



Appleton Parish Council Newsletter

WINTER 2018

Message from the Chairman, Councillor Sharon Harris



I am sure you will have noticed that a lot of exciting things have been happening at the Parish Hall this summer.

We were awarded a grant from WREN to modernise the building and hopefully make it more user-friendly. This is long overdue as nothing had really been done to the building since it was built 50 years ago. We also secured funding from Warrington Borough Council's Community Initiative Fund and have funded any shortfall ourselves. The main aim was to ensure that it is more inclusive for different users, including those in wheelchairs and we are laying claim to being the first dementia-friendly parish hall in Warrington. We hope you will take the opportunity to visit and see for yourself.

Other changes which have taken place since our last newsletter is that we have welcomed two new Parish Councillors for the Thorn Ward of Appleton. Councillors Gerry Palmer and Gary Skentelbery are very keen to be involved in their ward and they bring new skills and ideas to the Parish Council. I am sure they will be delighted to hear from you if there is anything you feel that they could help you with. In addition, as we are a very busy Parish, we welcome Mrs Irene Derbyshire onto the staff of the Parish Council.

Unfortunately the beautiful area in which we live continues to be threatened by aggressive planning issues which will completely change the character of Appleton. We understand that new houses need to be built and acknowledge that some land has been set aside for housing for many years but we are also aware of a lack of infrastructure in terms of highways, schools and medical facilities.

Once again, the Parish Council was very pleased to invite all our primary schools to enter a photographic competition during the summer. The theme of this year's competition was "Views of Appleton" and even though it made it more difficult to decide on our winners, we were delighted with the high standard of entries.

Under the careful guidance of Cllr Sandra Benger, the Parish Library continues to run very successfully. The coffee morning organised by AIMS (Appleton Independent Methodist Church) runs at the same time so don't forget to pop in, choose a book, have a coffee (and a slice of cake) and a chat.

Residents in Appleton Thorn/Wright's Green may have been wondering at the sudden appearance of white gateways on the periphery of the village. We have been working with WBC on this for some time and the aim is to clearly demarcate the village in an attempt to slow traffic down and also to enhance its distinct village identity.

As we enter the festive period, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy and healthy new year.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

TELEPHONE BOXES

Appleton Parish Council purchased its two red phone boxes from British Telecom in 2016 as part of BT's sell off of unused boxes. A bargain at £1 each but Appleton Parish Council had to fund their refurbishment and with the help of a Heritage Lottery Grant, the boxes have finally been renovated.

The box on Bridge Lane will be the Cobbs Book swap. Feel free to choose any you wish to read. Childrens' books especially welcome.

The box on Lyons Lane will house a defibrillator and is planned to become a local history hub which might, we hope, become part of an Appleton heritage trail.



The Parish Council Environment Committee meets throughout the year to consider ideas for improving Appleton.

Projects this year have included flower and bulb planting, clearing litter and phone box renovation which is reported above. We were disappointed that the Borough Council was unable to progress the idea of putting planters on London Bridge, a lovely idea from Councillor Irina Axcell.

The summer heatwave was an enjoyable change for us, but was bad news for the wildflowers on Lumb Brook Road, which have not put on their usual show. However, the dry weather did mean that there was no need for extra grass cutting this year, which means we did not have to use the contingency we build into the committee's budget.

A new local firm is now looking after the planters and the garden at Bridge Lane shops, and have kept them looking beautiful all summer.

Our parish ranger continues to keep busy litter picking and carrying out maintenance work around the Parish.

We have identified new bulb planting areas in Red Lane and on Longwood Road near Owens Corner roundabout. The Borough Council do the planting for us. Other projects for next year are now under discussion and we will report on them in the next newsletter.

Appleton residents are our eyes and ears and if you have or hear of any ideas for making the Parish more beautiful, please let us know—we might be able to make them happen.

Community Events

This winter Appleton Parish Council is holding some wonderful community events. Our aim is to get people joining in with the community so no matter who you are, you can feel like you're really part of our rich and diverse community. We have had a lot of fun putting these events together and we would love you to put on your hats and gloves and join in this winter.

Santa's Coming to Appleton

Save the day as Santa will be making an early visit to Appleton Parish Hall (Dudlow Green Road, Appleton, WA4 5EQ) on Saturday 1st December. We're expecting him to arrive just after the lights on the tree are switched on and he will have a small gift for the first 50 children. Join us at 4pm. The lights on the Christmas tree outside the Co-op will be switched on at 4.30pm. Also there will be community singing, lead by AIM Independent Methodist Church. Refreshments donated by the Co-op will be available. We look forward to seeing you.

Lantern Walk—St Mary Magdalene's, Appleton

Building on the success of last year's Lantern Walk, we have been working with WBC South Area Team, St Mary Magdalene's Church and our local PCSOs to organise another walk. It will be held on Thursday 6 December from 3.15pm The Lantern making workshop will be based at St Mary Magdalene's Church on Dingleway, Appleton, Warrington, WA4 3AG and is suitable for young children. We will then walk along to the shops on Bridge Lane singing carols as we go. Refreshments will be provided. Come and join us.

Media

As part of our modernisation, we have formed a Media committee which is responsible for producing the newsletter. In the New Year, we will be looking at updating our website and developing a presence on social media so that we can engage more dynamically with our residents.

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Activities in Appleton Parish Hall

Weekly events

Sun 11am Appleton Independent Methodist
AIM Church Service

Mon 9.30am Pilates

Tues 10am Appleton Independent Methodist
Church Coffee Morning and Library

Wed 9.15am Caterpillar Music

Thurs 11am Young At Heart fitness

Thurs 5pm Little Stars

Fri 10am Appletots

Sat 10am Little Stars

Monthly events

2nd Mon 7.30pm Park WI

1st Tues 7.30pm Stockton Heath Flower Club

3rd Tues 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting

3rd Thurs 2pm Appleton Afternoon Flower Club

3rd Friday 7.30pm RSPB

**Hire Appleton Parish Hall for
children's birthday parties
and events! Tel 07856067783**

Parish Councillors for Appleton



Chairman

Councillor Sharon Harris 07894 082442 CllrSharon.Harris@warrington.gov.uk

Deputy Chairman

Councillor Judith Wheeler 01925 265784 CllrJudith.Wheeler@warrington.gov.uk

Hillcliffe & Cobbs Ward

Councillor Brian Axcell 01925 267540 CllrBrian.Axcell@warrington.gov.uk

Councillor Kenneth Arnett 01925 263463 ken.arnett@btinternet.com

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Hillcliffe North Ward

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Thorn Ward

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Councillor Gerry Palmer 01925 211013 gerryrpalmer@hotmail.com

Borough Ward Councillors

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Councillor Judith Wheeler 01925 265784 CllrJudith.Wheeler@warrington.gov.uk

Councillor Sharon Harris 07894 082442 CllrSharon.Harris@warrington.gov.uk

Appleton Thorn Ward Councillors

Councillor Ryan Bate 01925 267540 CllrRyan.Bate@warrington.gov.uk

Councillor Mike Biggin 01925 265784 CllrMike.Biggin@warrington.gov.uk

Parish Council staff

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Booking Secretary	Mrs C Middleton	Appleton, WA4 5EQ Tel 07856067783