

Issue 11

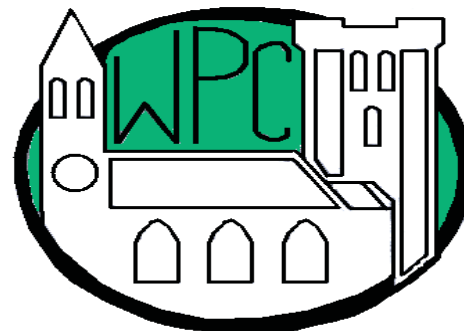
Winter 2008

WINSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Abbot Beyne pupil designs new Parish Council logo

We are delighted with our new logo designed by a pupil at Abbot Beyne in a competition in the Summer term. We will use it on all paperwork, Agendas, notice boards etc from now on.



Fantastic start for Winshill Youth Lounge

Winshill Youth Lounge finally opened its doors in September, and was overwhelmed with young people aged from 13 - 19, with an average of 30 young people throughout the month. Youth Club is currently operating on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 – 9 p.m. and only costs young people 50p per session.

The new centre has given an opportunity to develop after school sessions from 3 – 5 p.m. Mondays have seen the start of a babysitting course, which is still recruiting; young people attend for free, and gain certificates for their hard work. This session includes young people working towards nationally recognised awards such as Duke of Edinburgh and Youth Achievement. On Tuesday is a new Health Drop In, where young people can access sexual and mental health advice, in partnership with That Place and SARAC, alongside activities that are focused around healthy lifestyles. Thursday is focused around the Senior members of the youth club coming together to form a Centre Committee and be an integral part in the development of the Centre, being involved in improvements, fundraising and open days.

Winshill Youth Lounge offers young people a variety of activities with new facilities on offer including Giant Connect Four, Giant Chess, Wii Console, new Pool Table, Air Hockey table, Digital TV, Table Tennis, Badminton, DJ decks, One to One sexual health information, an arts and crafts area and cooking facilities. With a better hall we are now able to offer a wider variety of sports. An Online Computer Suite will also be available in the future.

The entrance to the centre has display boards which have been allocated to local clubs, so that young people are kept up to date with all of the activities that are happening in Winshill.

Here are some comments from young people:

" We are really impressed, it has turned out better as more people attend", " it's bigger and better", "more rooms", "better equipment", "more sports and more space", "facilities for cooking", " better disabled facilities", "I enjoy it because there is more stuff to do", "why not come along and join?".

Winshill Youth Lounge is also open to the local community and rooms are available to hire (For more information please contact Andrea on [239071](tel:239071)).

Their vision for the centre is that it will be used by youth clubs and the local community, to build up a full timetable of activities.

Resource Centre News

Regular Groups

- Umbrella Club Parent and Toddler Group (every Monday 9-11am)
- Busy Fingers Craft Group (every Tuesday 1-3pm)
- Aerobics (every Tuesday evening 6.30 - 7.30pm)
- T-Talk coffee afternoon (every Thursday 1-3pm)

Regular Services

- Money Spider Credit Union
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Lifestyle Adviser

Christmas Events

Winshill Village Primary School
Christmas Fayre takes place at 3.30pm
on November 28th.

Christmas Fayre at Winshill
Neighbourhood Resource Centre
Saturday 6th December 11am – 2pm.

Holy Rosary School Fayre, Friday 12th
December 3.30.

Christmas Services

St Mark's Church

St Mark's church welcomes you to any of its services.

Our usual ones are Wednesdays 10.15am; Sundays 8am, 10.15am and 5pm (in winter time).

Looking towards Christmas

Sunday 21st December at 10.15am there will be "Nine Lessons and Carols"

Wednesday 24th December at 4pm - Christingle Service and 11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion.

Christmas Day Thursday 25th at 10.15am - Christmas Holy Communion with Carols.

Look out for the carol singing the week before Christmas, when Winhill Methodist, St Joseph's and St Mark's have a joint celebration. Sorry date for this not fixed as we go to press.

