

Connect

www.whittingtonandfisherwick.org.uk



Whittington
Charity Challenge
Marathon,
Sat 16th July 2016

[see page 4 for details](#)

Don't think about the miles...
...think about the glory.




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Saturday 3rd September 2016



... YOUR LOCAL PARISH NEWS MESSENGER

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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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.

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM THE EDITORS

- + **Grants;** at a meeting of the Finance Committee in early February it was agreed to recommend to the full Council that a total of £13,454 should be awarded to 23 different village clubs and organisation. If, as expected, this is approved cheques will be distributed to the successful clubs/organisations at the Parish Council Meeting on 4th April 2016.
- + **Dog fouling;** following complaints about dog fouling on pavements around the village the Parish Council would like to remind all dog owners that not cleaning up after your pet is a health hazard and an offence carrying a possible fine of up to £1,000. Please, please be a responsible dog owner and clean up after your pet, take it home with you or use one of the bins around the village for this specific purpose.
- + **Plans for celebrations to mark the Queen's birthday** in June are at an early stage. It is hoped that the celebrations can coincide with the Church Fete on June 11th. For further information please contact Margo Christie on 01543 432613
- + **The Village Hall Committee** invite you for a cup of coffee on Saturday 16 April, 10 till 12, which coincides with the first Village Market of this year. The new storage facilities in the Hall are now being used by the regular user groups, and the Hall is going for Hallmark 3 this year which is the highest National accreditation for Village Halls.



Don't think about the miles...
...think about the glory.



**WHITTINGTON CHARITY
CHALLENGE MARATHON 2016**

SATURDAY 16TH JULY



Individual Full
Marathon 26.2
Miles (4 Laps)



Individual Half
Marathon 13.1
Miles (2 Laps)



Relay Marathon
Team 26.2 Miles
(4 x 1 Lap)



Full Marathon
Team of up to 6
(4 to count)

EVENT VENUE: BIT END FIELD, WHITTINGTON (Start and finish)
4 Lap Course on Trails, Tracks, Bridleway & Towpath (off-road)

EVENT AIM: To raise funds for local charitable causes, through the
organisation of a Marathon style event

Competitors of 18 years and over are welcomed whether Fun Runners, Novice or
Seasoned Marathoners. Start your training soon to ensure fitness and endurance level
is sufficient to enter any of the events:

This kind of event will not exist, without volunteers to act as:

Marshalls, Stewards, Administrators, to help with Water Points, & Car Parking! All
are welcome, if you as an individual are able to offer a few hours or you know of a
suitable group that may be able to help in any way please contact the organisers:

Bob Wood – Tel: 07722 646449, email: bobkimwood@btinternet.com

Bill Howes – Tel: 07487 792332, email: family_howes@ntlworld.com

For further details and registration visit...

www.wccm.co.uk



WOODHOUSE FARM AND GARDEN COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Annamarie Stone – Woodhouse Community Farm

2016 is a very exciting year for Woodhouse and includes the celebrations for
Capability Brown's Tercentenary. The farm is open every Tuesday and Saturday
but on the 2nd Saturday of the month, starting in May, we will offer guided walks
around the Walled Garden, on to the newly cleared Ha-Ha and other Brown
features. Our thanks go to the medical recruits from DMS Whittington who have
been helping clear pathways to the features.

Visits from May will also be complemented by sales of tea/coffee and cake in
our new Community Cafe, thanks to a Whittington Parish Council Grant. We also
hope through the Grant to be able to offer cookery workshops and school visits.

You may have seen recently that we are in the process of adding toilets and
showers to the back of the community building, thanks to a Big Lottery Grant.
We are also, as I write this article, running a crowd funding campaign to raise
funds to purchase a new insulated roof and floor for the community building.
<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/community-building-at-woodhouse-farm>

We look forward to improved facilities; a warm dry
multifunctional space will increase opportunities for
volunteers, visitors and groups. It will also improve
attendance at workshops run by Staffordshire Care
Farming and Development Community Interest
Company for individuals recovering from mental health
issues, abuse or long term unemployment.



