

Issue 3

Winter 2005

WINSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

New Community Facility for Winshill

The Parish Council in consultation with East Staffordshire Primary Care Trust and Winshill Health Centre is currently negotiating to lease the Area Housing Office so that it can be used for community based activities. The intention is to adapt the existing building to provide a large function room for a variety of uses.

The Primary Care Trust would like to use the building to provide Children's Services, whilst the Health Centre would also like to see the building used for a range of services including exercise, dietary advice, citizens advice, counselling, family planning, family learning and skills, youth group, tums to tots, café/ lunch club and a networking facility for local service providers. Everyone believes that this is a great opportunity to provide services that will benefit the Winshill Community and are working together to bring the new facility into use by Summer 2006.



Mobile Skate Park Fun in Winshill

On 26th October, local young people enjoyed themselves at the mobile skate park on Newton Road Recreational Ground.



It follows a similar successful initiative earlier in the year during the school Summer holidays.

These events were provided by Winshill Parish Council working in conjunction with Staffordshire County Council through its local member initiative, and East Staffordshire Borough Council WASPs scheme.

Improvements at Wheatley Lane recreation ground

Your Borough Councillors have received a number of complaints about excessively muddy conditions at the newly created play area on Winshill Rec. The Borough Council's Parks and Countryside Manager has explained to us that the work was carried out in the Winter to avoid disruption at the time of greatest use. The new style of surface called "Matta" allows grass to grow through it. Mud is also seeping through but this will resolve itself as the grass becomes established in Spring. The matta surface is less likely to be damaged than the previous spongy tarmac type surface and is easier to repair. Next year it will be a very attractive and safe surface for children to play on.

Parish Paragons

The Parish Council were pleased to receive a number of nominations for Parish paragon following a request in the Summer edition of the newsletter. In view of the difficult choice this presented the Council decided to have a tree planted in honour of Winshill Parish.

Councillor Ann White will attend a ceremony on our behalf in December at a site near Melbourne to plant the tree.

We will look for ways to properly recognise all those who give their time and energy to the community in future editions.

Grant Aid

We would like to remind any organisation working in the parish for the benefit of the community that grant aid may be available and application forms can be obtained from the Parish clerk or by contacting any of your parish councillors.

Winhill Methodist Church

Sunday 18th December:

10.45am Nativity Service

6.00 pm Carol Service

Saturday 24th December:

6.00pm Family Carol Service

Sunday 25th December:

9:45am Christmas Worship

29th-31st December:

Christmas Labyrinth

Drop into the church anytime

between 1.00pm and

3.00pm or between 6.00pm

and 9.00pm for a quiet time

of prayer & reflection

Saturday 31st December:

11.30pm Watchnight Service

Church News



Gospel Hall

We would welcome all children to come to our kids club every Sunday afternoon at 2.45pm.

It's free, and there are plenty of quizzes to enjoy and prizes to win. Come along and enjoy the fun.

All are invited to our Family/Carol services on Sunday 18th

December 6pm and Sunday 25th

December at 2.45pm. Bring all

the family and enjoy singing the

Christmas carols with us.

Our New Year family service will

be on Sunday January 1st at

2.45pm.

St Mark's Church

We are pleased to report that the St Mark's drive and car park are no longer full of pot holes. After much fund raising and several most welcome bequests these areas have been repaired and covered in tarmac.

We hope to have the paths round the church repaired next and fund raising has begun. At the same time two other projects are taking place - the repair of leaks in the church roof and removal of vegetation from the spire.

Christmas approaches and our celebrations begin with the service of "9 lessons and carols" on Sunday 18th Dec. 10.15am. The Christingle Service as usual is on Christmas Eve, 4.00pm, followed by Christmas Holy Communion services at 11.30pm, and on Christmas day at 10.15am. All are welcome to any of the Services at any time of the year.

New Year brings the week of Christian unity and on 24th January the Christian Churches combine for a service at Winhill Methodist Church at 7.30pm. We pray for peace and reconciliation in the world in 2006. Bingo sessions for church funds take place on the third Wednesday of the month at the church hall at 7.30pm. Please note that the Christmas one is on December 14th.

School News

Abbot Beyne School

The school was proud to hold the Remembrance Day service in both buildings on November 11th and to host representatives from Burton Grammar Schools' Old Boys' Association. The laying of the Remembrance wreaths was accompanied by the playing of the last post by a Year 8 pupil.

BACK TO THE EIGHTIES

MUSICAL PRODUCTION

FEATURING MANY FAMILIAR SONGS

14TH, 15TH, 16TH DECEMBER

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ABBOT BEYNE

ON 01283 239800

Tower View School

The school is proud to announce that pupils raised a total of £322.73 for the Asian Earthquake appeal, and £344.22 for Children in Need, through events in the school.

The PTA Christmas Fayre this year will take place on 9th December at 2.30pm including crafts, bottle stalls and a tombola.

Winhill Village Primary School

Bend Oak Junior and Winhill Infants School amalgamated in September to become Winhill Village Primary School. At the moment they are still on two sites but soon the whole school will move to the Junior site. The building in Brough road has been completed to a very high standard with a state of the art computer suite and interactive whiteboards in every classroom.



Head retires after 40 years service

At the end of the Christmas term, Dennis Fletcher will hang up his boots. He has been Headteacher at Bend Oak Junior/Winhill Village Primary for 12 years. Before that he taught at Horninglow Secondary Modern/Wulfric Comprehensive for just over 12 years and at Joseph Clarke Junior School for almost 9 years before becoming Deputy Headteacher at Victoria Primary.

