

"O'YEAH" PARISH NEWSLETTER



WHISTON
PARISH COUNCIL

Whiston Winter 2020

Welcome to the Winter 2020 O'Yeah newsletter, the biannual Parish Council publication for the parishioners of Whiston. This newsletter highlights some of the Council activities over the last six months, and discusses plans for the future ...

History of Whiston Christmas

We are now well aware that this year's Christmas celebrations may be a little different to the ones we are all fond of. Although we can't gather in the village to celebrate the light switch on, the lights will still illuminate the village over Christmas and the New Year. Ever wondered how the village lights came about? Where did it all start?

Well, Whiston's Christmas lights date back to 1988, when Whiston resident Alan Bradbury recalls how the Whiston Carnival Gala Committee, chaired by the late Colin Scott, came up with the idea to bring the community together at Christmas time. He remembers how himself, Colin Scott, David Biggins, Carl D'arras, Mr Race and Peter Bradbury were the team responsible for putting up the lights.

Whiston Parish Council donated around £100 towards the cost of the first event, where the tree was 20 foot tall and cost just £45.54. The first few trees came from Fitzwilliam Wentworth Estates from the Bradfield forest, where committee member Alan Bradbury chose the tree.

The power supply for the lights was first from the lamp post by the far side of the foot bridge, where RMBC fixed a plug socket in at a cost of £39. The price of the tree increased to £48.95 in 1989, and once again in 1990 to £51.18. Alan isn't sure if the committee also introduced the first crib with wooden figures, but does remember how Mary disappeared and was later found in a layby on the M18!

Early in the 1990's, the committee put in their own power supply from the grey box next to the High Street wall. This allowed a crib with light up figures, lights along the stream and figures in the trees along the footpath, all at a cost of £270.69. The lights over the bridge were an idea that Alan had following one of his visits to Matlock Lights, where they had lights over the footbridge from the Lovers walk to the Derwent gardens.

As the years passed, there was the introduction of the Lions Christmas float, with Father Christmas who came down High Street and parked outside the old Post Office. The word spread about the annual event, causing crowds of people to grow and so it was decided to start using the Manorial Barn. The craft fayre on the Friday nights and Saturday helped to raise funds for the lights and further enriched the Christmas spirit.

Alan loved organising this event, but over the years family and work commitments took over, meaning that he had less time for wiring and putting up the lights. The committee had many

meetings with the Parish Council, who ultimately took over the running of the lights.

As you can imagine, modern health and safety rules and regulations would have had a field day with the antics of Alan and his crew! Without their instigation, maybe the lights would not have developed to the spectacle that they are now. These lights are still paid for by the community and organised by Whiston Parish Council, but professionally installed!

May the spirit of Christmas continue to shine on for many years to come. Thank you Alan, friends and family.

Parish Contacts

Parish Councillors

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Whiston General Update

Remembrance Sunday

As no Remembrance Sunday event was possible this year, the Parish Council chose to place poppies on lampposts in addition to a wreath being laid to commemorate the date. A request for parishioners to "Remember from home" was placed on the Council website and on various social media sites, to ensure people stayed as safe as possible while not forgetting to honour the date.

Christmas Lights

It was with great disappointment that the Parish Council accepted that a Christmas event would not be permitted at the beginning of December this year. The village will still of course be lit, with some new investment in lights along Pleasley Road. We hope everyone will enjoy the display and understand that a full event will have to wait until 2021!

However, in view of this, the Parish Council are considering making donations to schools or holding a community event to celebrate the "end" of the pandemic - hopefully not too far in the future!

Summer Festival 2021

While next year brings with it some uncertainties, the Parish Council are very hopeful that with a vaccine looking promising in the near future, the Summer Festival will go ahead as planned in 2021!

Environment

Following the unfortunately timed resignation of the ground's maintenance contractor at the end of March, it is with great delight and relief to have now instructed a new contractor to continue the gardening works around the village. We hope shortly to see new flowers in the planted areas, as well new hanging baskets come summer! We are grateful to residents for their understanding of the unruly looking green spaces in and around the village throughout the lockdown period, when we were unable to meet with prospective new contractors.

The newly terraced area in the centre of the village has recently been completed to allow residents to fully enjoy the brook, and will shortly have some seating!

