

## Your Parish Councillors

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## PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Residents who have access to the internet are reminded that the Parish Council now has its own website <<http://www.whatton.org>>.

The website is intended to complement *Whatton Village News* and is updated on a regular basis.

Minutes and agendas are available for download starting from the October 2008 meeting.

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*Whatton Village News* is published on a quarterly basis by Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council and is delivered free to all households in the parish.

Edited by Gregg Redford

Comments and suggestions about *Whatton Village News* should be sent to: The Clerk, Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council, 19/21 Main Street, Keyworth, Nottinghamshire.

# Whatton Village News

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December 2011

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## Red Arrows over Whatton and Aslockton?

On June 4<sup>th</sup> next year, the two villages celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The event will be staged on the Playing Field and begin at lunch time and end about 10:30 pm.

To begin the festivities the 'Royal Train' will be arriving at Aslockton Station at 1pm. The 'Diamond Prince and Princess' will be met at the station by local dignitaries and transported past flag waving villagers to the Playing Field.

The party begins with the whole of the Archbishop Cranmer School presenting 'Folk Dance Fun', dancing for all and a presentation by the Maypole Team.

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## 2012 a busy year?

2012 looks to be set to be a busy year.

It is anticipated that major portions of the Localism Act will be introduced in April 2012, her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in June, the Olympic Games start on the 27th July followed by the Paralympics starting on August 29th.

Despite the uncertain economic situation, there is much to look forward to in 2012.

## Merry Christmas

The Parish Councillors wish all residents a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Next is the 'Olympic Parade of the teams in the IT'S A KNOCKOUT competition.

This fun event will involve teams and spectators. Lots of water will be in evidence and spectators should bring their brollies! Details of how to organise and enter teams will be published early next year.

Also taking place will be model car racing and model aircraft flying by local model clubs, competing for trophies and glory!

Soon the eyes of the crowd will be drawn to the sky for the RAF flypast.

The fun continues with the Diamond Trophy Tug of War. Further details of this event will be published early next year.

At 5 pm we have 'Tea in the Park'. Refreshments on-sale, licenced bar or bring you own food. To keep young ones happy, all the fun of the fair, with rides, face painting and the Children's Disco in the Marquee.

We are delighted to have our DJ, Nigel to start off the musical extravaganza. Nigel will then be our MC for the rest of the evening program with music for all tastes.

Next, by popular request is the return of 'Loose Chippings' playing music from the 60's to the present day. This band has had recent successful 'gigs' at the Grange Hall and the Thomas Cranmer Centre.

To round of the entertainment we have from Derbyshire, Ilkeston Brass to play a programme of popular brass band music, finishing with a selection from the 'Last night at the Proms' and of course 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

All that remains is the Loyal Toast to our Queen, the National Anthem and the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon.

Please note, this is not yet a confirmed or finalized programme, we need you to join in.

Details of how to take part will be published early next year. We still have

## The Playing Field

For newer Residents it may be useful to explain the status of the Whatton and Aslockton Playing Field.

The Playing Field was purchased by Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Councils with the help of the Big Lottery Fund in 1994.

In May 2006 the Parish Councils entered into a Deed of Dedication with the National Association of Playing Fields (now Fields in Trust). The Deed of Dedication ensures that the playing field will remain a recreational facility in perpetuity for the benefit of the residents of Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale.

The Deed of Dedication also appointed Aslockton Parish Council and Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council as the Sole Trustee (the 'Trustee'). A requirement of the Deed was to register the Playing Field with the Charity Commission, this was achieved in April, 2010.

The Parish Councils appointed a Joint Trustee Committee to undertake the responsibilities of the Trustee. The Trustee also delegated the day-to-day Management of the facility to the Playing Field Committee. The Playing Field Committee consists of:

- 2 Members appointed by Aslockton Parish Council;
- 2 Members appointed by Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council;
- 1 Members from each of the user sports clubs:
  - Aslockton Cranmers Junior Football Club;
  - Cranmer Arms Football Club;
  - Greyhounds Football Club and
  - Whatton and Aslockton Cricket Club.

4 Members elected at the Annual General Meeting from the Residents of Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale (over 18 years of age).

Two of the elected position remain vacant—can you help!!!

## The Clerk's Bits and Bobs

The parish council have welcomed a planned development of five workshop and office units with parking facilities and a service area for Peter Gribby Ltd at Riverbank, Old Grantham Road, Whatton in the Vale.

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Consideration is to be given by the parish council to appointing a Planning committee which would meet to discuss all planning applications involving the parish. Currently the whole council take on the task.

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A new gate has been fitted to the Whatton and Aslockton playing field following damage being caused to the existing one.