Events

- + **Volunteer Days Saturday**
12th March and 9th April 1-4
- + **Fairtrade Tempting Teas**
Saturday 14th May 1-4
- + **New website**
www.woodhousefarmandgardencic.org.uk

SOW SIMPLE



WOODHOUSE
FARM & GARDEN



WHITTINGTON CRICKET CLUB



John Butler, Club Secretary

It is now 45 years since the Club was reformed and so much has happened during that period!

Notably, as the Club has grown to include not only seniors, but also a vibrant junior section, it was necessary to build the Club's own facility in Vicarage Lane. The site, now opened for some five years after many years in planning, was the brainchild of current Chairman Richard Abell.

Senior Saturday cricket is played in the Staffs Club Championship, the 1st X1 currently being in the Premier Division, backed up by the 2nds & 3rd X1's, the last of whom play their home fixtures on Bit End Field. Two sides play in the Lichfield & District Sunday League, the 1sts having gained promotion last season to Division Two.

Junior Cricket, so vital to the Club's future, sees sides ranging from Under 11 to Under 17 and playing in the Burton & District Youth League. Soft ball 'Kwik' cricket is also available and encouraged for those below the age of 11. All the age groups are very well supported by players and parents in support of the coaches. 'Kwik' cricket is also

viewed as very important and again well supported; a really positive way of getting youngsters involved in a fun manner very early on.

This coming season, the club is proud to confirm for the third year running we will be hosting a Staffordshire age group game v Leicestershire at Under 14 level, with an 11am start. Sunday 17th July – a date to note in diaries.

With both senior cricket being played on both a Saturday and Sunday, a warm welcome always awaits villagers to either our main ground or Bit End.

We are often asked the question, "Is the Pavilion available for hire?", the answer being very much "Yes". Ideally suited for Parties, Birthday's, Christenings, Funerals and Meetings, why not come along and have a look for yourselves! With the playing season beginning in mid-April, the Pavilion is also well supported on a Friday evening – the time of junior section practice. Light food together with the bar facility is available, so again a message to all villagers, why not come along and sample the atmosphere?

Any further information required is always available from the Club Secretary, John Butler on john@johnbutler4.wanadoo.co.uk or via phone 01543 432654 / 07961 917200.



CALLING ALL FRUIT AND VEG GROWERS!

Just an early reminder as you pour over the seed catalogues that the annual Produce Show will be running again at the Countryside Craft Fair on September 3rd 2016. Lots of classes for all ages and abilities, from first time growers to seasoned allotment holders. Cash prizes on offer so get growing! More information on classes and how to enter in the next edition of Connect. **Any queries contact Sue Walton 01543 432842.**

UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Clair Kirk and John Smith

Carols around the Tree

Christmas seems a long time ago now, but it was lovely to welcome our new Vicar Jason Phillips to this year's Carols around the Tree event. Jason conducted the short service with Carols and the Christmas story, well supported by the children. Thanks go to Megan Barr, the young musicians and the Village Choir for the musical accompaniment. Also thanks to the Village Hall for organising the sound and lighting and providing the punch and mince pies for around 150 happy villagers.



Pensioners Party

Over a hundred seniors from the Parish enjoyed a meal, wine and Sheila's Christmas cake before rounding off with a raffle and entertainment, all funded from grants from Staffordshire County Council and the Village Trust Fund. Anyone not already on the list and who would like an invitation next year, phone John Smith 432848

Barn Nativity

A big Thank You to the Parish Council for supporting the Barn Nativity in December, and as big a Thank You to the Gray Family for letting us have the use of their farm again.