Parish Hall

A short second lockdown period in November has meant the Parish Hall has once again been temporarily closed. After reopening at the beginning of December, classes and events will resume. Whiston, as part of South Yorkshire, will then fall back into tier three government restrictions



VERY HIGH

LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL

VERY HIGH

Social Contact <small>1 household / bubble in most locations, indoors and outdoors. Rule of six applies in some outdoors settings like parks, public gardens and sports courts.</small>	Weddings and Funerals <small>Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for wakes and related ceremonies. Wedding receptions not permitted.</small>	Overnight Stays <small>Those in area advised against overnight stays in other parts of UK. People outside area advised against overnight stays in area.</small>	Working from home guidance <small>Work from home where possible.</small>
Shopping and Retail <small>Open.</small>	Leisure and gyms <small>Any closures or additional restrictions subject to consultation.</small>	Hospitality <small>Pubs and bars must close except where they operate as a restaurant, meaning they can only serve alcohol with a substantial meal. Further closures subject to consultation.</small>	Entertainment and tourist attractions <small>Any closures / additional restrictions subject to consultation. Nightclubs and adult entertainment remain closed.</small>
Education <small>Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions with option to move to greater online provision.</small>	Healthcare Services <small>Open.</small>	Residential Care <small>Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.</small>	Travel and Transport <small>May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel where possible in or out of the affected area with exceptions including work and school.</small>
Sporting Activity <small>Organised sport / licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other than youth or disabled sport).</small>	Worship <small>Open, subject to social contact rules.</small>	Childcare <small>Registered and wraparound childcare. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.</small>	Youth Clubs and Activities <small>Permitted.</small>

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:

Wash hands
keep washing your hands regularly

Cover face
wear a face covering in enclosed spaces

Make space
stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Whiston Youth Club

It's been a turbulent year for Whiston Youth Club since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. As part of the initial government restrictions, all youth centres were required to close. We didn't let that stop us, and we learnt very quickly how to deliver online Youth sessions!

Just like 90% of the population we were introduced to the video conferencing Zoom tool. After getting everybody registered, we had some great youth sessions.

These included:

- A safe space for young people to reconnect with their friends
- Asking for advice
- Playing games such as; Bingo, Catchphrase, Would I Lie to You and many more
- 'Grilling the Youth Worker'
- Having craft competitions
- Much, much more!

Our Zoom sessions were well attended and these ran right up until the summer holidays! Our social media pages were updated regularly during the summer holidays with information to help our young people and their families.

September

In September our centre still was required to remain closed. Because of this, we decided to try something different!

Our team underwent a training course in detached and outreach work. This enabled us to embark on a project to go out into the local community to engage with the young people that we hadn't met before and also

some of our young people that we had!!

It was a huge success and we met lots of young people around the local area and in Cow Rakes Park. We had some great conversations with the young people and we found out how they used the park, what they think is needed in the local area.

Interestingly, all the young people we spoke to wanted somewhere safe to be during the winter months and dark nights.

As part of our plan to engage with the local community, we began to work with South Yorkshire Police. We went on a 'walkabout' with Abby, our PCSO, and the fire safety officer for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue. We had a fantastic night and plan to continue this on a regular basis.

October

Finally, we were allowed to reopen – Our first Senior Youth Club was held on the 15th October.

We undertook numerous risk assessments and followed all the government guidance to open in a COVID secure way. All our young people and staff wore face coverings and our young people were split into bubbles of 15.

It was great to see so many of our young people coming back to join us, to hear about their experiences during lockdown and how much they had missed coming to youth club. It soon felt like a normal youth club with music playing, dancing, games and lots of crafts!



Our second week was our Halloween Party! There were some spooky goings on with fancy dress, scary music and some excellent crafts!!!

Unfortunately, the new national lockdown means we now must close again, but fear not – we will be restarting our Zoom sessions and continuing with our outreach work alongside South Yorkshire Police. In addition, although we are still unable to open our Junior Youth Club, we are hoping to welcome our Junior members back soon!!

Look out for the Youth Club team in Whiston!

If you want to see more of what we are up to please follow us on our social media pages
Facebook: @whistonyouthclub
Twitter: @whistonyouth

Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme

Whiston Parish Council have recently been made aware of an opportunity for residents in rural areas to take advantage of The Rural Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. This government backed scheme helps eligible residents access funding to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections. This will enable superfast broadband speeds. The vouchers are worth £1500 for each residential premises, and £3500 for small/medium size businesses. Properties that have already been covered for superfast Fibre to the Cabinet, (FTTC), can also take advantage of the voucher scheme to upgrade to Fibre to the Premises, (FTTP).

Eligibility criteria:

- Your property must be classed as rural.
- Your property must not already be able to receive a service which provide broadband speeds of 100Mbps or greater.

(Ofcom broadband availability checker <https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/broadband-coverage>)

- You will need to form a group - a single connection is not eligible - neighbours (& the wider community), will need to pull together.

