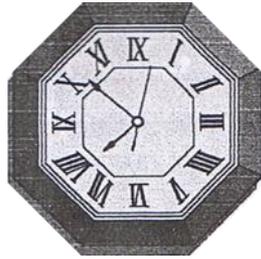


THE THREAPWOOD TIMES

Issue No. 38 – September 2015



Parish Council news, community events and information for residents of Threapwood, distributed by your Parish Council.

KEY LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

- 27th September** Harvest Festival and Supper
30th September Parish Council Meeting
13th December Christmas Carol Service
1st & 3rd Sundays Holy Communion – St John's Church at 9.30am

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met on 29th of July. The next meeting will be held on 30th September at Chorlton Lane WI Hall starting at 7.30pm when any parishioner is welcome to address the meeting or just attend as an observer. Contact can be made with the Parish Council through the Clerk – Richard Salmon on 07803 129477 or email: richard@offroading.net or your parish councillor as listed below.

Richard Salmon(Clerk)	07803 129477	richard@offroading.net
Steve Chewins (Chair)	07946 484825	steve.chewins@ramboll.co.uk
Miles Lewis (V Chair)	770240	mileslewis@yahoo.co.uk
Betty Young	770321	
Carol Bennion	770085	carolbennion123@btinternet.com
Brian Holmes	770577	holmes.brian@hotmail.co.uk
Steve Ford	770150	ssford@btinternet.com

We still require another parish councillor to make up the full complement of seven so please consider if you could attend our six meetings a year and represent the interests of our parishioners.

Some of you may have noticed that the police have been out on Wrexham Road to reinforce the speed limit.

Following concerns raised by a resident about the condition of road signs in Threapwood the direction sign at the junction of Sarn Road and Wrexham Road has been replaced and others have been brought to the attention of the Highways Authority.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN THREAPWOOD

By Cathy Humphreys

Connecting Cheshire held a launch on 31st July for the switching on of superfast fibre-optic broadband to cabinet 2 in Threapwood. This means faster internet speeds for many houses.

More and more of today's lifestyle involves using the internet – maybe you only use it for the odd email, or researching information by browsing websites, but there are increasingly more people using the internet for more reasons, and you don't need to be young to do it. For example, not only can you order grocery and other shopping to be delivered direct to your door, or join social interest groups, but you can also submit repeat prescriptions for the doctors.

Those of you who run a business from the village, have multiple household members needing to connect at the same time from multiple devices, or have family members under a certain age who apparently can't function without the internet, will appreciate what faster internet speeds will mean.

BT Openreach have been gradually installing fibre-optic cables to the majority of towns and cities in the UK to increase broadband internet speeds as part of a government initiative, but smaller rural areas were not on the BT plan due to insufficient demand to make it cost effective for them.

Connecting Cheshire Superfast Broadband and Superfast Cymru in Wales have been supported by the European Development Fund Programme, to enable rural areas to be connected. See www.connectingcheshire.org.uk and www.superfast-cymru.com for more information.

Who does it affect in Threapwood?

It doesn't matter if you live in Wales or Cheshire, all houses who are connected to **cabinet 2** can upgrade to connect to the superfast broadband. However, this means it is not currently available to those connected to cabinet 1 (I think this affects most people on Greaves lane and further down Sarn Road). To check, assuming you have an existing internet connection or can ask a neighbour, go to www.btwholesale.com/adslchecker or www.superfast-cymru.com/where-and-when. Type in your phone number. It will say which cabinet you are connected to and the expected available speed. This may be up to 80 Megabits per second (Mbps). You will get a higher available speed the closer your house is to the cabinet. Cabinet 2 is located next to Holy Lands just along from the junction of Chapel Lane and Wrexham road.

Superfast Cymru are also using BT to upgrade cables connecting Worthenbury and Tallarn Green, and have been working in Threapwood recently. They are installing fibre direct from the exchange to premises via overhead lines rather than via a cabinet, and are due to be complete by the end of September 2015, but exactly which premises will be connected is currently uncertain. It may be that some houses currently connected to cabinet 1 may well benefit from this project.

Do you have to upgrade?

No – if you are happy with no internet, or the current speed you have, then you don't have to do anything. You can remain on your current service with no disruption to your telephone or internet service.

How do you upgrade and will it cost more?

You do have to take an action with your current or a new service provider to upgrade to use the fibre connection. Your service provider has to pay BT Openreach to physically connect your line to the fibre service within the cabinet.

However, it won't necessarily cost you any more to upgrade, as different providers are competing for your custom and are offering attractive packages to switch. You don't have to stay or move to BT to benefit, a different provider just includes the one-off connection and the BT line rental as part of the package, which is then paid to BT. Similar to electricity providers, you can easily switch to take advantage of new deals, and they manage the connection and cutover for you. Check offers from your current supplier and also check comparison websites for the various packages available as they often combine telephone calls in a bundle. Be aware that ultimate/premium packages offering speeds *up to* 76 Mbps will be a waste of money if you are too far away from the cabinet to get these kinds of speeds.

Connecting Cheshire and other rural areas will benefit if we upgrade

For every home (in Cheshire) that upgrades to use the superfast broadband, a percentage of the line rental paid to BT is given as a rebate to Connecting Cheshire organisation. Therefore, the more homes that upgrade, the more money the organisation gets to roll-out to more rural areas.

There are not currently any plans by Connecting Cheshire to upgrade Cabinet 1. It could because they are on the plan for the Cymru project. If not, maybe if enough homes connected to cabinet 2 upgrade their service, our Parish Council could support a proposal to Connecting Cheshire to get cabinet 1 also upgraded ?

What does it mean technically for those interested?