I felt it was a good start to the Christmas holidays. It was a beautiful morning, with angels, kings and lots and lots of sheep (knitted and children dressed up). The only thing missing was some white crisp snow...but we can't have everything! All of the knitted sheep that had been hiding around the village arrived safely at the farm...that is except "Lollipop" who decided he wanted to stay with Sue and continue to help her shepherd the children over the road at "The Dog" crossroads.



Thank you to Sue and Megan for playing the music for us and a special thanks to Rosa Clarke for playing a clarinet solo for us. Well done Rosa, you were FAB!

Steve Lane and I had a super time putting on the Nativity service for you, and we do hope that everyone who came enjoyed it too (and the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards!).

Plans are already underway for this Christmas – if you have any ideas (sensible ones!) or would like to give a helping hand in any way, just ask me.

Many thanks to everyone for a super start to Christmas 2015.

HS2 UPDATE

John Cannon, Parish Councillor

You may recollect that Select Committee MPs visited our locality in the autumn of 2014 and, following representations by us and others in the locality, subsequently directed HS2 Ltd to lower the track so that it would run below the West Coast Main Line, the South Staffordshire Railway and the A38 instead of above as originally proposed. People could be forgiven for thinking that, as things appear to have gone rather quiet recently, nothing much has been happening, but that is certainly not the case. Detailed new design proposals were published in the Spring of 2015 and regular meetings with HS2 Ltd aimed at resolving remaining areas of concern for our community have been taking place since and will continue for as long as is necessary.

The key issues we are dealing with include:

- + Minimising the height at which the track will emerge from the golf course and cross Lichfield Road (ex Whittington Common Road)
- + Pressing for more rigorous limits on permitted noise levels and hence enhanced acoustic protection measures
- + Seeking effective involvement for the local community in developing strategic landscape and bio diversity proposals for the locality
- + Obtaining clarification on the likely phasing, management and duration of road construction works, which in our case will affect Broad Lane, Cappers Lane and to a lesser extent Darnford Lane

In connection with this last item it should be appreciated that lowering the track bed alignment will mean that Cappers Lane

will be truncated where the line crosses it and that the canal arm will need to be moved eastwards – i.e. a little nearer to Whittington. Consequently road traffic will be permanently diverted, initially along a slightly re-aligned Broad Lane, before looping back to re-join Cappers Lane by Mill Farm, crossing both the HS2 Line and the re-aligned canal on new overbridges en route. Broad Lane presently runs along the eastern boundary of the land adjacent to the A38 embankment designated as the Main Construction Site for our locality – and hence the main access point for most construction traffic. (It was put to similar use several years ago during the West Coast Main Line 4 tracking project.) Although some of the Broad Lane road works would be effectively within the construction site itself, it should be borne in mind that access for construction traffic will be required along Lichfield Road and Darnford Lane for bridge and related construction works at some stage.

There is still much to discuss with HS2 Ltd representatives and – as always – we will endeavour to keep you fully informed of developments as they emerge.

A final thought: Although HS2 may still appear a long way off, in reality time is now of the essence. Plans are afoot to secure a parliamentary third reading before the Easter recess and, unless something entirely unforeseen happens, final approval in the shape of Royal Assent should be achieved later this year. Construction –possibly including enabling works such as major service diversions in our locality – is planned to start next year and major works in early 2018 – that is to say 2 years from now.

WHITTINGTON W.I.

Anne Hiskins, WI Secretary



The first WI group was formed in Anglesey in 1915. Whittington WI was formed in 1916 just one year after.

This is our Centenary Year and we hope it will be a special time for us all. Whittington WI is very proud to be the oldest WI in Staffordshire and the third oldest in Great Britain. We have members from Whittington and Lichfield.

Our WI has ladies who enjoy keeping the profile up by entering competitions put on by the County Federation and especially at the County Show. These ladies are very skilled in both craft and cooking. Last year we brought home some very nice trophies; the competition is tough but enjoyable. We have a very good darts team and as I write this they are through to the semi-finals in the WI League. We also have two ladies who play bowls and over the years have brought back both the Singles and Doubles trophies quite a few times.