Interested in playing Badminton?

Winhill Badminton Club meets on Monday nights at Tower View School and welcomes new members of all ages and abilities. Please phone **Dave** on **01283 542379**

22nd (ST MARKS) Scout Group

The Beavers have been concentrating on badgework, and have enjoyed a Halloween disco. They also visited the cubs and scouts on camp at Rangemore and joined in the fun.

The Cubs have concentrating on their badgework. The cubs also attended the Halloween disco. The highlight of the past few weeks has been the autumn camp at Rangemore. Cubs built shelters in the woods, learnt how to light fires safely, and on Saturday evening Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, along with parents and visitors enjoyed a fireworks display complete with burgers, hot dogs, and soup. Recently a few cubs have moved into Scouts. One cub, Ryan Seville, was awarded the chief scouts silver award. Ryan worked really hard to complete this badge and the group are very proud of his achievement.

The Scouts have been very busy. They too have attended camp at Rangemore. The Scouts have also taken part in a district tag rugby tournament, and four Scouts have completed their mechanics badge.

Organised Children's Parties

The Group offer party packages at the scout hut. For just £7.00 per child (min 15 children) we provide food, drink, disco, face painting, games, and magic. For more information please ring **Mick** on **01283 512450**.

Special Thanks

The group would like to convey their thanks to the parish council for their recent donation of £1,000 towards group funds. This will be spent on urgent repairs which are needed on our scout hut.

We would also like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended the autumn fair. The group raised £200 towards group funds.

For more information about joining, or helping our group, please ring our group leader **Jim Wrigley** on **01283 563030**.

Winhill Allotments and Cottage Gardens Association Wheatley Lane

- Do you want to grow your own Vegetables / Flowers?
- Do you want to taste the freshness?
- Do you want to know what you are eating?
- Do you like Gardening but are short of space?
- Did you know there are allotments available in Winhill to allow you to fulfil your dreams?
- At Winhill Allotments we have large and small plots available for rent from £8.00 per year.
- The site has good land on which to cultivate your crops / flowers. We have a members trading section to get your composts, fertilisers, etc. On site there are toilets, convenient water taps and car parking. The site is locked when no one is there so is reasonably secure.
- If you are new to gardening, many of our existing members are willing, if asked, to give advice and the odd plant or two.
- We are a friendly bunch and will spend the time of day with you or leave you to enjoy the peace and quiet of our site; it's up to you.
- Whatever you want from Gardening we are certain you will find it at Wheatley Lane.
- If you are interested and would like to know more or rent a plot then contact **George Elliott** on **01283 224444** and he will meet you.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Editorial Team

Steve and Jo Taylor
Dennis Fletcher

Parish Council Clerk

Steve Taylor
Tel: 01283 704178

Editorial

Welcome to this our third edition of the Winshill Parish Council Newsletter. I have been delighted with your response to the first two editions. Please continue to let us know your views on any matters that concern Winshill, particularly your ideas for improvements. Please e-mail them to clerk@winshill.com or telephone the Clerk, Steve Taylor on 01283 704178.

You will have seen on the front page that the Parish Council is looking to manage the Area Housing office when Trent and Dove move out in January. Our aim is to ensure the facilities are used for the benefit of the whole community and discussions are taking place with interested parties to work out how this might best be achieved.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Dennis Fletcher Chair of the Parish Council

Winshill Parish Council meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, except August and December

News from Staffordshire County Council

There is little doubt that the major threat facing mankind is that of Global Warming, and that if it remains unchecked the very fabric of life may be lost. Over recent months I have been one of a small group established by the Council to examine ways in which we can further improve our own organisation's approach to the problem of climate change, and in particular the emission of carbon dioxide. The County Council has hundreds of buildings across Staffordshire, including over 400 schools and 43 libraries as well as care homes and offices. You can imagine our energy costs. It is therefore sound financial sense to minimise waste by continually monitoring what heat and light is used, and we have always done so. However, we must now take the next step, and look to see what alternative fuels may be utilised to reduce our dependence upon oil and gas. That is our task, and I shall report our findings to you in due course. In December, I shall take the chair of the County's Health Scrutiny Committee, looking to oversee the provision of care whether provided in homes, hospitals or family doctors. Often people see scrutiny as a means to attack a particular body or activity, and I will say that I do get a little fed up with those that seem to gain a degree of satisfaction out of criticising our Health Service. Certainly, there are weaknesses, but we need to recognise that the maintenance of health is not an exact science, and care of a body is not a mechanical operation. New techniques, equipment and drugs are being constantly developed, extending and improving life for more and more people. This is an expensive business and involves the making of difficult decisions. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity of overseeing provision on your behalf, and shall keep you abreast of developments.

Cllr Jim Muir

SUMMER EDITION OF NEWSLETTER

It was not possible to deliver the second edition of the newsletter to every household so we should like to thank the following business outlets for helping with the distribution:

Texaco Garage, Waterloo Public House, Highbank Road Post Office, P&T Newsagents, T.S.S. General Stores, Swan Inn, The Elms Public House, Travellers Rest, Queens Fish Bar, Sunrise Take Away, Nelson Public House, M&S Stores, The Jubilee Public House, China Palace, The New Winshill Fish Bar, Co-op Supermarket, The Health Centre, Trent & Dove Office, The Sump Public House, Ringo's, Winshill Hairdressers' and the Old Post Office.