Tel: 545043

Winhill Methodist Church

Sunday 14th December 'Crafts & Carols'

Breakfast at 9am; All-age activities from 9.30am; Coffee at 10.30am; Traditional worship at 10.45am

This is a 'Come and Go' event at which you are welcome to arrive and leave at any point.

Sunday 21st December

10.45am Nativity Service

6pm Carol Service

Wednesday 24th December

6pm Family Carol Service

Thursday 25th December

9.45am Christmas Day Family Service

All welcome

For more information please contact Rev'd Julie Coates 568512

Winhill Gospel Hall

Winhill Gospel Hall, Hawfield Lane invites all kids on a Sunday afternoon at 12.30 – 1.15pm for Kids club and a Wednesday night 7 - 8pm for "The Light". Both of these activities for kids are free, and

welcome all kids to come along and enjoy the quizzes and win some prizes.

Every Thursday morning is the tots and dots group 9 – 11 am. It's free and there is lots for the children to do.

Sunday 21st December is our Carol service.

www.winhillgospelhall.org.uk

Are you proud of your garden?

Winhill Parish Council is thinking of organising an open garden weekend early next summer. We need to know if enough of you will be interested in allowing members of the public to enter your garden to admire it before we can go ahead to organise the event.

If you are interested, please contact Parish Councillor Mrs Pat Hancox on 517895

Want to have your say about Winhill?

Then come along to the Parish Plan Meeting
4th December 7pm
Winhill Neighbourhood Resource Centre
Canterbury Road, Winhill
All Welcome.

Blocked Gullies

For some time there have been complaints about blocked gullies and resulting ponds at the side of the road after heavy rain. In some areas this is a problem caused by the age and design of the gullies, and the County Council has now embarked upon a programme of gully replacement across the entire town. Of course total replacement is an expensive business, and is being tackled on a worst first basis. Many of you will have already had work done in your street, and those in Kensington Road and Balmoral Road will be replaced soon. You will be pleased to note that there will also be more regular gully emptying so the problem should soon be resolved. Should you find that gullies are still blocked, or slow to let water away please ring CLARENCE on 0800 23 23 23 to report the issue. If it is long term or more complex ring County Councillor Jim Muir on 544477 to see if he can help.

Successful year for Winhill Scouts

The 22nd (St Marks) Scout Troup is based in Winhill. We offer children from six years upwards an opportunity to learn new skills, try adventurous activities and meet new friends.

Membership of our group has increased by 92% in the past twelve months. This achievement has been recognised by Peter Duncan, the Chief Scout.

The next few months are going to be very busy for the scout group. The younger section, the Beavers are going on visits to Rosliston Forestry Centre, White Post Farm, and taking part in activities to achieve badges for their uniforms.

The next section, the Cubs, are working hard towards their Artist Badge. A trip to Megazone in Derby, and an invite to the Town Hall to visit the Mayor are all happening in the next few weeks.

The older section, the Scouts, are working hard towards their Chefs Badge. Camping indoors is also planned, along with training walks in the Peak District, in readiness for the annual six summit challenge. This is due to take place in May 2009.

Everyone in the group looks forward to the November camp. This is a highlight of our calendar. The whole group camps over a weekend and enjoys a spectacular fireworks display on the Saturday evening.

Aged six years upward?

If you have a child who might be interested in joining our group please call Sue Duffil, Group Scout Leader, on 512450 or Keith Man, Assistant Group Leader on 516605 for further details.

The group is always looking for extra adult help too. If you could spare a few hours a week we would love to hear from you. No special skills are required as full training is given. Please give us a call. It's an adventure for the grown ups too.

School News

Holy Rosary School

The school hosts English classes for non-English speakers (especially Polish) on Fridays between 5pm and 7pm. We would like to open these out to even more members of the community.

From time to time we also have computer equipment and furniture which we would like to give to any deserving causes. Please contact the school if you know somebody whom it would benefit.

Neil Jinks - Headteacher; tel 239030; fax 239033

office@holyrosary.staffs.sch.uk

website: www.holyrosary.org.uk

Abbot Beyne School

Abbot Beyne School were delighted with their examination results this year with improved results at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. Once again this places us in the top 25% of schools in the county for our value added results. Of particular note were the 66% A & B grades at 'A' level. Two particularly successful students gained places at Oxford University.