The areas categorised as "rural" are:

- Upper Whiston
- Guilthwaite
- Morthen

Superfast South Yorkshire, (SFSY), are a partnership between Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Council, UK Government and Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership who help residents and businesses with their connectivity. They are urging residents with poor broadband speeds to consider the scheme before funding

runs out.

Full information on the scheme, along with step-by-step instructions, can be found here: <http://www.superfastsouthyorkshire.co.uk/homepage/40/rural-gigabit-connectivity-programme>

For any residents interested in accessing the scheme, but who would like guidance, please contact SFSY (Superfast South Yorkshire) at: vouchers@superfastsouthyorkshire.co.uk

A Facebook community forum has also been created as a meeting place for residents to access broadband funding and advice <https://www.facebook.com/groups/910590315987018>

Parish Hall Hire

The Parish Hall will once again be bookable for a variety of new classes and events after the 2nd December (subject to government guidance).

The building has two rooms available for hire. The main hall, a large room which acts as a function room or space for larger classes. Additionally, the conference hall, a recently extended room, which is suitable for smaller events or classes, and includes use of a terrace to the rear. The hall also has a large kitchen where food preparation can be undertaken. Please Contact us for more details or to make a booking. The hall fees are as follows: Main Hall £20.00 per hour, Conference Hall £12.00 per hour, regular hire receives a discounted rate!

Please contact the Clerk at whistonparish@hotmail.co.uk



Whiston Parish Hall

Following the end of the first lockdown period in spring and early summer, Whiston Parish Hall reopened its doors to visitors on 6th July. We would like to continue to reassure everyone that extra measures are in place to ensure that the hall remains a safe place to hold events and attend classes, and is considered a "COVID Secure" premises, following all government guidelines. Risk assessments are being continually monitored and updated as changes in regulations are introduced. Social distancing stickers and posters help to remind users to remain vigilant, wash hands regularly, and catch coughs and sneezes in handkerchiefs! Tissues and hand sanitising stations are in place throughout the building. Extra cleaning materials are also available for staff and user groups.

Although not all, many classes have now returned to the hall, and several new classes have begun and are seeking new members! All classes and groups using the hall have provided COVID-19 risk assessments and are following government guidelines. If, after the end of our second lockdown period on 2nd December, you wish to join a class, please contact the group leader by phone or email using the details below.

• Hall Events •

Little Fishes Parent & Toddler Group

Term-time Mon & Tues 9.00am - 11.00am
Lucy Luckcock 07707 863901 or
email: lucy.luckcock@gmail.com

Girl Guides (10-14yrs)

Term-time Mon 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Register at: <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/>

Karate

Fri 7.30pm - 8.30pm - Brian Pitchford
email: bpkarate@virginmedia.com

Natter Group (1st Mon of the month)

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

Pilates (15yrs+)

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

Locomotion Dance (8-11yrs)

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

Rainbows (5-7yrs)

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

Brownies (7-10yrs)

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

Yoga (15yrs+)

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

Women's Institute

(1st Thursday of the month)
1.00pm - 4.00pm - Sue Martin 01709 546088

Junior & Senior Youth Club

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

Wine Club (23-90yrs)

(3rd Thurs of the month) 7.45pm - 10.00pm
Deborah Davis (Secretary)
email: debbiedavis62@icloud.com

Mini Kicks

Fri 9.15am - 11.30am
email: Liam@minikicks.org

Rotherham Tuneless Choir

Mon 7.30pm - 9.00pm (except 1st Mon of month)
Becky Power 07917728863 or
email: beckypower2@gmail.com

Phonics Bear

Wed 1.00pm-2.00pm
Sam Eagle 07534407738 or
email: samlucas757@gmail.com
Facebook Phonics bear Rotherham Doncaster and Barnsley

Timstep School of Dance

Latin & Salsa Dancing
Sat 10.00am - 1.00pm (adults & teens)
Sun 7.00pm - 8.00pm
To register contact Kay or David 07449984322 / 07849920364 or email: lewindavid@live.co.uk
NEW CLASSES STARTING IN 2021 FOR TODDLERS TO TEENS!

Council Meetings 2020-2021

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Council meetings continue to be held via Zoom. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings remotely.

If you would like to attend, the link and password for each meeting can be found at the bottom of the agenda, which is published each month on the Parish Council website.

All full Council meetings start at 6.30 pm and will be held on the following dates.

Monday 7th December 2020

Monday 18th January 2021

Monday 15th February 2021

Monday 15th March 2021

Monday 19th April 2021

Minutes and Agendas are available at www.whistonparishcouncil.com

The Agenda is advertised 3 clear days before the meeting on the Monday - usually on the Wednesday.

Parish Clerk

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