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Whatton in the Vale Jubilee Hall committee are staging their traditional Christmas events and then early in 2012 another film evening.

The accounts of the Whatton in the Vales parish council for 2010 – 2011 have been given an unqualified opinion by Clement Keys on behalf of the Audit Commission,.

This meant they had no points to raise and the council were given a clean bill of health for their financial report.

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An offer from Notts County Council of five free 28kg bags of salt has been taken up by the parish council. Chairman Coun. Greg Redford be the contact point for anyone wishing to have any. The salt is not for use on private property. The council have also agreed to buy an additional grit bin at a price of £150 from the County Council.

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Christmas is coming! The annual Christmas Fair held at Whatton in the Vale Jubilee Hall will take place on Friday December 2, starting at 6pm. The festive light switch on event was on the same evening at the start of the fair.

space in the programme to accommodate any organization who would like to take part.

Why not plan to get your family involved whilst enjoying your Christmas celebrations.

Colin Tristram – Joint Diamond Jubilee Committee.

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## Fly-tipping on Conery Lane

There have been reports of 'fly-tipping' on an area on Conery Lane.

A recent offence has been reported to Rushcliffe Borough Council and we await the outcome of their investigation.

Dumping waste illegally is a serious criminal offence that carries a fine of up to £50,000 (unlimited if the case goes to the Crown Court). The perpetrator could also face a prison sentence of up to five years for fly-tipping. Local councils treat fly-tipping very seriously and will usually prosecute anyone caught.

### If you find fly-tipped waste

If you discover fly-tipped waste, there are some do's and don'ts:

#### Don't:

- don't touch the waste - it may contain syringes, toxic chemicals or other hazardous substances
- don't disturb the site - there may be evidence that could help identify the fly-tippers and lead to their prosecution
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#### Do:

- visually try to work out what the waste consists of and how much there is

- make a note of the day, date and time you saw the tipping, its exact location and whether it's in or near water
- If you see someone fly-tipping, make a note of:
  - how many people are involved and what they look like
  - what has been tipped - how much and what it looks like
  - details of any vehicles involved including make, colour and registration number if possible

Be very careful. Remember that fly-tippers are doing something illegal – they are unlikely to welcome people observing them or taking notes or photographs.

### **Report fly-tipping**

You should contact your local council to report fly-tipping. Provide as much detail as possible.

Alternatively, you can contact the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60. The Environment Agency deals with fly-tipping incidents if they involve:

- very large amounts of waste
- organised or criminal fly-tipping operations
- hazardous waste

Report fly-tipping to [Rushcliffe Borough Council](#).

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## **Support Whatton Jubilee Hall**

The Jubilee Hall is a very important community asset. The Hall is managed on behalf of the residents by a pro-active and dedicated committee.

The Committee run a number of Community events throughout the year. Please help them maintain this valuable asset by supporting the events and / or becoming a patron of Whatton Jubilee Hall.

## **Nottinghamshire Police announce a new non-emergency number – 101.**

**The 101 number will go live in Nottinghamshire on Monday 7 November 2011.**

Calls to the 101 number will be answered by control room staff here in the Force - residents will not find themselves speaking to someone in another part of the country and there are many great benefits to the introduction of the new non-emergency number.

In an emergency, when a crime is taking place or when a person is in immediate danger, people should always call 999. The 101 number can be used when people simply want to talk to a local police officer, or for other non-emergencies including:

- reporting that a car has been stolen;
- reporting that property has been damaged;
- reporting suspected drug use or dealing taking place;
- reporting a minor traffic collision;
- giving police information about crime in their area;

When a call is made to 101, you will hear a recorded message announcing that you are being connected to their local police Force. If you are located on a boundary between two or more forces, the message will give you a choice of which police Force to be connected to.

Police call handlers will then answer the calls and if the incident is recognised as an emergency, the operator will put you through to 999.

Calls to 101 will cost 15p per call, irrespective of how long the call may last and applies to all landlines and mobile phones. **The existing 0300 number will be gradually phased-out before being turned off completely on Monday 9 January 2012.** Until the number is turned off, a message will be posted on the line directing callers to the new 101 number

local services."

The impact on Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council is, at the moment unclear as we need to wait for the definition of an 'eligible Parish Council'. Your Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

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## Playing Field Fence replaced

Some 70 metres of fencing on the Southern Boundary has been replaced. The work was required because of damage caused by horses on neighbouring land. The fencing not being replaced will be reinforced as part of the project. The cost of the project will be in the region of £700 and it is hoped that it will be completed within the next few weeks. An electric fence will be added to the outside of the fencing to deter the horses from causing further damage.

The possibility of replacing the fence on the Eastern boundary with a hedge is currently under investigation.

