors to make every effort to use the appropriate containers? Every little will help. Thank you.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Organising and running an event of this magnitude could not take place without the help and support of many people and groups in our community. The Fair Committee consisting of Parish Councillors and other members of the community has already put hours and hours of time and work into the preparation, planning and organising of the event. Our sincere thanks to the Council and the many members of our community who help in so many different ways. Don’t forget, Countryside Fair day - Saturday 5th September 2015. Make a note in your diaries. If anyone would like to help out at the Fair or become more involved in future events, please contact any member of the Parish Council or John Smith on 01543 432848.

SPONSORSHIP AND PROGRAMME ADVERTS COORDINATOR

Steve Barr, the Fair Sponsorship and Programme Adverts Coordinator, is standing down this year after a number of years in the role. Steve has done a sterling job raising over £4000 a year towards the Fair. We need a replacement in the near future to do a handover/takeover from Steve who would be happy to provide help and guidance next year. This is a most important and very satisfying task. Please do volunteer. If you require more information please contact Steve on 01543 432605 or John Smith on 01543 432848.

BMX TRACK UPDATE

Concerns have been raised regarding the gravel surface of the BMX track and how much the surface is slipping. This was discussed at the July Parish Council meeting and it was agreed to ask the contractor who installed the track to suggest suitable solutions. A further update will be included in the next issue of Connect.

ALTERATIONS TO BUS TIMETABLE

Arriva bus timetables changed a couple of weeks ago. Now just one an hour, instead of two, and different times. Please check revised timetables at www.arrivabus.co.uk before travelling.
NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

WHITTINGTON WEDNESDAY CLUB

Whittington Wednesday Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday every month 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall. Although the majority of our members are villagers, we do have members from outside the village.

We have a varied programme throughout the year, offering a trip to Birmingham Hippodrome for an annual Pantomime, possibly a river or canal trip, other days out including the seaside, retail outlets, meals and entertainment. If not out and about we have speakers as diverse as the habits and life styles in Medieval Times, to a Black Country Comedian, Strawberry Tea, Fish and Chips and Race Days. Meetings in the Hall usually include quizzes, raffles, bingo and tea/coffee with biscuits. Many of our activities are subsidised by club funds. Why not pop along one afternoon to meet us, and then maybe you would like to join us.

Further information on Club activities can be obtained from the Programme displayed on the Village Notice Board or you can ring Fred Stack on 01543 432217.

WHITTINGTON PLAYERS

Whittington Players are staging a Murder Mystery October as follows: Whittington Players present ‘MURDER IS SERVED’ A Murder Mystery by Jo West at Whittington Village Hall, Whittington, Nr. Lichfield.

Agatha Christie meets Fawlty Towers - as audience members find themselves guests at cantankerous Clarissa’s surprise party. Someone is about to die but who will it be? With excitement, intrigue and foul play, trickery is most definitely afoot.

Performances are Friday 16th and 17th October, at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm. There will be a supper and a Licensed bar. Tickets are £10 which includes supper.

For tickets please contact Kay on 01543 490355 www.whittingtonplayers.co.uk

Kay Hughes
WHITTINGTON AND FISHERWICK FAIRTRADE

The afternoon of July 1st saw the support team working away in ninety degree temperatures to put everything in place for the eagerly awaited 2015 Fairtrade wine tasting. Fortunately the Cricket Club was the ideal venue, as we were able to open all the doors and the thirty visitors in the evening could spill out onto the veranda and enjoy at least a hint of breeze circulating through the building.

This year’s event was supported not only by both the Central England (Boley Park) and the Tamworth (Whittington) Co-operative Societies, but also by Majestic Wines, Marks and Spencer and the Organic Spirits Company, with Woodhouse Farm and Garden providing a splendid raffle prize of fresh produce. Master of ceremonies Rob Golding had skilfully planned a programme that blended the familiar with some new tastings and was perfect for a hot summer’s evening.

