

# Newsletter

## Message from our Chairman, Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle

Dear Resident,

I am sure that you will, by now, be aware that the Public Inquiry (Muller Homes' applications) is over and we await with interest the Inspector's report which is expected to be published in the next few months.

Although we planned to be represented by a barrister, we received legal advice a few days before the Inquiry, to the effect that we should withdraw this aspect of our representation. However, we were still participants in the process and one of our Parish Councillors ably put forward the Parish Council's view which mirrored the objections of local residents. The feedback is that the Parish Council acquitted itself well, as did Stapeley residents who also spoke against the planning applications.

Other news: We are pleased to welcome two new parish councillors; Keith Lawrence (a returning parish councillor) and Matthew Theobald. (See inside for profiles.)

Raj Samra, who was Vice-Chairman for a number of years, resigned as a parish councillor in December and we thank her for her valuable contribution over the 4 years she was a councillor.

We are pleased that take-up generally on the use of the community hall has improved and we have three new regular users and a few children's parties booked. Please try to make use of the hall if you can. The hire charges are £12 per hour for events for children; and £18 per hour for mixed ages or adults.

We are still in the process of deciding how the hall should be managed on a day-to-day basis and inside you will see a draft job description for a caretaker/key-holder. If you are interested, please get in touch.

We are currently considering introducing Facebook and Twitter as additional communication tools with our residents. We hope that this will particularly encourage younger people to communicate.

Our annual meetings take place on 8 May in the Community Hall. The Parish meeting starts at 7.00 pm and this is an opportunity for local government electors to discuss Parish affairs, and resolutions may be passed which the Parish Council is obliged to consider but not necessarily accept.

At 7.30 pm on the same evening, the Parish Council will hold its annual meeting and this is when the chairman is elected for the forthcoming year and the Parish Council appoints to committees, sub-committees and outside bodies. For convenience, the Council also deals with ordinary items of business.

It has been some time since we last held a Public Debate, but we hope to arrange another during the summer. One of the reasons for the delay was that we felt that until the Muller Homes planning applications situation had been resolved, we were unable to provide any information to residents.

We aim to issue the newsletter by the end of March, but occasionally, circumstances might result in a slight delay.

In conclusion, I hope that you find the newsletter interesting. Please let us have your feedback on content, style, or anything else.

*Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle*

Chairman

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Please note this newsletter is also on the Parish Council's website:  
[www.stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## HOME WATCH GET INVOLVED!

Before going on holiday many people ask their neighbours to keep an eye on their homes while they are away.

But just consider how much more confident you would feel if you knew that you and your neighbours were looking after each other's homes throughout the year. This is what Neighbourhood Watch means.

**SPAG is re-launching the scheme.**  
**If interested please contact: Noel Wagstaff: Phone 01270 626435**

# Parish Council Precept – 2014-2015

The precept is the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax. The precept demand is submitted to the billing authority (Cheshire East Council) which collects the tax for the parish council. The precept is then converted into an amount per Council Tax band and that is added to the Council Tax bill.

The Parish Council has agreed a budget of £56,000 but owing to a significant underspend in the year 2013-2014 is only requesting a precept of £35,000. The precept is paid to the Parish Council in two six-monthly instalments (April and September). The effect on your Council Tax bill is as follows:

Precept	£35,000
Band D property will pay	25.33
Band A is 6/9 of the Band D figure	16.89
Band B is 7/9	19.70
Band C is 8/9	22.52
Band D	25.33
Band E is 11/9	30.96
Band F is 13/9	36.59
Band G is 15/9	42.22
Band H is 18/9	50.66

## Budget Headlines

**Purchase of two automated defibrillator units** £2,000  
The location of the units has yet to be decided.

**Community Hall operating costs** £20,000  
This proposed expenditure is offset by income of just over £12,000 during 2013-2014.

**General Grants Fund** £1,000  
Any local organisation can make application for a grant.

**"Fighting Fund"** £7,000  
This has been ear-marked to fight any further large-scale unwanted developments in the parish.

## NEW COFFEE CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Broad Lane Methodist Chapel on Audlem Road, Nantwich has announced the start of a new Monday morning coffee club for older people. It started on 3 March 2014 between 10.00 am and 12 noon.

The club has been developed through a partnership arrangement between Broad Lane Methodist Chapel and Audlem & District Community Action with support coming from the local Methodist District, the Parish Council and Cheshire East Council.

The club is aimed at providing company, friendship and support to older people who are encouraged to come along to enjoy coffee, biscuits, chat and to catch up on local events and news. All are welcome.