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## New Street name

The Parish Council agreed to the name put forward by RH Developments for the new properties built on the site of the White Villa. The properties on the front on the site will be Dark Lane. Those to the rear of the site will be on the new street name of Boundary Close.

## Maintaining the Parish

Residents may have noticed that the public benches in the Parish have been repainted. This is the result of the Parish Council's policy of keeping the public assets of the Parish in good order.

The refurbishing of the benches followed the repainting of the Red Telephone Box and its conversion to an Exchange Library.

The fence around the Village Green (Ivy Row) is the next project.

## Localism Bill receives the Royal Assent.

The Localism Act will trigger the biggest transfer of power in a generation, releasing councils and communities from the grip of central government.

The flagship legislation, which late yesterday afternoon received Royal Assent, puts a raft of new rights and powers at the disposal of local people to take charge of their future, delivering on more than 30 coalition agreement commitments.

Key measures to increase the power of local government through the Act include:

- Introducing a **new general power of competence**, giving councils unprecedented freedom to work together to improve services and drive down costs. Councils are now free to do anything - provided they do not break other laws
- Opening the door for the **transfer of power to our major cities** to develop their areas, improve local services, and boost their local economies
- Ending the ineffective system for overseeing the behaviour of councillors by **abolishing the Standards Board**
- Clarifying the **rules on predetermination** in order to free up councillors to express their opinions on issues of local importance without the fear of legal challenge
- Enabling councils to **return to the committee system** of governance, if they wish, regardless of their size. Centrally set rules interfering in how councils set up their own affairs are being scrapped
- Giving councils greater control over **business rates**. Councils will have the power to offer business rate discounts, which could help attract firms, investment and jobs. The Act cancels unfair **backdated business rates**, which threatened to cripple key businesses. It stops plans to impose a **business rate supplement** on firms if a simple majority of those affected do not give their

consent, and simplifies the process for claiming **small business rate relief**

- Introducing **new planning enforcement rules**, giving councils the ability to take action against people who deliberately conceal unauthorised development
- Increasing powers for councils to **remove illegal advertisements** and graffiti and prevent fly-posting, and giving **planning authorities stronger powers** to tackle abuses of the planning system
- **Reforming homelessness legislation** to enable councils to provide good quality private rented homes where appropriate, freeing up social homes for people in need on the waiting list
- Allowing councils to keep the rent they collect and use it locally to maintain social homes through the **abolition of the housing revenue account**
- Passing greater powers over housing and regeneration to local democratically elected representatives in **London**.

Key measures to increase the power of local communities include:

- Introducing a new **Right to Bid**, which will give residents the opportunity to take over treasured local assets like shops and pubs and keep them part of local life
- Introducing a new **Right to Challenge**, making it much easier for local groups with good ideas to put them forward and drive improvements in local services
- Consigning **Bin Taxes** to the dustbin of history, by removing the ability of councils to charge families for overfilling their bin and to introduce extra tariffs for taking away household waste
- Increasing **transparency on local pay**, by requiring councils to publish the salaries of senior officials working in local authorities, enabling local people to understand how public money is being spent in their area
- Giving communities the right to **veto excess council tax rises**. Previously only central government had the power to 'cap' increases
- Introducing a new right to draw up a **neighbourhood plan**, giving local people a real voice to say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go - and what they should look like
- Enabling communities to bring forward proposals for development they want - such as homes, shops, playgrounds or meeting halls,

through the **Community Right to Build**

- Freeing home sellers and buyers from red tape through the **abolition of Home Information Packs**. The Act removes HIPs once and for all from the statute books
- Enabling people to swap their social home, for example because they wish to move jobs. A **national home swap scheme** will give access to details of all other tenants who may be a match
- Giving social tenants **stronger tools** to hold their landlords to account. Landlords will be expected to support tenant panels - or similar bodies - so tenants can carefully examine the services being offered. **The Tenant Services Authority will be abolished**
- Requiring **developers to consult local communities** before submitting certain applications. This gives people a chance to comment while there is still scope to make changes

Ending decision making by unaccountable officials on important infrastructure projects such as train lines and power stations. The Act **abolishes the Infrastructure Planning Commission**, and restores responsibility for taking decisions to elected, accountable Ministers.

Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities Eric

Pickles said:

"Today marks the beginning of an historic shift of power from Whitehall to every community to take back control of their lives.

The Localism Act pulls down the Whitehall barricades so it will no longer call the shots over communities - bug bears like housing targets and bin taxes are gone."

"For too long, local people were held back and ignored because Whitehall thought it knew best. That is changing for good. Councils have their General Power of Competence and residents have a real power over decisions like council tax, town hall pay, planning, community buildings or