Guests were greeted with a glass of rose sparkling wine on arrival and thereafter the reds and whites were interspersed with the opportunity to mix and sample their own breezers and spritzers and to fill any odd corners with Fairtrade nuts and with Megan’s ever popular Fairtrade chocolate brownies, which accompanied the Malbec. To round off the evening, we were treated to a rum cocktail, complete with all the trimmings and made with Papagayo Fairtrade rum from a remote area of Paraguay. The tasters eventually made their way back down Vicarage Lane with a warm internal glow matching the external temperature. As ever, a huge thank you to Rob Golding, whose expertise, presentational skills and sheer hard work come together to make the evening such a success.

It is almost three years since Whittington and Fisherwick first achieved Fairtrade status. We had to apply for renewal after a year and then every two years after that, so it’s time to reapply. Looking back over the past two years, there is a great deal to put on the form to show how much we have done since 2013. There are now prominent Fairtrade Village signs on each of the roads into the village and, in addition to the familiar giant, inflatable teacup, we have a smart banner to display. We also have Whittington Fairtrade stickers – 450 of which were given out at the recent ‘Open Gardens’ event – and more plans for the next couple of years, so we are not standing still.

Please keep your eyes open for our presence at fairs and fetes over the summer. You can find out more by looking at our website at www.whittington-fairtrade.co.uk and if you have any suggestions or would like to be involved, contact Steve Barr, 01543 432605 or stevebarruk@yahoo.com.
WHITTINGTON & FISHERWICK GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME:

You will recall that in the last edition of ‘Connect’ we told you about the imminent launch of Whittington & Fisherwick Good Neighbour Scheme. We have now been up and running for around 8 weeks and our volunteers have already helped over 50 individuals in the Parish who have contacted our helpline.

The biggest demand has been for help with transport, especially transport to our local hospitals. One lady told us ‘that she was nervous about calling the number because it all sounded too good to be true!’ Once she had plucked up courage to ring she found that she was speaking to somebody from the village who chatted to her about her needs and then rang back with the name of the volunteer who was going to take her. Later on the designated volunteer popped round and they agreed timings so that she was in plenty of time for her appointment. She said she recognised the volunteer because she had often said hello to her in the Co-op! The hospital visit had gone smoothly and it was really nice to have somebody to chat to whilst she was waiting to see the doctor.

As well as transport jobs, our volunteers have helped sort out people struggling with their computer, collected prescriptions and even replaced the failed lock on somebody’s front door.

So if you need a good neighbour, or know somebody who does, why not give us a ring on 624410. One of our friendly local duty officers will be there to take your call on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 12 noon. If that is not convenient then just ring the number and leave your number for the next duty officer to ring you back. Remember that we are all volunteers who will be helping you, so give us as much notice as possible. We are unlikely to be able to help if you ring up asking to be taken to hospital the next day!

As our numbers of clients increase so does our need for more volunteers. So if you fancy being a duty officer once a month or you would like to join our volunteer team then give us a ring on the same number – 01543 624410 – and we will tell you how rewarding it can be.

From-The Good Neighbour Team
STEP FORWARD STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Our Group, the Step Forward Stroke Support Group, celebrated its 5th Anniversary this July. Formed in 2010 by Stroke Survivors, Carers and Volunteers, we aim to support Stroke Survivors, Carers and their families. Meetings are held every Friday fortnight between 11.00 - 13.00 at Whittington Village Hall. Meetings provide a place to socialize and share experiences, proving that there is Life After Stroke.

For more information, please contact Eddie or Elaine Harris on 01827 62764.

Finally, we would like to thank the village hall and all those people, members, volunteers and organisations who have helped us to continue our work over the last five years.

Ian Rose (chairman)
NEWS FROM ST GILES HOSPICE

St Giles Hospice has announced that Emma Hodges, Deputy Chief Executive since 2011, is to be the new Group Chief Executive from 1 October 2015, upon the retirement of current CEO, Peter Holliday.

Peter said, “I am thrilled that Emma will be taking on the role of Group Chief Executive. Over the last 15 years it has been my privilege to lead the development of St Giles, building on the foundations of those who inspired the opening of the hospice in 1983.

Whilst remaining a centre of excellence in the delivery of specialist palliative care and increasing our specialist capacity, we have significantly extended our care to a wider constituency of those affected by more general end-of-life issues including, most recently, people with dementia.”

