

# "O' YEAH" PARISH NEWSLETTER



WHISTON  
PARISH COUNCIL

## Whiston Summer Festival 2019

The Parish Council are again looking to provide a "Whiston Community Week" featuring "Something for Everyone" with a week of activities planned for the 1st - 6th July culminating in a headline event on Saturday 6th July.

### Monday 1st July 2019

Lunch and entertainment aimed at our more senior residents and linked with the "Natter Group" meeting in Parish hall starting at 10.30am. Free buffet lunch at 12noon and live music with celebrated keyboard player Darren Woodcock provided by Whiston Parish Council. Senior residents welcome to attend - more details from [crucian48@mac.com](mailto:crucian48@mac.com)

Little Fishes Group - Teddy Bear's Picnic - meet at Parish Hall at 9am more info from [lucy.luckcock@gmail.com](mailto:lucy.luckcock@gmail.com) - please bring your own picnic

7.30pm - Real Ale Tasting and Appreciation Session with CAMRA - the Hind, 7.30pm - tickets £10 (from the Hind) - tutored tasting of 5 real ales

### Tuesday 2nd July 2019

Whiston Heritage Walk - find out more about the history of Whiston on the heritage trail walk (approx 1 hr) - led by Carole Southern of the Whiston Heritage Society. Open to

all ages - meet at the Parish Hall, Well Lane at 7.00pm. The walk will conclude at the Sitwell Arms where the Wath Morris dancers will be performing from 8.15pm. No booking required.

Little Fishes Group - Teddy Bear's Picnic - meet at Parish Hall at 9am more info from [lucy.luckcock@gmail.com](mailto:lucy.luckcock@gmail.com) - please bring your own picnic

7.30pm - Real Ale Tasting and Appreciation Session with CAMRA - the Sitwell, 7.30pm - tickets £10 (from the Sitwell) - tutored tasting of 5 real ales

### Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Whiston Village Quiz. at the Manorial Barn starting at 7.30pm, bar open from 7pm. Teams (consisting of up to 6 players) are invited to compete for the prestigious "Village Quiz Champions" award and cash prizes. Pie and peas (£3.95) available to purchase during the evening. Free entry - further details and to book a place for a team on the night please contact [crucian48@mac.com](mailto:crucian48@mac.com)

### Thursday 4th July 2019

"Independence Day - American Wine Tasting Evening" - this is an opportunity to sample 7 selected wines from the USA introduced by a wine expert accompanied by a selection of American food. There will also be a musical

cabaret provided by the Emily Claire West Trio playing a selection of American jazz and swing classics. Tickets are £20, available from the Sitwell Arms - contact 01709 377003 - [thesitwell@yflpubs.com](mailto:thesitwell@yflpubs.com) or from the Secretary of the Fitzwilliam Wine Club - [debbiedavis62@icloud.com](mailto:debbiedavis62@icloud.com).

### Friday 5th July 2019

The Hind "Comedy Club" evening - this is an over 18's only comedy night with the fantastic Dean Courtney - tickets are available from the Hind for £5 which includes a drink - tickets from the Hind 285 East Bawtry Road - 01709 532490

### Saturday 6th July 2019

The Parish Council have lined up a range of excellent acts and events - including, the Stamford Stompers (Dixieland Jazz Band), Ian's Birds of Prey, Sparky Marky Children's Entertainer, the Triple Threat Theatre Company - "Songs from the Shows", Chris Draper amazing Freestyle Football star, Splats Circus skills, Rotherham United Community Sports Trust, the Whiston Parish Church fete with stalls, food etc.. the Whiston Methodist Church Open Day, other local groups, live music and food at the Sitwell, the Hind, the Golden Ball and the Chequers and much more.



# Whiston Parish Council - Annual Report 2018-2019

The beginning of the year saw the completion of the Parish Hall refurbishment and extension which has ensured that the facility is now up to a modern standard, offering both regular users and residents a far improved community facility for a range of activities. It has also led to a number of new groups operating from the hall.

One of the most successful projects this year has been the funding and establishment of a Youth Club for the village, facilitated by the hall extension, and which arose out of a consultation with the local Youth Council. Local children advised the Parish Council what facilities they wanted to be available to them and it is with great pride that we have been able to deliver this project for the benefit of young people in the area. This has also been achieved with the employment of 3 new staff.