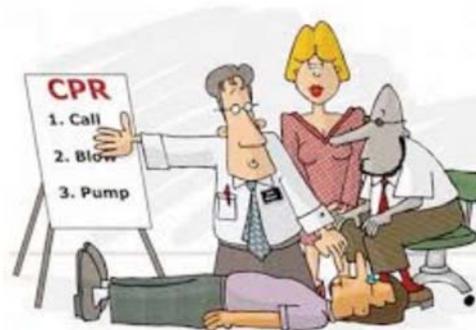
Transport can be arranged, including from the rural area of Stapeley.

It is too early to say how well it will be supported but there are eight volunteers who have been recruited and approximately 10 older persons have expressed interest in attending from the start.

If you would like to volunteer, or you would like more information, please contact the organiser, Ron Page on 625011.



## Purchase of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)



Following a suggestion by Stapeley Parish Action Group (SPAG) the Parish Council has included in its budget for 2014-2015 a sum of £2,000 to purchase two AEDs.

AEDs save valuable time between the onset of a heart attack and the arrival of an ambulance. The response standard for ambulance arrival is within 8 minutes. There is a 74% chance of survival with an AED and only 2% chance of survival without.

The location of the equipment is crucial and should be in a place which allows 24 hour access. We have not yet decided the location, but consider this equipment will be of great benefit to the community.

Quotations are currently being sought for provision of the AEDs and once purchased, North-West Ambulance Trust will be providing training/awareness sessions (probably to be held in the community hall).

One of the concerns of lay people is that they might cause injury by accidental delivery of an electric charge. It is important to note that it is impossible to deliver an electric charge accidentally. Training on the equipment will help to dispel common fears about its use.

We hope that this initiative will be welcomed by the community; we will keep you informed of progress.

## These are your two new Parish Councillors (Keith Lawrence and Matthew Theobald).

We are also taking the opportunity to include profiles of John Davenport and Martin Malbon who were co-opted in October 2012.



### Keith Lawrence

Keith Lawrence was born in Liverpool but left when a child. He returned in the 1960s to go to University, qualifying as a vet in 1972. After working in Cheshire and marrying a local farmer's daughter; he moved south and worked in Oxfordshire and Hampshire until he retired. During a varied career, Keith has worked as a vet in general practice and has held senior management positions in an international animal health company. He also obtained additional qualifications in the area of ecology, pharmacology and the

history of transport.

Keith, who lives on the Cronkinson development, is a returning parish councillor. He was a member between December 2007 and April 2011 and for the majority of that period was Chairman. He left to pursue other interests, but now finds that he has some time to devote to parish council work.



### Matthew Theobald

Matthew Theobald was born in Surrey, but has been doing all he can to get further North with every move since university! He met his wife (a Yorkshire lass) at his first job after graduation, relocating to the rural part of the parish from the East Midlands in the mid-1990s. Matthew's career has spanned numerous medical device development projects, managing healthcare regulatory compliance for several sites and responsibility for IT quality across 12 European sites for the largest global

healthcare company.

Matthew is now Managing Director of a medical device consultancy that helps save, and improve, patients' lives; working with both private and public sectors to design, develop and launch medical devices and drug/device combination products. He has co-authored three books and presented at many international conferences.

Matthew became a parish councillor at the December 2013 meeting. He is also a Governor at Stapeley Broad Lane CE Primary School, where his daughter is a pupil. Much of the family's free time is spent on its narrow boat, berthed on the beautiful Llangollen Canal near Nantwich.



### John Davenport

John was born locally and attended Malbank Sixth Form. He lived in Warwickshire and Oxfordshire before returning to the area to further his career with an engineering consultancy in Manchester. A Chartered Engineer, he is now a Company Director.

John is a classic car enthusiast but these days spends the majority of his free time with his young family. He has a wide cross-section of friends from both the rural area, as well as the housing estate within the parish, which provides him with a broad insight

into all aspects of local community life. He is active in planning matters and is keen to enhance the quality of life for all generations living in the area.



### Martin Malbon

Martin Malbon was co-opted onto the Parish Council at the October 2012 meeting. He is employed in the IT sector; is interested in music and plays regularly in a local band.

He lives with his family in the rural part of the parish, shows a keen interest in the community generally, but also in planning matters.