Emma takes up her new post in October and is committed to guiding St Giles Hospice through the next chapter of its long and illustrious history.

Emma says, “It is a real privilege to be part of such a well-regarded and highly respected local charity and a tremendous honour to be charged with the responsibility of leading such a fantastic team as we serve our community in the years to come.

St Giles has gone from strength to strength under Peter Holliday’s leadership. He will certainly be a tough act to follow – but I hope to be able to continue and build upon the work he has done during his exceptional stewardship of the hospice.”
WHITTINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Findings from the Whittington traffic questionnaire

Dear Whittington Village

Thank you to the 48 people who took part in our questionnaire, which was set up by the Whittington School Council to identify issues about the parking outside school. A lot of your suggestions were aimed at having double yellow lines along Common Lane to stop people parking, a car park for parents to use to take vehicles off the road and to have more support from the local police to help with the road safety of the children. We have looked at your suggestions and this is what we plan to do next.

What will we do next?

• Whittington School will be investigating a walking bus to get children to school and have regular ‘walk to school weeks’ where we will encourage pupils to walk and leave the cars at home.

• We will remind the parents that they can park at The Dog Inn and Village Hall car parks and walk up Common Lane.

• We will write a letter to the local police to see if they will help us with a traffic warden and put yellow lines outside school to stop people parking so close to the gate.

• We will talk with the Parish Council about the possibility of getting a car park for parents outside school.

Thank you for your help

Whittington School Council
NEWS FROM WFEG

WFEG is continuing to develop its work on encouraging bee and wildlife-friendly gardening and planting across the parish. We had a wonderful Open Gardens event on Sunday 15th June when we were blessed with fair weather and nearly 700 visitors criss-crossed our villages in search of the cream of Whittington and Fisherwick gardens and spaces. One of the many features was the lovely new garden area at Jubilee Park designed and planted by our local Brownies. £1500 was raised from the event which will be ploughed back into a new project for local wildlife and plants ‘River of Flowers’.

This autumn we are working with other village organisations to launch an exciting new initiative to boost our parish’s wildlife and create a ‘River of Flowers’ across our area. River of Flowers is something that everyone can get involved in, both planting and looking after areas of our patch. We have a very special village which we can make even more beautiful and wildlife friendly.

We will be producing a newsletter in September to explain the project in more detail and publicising events in the local press. We are also delighted to say that Lichfield’s very own ‘Wildlife’ Kate MacCrae is supporting us on this project and will be giving a presentation on ‘Creating Springwatch in Your Own Garden’ in the Village Hall on Friday 13th November, 7.30pm. Kate is a regular on BBC TV’s Springwatch and Autumnwatch programmes and has a fascinating website at www.wildlifekate.co.uk

And of course the food and craft markets are continuing on the 3rd Saturday of the month on the Bell Inn Car Park with the very special Apple Day Market on Saturday 17th October with some delicious apple treats, children’s entertainment from our old friend, apple expert Paul Hand, plus, of course, the opportunity to have your own surplus apples turned into juice which you can take home – using WFEG’s apple crusher and press.
A WORD FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE AND CRAFT FAIR'S MAIN SPONSOR TEMPEST FORD

This is a great time to hold the Ford franchise. Virtually every model in our Showroom has been re-launched in the last three years and Ford models continue to win awards and praise from the motoring press and industry bodies. The Ford Fiesta and Ford Focus are the top two selling cars in Britain. The amazing Eco Boost engine, which is a standard option in the Fiesta and Focus, has won the International Engine of the Year for the third year running. The Ford Fiesta ST has just received the What Car? Car of the Year Award for 2015 (Best Hot Hatch). To crown a wonderful year, Ford have just won the Most Innovative Volume Brand Award 2015 in the Automotive Innovations Awards in Germany.

With the new 65 registration just two months away, this is an ideal time to buy a new Ford car and we would be delighted to show you these amazing cars and to demonstrate their technology during a test drive.

Brian Carruthers
Managing Director- Tempest Ford Lichfield
Order your 65 registration Ford now and be one of the first to own one this September.

NEW 65 REG

For more information about our product range visit www.tempest-ford.co.uk or call our Sales Team on 01543 414451.