The Parish Council also decided to bring the Festival of Brass 'in-house' in 2018 after historically sponsoring the event. The event was well received, albeit with some impact on numbers attending due to a certain England World Cup football match on the same day!

At the beginning of the year members looked to improve the Christmas lights, in part due to a disappointing 2017 display. I wish to thank all the members, who worked tirelessly to invest in extensive new lights in the village and produced arguably the best Christmas switch-on event by the Parish Council in December last year.

We had two resignations this year, Councillors Robert Brown and David Bridge, who had served the Parish Council for some time and we welcomed Clive Davis and Anthony Griffin.

## Finance

The Parish Council started the Financial Year (2018-19) with a balance of £222,191 which included earmarked reserves of just over £69,000. Income during the year came to £157,886. Expenditure came to £194,997.

This has left a year-end revenue balance (at 31st March) of £185,120, including earmarked reserves of just over £50,000. Reserves have reduced during the year mainly due to funding for refurbishment of the hall, barn roof repairs, election costs and a renewal and extension of the Christmas lights.

In this financial year the Parish Council has budgeted to spend just over £159,000 with income expected to be in the region of £129,000. The Precept for 2019-20 is currently set at £93,000.

## Plans for 2019-20

This year further improvements to the hall are planned with a development of a patio area at the rear of the hall, a kitchen refurbishment and external decoration. This should finalise works at the hall and hopefully allow members to consider delivering further new projects such as "meet and eat" sessions or a café service, in partnership with other local community organisations.

With some external assistance, a summer festival with a week of community activities culminating with a music event on the 6th July is planned and it is hoped this will continue in the future together with the annual Remembrance and Christmas switch-on events.

The annual Remembrance has been marked each year with an event in the Parish Hall whereby aged parishioners are invited to share in a 'pie-n-pea' lunch provided for a nominal £1. There is entertainment and a sing-a-long and this had a few nimble dancers up on the floor.

Environmental improvements are also in the pipeline with new hanging baskets being installed this year and the possibility of further Council led regular litter picks.

As well as celebrating our highlights for the year it would be remiss of me to not mention the "downlights". One of the most shameful events was the damage to the Christmas crib and theft of "baby Jesus". Apart from the replacement costs, what a poor image this portrayed of the village.

In addition, in spite of considerable investment in new playground equipment on Cowrakes recreational ground the basket swing has been damaged repeatedly and recently stolen.

Littering is still an ongoing problem throughout the Parish but is especially concentrated in these public spaces. Parish Councillor Rex Carter does a litter pick twice weekly and we thank him for his endeavours. Also, to our contractor Kevin who litter picks the recreational ground weekly and all those who regularly turn up to collect rubbish and litter pick. I would ask all parishioners to spread the word to youngsters, picnickers and take away users just to take their rubbish away or put it in a bin. This will preserve the area to look nice for everyone.

Connected to this is the provision of bins. We do have funds to buy bins, but we do not have the ability to empty them as this is the remit of RMBC. RMBC currently will not empty more bins or add more to their schedule despite our request that they do so. All together we need to help rid Whiston of rubbish.

The Parish Council are always looking to get more parishioners involved in events. This could be litter picking, volunteering for community events or anything else.

## Finally . . .

I would like to thank our staff – namely Steve and Denise Pearson for their excellent work at the Parish Hall and continued service with the Parish Council and to Jordon Arno, Emily Sowerby and Megan O'Byrne for their dedication and commitment that has ensured the new Youth Club is a success.

My thanks go to all the Councillors for their support over the year and to those who sat on the working groups, their efforts have made my life so much easier and certainly more enjoyable.

Thanks again must also go to Angela Harrison, our Clerk, from myself and the Parish Council for all her hard work in guiding us through another successful year.

**Michael Yarlett** - *Chairman to the Council*

## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 6th July 2019**

Whiston Festival

**Sunday 10th November 2019**

Remembrance Lunch

**Saturday 7th December 2019**

Christmas Lights Switch-on

## Spring Clean in Whiston

On Sunday 14th April the Parish Council organised a "Parish Spring Clean" in association with the RMBC "Love Where You Live" campaign, who kindly provided equipment, bags and disposal of the waste collected. It was organised as part of the "Great British Spring Clean" and registered as one of many events taking place all over the country.

