

Chairman's Report

As the days warm up I can hardly wait to see the results of last year's bulb -planting efforts.

This next year the Parish Council will plant more daffodils and also snowdrops, bluebells (native English variety) and crocuses. Your suggestions for any areas that would benefit from some spring bulbs would be very welcome.

We hope to replace one of the bus stops on Blackburn Road and are in ongoing discussions with the owner of the sand quarry on Copthurst Lane about securing a footpath for walkers.

I recently attended training about the Local Development Framework (used to be called the Local Plan) and, after much delay, this will be coming along in the next months and years. We will be keeping a close eye on this issue as the Green Belt boundaries are an especially important factor for us in Heapey. Do let us know if you have any thoughts about this or any other matter in the LDF that may affect our locality.

Janet Ross-Mills

Lancashire Best Kept Village

Following our success in last years competition, in which Heapey received the award for 'Most Improved Small Village/ Hamlet', the Parish Council will be entering the village again this year.

Judging usually takes place in July (details will be displayed on the noticeboards) and we would be grateful for any assistance residents can provide by keeping the area around their property generally tidy. If you happen to spot any areas in need of cleaning up please contact the Clerk or Councillors.

Parish Councillors

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07732 027490

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01257 277145

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01254 831522

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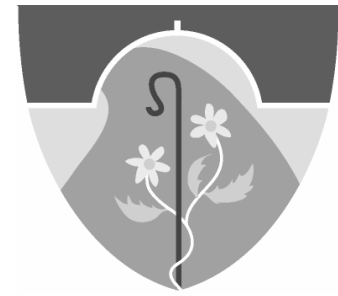
e-mail:
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website
www.heapeyandwheelton.org

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday in alternate months (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and Nov), in The White Coppice Rooms, St Barnabas Church, Chapel Lane. See the Parish Council noticeboards at the junction of Blackburn Road with the A674, the end of Coppice Lane (by the junction with Hollin Lane) and the War Memorial Grounds (visible from Kenyon Lane) for details.

All members of the public are welcome to attend all Council meetings.

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Heapey Parish Council Newsletter

March 2009

Council Tax

At the January meeting the Council passed an increase of 4.8% in the Parish Precept. The increase is to provide funds towards a Christmas tree, lights and associated power supply at Heapey Chase

Services provided by the Parish Council from the precept include the ongoing maintenance of the Play Area and the War Memorial Grounds, mowing of grass verges on Blackburn Road, Parish Council noticeboards, wayside seats, the Christmas tree and lights, emptying of dog waste bins and relevant insurance cover. Assistance is also provided for the upkeep of the Village Hall and War Memorial. Heapey Parish Council is a joint trustee of, with ultimate responsibility for, Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall, but this is run and maintained by a separate Committee.

The Parish Council also exists to represent the views of all Heapey residents to the Borough and County Councils, the Police and various other public and private bodies. If you have an issue the Parish Council may be able to help with please contact the Councillors or the Clerk (contact details on the back page).

Lancashire Constabulary

PACT meetings are held at Wheelton Police Station on the first Tuesday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm.



Freedom of Information

The Parish Council has adopted a Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act which describes how specified information, as described by the Act, is available to members of the public.

The information includes contact details, timetables of meeting, meeting agendas and minutes, financial information and accounts, responses to planning applications, policies and procedures for the conduct of council business, other procedures relating to the running of the council and the Councillors' Registers of Interests.

Much of the Information is available for inspection at meetings, on the website, or paper copies may be provided for a charge. Anyone requiring specific information should contact the Clerk (details on back page) for details of availability and costs.

Free Swimming

Every Chorley resident over the age of 60, or 16 and under, can sign up for a swimming card which entitles the holder to free public swimming sessions. The card does not cover lessons or activity sessions. Sign up for your card at Chorley Council's Union Street offices or All Seasons Leisure Centre.

For further details call 01257 515151, email to contact@chorley.gov.uk or visit the website at www.chorley.gov.uk/swimming

Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall

A bit of good news to start off with - the Village Hall has received a grant of £3,500 from Community Foundation for Lancashire. The money will be used to provide secure storage facilities at the Village Hall in order that the space currently used for storage can be put to better use by the User Groups.

Now is the time that we start planning for the Village Fete, which will be held on Sunday, 5th July. For the past 2 years, the bad weather has meant that event has been held in the Village Hall. The committee hope that this year it will be able to return to its normal venue and will be bigger and better than ever. If you have any ideas or are able to offer help either organising or on the day, it would be great if you could come to a meeting on Monday 30th March, 8pm in the Village Hall. If you can't make the meeting, and would still like to help contact me.

We now have a Mums and Toddlers Group who meet on Thursdays. For more details about this or anything else, I'm on 01254 831522 or william.geddes@virgin.net.

Joan Geddes

Hedges

As the growing season is almost upon us we would ask residents, landowners and farmers with hedges and trees that are adjacent to pavements or highways to make sure they're cut back. This year don't just trim them - help reclaim the pavements for walking on by cutting back hard to the edge of your boundary, instead of just trimming. The same goes if you have hedges directly by the roadside where there are no pavements - walkers and cyclists are often forced out into the road to pass and car paintwork damaged.

Sand Quarry Footpath

We are negotiating with the Owner of the Quarry to try to reach agreement on a footpath from Copthurst Lane to link up with the public right of way. We are trying to come to an arrangement under which a path will be available for residents, without adversely affecting the rights of the landowner.

Lancashire County Council's Countryside Officers are assisting and we are hopeful of being able to negotiate a concessionary agreement for use of the path, which will be drawn up between the Landowner and LCC.

Similar agreements are already in place on the West Pennine Moors

White Coppice Cricket Club

Preparations for the 2009 season have now begun and the Club is hoping for another successful year to emulate 2008, when we tied the last game of the season, missing out on promotion to the Premier Division of the Palace Shield by only one point.

New playing members are always welcome for our Senior teams and Junior players, who must be under 15 years of age on 31 August 2008 to play during the 2009 season, are also required.

Local readers are invited to support the Club as Non-playing Members or become a 'Friend of White Coppice CC'. Various sponsorship packages are available from as little as £10, which include complementary refreshments from our Pavilion during the summer.

For further details please contact the Club Treasurer, Geoff Haydock at 78 Carrington Road, Chorley, PR7 2DQ or telephone 01257 274241.