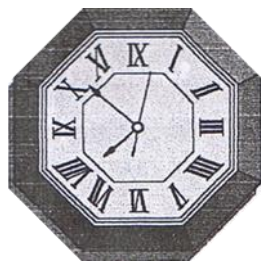


THE THREAPWOOD TIMES

Issue No. 36 – February 2015



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

KEY LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

- 20th March** Silent Auction, Tallarn Green Village Hall, 7.00 pm
25th March Parish Council Meeting, Shocklach School, 7.30 pm
20th & 21st June Open Gardens – Somerset House & The White Cottage
19th July Village Fun Day
27th September Harvest Festival and Supper
13th December Carol Service and Supper
1st & 3rd Sundays Holy Communion – St John's Church at 9.30am

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By Brian Holmes, Parish Councillor

The Parish Council met on 26th of November and 11th February. The next meeting will be held on 25th March at Shocklach School (opposite the Bull Public House) 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 your parish councillor as listed below.

Parish Council Clerk

Our Clerk Jude Crosby has had to hand her resignation in as a result of increased work pressure. We thank her for the work she has put in during her term of office. This means we are looking for a new Clerk and would very much like to hear from any resident who might be interested in taking on the post. The main role is to receive and circulate electronic communication and arrange and minute Parish Council meetings. A salary is payable to compensate for the estimated time involved. Our Chairman would like to hear from anyone interested in the post and will be pleased to explain the role more fully. His contact details are as below.

Election of Parish Councillors

Our seven Parish Councillors will come up for election in May at the same time as the National election. If any parishioner would like to put themselves forward for election this is now your chance. Please speak to any of the existing Parish Councillors for information and register an interest. A nomination form for the formal election process will be made available nearer the time.

Your current Parish Councillors are:

Steve Chewins (Chair)	07946 484825	steve.chewins@ramboll.co.uk
Betty Young (V Chair)	770321	
David Bierley	770683	d.bierley123@btinternet.com
Carol Bennion	770085	carolbennion123@btinternet.com
William Hall	770311	wfehall@aol.com
Brian Holmes	770577	holmes.brian@hotmail.co.uk
Miles Lewis	770240	mileslewis@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Precept

The precept to fund the running of the Parish Council raised via your Council Tax will remain at the same level as last year. Given a small increase in the number of houses in the Parish the amount per household will actually be slightly less.

Planning Applications

Application 14/02473/OUT – Two detached dwellings on land adjacent to Oakfield, Greaves Lane East.

The application was taken to appeal after being refused by Cheshire West and Chester Council. After consideration by an Inspector the appeal has been dismissed. Whilst the Inspector accepted the application is within the built-up envelope of the village he went on to say: In such areas, Policy HO4 of the Local Plan supports new infill development which is defined as one or two dwellings in a small gap in an otherwise built-up frontage, subject to certain criteria. This includes a requirement for development to be well sited in relation to the overall character of the area and is complimentary to the pattern of open space. Whilst there are several residential properties on this side of Greaves Lane, as is common in Threapwood the built form in this area is interspersed with open land. Thus, the appeal site does not represent a small gap in an otherwise built-up frontage along this side of Greaves Lane. The introduction of two new dwellings on the land would not therefore constitute infill development under policy HO4.

Threapwood is described as a dispersed settlement without a defined boundary in planning terms. The full details of the application and consideration can be found on the CWaC website – tracking online planning applications and entering the above reference or just Threapwood.

COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

By Sue Pickering, Chairperson

May I begin by wishing everyone a belated “Happy New Year”. At our first meeting in January, we started to plan for the year ahead and below are some dates for your diary.

Friday 20 th March	-	Silent Auction
Sunday 19 th July	-	Village Fun Day
Sunday 27 th September	-	Harvest Festival and Supper
Sunday 13 th December	-	Carol Service and Supper

We will of course give more details of each event in due course.

The Christmas Carol Service saw the Church filled to capacity and we welcomed St. Oswalds Choir and their choirmaster Stuart Smith. Their singing enhanced the event tremendously and made this a very memorable evening. The ensuing “Village Christmas Evening” at Tallarn Green was, once again, very well attended and had it’s usual relaxed and fun atmosphere. The event raised £419.10p and it was unanimously agreed that we send £150 to Hope House Children’s Hospice.

Once again our thanks were recorded to Alan and Paul for the wonderful care they give to the War Memorial and also to Wendy and Carol for planting and maintaining the floral rings at the village entrances. A cheque for £50 has been forwarded to Alan and Paul for the summer plants.

Our first fundraising event will be the Silent Auction on 20th March, 7pm at Tallarn Green Village Hall. Proceeds from this will be equally divided between the Community Group a/c and St Johns’ Church maintenance appeal fund.

We will be most grateful to receive either goods or services for this event, so have a good spring clearout! Any items can be delivered to either Sue Clark or Sue Pickering or to Tallarn Green Village Hall, between 2pm and 4pm on the day of the Auction. Tickets are £5 including a cheese and pate buffet and glass of wine and will be available from any group member. We hope you will come and support what has, in the past, proved to be a really enjoyable evening.