Last year three of the members helped a great deal in the making of the

“Whittington Tapestry” which hangs now at the DMS (Whittington Barracks) and was unveiled last October. Then in December the “Story Quilt” was designed by the children at Whittington Primary School and WI members helped in the sewing of the little characters. Whittington WI has held open evenings on various issues over the years including local history. The evening held about The Staffordshire Hoard was very good. We have done craft days and quiz nights; there is another ‘Big Quiz’ with puddings on Friday 8th April 2016, 7.30 in the Village Hall. Tickets at £6 each are available from Anne Hiskins (01543432256) or Sheila Nicholas (01543264938)

We are not all Jam and Jerusalem as many like to think of us. There are many debates on current issues; each year we have one or more resolutions to vote on and they are then taken to National level.

One of the largest catering events we did was for the Open Farm Sunday last year at Packington Farm. The stalwart ladies who had cooked for many days in preparation then stood and served hot and cold drinks and cake for many hours to approx. 3,000 visitors. Often during the day when we looked up all we saw was a sea of people crowded into our marquee and the crowds of people snaking round the field waiting for a tractor and trailer ride round the farm. It was great fun, very tiring but very successful and we were very grateful to all helpers.

We will be there again on June 5th, so please come and see us.

This is just a taste of what the WI is all about. Fun and Friendship as well.

ANOTHER CELEBRATION FOR GIRLGUIDING WHITTINGTON...

Sam Abell, District Commissioner



This year marks the centenary of the senior section and all ages will be taking part in the celebration and learning something about the Ranger group under the name 'Mission Spectacular'. Senior Section girls (14 years-25 years) have attended 'a ball' and Brownies (7-10 years) had a holiday at Beaudesert where they completed many sections of the Mission Spectacular badge. This group will also travel to Crystal Palace to celebrate the same around 'thinking day' (22nd February the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden Powell.)

Rainbows (5-7years) have had a circus skills workshop and are now busy flying 'around the world' learning about different countries whilst the other Brownie group have been to 'Narnia' on their holiday. They took part in the RSPB bird watch as part of their wildlife explorer badge.

3rd Whittington Guides (10-14 years) have changed nights to a Thursday in order to try to attract more leaders (we welcome a new unit helper) and we thank the Cricket club for providing us with a temporary venue. This group went to Switzerland and made new Guiding memories.

1st Whittington Guides continue to challenge their older girls and many of them successfully run evenings as part of their Baden Powell award. I was particularly impressed with the first aid and 'heartstart' evenings.

All this would not be possible without the time and dedication given by our volunteer leaders and I am hugely proud and grateful to all of them.

WHITTINGTON POOR FUND

Glenda Leach, Fund Trustee

The Whittington Poor Fund was originally founded in 1650 by Matthew Wightwick – with the princely sum of 10 shillings. Thomas Deakin was also distributing shillings to the needy, particularly widows and a further contribution was added by an unknown donor. These funds were administered by the Church Wardens until the Local Government Act of 1894 passed control to 3 independent Trustees appointed by the Parish Council.

The income for the current Poor Fund was principally from rent for allotments until 1972 when the land was sold and the proceeds invested in The Charities Official Investment Fund, a national organisation. The income is drawn from this fund and distributed by the Trustees for the benefit of residents of the Ancient Parish of Whittington. Grants are usually delivered to villagers in June & December.

Anyone wishing to make a claim to the Fund or to find out more about it should initially contact one of the Trustees:-

Pat Braidley, 01543 432385

Brian Russell, 01543 432922

Glenda Leach, 01543 304968

RIVER OF FLOWERS – STOP PRESS!