Connecting Cheshire have paid BT Openreach to install Fibre to Cabinet (FTTC). This means it is faster fibre-optic cable from the telephone exchange to the cabinet, replacing old copper cable. Fibre to Premises (FTTP) is where fibre is connected all the way to a home. This is the system the Cymru project are installing in some areas. Telephone and internet signals deteriorate the longer they have to travel over copper cable, therefore since the distance from the exchange to the cabinet is now on fibre-optic, it is stronger when it reaches the cabinet. The closer you live to the cabinet, the less copper is travelled, or if you will benefit from FTTP, the higher the speed you will get. See www.thinkbroadband.com for more information.

Is Fibre the same as “cable”?

No –Virgin Media is installing their own fibre/cable hybrid network in some areas. This involves a coaxial cable rather than a copper wire direct into your home. However, it is extremely unlikely Virgin Media will ever want to install cable in rural areas.

Questions?

I'm happy to help if I can with any questions people may have. Please just call on 770447 or email me at cathy@maxconsulting.co.uk

COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

By Sue Pickering, Chairperson

The Village Day proved to be a great success and of course we were blessed with good weather. Feedback tells us the dog display team was greatly enjoyed by all and the free tea and coffee proved to be a hit with everyone. Our thanks, once more, go to everyone who contributed their time, effort and prizes to ensure the day was enjoyable. Special thanks go to all who baked cakes for our ever popular stall and in particular to Mandy Clark, who arrived on the day, with her estate car full of amazing cakes and goodies. As you are aware, we anticipate making a loss on this day, as our fund raising during the year, is aimed at bringing everyone together to enjoy a “free event”! Our financial deficit this year was circa £200.

Next year the Village Day will be held in June and will celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday. It is proposed to have a street party in Oldcastle Lane and this will be funded entirely from the Community Group account.

Our next event is the Harvest Festival on Sunday 27th September. The service at St John’s is at 5pm followed by the Harvest Supper at Tallarn Green Village Hall at 6pm. Tickets available from any committee member at £8.50. This includes a shepherd’s pie supper and a glass of wine.

The Church will be decorated at 1 pm on Saturday 26th September. Any helpers, produce and foliage will be gratefully received. We look forward to welcoming you on this occasion.

A future date for your diary is the Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 13th December, followed by a Christmas event at Tallarn Green Village Hall.

THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME – SUMMERSSET HOUSE AND THE WHITE COTTAGE

By Carol Bennion

Chris and Carol Bennion and Sue and Jonathan Clark would like to thank everyone who helped with or visited their gardens in June, particularly those who kindly contributed cakes and plants or gave up their time over the weekend. £2,200 was raised for the National Gardens Scheme (and its charities) and the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. A real team effort by all concerned to make it happen. Thanks again.

THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME – THE ROWANS

By Paul Philpotts

Alan and Paul from the Rowans in Oldcastle Lane would like to say a big thank you to all those who attended their open garden in support of the National Gardens Scheme charities on the 11th and 12th of July. We raised an amazing £2906, of which £2364 went to the NGS in support of Marie Curie, McMillan Nursing and many other charitable organisations, and £542 from refreshment sales went directly to Hope House Children’s Hospice, our personal charity.

Over the past nine years of opening we have raised a total of £16,947 for charity, and this could not have been achieved without the support of our loyal helpers who serve refreshments, cover the gate and sell plants. We would also like to say a special thank

you to those who donate wonderful cakes, plants and funds to support our weekend – we could not do it without you.

THREAPWOOD HORSE SHOW

By Tracey Jones

Once again the weather was very kind for us which attracted more competitors from far and wide! The show jumping was a huge success and the dog show was very well attended! It was very nice to see so many villagers competing and spectating on the day. The Fancy Dress class stole the show! Many thanks must go to all those who helped on the day and behind the scenes (too many to mention but I am sure they will all know who they are!). I would just like to personally thank Catherine Humphreys for printing out the schedules on time after her horrific accident! We made £3,250 on the day which we split between Hope House Children's Hospice and MacMillan Nurses. Let's hope we have the same success next year.

THE ABOVE THREE EVENTS HELD IN THREAPWOOD RAISED AN AMAZING TOTAL OF £8356 FOR CHARITY

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT GREAVES LANE EAST

If anyone asks you for directions to Millers Park, Threapwood, this is the new development at the top of Greaves Lane East. Residents have moved into several of the seven new properties and we welcome them to Threapwood.

HOME WATCH

A recent local police report stated there had been a number of successful / unsuccessful attempted burglaries recently on outbuildings and sheds in the Tilston, Edge, Malpas, Oldcastle and Shocklach areas - a bit too close to home. It reminds residents to be mindful of security and to ensure valuables are secured safely. If you see anything suspicious please contact Cheshire Police on the 101 non-emergency number with as much detail as you can note – particularly the registration number of any vehicle. Please also let your local Home Watch co-ordinator know – Brian Holmes on 770577 / email: holmes.brian@hotmail.co.uk - in case other residents need to be advised.

It has been recently reported that large quantities of garden waste are periodically being left on road verges such as by the entrance to the horse show field on Shocklach Road. It may well be a gardening contracting business who would otherwise have to pay to dispose of it. If you notice anyone leaving garden waste in or near our village in inappropriate places, please can you note any vehicle details and inform Brian, our Home Watch coordinator.

CONTRIBUTIONS

This edition has been compiled by Brian Holmes and printed by Catherine Humphreys. 150 copies are distributed by Parish Council members by hand to each house in Threapwood. If you would prefer to receive an email copy which saves costs for the Parish Council, contribute to the next edition or have any feedback or views on the content of the newsletter please contact me on 770577 or by email – holmes.brian@hotmail.co.uk