Gill Edwards brought forward a proposal, that whilst we do many functions which ensure children are well catered for, perhaps we could turn some attention to elderly people in the village, who may be housebound or a little lonely and who may welcome a visit and chat and/or a hot meal provided by one of our group, on a weekly basis. This was well received by all the group members but of course we do not wish to intrude on peoples’ privacy. It was agreed that Gill will co-ordinate enquiries into the need for a “support network”. If you are someone who feels this is for you, or if you know of someone you consider should be approached, please contact Gill Edwards on 770694.

The "Village Fun Day" this year will once again feature the very popular hog roast and we have also booked the "Whitchurch Dog Display Team" who's dogs will perform agility, obedience, dancing dogs and (weather permitting) a fire walk. Further details later in the year.

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MESSAGE TO DOG OWNERS

Submitted by a concerned resident

During last summer and autumn there were some reports of local dogs being allowed to run free in and around the village which resulted in some sheep worrying, scaring horses/riders and challenging other dogs with local walkers. As dog owners we are all responsible for the control of our dogs at all times of the day and night and must be conscious of the threat that our pets could impose on both livestock and humans wherever we/they are. Dogs are required to be kept under close control on rights of way and straying from defined paths could mean that their owners are liable for a charge of trespass. In law DPLA 1953 it makes it an offence for a dog(s) to worry livestock or to be at large in a field/enclosure in which there are livestock. Owners of livestock are entitled to shoot dogs which worry livestock under extreme circumstances and ensuing vet/disposal fees are claimable from the owner of the dog – this is especially relevant at this time of year when many sheep are heavy in lamb and as a result of worrying could result in both injury and abortion losses in the flock.

Dogs and Local Wildlife – we are privileged and have chosen to live in such an idyllic part of the country with lots of footpaths and open countryside to roam in – please be mindful that between 1st March to 31st July is the breeding season for birds (especially ground nesting ones) and other wildlife and this period of time will soon be here so an additional element of control is required.

So fellow dog owners – please be responsible for your pets and keep them under control at all times in and around the village and surrounding countryside for the sake of everyone's enjoyment. Please, also clear up any poo's with bags and take them home to the household bin – poo bags are very cheap, easy to carry round in the pocket and use – it is not sufficient to hope that it will just disappear or that someone else will pick it up for you. It is certainly not nice to see on the verges of residents properties and on our lanes whether you are a dog owner or not.

LOWER HOUSE, OLDCASTLE LANE, DONATIONS FOR THE FRUIT SEASON OF 2014

By David and Wendy Paton

The year was excellent with plenty of plumbs and damsons and an adequate supply of apples. When we have a good supply of plumbs we can expect a good collection of donations and consequently we are able to say a big thank you to all who came regularly to our supply at the gate and donated so generously. We are delighted to report that we sent a cheque for £215 in time for Christmas to Hope

Hospice for Children with Cancer – on their behalf a sincere thank you from David and Wendy.

THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME – SOMMERSET HOUSE AND THE WHITE COTTAGE

By Carol Bennion

Summer might seem a long way away at the moment, but spring is just around the corner and gardens will soon erupt into growth. Somerset House and The White Cottage gardens will open again this year under the National Gardens Scheme on 20th and 21st June 2015 from 1pm -5pm. Fingers crossed for good weather again!

Money raised from the sale of cakes and plants will again be donated to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. We were grateful for everyone's support last year and would very much appreciate donations of cakes and plants this year. To donate a cake please contact Sue Clark on 770205, or to donate plants please contact Carol Bennion on 770085.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT GREAVES LANE EAST PROGRESSING

Work is on schedule with the construction of seven new four bedroom detached houses on the site of the old coach yard at the end of Greaves Lane East. The "Show House" will be up and running from mid February. Prices start from a competitive £320,000 and one house has already been sold subject to contract. Completion is still scheduled for the end of March. Wright Marshall at Whitchurch have been appointed as the selling agents.

WENDY'S WILD GARLIC BUTTER RECIPE

By Wendy Paton

Soon in spring you will be able to walk down a shady lane or in local woods and you will recognise the unmistakable smell of wild garlic. Usually there are many areas with a lush green carpet of leaves with the white star-shaped flowers resembling those of Lily of the Valley. This wild garlic is also known as Ransoms and the leaves have a very strong taste of garlic when eaten raw and can be used in salads or as a garnish. The flowers also have a strong flavour and can be scattered over a plate of sliced tomatoes or a dish of risotto. The roots can be used as a substitute for dried garlic bulbs. Such a versatile plant can also be included in homemade soups and try it with mashed or crushed potatoes. My favourite way of using it is to make a supply of Garlic Butter. For this I take 15-20 bright leaves and roughly chop them and then blend them with half a pound of butter. When the butter and leaves are well mixed together I roll the mixture out into lengths and wrap them in cling-film and then freeze them for another day. I can then cut

off pieces from frozen lengths as and when needed to add to a selection of recipes or breads. Enjoy!

CONTRIBUTIONS

We are still looking for a willing volunteer to produce and develop Threapwood Times. In the absence of a regular editor this edition has been compiled by Brian Holmes. If you would like to contribute to the next edition or could help produce the newsletter please contact me on 770577 or by email – holmes.brian@hotmail.co.uk. We would also be interested in any comments you may have on the content or role of the newsletter.