



Autumn / Winter Newsletter 2021

Welcome to our Autumn / Winter newsletter. After an unseasonably warm October and early November the cold weather has arrived with the first flurry of winter snow.

The village Christmas tree

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that thanks to generous donations from members of our village community we are once again able to purchase a Christmas tree for Coronation Garden this year. With the lifting of COVID restrictions we are planning to reinstitute our annual carol singing event accompanied by light festive refreshments on the 20th December starting at 7pm around the tree at Coronation Garden. We hope that as many of you as possible attend. As a Parish Council we are always open to supporting community initiatives and so if anybody has any more ideas of events they would like to organise and might need support with just get in touch with a member of the council and we will do our very best to help....seamlessly linking to community events.....

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Thanks to Yvonne for once again hosting a successful MacMillan coffee morning and to Maureen Robinson for contributing some delicious home bakes enjoyed by all and sundry.



Almost everybody has been touched by this terrible illness in some way shape or form and many have benefitted from the help and support of MacMillan nurses. Yvonne has reported that the event raised £726 for this most deserving charity. Thanks to all members of the village community who helped to make this such a successful event. As well as raising money many of you who attended enjoyed the social opportunity of meeting with other villagers.

Old Molly's Well

As reported in our spring / summer edition we were attempting to secure funding to make repairs to Old Molly's Well (located on the left hand side of Moor Lane as you move uphill) an important part of

Wiswell's heritage. Through Pendle Landscape Partnership and the National Lottery Fund we made a successful bid for £500 towards the cost of repairs. The renovations are now complete and on the village notice board residents can find some background information on the history of the well. We are extremely grateful to Jean and Edmund Sandham who sourced the replacement stone and skilfully reset the surrounding dry-stone wall without spoiling the integrity of the original structure. Jean and Edmund always give unstinting support to village projects.



Thanks also to Jayne Ashe (Pendle Landscape Partnerships) for her help and encouragement and to Francis Laycock (landowner) for his support with the project. At some stage we hope to submit an article to the local press.

(opposite – Old Molly's Well September 2021).

Best Kept Village Competition

We once again reached the final of the Best Kept Village Competition (Hamlet Category) but were pipped to first place by Barley to whom we send our congratulations. We received an excellent report from the judges and were highly commended for the war memorial – many thanks to Michael and Oi Mei who take such great care of the war memorial on our behalf. In addition, thanks in particular to Yvonne and Maureen and other volunteers who have helped to make Coronation Garden such an attractive feature of our community. Residents might also have noted that the external restoration of the red telephone box is now complete – thanks to Robert, Alan and Edmund for their work on this project.

Ash dieback

As you will be aware many Ash trees in our area are prone to suffering from dieback to the extent that for safety reasons and to prevent spread in some cases they have had to be felled. Residents wishing advice on tree maintenance and for permission to fell trees should make contact with David Hewitt (RVBC- 01200 425111). For residents with Ash trees on their land the Forestry Commission also provide a useful guide, "Managing Ash Dieback in England".

Parish Council Liaison Meetings

Ribble Valley has been part of a successful Pennine/Lancashire bid to secure funding from Sport England. £500000 (in two funding tranches) will be made available to the Ribble Valley area to:

- a) Identify the barriers that currently exist for people of all ages, backgrounds, culture to them being healthily active.
- b) Implement strategies to overcome these barriers.

Parish Councils have been asked to submit proposals that might draw down funding to support the objectives of the programme. We know that there are a number of walkers / dog owners in the village and thought about the possibility of producing a guide to circular walks from Wiswell

incorporating information on local history / sites of interest. Just a thought..... but if there are any other ideas out there let us know.

Wiswell PC Councillor vacancies

After many years of service on the Parish Council Maureen Robinson has decided to stand down as councillor. Maureen has always given generously of her time and the village is indebted to the many hours she has spent tending to Coronation Garden, overseeing the work of the lengthsman (contractor with responsibility for maintaining public hedgerows / land) as well as supervising our entry into the Best Kept Village competition. In addition, she is our longstanding representative on the Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow joint Cemetery Committee. She has resided in the village for longer than anybody else and has many a fine tale to tell of Wiswell's past including her time as a pupil in the village school. Susan Stanley has also decided to step down from the PC. Susan has served with Maureen on the Cemetery Committee and has contributed to the full range of council activities. We wish both former colleagues the very best and thank them for their support over the years.

