

## Youth News

### Wheaton Aston Youth Forum

Members of the Youth Forum attended a residential course in June at Edale in the Derbyshire Dales. The group took part in workshops and some teambuilding activities including canoeing, weaselling and climbing. The existing youth forum members helped youth workers to deliver the training to the new members and all young people that took part completed a Youth Achievement Award. The replenished youth forum is already making links and getting involved in decision making within their community.

### Wheaton Aston Carnival

Youth club members spent 12 weeks designing and making costumes and learning Samba rhythms and Brazilian dance moves for this year's carnival, confident ones doing the parade itself. The feedback from the community has been excellent and the youth club members are keen to take part in next year's event. They would like to enter a float next year so if anyone is willing and able to help please contact Julie at the youth club on 01785 841699.

### BMX Bike Track

Members of the youth forum that are involved in the Wheaton Aston Play Strategy Group have recently met with Rammental to begin looking at designs for the BMX track and Skate Park. The initial plans for the area have been passed by the Parish Council so watch this space. A big thanks to the young people that have worked with their youth worker and tirelessly campaigned for these facilities.

### Wheaton Aston Senior Youth Club

If you are not already a member of the youth club, please accept this as an invitation to join. The youth club has recently been refurbished and young people alongside the youth work staff have successfully applied for funding to update and buy new equipment and resources. They have an Xbox, a flashy new pool table, bar football, sports equipment, arts & crafts and an internet café that opens in September. They also encourage young people to gain accreditation with Youth Achievement Awards and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Senior Youth Club takes place on Thursdays 6.30pm to 9pm and is open to all young people aged 12 to 18 years. Membership is £1 for a year and 30p a week subs.

### German Visitors to Wheaton Aston

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July young people from our Youth Club played host to young people from Bremen, Germany who had been staying in Staffordshire as part of the German War Graves Commission peace camp. With assistance from football coaches the young people organised an 11 a side mixed football match. In the youth centre other young people kept themselves busy making friendship bracelets, earrings and necklaces, fabric painting and nail art. David Kidney MP visited the event and got to know the young people and staff from Bremen and Wheaton Aston. Afterwards the German young people sent thanks to the Wheaton Aston young people for making them feel so welcome.

### Village Limbers Up For New Exercise Class

Residents are being encouraged to join a new exercise class which is being launched by South Staffordshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Team.

The class is being held at Wheaton Aston Village Hall every Wednesday at 2pm and is ideal for anyone who has wants to do some light exercise and meet new people.

The new classes, start on 9<sup>th</sup> September. The first two classes are FREE and are just £1.50 thereafter. They end around 3pm, when refreshments will be served. To book a place or to find out more call 01902 696683.

### Boxercise Class

The next Boxercise class takes place on 10th September from 6pm to 8pm at St. Mary's First School. The class costs only £1 and is open to all regardless of age or ability. It is a fun, non-contact form of exercise and is run by PC Andrew Smith our Neighbourhood Police Officer.

### Download 80 Walks Free

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Check out [www.walkinginstaffs.co.uk](http://www.walkinginstaffs.co.uk) and get walking!

### Future Plans for Wheaton Aston

Many residents have attended Parish Council meetings over the past year and raised concerns about various issues and sometimes suggested possible solutions. Over 60 people attended the meeting about anti-social behaviour in April, organised by the Parish Council, to tell people in positions of power directly about the problems that they were experiencing in Wheaton Aston. The Wheaton Aston Play Strategy Working Group (WAPSWG) was set up and has been working hard auditing the area to identify what facilities exist now for young people, consulting with them to find out what they want in the area and surveying the entire village to establish the views of the whole community. The South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership have also visited the area and begun consulting with residents about what issues are affecting them. The Parish Council have recently approved initial plans for both Marston Road and Broadhous Lane play areas, which will see new facilities for residents of all ages and funding is now being sought for the projects.

The Parish Council are working in partnership with the South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership (supported by a host of organisations including South Staffordshire Council, Staffordshire Parish Councils Association and the Community Council of Staffordshire) to gather more suggestions and views from the people that live in the parish, formalise the information that has been given and produce a parish plan. The Parish Plan will become an official document that local, regional and national authorities will refer to when considering developments in the parish. It also gives the Parish Council and other community organisations strong evidence of what residents want and need when lobbying for change or applying for funding for improvement projects.

An event is taking place in the village hall on 22nd September at 6.30pm where everyone is welcome to raise any additional issues, suggest more ideas for the future of the parish and work with representatives from various organisations to develop possible solutions. The information gathered thus far will be developed into a questionnaire for the whole parish. Please come to the meeting if you can and please complete and return the questionnaire when you receive it.