# SPAG



## NEWS!

Stapeley Parish Action Group (SPAG) has produced its first newsletter (January 2014) which is now displayed on the Parish Council's website. SPAG is proposing to produce this as frequently as there is news to report, so.....check the website. If space permits, it will also be displayed on each of the two Parish Council notice-boards (outside the Co-op Store and Stapeley Broad Lane School).

SPAG is also encouraging use of its Facebook page as a means of generating discussion within the community [www.facebook.com/groups/stapeleyplayground/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/stapeleyplayground/).

If you would like to join SPAG or need more information, please contact Angus Graham: e-mail address [angusgraham01@btinternet.com](mailto:angusgraham01@btinternet.com)

## Parish Council Diary – 2014

3 April - 7.30 pm

8 May - 7.00 pm - Annual  
Parish Meeting

followed by  
Annual Parish Council  
Meeting  
(Stapeley Community Hall)

## Community Hall Caretaker Wanted

The Parish Council would like to employ a caretaker/key-holder for the community hall for a fixed term (yet to be decided). The caretaker would work on a flexible basis (hours to be agreed), but the majority of the duties are at weekends. This would suit someone who is looking to augment an income. The rate of pay has yet to be decided but is expected to be £7-8 per hour.

Access to a computer/printer and the Internet would be an advantage. Duties would include -

- Dealing with enquiries from potential users of the hall.
- Showing users around, explaining safety requirements.
- Opening and closing of hall for casual events.
- Ensuring that the hall is made safe after use.
- Signing of hire agreements on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Taking payments for hire (this will be infrequent as all users are required to pay before the event).
- Meeting contractors on site as and when required; eg, electricians.

If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.



## SOCIAL MEDIA FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



The Parish Council is considering the use of "social media" as a means of improving its communication with residents and, in particular, younger people. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter connects people; helps them share; and "extends the reach of community conversations".

At our annual meeting in May, we hope to be able to update our Communications Protocol to include a Social Media Policy. As a council, we will need to be aware of various legal implications and potential abuse; for example, Members will need to be mindful of re-tweeting information which is potentially defamatory. The re-tweeting is as much of an offence as the original tweet.

Social media is such a powerful communication tool that we as Members feel we must embrace it.

**STOP PRESS!**  
From June 2014, Parish Council meetings are to be held in the Community Hall on the third Monday in the month.

## Policing in the Parish - PCSO Nick Jarvis

Policing of the Stapeley parish continues with high visibility patrols on foot and in police vehicles. Crime in the area is relatively low, but we rely on members of the public to pass on information regarding suspicious vehicles, people and any criminal acts that may be taking place.

ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) has dropped significantly over the past twelve months. This is owing to more engagement with local children in schools and when on patrol. With the community hall being used more, and extra lighting in place, ASB incidents have decreased in this area.

A number of burglaries (sheds and out-buildings) have occurred in the Nantwich area recently. We advise you to check the security of your property, making sure good locks are in place and when possible, security lighting is used. Garden machinery and pedal cycles appear to be the main targets. Please note down serial numbers of items, as so often, stolen items are retrieved and we are unable to return them to the owner.

Home security is vital as burglaries can have a devastating effect on people. Keep all windows and doors closed and locked when your property is empty. Leave a light on during dark hours and use a timer

switch to turn lights on when on holiday. Ask trusted neighbours to watch your property and vice-versa. Alarms, CCTV and security lighting should be considered; the more difficult you make it for a burglar, the less chance they will target your property.

Social media is a great way to keep in touch with your local policing team; sign up to our twitter account 'Nantwich NPU' and consider joining 'Cheshire Police Alert' a new system where you can register online.

Your local officers continue to be PC Sarah Marson and PCSO Nick Jarvis. We can be contacted in the following ways:

Email [Sarah.marson@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Sarah.marson@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)  
[Nicholas.jarvis@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Nicholas.jarvis@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Nantwich Police station voicemail 0845 458 6378 Non-emergency number 101 Emergency number 999



## Parish Councillors – what do they do?

Parish councillors are no different from you or me, except that they have made a decision to "get involved" and are fortunate enough to have been elected or co-opted onto the Parish Council.

The Council comprises 10 parish councillors and they come to the Council mainly at election time (every four years), but also through a by-election or co-option in between the main elections.

Councillors are all ages (but over the age of 18 years) and have a diverse range of life experiences. Some have lived within the parish for many years, and some have become residents since the Cronkinson development was built. The one thing they all have in common is that they are committed to ensuring that the parish is a pleasant place to live and that residents receive value for (public) money.

So...how do you become a Parish Councillor other than at election time?