This leaves us with two vacancies. Any resident living within the Parish boundaries that wishes to consider joining the council or simply wants to know more about what the role entails should contact our Chair Mr. Alan Scholfield. In line with legislative requirements, a formal note will be placed on the village noticeboard.

We are also aware that there are a number of residents, who whilst not wishing to formally join the council, are keen to support and contribute to our community in other ways. Likewise, they should feel free to speak to Alan or other members of the council.

Remembrance Sunday 14th November 2021

The weather kept fine and we had an excellent village turnout for our annual service by the war memorial. Thanks to everybody for their support but with particular thanks to the Rev. Jane Lee for officiating at our service, to Bobby Eddleston for his reading of the lesson and to our bugler Paddy Brown whose rendition sets such a moving tone for this special occasion. Thanks also to the Deputy Mayor Stuart Hirst, friends from our neighbouring Barrow Parish Council and Oakhill School for their attendance and wreaths.

Nature Watch

A few notes on things to look out for in the Autumn and Winter months from our resident wildlife photographer Bradley Hamer. There is a lot of great fungi around at the moment including Stinkhorns (in the coniferous woodland... so named for their pungent smell), Amethyst Deceivers (purple in colour) and in the grassland at the top of Wiswell Moor Wax Cap mushrooms (which only flourish in soil not treated by chemicals for at least 60 years).

In terms of wildlife, you are more likely to catch a glimpse of Roe Deer in our woodland areas thanks to the depleted foliage at this time of year. If you have berries in your gardens keep a look out for Waxwings. They are relatively rare but have been spotted in recent years. At the time of writing there have been no sightings of the Wiswell barn owl which may have moved on to a new territory. However, keep your eyes open around dusk at this time of year particularly after a few days of bad weather when hunger will force them to hunt.

Neighbourhood Watch

As always thanks to Alan for administration of the scheme and to Nigel Bentley for his regular Email circulars in respect of neighbourhood watch and community issues. As reported in a recent circular

Clitheroe Police Station has re-opened on a part time basis (Monday – Wednesday) but in the longer term it is hoped that the number of days will be extended.

Residents are reminded that should they wish to be included in Nigel’s circulation list they should contact him directly (see contacts list)

Useful Numbers / contacts

Police	Non-Emergency 101 / Emergency 999
Lancashire Crimestoppers Charity	0800 555 111
Lancashire County Council	0300 123 6701
LCC – Highway Matters	0300 123 6780, 101 after hours, on-line fault reports https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/
LCC – Public Rights of Way	01772 530317 prowreports@lancashire.gov.uk
Ribble Valley Borough Council	01200 425111
National Grid (Gas)	Emergency 0800 111 999
United Utilities (Water and Wastewater)	Report emergency 0345 6723 723
Environment Agency Floodline	0345 988 1188
Electricity North West Ltd	0800 195 4141
NHS Non-urgent medical advice	111
Ribble Valley Citizen’s Advice Bureau	01200 427336
Ribble Valley Age UK	0300 303 1234
Ribble Valley Borough Council Community Hub	01200 414597
Clr Robert Thompson (Ribble Valley Brough Councillor / Wiswell PC)	01254 822794 clr.thompson@ribblevalley.gov.uk
Clr David Birtwhistle (Ribble Valley Borough Council)	07770 955552 clr.david.birtwhistle@ribblevalley.gov.uk
Alan Scholfield (Chair of Wiswell PC)	alan_scholfield@hotmail.com
Nigel Bentley (ref: Neighbourhood Watch)	Nigel_bentley2003@yahoo.co.uk
Steve Houghton (Wiswell PC)	s.houghton358@btinetrnet.com
Nigel Evans (Member of Parliament for Ribble Valley)	01200 425939 evansn@parliament.uk
RVBC (Wastepaper / cardboard collection. Ordering of white bags).	01200 425111 contact@ribblevalley.gov.uk

Wiswell Parish Council has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter and cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors, omissions or advice given.