Mike Kinghan, WFEG



Brilliant news! The Village River of Flowers (RoF) project has been shortlisted for a grant from Tesco's Bags of Help initiative. This means that the project will receive between £8,000 and £12,000, depending on the outcome of a public vote at its stores in Tamworth and Lichfield, which will probably be known by the time you read this. RoF involves many village groups in a unique community-wide project aiming to bring nature into the heart of Whittington and Fisherwick. Whichever amount is received will enable the organisations involved in the project to do lots more work to make Whittington and Fisherwick a haven for wildlife, improve our green spaces, and create an even more beautiful village.



Hopefully many of you will have had a leaflet recently setting out the ideas in more detail – and there will be a consultation event later in the spring to gather ideas and opinions. Once we

get the Tesco funds and finalise the plans there'll be lots to do to take the project forward. There will be regular River of Flowers Working Parties on the 3rd Sunday of every month 11am – 1pm. Details of these will be published on the River of Flowers Facebook page – and in the Whittington column in the Lichfield Mercury.

WHITTINGTON AND FISHERWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Garry Hyde, Chairman

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has not been idle, but has been working in policy groups looking at: – Traffic, Facilities, Environment, Families and Housing issues. These topics are based on the information provided by residents in previous questionnaires and open forums.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group felt it needed to gather further information about the housing needs of the community. This information will assist greatly in producing the proposed policies on housing which will form a major part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Villages like Whittington and Fisherwick require the right balance of housing to help provide a foundation for a vibrant community. Any new housing should be planned carefully if it is to meet local needs

and have a positive impact on the area. In order to have up to date evidence of local housing need, a questionnaire has been delivered to all households along with an explanatory letter and timeline of the current position with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan process. All responses are to the external independent research company. All the information provided will be confidential.

Rural areas are facing many challenges at the moment. Major threats exist to shops, pubs, transport, services and local facilities. There is an ageing population, jobs are limited, and there can be a loss of 'community feel' in a village. In addition, the cost of living and housing are causing problems for many. These pressures exist in villages across the country and it is precisely why we need a Neighbourhood Plan to identify and address these issues.

We are planning a further Open Forum on Saturday 21st May 2016 at Whittington Village Hall, where we will present the draft policies for further consultation and discussion.

Once again, the Steering Group thanks you for your support and contribution

WHITTINGTON WEDNESDAY CLUB

Fred and Sylvia Stack

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm. Having got the year off to a good start with a panto and an 'after Christmas' roast dinner we now look forward to listening to Ian Hingley talking about 'Memories'

on Wednesday, 9th March. Entertainer Debbie Miles, a very talented young lady who we remember from our trip to Bridges, visits us on 27th April. We can also look forward to guitarist 'Cufflinks' and by popular request Dave Bartley a very funny Black Country comedian. Trips to look forward to include a Canal Boat trip, a day out to Windsor and a half-day trip

Jinney Ring. In addition, we enjoy the usual meals (i.e. Fish N Chips {23rd March}, Strawberries etc.) and social activities including our own style Olympics. Why not come along and see for yourself what our Club has to offer.

Should you require any further information or a programme, ring Fred on 01543 432217. We look forward to welcoming you.

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!



IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR COMMUNITY, CONSIDER BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR.

Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council can have up to 15 councillors but currently has 3 vacancies. We organise the annual Countryside Fair, and are involved with planning applications, giving out grants to local organisations, maintenance of public open spaces and obtaining grants, as well as other subjects of local interest which arise from time to time.