Occasionally a councillor resigns owing to personal circumstances and a casual vacancy is advertised. If the Borough Council receives 10 or more requests for an election, one may be held, but if there are no such requests, the Parish Council can co-opt to the vacancy. Its usual procedure is to advertise as widely as possible to ensure the largest pool of potential candidates.

At the first available meeting, all candidates are invited to attend and are given an opportunity to

make a brief presentation to Members, following which the nominations are moved and seconded and a vote taken. If there are more candidates than vacancies, a secret ballot is held. The successful candidate then signs a declaration of acceptance of office and also agrees to be bound by the Council's Code of Conduct.

Once a councillor, you will be required to attend the monthly meetings. Please note that this is not an "invitation" to attend, it is a "summons" because it is at the meetings that the decisions are taken.

Members of the public are also encouraged to attend these meetings so that they can see the Parish Council at work.

Being a Parish Councillor can be a very rewarding and interesting role. If you wish to put yourself forward, the next elections are in May 2015.



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# Want to shine a light on a local group?

If you are a member of a local group and you are seeking new members or wish to share with the parish the various activities you undertake, please contact the Clerk with the name of your group, a summary of its activities and your contact details.

We can include an item in the next newsletter.



## COMMUNITY HALL ACTIVITIES

The following are the regular bookings at the community hall.

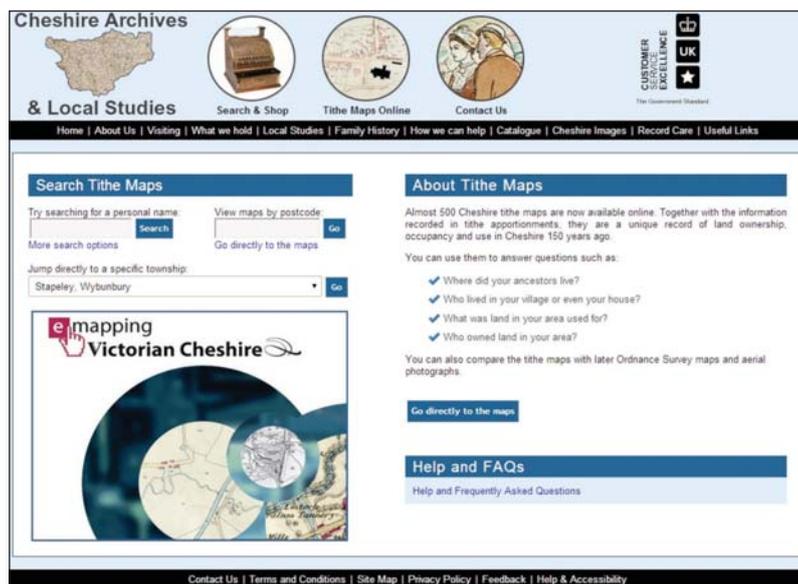


Monday morning	Baby sensory classes to stimulate development.
Wednesday	Ladies Yoga
Thursday	Scouts
Friday	Youth Club
Saturday morning	Babies' activities
Sunday afternoon	Stapeley Youth Orchestra
Sunday evening	Stapeley Adult ensemble

