

HEAPEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2003

PARISH WEBSITE LAUNCH IMMINENT!

The long awaited parish website is coming soon. Containing everything you need to know about the area including village events; parish meetings; local history; classified ads; local organisations; photo gallery; even the mobile library plus a special section - Have Your Say for local issues.

So get ready to log on to www.heapeyand wheelton.org in October/November

The committee has tried to include everything of interest and importance to the parish but if you feel you have something to add, just contact Cllr Shelagh Graham at 173a Blackburn Rd., or Cllr Sue Monaghan at 227 Blackburn Rd., or telephone 01257 249656 or e-mail to content@heapeyandwheelton.org. Contributions are welcome.

free advertising

The website has a directory of local businesses and organisations. Advertising is free if your business or group is within the parish, or if you have strong connections in the area. For a modest fee you can even have a full colour advert. If you have not been contacted by Cllr Graham or Cllr Monaghan, don't be left out, just contact them at the above addresses.

SAND QUARRY FUNDING

Good news about funding the purchase of the Old Sand Quarry as a parish sporting amenity. Discussions have taken place with Mr Roger Handscombe of Chorley Borough Council about a possible compulsory purchase order. During these discussions it was stated that CBC would provide funds to assist the purchase.

The three Parish Councils of Whittle, Heapey and Wheelton are looking to raise £33,000 and CBC will cover the purchase price of the site over and above this sum. Confirmation of this offer will have to be given in writing before Cllr Dickenson of Wheelton PC can negotiate with the Charity Commissioners about the release of funds from the Heapey and Wheelton Charity Trust. For further information contact Cllr Terry Dickenson.

BOB'S VILLAGE BARBECUE – WHITE COPPICE

The White Coppice Village Barbecue, which was held on 2nd August, was again a great success. Around 220 family and friends gathered in Bob Fishwick's orchard to enjoy the food and disco. There was also a karaoke and raffle. A total of £682.85 was raised for Derian House. It is hoped that next year there will also be a firework display.

Following on this success, arrangements are underway for a Lancashire Evening, possibly in October or November. For further details contact Bob at Warth Farm, White Coppice.

GET INVOLVED

With the Parish Plan

Do you care about what will happen in the future? We want everyone to set down their vision for the future of our area. A parish plan can cover everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the parish, from social housing to places for children to play. It should address the needs of the entire community, including local businesses. It puts community decision-making in the hands of the people who live there, and it gives grants, quickly, in order to make things happen.

Everyone should have an opportunity to contribute to its preparation. A questionnaire will be sent to every household in the Parish, which will be your opportunity to tell us what you would like to see happen.

So get involved now as 10 -12 people are needed for the steering group to produce the plan. The group chooses its own chairperson and then gets on with the job.

If you want to help shape the future of Heapey, contact **Bill Geddes on 01254 831 522**

Neighbourhood Watch

A Neighbourhood Watch group has been set up for and by the residents of Blackburn Road Heapey. The group is led by Frank Makinson of 150 Blackburn Rd and met for the first time on 24th June at St Chad's Parish Centre.

At this inaugural meeting, an inspector from Wheelton Police Station explained about the new schemes for Community Policing, outlining the role of community wardens and ended by saying that the scheme, currently being piloted in other parts of Lancashire, would be rolled out to more areas as funds became available. Our area has applied for some such funding and it could well be granted in the next round but she did not give any promises, only stressed that Chorley Division was committed to the idea.

One of the points made was the importance of reporting anything suspicious, as this area is a quiet one as far as the Divisional Headquarters can see from statistics. We stand a better chance of getting up the queue for money and resources if we are seen to be experiencing more crime. **Don't fall into the trap of thinking "It isn't worth reporting things as they never do anything" is her message.** If no one tells the police what is happening, they will never know and resources take time to move.

Margaret Rushton from the Neighbourhood Watch team at Divisional Headquarters in Chorley then talked about the ways in which we can protect our property and ourselves. The main point was to make it as difficult as possible for the potential criminal to get up to mischief. High hedges give privacy but they also prevent neighbours from seeing something suspicious; it is easy for an opportunist to make off with your car if you leave the engine running when you nip back into the house; the stepladders you leave outside unlocked can be used very easily to access your property by some one else. It is all common sense but we all lose it on occasion, and that is all the burglar needs, one occasion.

All those who live in the area covered will be informed of the date of the next meeting in due course and in the meantime, keep an eye on your neighbour's place and they will keep an eye on yours.

If you live in an area not covered by Neighbourhood Watch and are interested in setting up a scheme, contact Lancashire Police at either Chorley Police Station or HQ in Hutton and someone will be able to point you in the right direction.

Noise and Disturbances

Complaints have been received about frequent late night disturbances affecting houses near the Red Cat. The mobile CCTV unit is being requested to visit the scene. Complaints have also been received about loud music on Blackburn Rd. The complainants were referred to the Environmental Health dept.

Juvenile Nuisance

Chorley Borough Council is reviewing juvenile nuisance throughout the borough. The aim is to identify actions to reduce young people's involvement in nuisance activities and contribute to a greater feeling of safety within the community. Heapey Parish Council has now contributed to the review and looks forward to new initiatives in community safety.

FUNDING BID FOR EXTRA POLICE

We all want to see a return to policemen on the beat, so a funding bid has been submitted to provide two Community Beat Managers as an addition to existing police resources in the rural and Wheelton areas. The CBMs will spend the majority of time on foot or a bicycle, so you will be able to stop them and talk about your concerns or pass on information.

In addition to the CBMs there will be a Police Community Support Officer working alongside them. Their roles are to specifically manage and resolve problems highlighted on their beats. This is done through liaising directly with key stakeholders, community contacts, statutory and voluntary agencies.

Information provided by Police Sergeant Kevin Evans 01257 246138

Police report

PC Jim Colclough reported 3 crimes in the area during the past 30 days.

1. Vehicle broken into – Ivy Cottage, Coppice Lane
2. Large section of dry stone walling stolen – Manor House
3. Chain saw stolen – Withnell Farm, Trigg Lane.