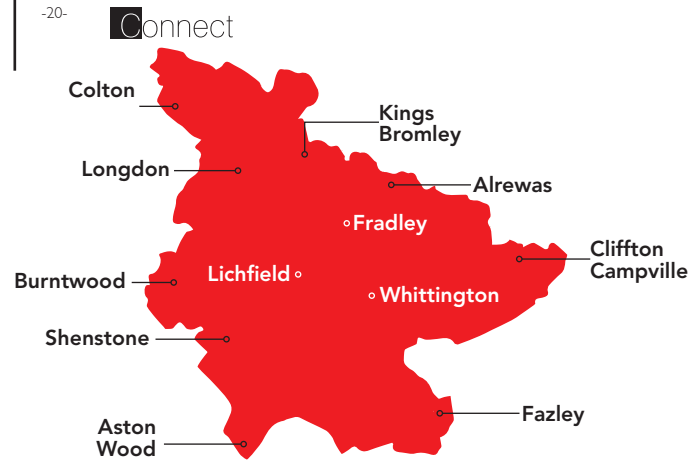
Parish Council meetings are once a month at the Pavilion at Bit End Field starting at 7.30 pm. It would be great to have more residents from all areas in the Parish involved in Parish Council work.

To qualify you must be 18 years or over, a British subject or a citizen of a member state of the European Union and be (a) an elector of the parish; or (b) a person who over the whole of the last 12 months has been owner or tenant of land or premises in the parish or has lived in the parish or within 3 miles or has had his principal place of work in the parish.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH CLERK

Janine Arm janine_arm@hotmail.com

David Walton, Parish Councillor



THE WE LOVE LICHFIELD FUND - MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Started in 2011, We Love Lichfield is a local community fund that provides small grants to a wide range of projects based in the Lichfield District, covering the area marked on the map featured...from Burntwood to Whittington and Alrewas to Shenstone.

The fund considers all applications from local groups in need twice a year.

Companies and individuals are welcome to donate or fund-raise and all money is invested through a permanent endowment fund by registered charity the Staffordshire Community Foundation on behalf of We Love Lichfield in line with charity commission guidelines. The interest and dividends earned on the invested money is then distributed by the We Love Lichfield Fund as small grants across the district.

The beauty of this model is that it will provide a source of on-going funding that can be used for small grants, and larger grants as the fund grows, for many years to come.

Up until the end of 2015 We Love Lichfield had made nearly 90 grants totalling just shy of £50,000 to worthy voluntary groups across the District.



John Heeler (Parish Counsellor) is running the Barcelona Marathon on Sunday 13th March to raise money for the We Love Lichfield Fund... any sponsorship donations can be made to his justgiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/JohnHeelerLovesLichfield> or by contacting him directly on 07976 729722.

The funds aim is to create a pot of money worth £1/2m which would mean the endowment producing £25,000 every year to give away for ever...in short We Love Lichfield is all about creating a legacy.

If you want to apply for a grant or simply for more information visit www.welovelichfield.com for more information.

The fund is also on twitter @welovelichfield

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2016 -2017

David Walton, Chairman of the Finance Committee

The Parish Council's (PC) expenditure that cannot be met from fees, charges and grants has to be met from the council tax payers within the Parish. This is collected from you by Lichfield District Council (LDC) and handed over to us in the form of a 'precept'. Every November and December the PC estimates what money it will need to meet its commitments for the following financial year and considers the inevitable inflation affecting services already provided and also to meet the costs of new initiatives. The PC owns a lot of land and assets within the parish which need maintaining, including many trees which need tree surgery work, and the cost of this maintenance has to be estimated. At the same time however the PC has to recognise that the Government wants to ensure that you, the council tax payer doesn't pay for large increases in council tax year on year and we have borne this in mind when producing our budget.

A significant factor for 2016-17 is the reduced grant that LDC will be giving to the PC. Because LDC has been subject to cuts in funding from Central Government, this has a knock-on effect on the grant Parish Councils receive from LDC. This grant was reduced by 15% (£600) for the current year and will reduce by a further 7% (£250) in 2016-17, to be followed by a further probable reduction of 11% in 2017-18 (£360). The total of these reductions in financial support are equivalent to a 3% increase in the PC's precept. In addition to reductions in income, the PC has also to fund additional spending pressures. Next year grass cutting costs will increase by £1,150 due to possible additional parcels of land being taken over by the PC,

caretaking costs will increase by £620 due to essential maintenance being required, a further £2,600 has been allocated for the tree surgery work mentioned above, and the PC needs to provide funds to enable the excellent work being carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to be finalised.