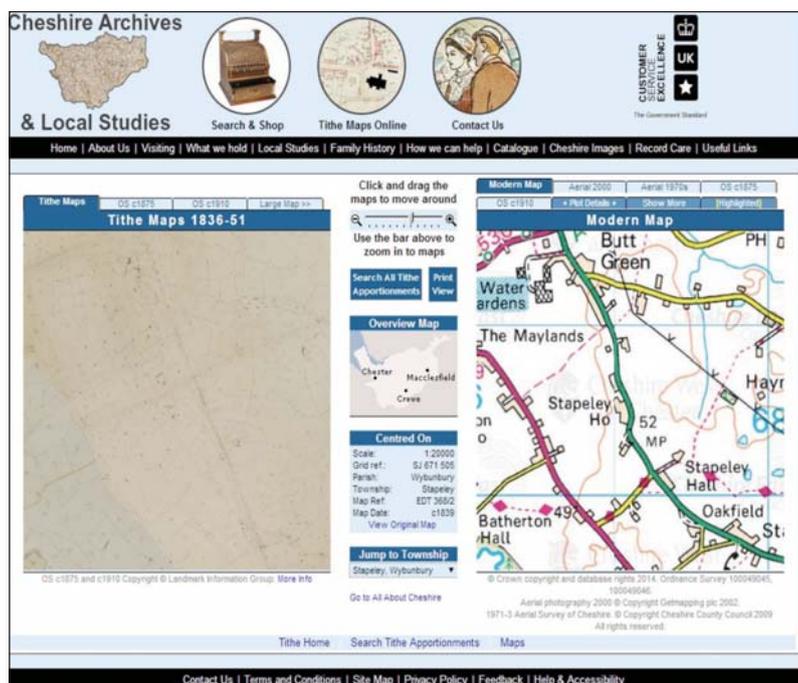


## History Corner - Keith Lawrence

Local History can be a fascinating subject but how do you start to research where you live? One easy route is an excellent website developed by the Cheshire County Records Office – e-mapping Victorian Cheshire ([maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/TwinMaps.aspx](http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/TwinMaps.aspx)). The site opens with a search screen



Where it shows a box – Jump directly to township – choose Stapeley, Wybunbury. This will open the twin map view – old maps to the left and a modern map to the right.



Move the modern map to the area you live in and zoom in until you find your house. The old maps will then show exactly the same area. On Cronkinson estate you can easily find the old farm and the route of the old footpaths as well as the hedge lines. You will find that many of the hedges still exist. These 'heritage hedges' are in many cases approaching 200 years old, being mature stock proof hedges in the 1836 tithe map. The front drive of Cronkinson Farm is quite clear on the 1875 & 1910 maps following the two existing footpaths towards the rail crossing leading in to Stapeley Terrace. This crossing was originally not stiles but a full blown level-crossing with gates. When you have found exactly the view you want choose the tab 'Large Map' on the left screen and you will have a printable copy.

# Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish



The Parish Council has set up a small working group of Parish Councillors to develop a neighbourhood plan for the parish. This is a community-led document which may contain a vision for the area. The working group of councillors will meet outside Parish Council meetings, and can draw on the experience/expertise of local residents.

The process can be lengthy, but the Borough Council has a duty to support that process. Parish Councillors hope that the end result will be a plan for the area.

The Plan will set out where residents want new homes, shops and offices, the policies which are needed to protect the parish's environment and define development, and can also indicate what is the most appropriate design of buildings. The finished document will form part of the Borough Council's Local Development Plan. This statutory status gives Neighbourhood Plans far more weight than other planning documents; for example, the Parish Plan.

Later in the process, the Plan will be subject to examination and it will also be necessary to hold a referendum. This will be a simple 'yes' or 'no' vote on the Plan.

Community engagement is crucial. Many Neighbourhood Plans fail through non-consultation with the community at an early stage in the process. This must be a plan which has the support of residents and it is also a legal requirement. We need to know what you think. Many of you, particularly those who have lived in the parish a lifetime, will have a wealth of local knowledge which will help to inform the Plan.

The working group has not yet developed its project plan with timeline and costs but will be taking into account the best method of engaging with the community to ensure that consultation is timely.

If you would like more information, please contact the Clerk or any of the working group Parish Councillors (Shaun Clough, John Davenport, Peter Groves, Jo Hillman, Martin Malbon or Matthew Theobald).

# Cheshire East Borough Council

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Main Switchboard No. 0300 123 5500

Contact Numbers

These are your Borough Councillors

**Andrew Martin (07875 555 096)**

[andrew.martin@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.martin@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

**Peter Groves (07597 968 831)**

[peter.groves@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:peter.groves@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Buses and Bus Passes 0300 123 5020

Council tax, business rates and housing benefits 0300 123 5013

Electoral registration 0300 123 5016

Environmental Health and Trading Standards 0300 123 5015

Fly-tipping  
Local number 0300 123 550  
01270 537864

Planning and Building Control 0300 123 5014

Planning Enforcement 0300 123 5014

Planning Applications 01270 685893

Pot-holes and other highway maintenance 07702 220 109

Waste and Recycling  
Local number 0300 123 5011  
01270 537817

## SCHOOLS

Pear Tree Primary  
(Head Teacher: Mary Hennessy-Jones) 685155

Stapeley Broad Lane  
(Head Teacher: Ian Shackleton) 685020

## These are your PARISH COUNCILLORS

e-mail style is

[firstname.surname@stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle	01270 619505
Shaun Clough	01270 629987
Mike Docker	01270 619855
John Davenport	01270 618971
Peter Groves	07597 968 831
Jo Hillman	07766 652 011
Keith Lawrence	01270 610413
Martin Malbon	07714 764 558
Keith Nord	01270 611204
Matthew Theobald	07941 495 786

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