



News and Views



The Newsletter of Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council

Autumn 2009

Best Kept Village Awards for Whole Parish!

Congratulations to Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston! Lapley won not only 1st place in the small village category for South Staffordshire but also for the whole county of Staffordshire. Both Stretton & Wheaton Aston also received Highly Commended awards. Many organisations, businesses and volunteers have made a good effort this year in all three villages and their hard work has paid off. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has worked hard to keep the parish looking neat and tidy. Lets keep up the good work and see if we can make the area look even better next summer!

Christmas Lights Set To Shine Brighter

The Parish Council and local groups are working hard to improve the Wheaton Aston Christmas Lights Switch On Event. The Parish Council has obtained new lights which are planned for Long Street, High Street and Hawthorne Road as well as the village square.

There will also be new Christmas tree lights. The Parish Council have listened to residents and have decided not to erect any fencing around the Christmas tree. This year we are putting our faith in the local young people and we hope that they will show the whole village that they can be trusted to respect the council's property and will leave the Christmas decorations untouched so that the lights may be enjoyed by everyone for the whole of the Christmas period.

The switch on will take place on Saturday 28th November at the earlier time of 4.30pm. Details are yet to be finalised for the switch on but it is planned to have a bigger and better event with traditional Christmas stalls selling mince pies, roasted chestnuts, mulled wine and hot pork baps. It is also planned to have the church Christmas Fair in the village hall, a Santa's grotto and stalls selling Christmas gifts, cards and crafts in the church. There will be carol singing, a brass band and activities for children. It is hoped that the earlier start time will encourage young families to come out, join in the fun and get into the Christmas spirit! A lot of work has been put in to the Christmas lights and it promises to be a great community event. Please lend your support by coming along and joining in.

Wheaton Aston in Mourning

Wheaton Aston recently lost two well loved residents who dedicated a huge amount of their time and energy to serve others in our community.

Rita Eccleston participated in many aspects of community life within Wheaton Aston including Chairman of the Old People's Welfare Committee, managing the Day Centre, where she also worked as a cook, organising outings for the Day Centre members, making preserves and cakes which were then sold to help with fund raising, hand making gift tags and cards, cake icing, gardening, etc. She got great pleasure from helping those around her. She is still much missed by all those who she helped and worked with. The Old People's Welfare would like to pay tribute to the late Rita Eccleston in acknowledgement of all she did.

Don Thompson will be remembered by hundreds of local people as their dedicated head teacher at St. Mary's First School. Don was a Parish Councillor for many years and also our Co-ordinator for the Inter-Parish Games. He gave up much of his time organising teams in various sports. The Parish Council have created the Don Thompson Memorial Trophy for team work at the First School and it was presented to its first winner, Lauren Swift by the Parish Council Chairman on behalf of Don's wife, Muriel, at the leavers' assembly on 17th July. Don touched the lives of many and is missed by them all.

Best Kept Gardens Competition

During July and August judges from the Parish Council visited our three villages in search of the best kept gardens. Congratulations to the winners!

Winners will be invited to attend a presentation evening on 25th September where they will be presented with certificates and prizes.

Bulb Planting

Do you enjoy gardening? Would you like to help improve the appearance of the parish? The Parish Council obtains a variety of spring bulbs from South Staffordshire Council but needs help to plant them in locations around the village. If you know of a patch of ground that would benefit from some spring colour and you would be prepared to plant some bulbs in September, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01785 841639 or LSWAPC@btconnect.com.

Calling all Pensioners!

If you have recently reached that time of life when you have become a pensioner (i.e. ladies at 60 or men at 65), the Old People's Welfare Committee would like to hear from you. This is to ensure that, for future reference, you are on their list of pensioners who live in the locality and you will be able to benefit from any of the events/activities that the Old People's Welfare Committee organise. Please contact Pat Horton on 01785 840675 with your details so that you can be added to the list.

Free to all households in Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston

This newsletter is delivered by a volunteer in Stretton village, councillors in Lapley village and by the BMX Boyz in Wheaton Aston. Homes in between the villages and on the outskirts of the parish can be posted to. If you would like to receive a posted copy please contact the Parish Clerk who will add you to the mailing list.