The net effect of the above for next year is that the PC will need to raise an extra £1,418 in total from council tax payers, representing an increase of just 2.5%, or 96p per typical band "D" property. The PC's part of your Council Tax bill will therefore increase from £38.42 to £39.38 for next year. Looked at another way the increase is less than 2p for each week for each property. Elsewhere in this newsletter there are details of both the new and established services provided by the Parish Council, and when the benefits obtained from these are compared to the small cost to you, we hope you consider this to be good value for money.

It is interesting to note that of all the Councils that raise council tax from you for their services, the Parish Council is the only one where the Members are completely voluntary and do not receive a "members allowance".

The full budget details are included on the Parish Council's website. Should you have any questions on the budget please email me via the Parish Clerk.

WHITTINGTON & FISHERWICK GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME:

Terry Tricker, Chairman

It seems longer than 12 months ago when I accepted the role of Chairman of this exciting new project. Our first job was to ensure that we had the right technology to support the project. We found and tested a very reliable and cost effective telephone system, which uses a local number (01543 624410) and have a data base which does everything we need it to.

We were very fortunate in being helped by three organisations that supported us with financial grants to help get us off the ground. The first came from Staffordshire Community Council and a second one from the Staffordshire Police & Crime Commissioner's (Mathew Ellis) People Power fund. The third came from our Parish Council, which not only gave us a start-up grant of £1000 but also gave us a second grant of £750 in 2015. This grant has covered our running costs for our first year.

So we had the systems but they are no good without people who could operate them. We always knew that the duty officers were going to be key to the success of the scheme. People, who were not only a reassuring voice at the end of the phone, but could also manage the technology and find a suitable volunteer to do the job. We have been incredibly fortunate to have a superb team of volunteer duty officers.

So we then required the volunteers to enable us to provide the service. What a super bunch we have got, with an array of skills and a huge dose of patience and

compassion. They have completed over 120 jobs between them and gained great respect for the organization. To deliver those jobs our volunteers – including the Duty officers – have given approaching 500 hours of their time in the first seven months of operation, showing real commitment and dedication.

I have come to realise in recent weeks that it is not just the number of jobs or even the hours spent that matter but as one client said to me, 'I am better now so don't need you at the moment but it is wonderful to know that I now have a safety net there, which is held up by my neighbours in my village'. We know of some good examples where that safety net has really helped people in their time of need.

So what of the future? We have become aware of how difficult it is for many existing and prospective clients to make that phone call to us. Many of the generation of potential clients we want to support are proudly independent. It is not easy convincing them that it is not a failure in occasionally asking for help and that there is a team of local people out there wanting to help. I'm not sure what we can do about it. Perhaps we should be encouraging neighbours or family members to make that call for them in their presence. Any thoughts would be gratefully received.

Everybody involved in the scheme should be very proud of themselves. There are some very grateful clients out there and, in many cases, their families too. For my part it has been a privilege to work with such a super group of people.



WHITTINGTON AND FISHERWICK FAIRTRADE



Steve Barr, Chair Whittington and Fisherwick Fairtrade

Readers of the last edition of Connect may remember that we were waiting for confirmation that our Fairtrade Village status had been renewed. The letter duly arrived early in November and included the following:

"It is amazing to see that you have been able to connect with all the local organisations, from churches to retail outlets, as this really helps to inspire other people in the community to be a part of the Fairtrade campaign. The help of large establishments at some of your events highlights the depth of support for Fairtrade in your community. We wish you luck with helping the local village school achieve Fairtrade status."