Namibia Expedition

A group of 14 students and 3 staff all returned safely from their expedition to Namibia, which they described as 'life changing'. The Namibia Team worked tirelessly for over a year to raise the necessary funds and are extremely grateful to the many individuals and organisations, including the Parish Council, who sponsored them.

Winhill Primary School

New head teacher Mrs Ann Desilva takes over following the Christmas holiday in January 2009.

PACT

Readers may be aware that at 7pm on the first Monday of every month a "Partners and Community Together" (PACT) meeting is held in the Resources Centre in Canterbury Road. These meetings offer an opportunity for Winhill residents to raise issues with organisations working within the area.

A panel drawn from the police, the Parish, Borough and County Councils, Trent and Dove Housing, the schools and the Youth Service are then required to address the most important matters voted upon at the meeting and report back on action taken to the next month's meeting.

Encouragingly most of the issues raised, which at first were mainly matters of anti-social behaviour, have been satisfactorily resolved or are in the course of being sorted. However, there may well be issues of which we are not aware that can be tackled by the panel of partners if they are raised. So, if there is something which is causing you concern or annoyance come along and draw it to our attention. Working together we can achieve far more than working alone. Remember: 7pm, first Monday of the month, Resource Centre.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Editorial Team

Jo and Steve Taylor
Dennis Fletcher

Parish Council Clerk

Steve Taylor
Tel: 01283 704178

Editorial

Parish Plan

First I would like to thank all those who completed and returned the questionnaire in our Newsletter earlier this year.

There were 63 questionnaires returned and by far the greatest concern was with anti-social behaviour. A high number of respondents (16) appreciated the quiet village feel with fresh air and the countryside and Washlands nearby. Parks, open spaces and play areas are considered good by most (11) although one respondent disagreed. However there remains scope for play, recreation and sports facilities to be further improved (7) and better management or maintenance of parks and open space is needed (7), particularly to deal with specific problems such as drainage.

Litter and chewing gum were seen as a big problem by many (15), although others thought it not a problem (5). Graffiti brought one complaint. Dogs were of concern to many (10), mainly for problems of dog mess, but also for their barking. There was concern about irregular litter collections (1), more road sweepers being needed (1), domestic bins being left out on streets (1) and the need for a public skip (1).

Public transport (bus service) is considered generally good (7) although additional improvements to services are needed (9). This includes increasing the frequency of some services, adding new routes to the service and also making sure that buses always follow the routes they are supposed to. There were many other comments but they are far too numerous to include here.

A draft Parish Plan has been produced which will be presented at a meeting on 4th December at 7pm at the Neighbourhood Resource Centre. The completed Parish Plan will be launched in April, 2009.

Calling All Gardeners

Many of you have commented on how attractive the tubs on Melbourne Avenue, Empire Road, Dalebrook Road and Tower Road have been this summer. Sadly we cannot say the same for those on Canterbury Road and Eldon Street which have been continually hit by vandals.

Thanks must go to our Lenghtsman (Parish Handyman) Steve Stone who has made such an excellent job of planting the tubs and maintaining them. We would now like to extend the planting to other parts of the parish and for this we need your help.

First, we need suggestions on where to site them. Secondly we need your help in reporting vandalism and thirdly we would like to form a group of keen gardeners to help provide the plants.

These volunteers would meet regularly at the Horticultural Centre near the Cemetery where they would sow seeds, prick them out and grow them on and finally plant them out into the tubs.

If you can give a little time each week from early next year and would like to be a volunteer, please ring me on 568218 or Councillor Pat Hancox on 517895 and leave a message if you hear the answer phone.

Dennis Fletcher
Chair of the Parish Council

Christmas Greetings from the Parish Council

Welcome to this our ninth edition of the Winhill Parish Council Newsletter. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your contributions to the life of the parish, and to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Dennis Fletcher Chair of the Parish Council

Winhill Parish Council meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7.30pm