A big thank you to the 34 volunteers (28 adults and 6 children) who turned up to help and collected over 50 bags of rubbish from all over the Parish.

The volunteers met by the village sign and then went to all parts of the Parish to carry out the clean up. A safety briefing was included and insurance cover provided courtesy of Whiston Parish Council. Special mention to Scott and Jessica McClean (pictured below) who worked until 2.30pm !

After all the hard work the volunteers enjoyed a well deserved buffet lunch, teas, coffees and soft drinks provided courtesy of the Sitwell Arms.

A further clean up is scheduled for Sunday 16th June 2019 - to prepare the Parish for the summer events. If you would like to take part then please turn up by the village sign in the centre of Whiston for 10.30am. The event is again organised by the Parish Council and RMBC "Love Where You Live" who will provide all the equipment.

Further details can be obtained from Parish Councillor Rex Carter who is leading the event at [rexcarter323@gmail.com](mailto:rexcarter323@gmail.com)



## A New Councillors View

The first thing I must do is sincerely thank people for voting for me to become a Parish Councillor in December 2018. Contested elections are rare, as is a competition between political parties for parish council seats. I feel sure that it happened this time because the parties are preparing for what they expect to be a close race for Sitwell's seats on the Borough Council in 2020. Although this is as true for Labour as the other parties, I think my success stemmed from caring about Whiston and its residents. That caring does reflect my Labour values (of fairness and inclusion) but I knew that the Parish Council was not a place for party politics.

It became quickly clear to me that my fellow councillors were also selflessly motivated by simply wanting the best for the people of the village. They recognise that, although the role is important, the responsibilities of the council are actually quite limited, and being on the council does not bring power or glory. Its work suits diligent people who are happy to work behind the scenes for the good of the community. That's the sort of people it has certainly attracted and so I quickly felt at home with them.

It was good that – together with Clive Davis, the other newly elected member – I had a specific job to do: planning for the events that would be happening in place of what was previously the Brass Festival. Typically, this is not about what the Council itself can do, but how it can encourage and coordinate other businesses (especially the village's four pubs) and community interest groups, in a spirit of entertainment and creativity that hopefully reflects the village at its best.

The slight irony for me is that I and my wife only came to live in the village a couple of months ago. Our hearts had been here for years (playing cricket, setting up Wildcats JFC and so on) but it took us a long time to find the right house to move to from the other side of Bawtry Road. Now we feel completely at home and I am pleased and privileged to do what I can to help to make that sense of happy belonging real for all of Whiston's residents.

**Tony Griffin**  
Councillor - May 2019

## Whiston Youth Club

Whiston Youth Club has been running since November 2018 and is very popular with 35 members currently registered. We serve young people in Whiston and the surrounding area aged 11-18 and are a fully inclusive group. Our young people have the opportunities to do games, crafts, listen to music, sing, dance, bake and much more!

Since opening we have covered a variety of topics including: bullying, e-safety, mental health and alcohol. We have had several speakers including the local police & representatives from the Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

Owing to the success of the senior group we have some exciting news!! We are due to open a Junior Youth Club for all young people in school years 3 to 6! For more information please contact us!

Like us on [facebook.com/whistonyouthclub](https://www.facebook.com/whistonyouthclub)  
Tweet us at [twitter.com/whistonyouth](https://twitter.com/whistonyouth)  
Email us at [whistonyouth@gmail.com](mailto:whistonyouth@gmail.com)



# ... Hall Events ...

## Little Fishes Parent & Toddler Group

Term-time Monday 9.30am - 11.00am  
Lucy Luckock 07707 863901 or  
email: lucy.luckock@gmail.com

## Girl Guides (10-14yrs)

Term-time Monday 7.00pm - 8.30pm  
Register at: <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/>

## Karate

Mondays & Fridays 7.30pm - 8.30pm  
Brian Pitchford

## Natter Group (1st Monday of the month)

Monday 10.30am - 11.30am  
Anthea Goodman 01709 363604 or  
email: 12pag.whiston@btconnect.com

## Pilates (15yrs+)

Monday 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
Tim Kellett 07951 152415 or  
email: timspilatesandyoga@gmail.com  
www.timspilatesandyoga.co.uk

## Locomotion Dance (8-11yrs)

Tuesday 5.00pm - 6.30pm  
Alexandra Earnshaw 07922 861460 or  
email: hello@locomotiondance.co.uk