If you have a 2016 Whittington and Fisherwick Fairtrade calendar, a picture from St Giles Hospice, featured for the month of March, will be hanging on your

wall. By the time you read this, Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 may have come and gone, but if your Connect arrives before March 13th, keep your eyes open for special offers and promotions in the Coop and other shops. Perhaps you were able to attend Whittington Fairtrade's contribution to Fairtrade Fortnight, in conjunction with Sunbeams at St Giles – the coffee morning with home-made cakes and biscuits in the Church Hall on March 2nd. Look out for us also at the monthly markets on the third Saturday morning of the month which start again in April at the Bell Car Park.

Future events include another afternoon of Tempting Teas at Woodhouse Farm on World Fair Trade Day, Saturday 14th May. We also hope to repeat our ever popular Fairtrade wine tasting at the end of June – provisional date is Tuesday 28th. Check our website <http://www.whittington-fairtrade.co.uk> and the Lichfield Mercury for more information or contact Steve Barr – stevebarruk@yahoo.com – particularly if you would like to join our small steering group, or get involved in any way.

CRICKET PAVILION WALL-HANGING

Megan Barr, for Whittington Craft Club

As I write this, Whittington Craft Club's promised wall-hanging for the Cricket Pavilion is being assembled, and will hopefully be hanging for all to see by the

end of March. It has made us all realise just what a wealth of opportunities are available in our village, and how much voluntary effort goes into providing them all.

We hope the hanging will be fun to look at and puzzle over, and will be bright and cheerful in the beautiful space of the Cricket Pavilion. Do go and have a look when you get the chance.

SUPPORTING THE BEREAVED IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Ian Leech, Community Engagement Manager, St Giles Hospice

As part of our commitment to create compassionate communities, St Giles Hospice work in partnership with several organisations to operate Bereavement Help Points across our catchment area. We identified a need to increase the support available for people who are bereaved. By working in partnership with organisations like Cruse Bereavement, Burton Hospitals and Age UK Burton, adults across our catchment area are never more than a day away from bereavement support and information.

Bereavement Help Points allow you to drop in without an appointment, you can then take information that is on hand or you can sit and talk to a trained bereavement support volunteer. All the help points are very friendly and they welcome all adults who are bereaved. There are no constraints on attendance, we



have people who visit every week and others who come along for a few weeks then maybe don't attend for a couple of months before coming back again. The Bereavement Help Points are all centred on the need of the individual. It doesn't matter whether a person has been bereaved for ten days or ten years, everyone is made welcome.

The closest bereavement help points to Whittington are in

Lichfield and Tamworth. Lichfield is at the Tesco Extra Community Space (where...) on a Wednesday afternoon from 2:30pm until 4:30pm. Tamworth Help Point is at the Sacred Heart Community Room, Silverlink Road, Glascote, Tamworth on a Friday morning from 10:00am until 12:00 noon. Information on all our help points can be found at www.stgileshospice.com/bhp or by calling Ian on 01543 434 535.

TEMPEST FORD PROUD PRINCIPAL SPONSORS OF THE WHITTINGTON COUNTRYSIDE FAIR 2016 FOR THE 3RD YEAR RUNNING.

This is our 3rd year of being principal sponsors of the Fair. However we have attended the Fair for many years with a static display showcasing Ford's latest cars and technologies. This year we aim to take it one step further by demonstrating Active Park Assist.

Throughout the day from our stand you will be able to witness first hand our Ford Focus park itself. Our staff will be giving live demonstrations of Active Park Assist where you will be able to sit in the car and be amazed as the car takes control and manoeuvres itself in and out of parking spaces. You don't have to wait for the show to witness Active Park Assist; you can simply visit our brand new website at www.tempest-ford.co.uk and book a demonstration with our Sales Team or even learn more about Ford's other technologies such as My Key and SYNC 2.

Once again we look forward to strengthening our relationship with the parish through this sponsorship and look forward to sharing with everyone the exciting developments at Tempest Ford in the months ahead.

Brian Carruthers

Managing Director - Tempest Ford Lichfield.