## Rainbows (5-7yrs)

Term-time Tuesday 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
Register at: <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/>

## Brownies (7-10yrs)

Term-time Wednesday 6.00pm - 7.15pm  
Register at: <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/>

## Yoga (15yrs+)

Thursday 9.15am - 11.15am  
Tim Kellett 07951 152415 or  
email: timspilatesandyoga@gmail.com  
www.timspilatesandyoga.co.uk

## Women's Institute (1st Thursday of the month)

Thursday 1.00pm - 4.00pm (afternoon group)  
Sue Martin 01709 546088

## Junior & Senior Youth Club

Thursday Seniors 6.00pm - 8.30pm &  
Juniors 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
Jordan Arno  
email: whistonyouth@gmail.com

## Women's Institute (2nd Thursday of the month)

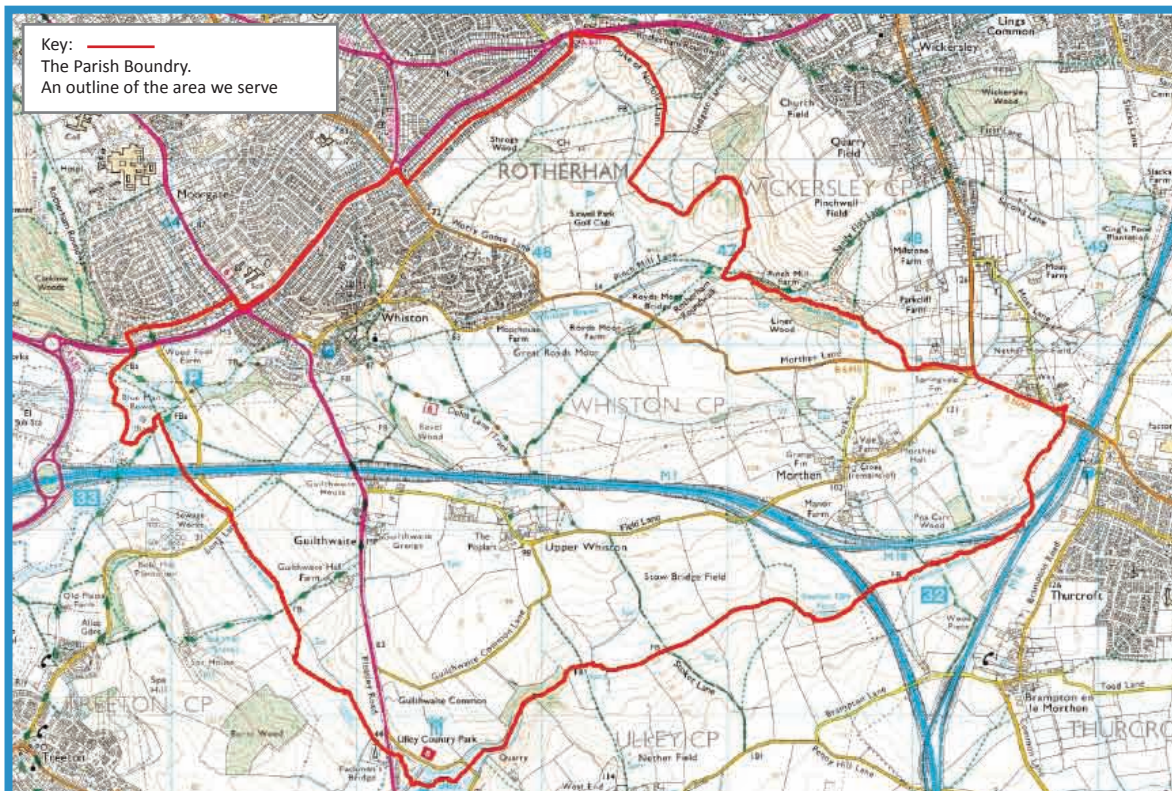
Thursday 7.00pm - 10.00pm (evening group)

## Wine Club (23-90yrs) / (3rd Thursday of the month)

Thursday 7.45pm - 10.00pm  
Deborah Davis (Secretary)  
email: debbidavis62@icloud.com

## Mini Kicks

Friday 9.15am - 10.00am



**Parish Clerk**

Elaine Keeling-Heane

01709 377691 or 07712 395729

email: whistonparish@hotmail.com