

i nformation

LOCAL GROUPS

Bowling
Golden Pheasant 722261
Jim Rankin 651170
Halle Group
Gloria Robinson 722188
Holly Tree Riding Stables
David Nichols - 723837
IT Basic Skills
Chapel Hall last Tuesday in month, 2.30pm
Guild
Village Hall Tues. mornings (term time)
Murns & Tots
Sarah Sherwood 01606 48577
Parish Council
J Betts 01606 737602
Plumley Celtic FC
Gerry Chaburn 722385
Probus Club
Village Hall, 1st Monday in month
WI
Christine England 722283

LOCAL CONTACTS

Village Hall Committee Chairman	David Nichols	723837
Village Hall Bookings	Penny Allen	722259
Chapel Hall Bookings	Bert Southern	722444
Tennis Courts & Play Area	Iain McCulloch	722535
Borough Councillor	Ted Fisher	01565 873904
Newsletter Editor	Glen Godson	722811
Newsletter Reporter	Peter Frier	722140
Plumley Stores & Post Office	J. Royle	722277

Newsletter e.mail: glengodson@plumley1971.fsnet.co.uk
Parish Council e.mail: plumley@tiscali.co.uk
Website: www.plumley-bexton-toft-parish-council.co.uk

Glass recycling:

Golden Pheasant Car Park

Mobile Library:

every other Tuesday
Village Hall 9.55am
Ascol Drive 10.35am

Refuse collection: Tuesdays

TaxiRider: 01565 621222
Use it or lose it!!

Please notify the Editor of any changes to information on this page.

Letters to the Editor to:

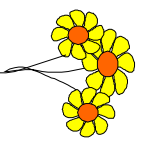
Glen Godson
2 Malt Kiln Road, Plumley

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Plumley Village Newsletter

April 2008



PLUMLEY with TOFT and BEXTON PARISH COUNCIL

April 2008

Clerk's contact details: Mrs Sarah Sherwood: plumley@tiscali.co.uk; 01606 48577; 42 Birches Lane, Lostock Green, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 7SN.

Parish Council web site: www.plumley-bexton-toft-parish-council.co.uk

We hope that you are finding this useful. Amongst other items, you will find details of planning applications we have received, any proposed road works and any local information useful to the Parish. You may view the plans on Macclesfield Borough Council's own website as well as at their offices. If you would like something included on the web site please let Sarah have the relevant details.

Highways: The Highways Agency have let us know that they have completed a safety survey of the Smoker Junction and are arranging for their findings to be incorporated into some remedial work they plan to carry out shortly. We have not been given any details. However, we have arranged for David Fyvie of the Highways Agency to explain things at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 30 April.

10mph signs: We have been told that these need to be left in place at the moment as the resurfacing work done on part of Plumley Moor Road last year has 'failed'. Remedial work is scheduled to be done during the summer. We understand that once this has been done, and assessed as satisfactory, that the signs will be removed.

Community Speedwatch: There is no doubt that the presence of the volunteers encourages drivers to reduce their speed through the village to within the legal limit. This is particularly important if the speed reduction to 30 mph, which many people have asked for over the years, is to be effective. Please try to keep to the new safer limit- be warned that our Speedwatch team, as well as the Police, are out and about.

The Speedwatch team cannot impose fines or penalties but are there as a reminder to you of the speed limit; they let the police know details of vehicles exceeding the speed limit who in turn send a 'warning' letter, but no fine or penalty.

A further training course is to be held by Cheshire Constabulary, so please let Sarah know if you would like to be involved.

Community Police: Our newly appointed police lady is PC Charlotte Body who can be contacted by leaving a message on 0845 458 6380. Other police contact numbers are 0845 458 0000 or, for emergencies only, 999.

Annual Assembly: The Parish Council is making arrangements for this which will be held on Tuesday 27 May at 8.00pm in Plumley Village Hall so please put the date in your diary now! Our main speaker will be the Chairman of Cheshire County Council, our own County Councillor Steve Wilkinson. As Cheshire County Council will be disbanded in March 2009, Steve will be the last of an illustrious line of County Council Chairmen. We wish him well for his period of Chairmanship which will commence in mid-May and are delighted and honoured that he has accepted our invitation.

Activity Session: An activity session was held during the Easter holidays for youngsters aged 8 to 14. Macclesfield Borough Council provided the two leaders and the Parish Council paid for hire of the village hall and other incidental expenses. The session was most successful and we are hoping it can be repeated, on a regular basis. In the meantime, please let Sarah know if you are interested in renewing or gaining a Community Sports Leader Award (CSLA).

Playingfield/The Parish Plan Implementation Team (PPIIT): We held a constructive meeting on 28 January; we hope to hear more about the outcome of this meeting within the next month or so. We are moving things along as quickly as we can although we knew this would be a protracted venture! If you can help or would like to be involved please let Anne Thompson (723944) or Sarah, our Clerk, know.

Cheshire's Year of Gardens 2008 (C Y of G 2008): The parish council propose holding a 'Best Garden Competition' as our local involvement. Gardens will be judged from the highway; the judges will not walk into gardens. Judging will take place in July/August. There is no entry fee or arrangements; all gardens in Plumley, Toft and Bexton will be considered by the judge who comes from outside the area. Prizes will be awarded by Andrew Yates of 'Plantation' (formerly the Hidden Nursery) Please do look for further details on our own web site as well as on : www.yearofgardens08.com or in the press for all the events across the county. Sybil Crossman and Anne Panagakis are pleased to have been invited to the launch of Cheshire's Year of Gardens 2008 which is to be held at Taton Park on 3 April.

Community Pride (formerly Best Kept Village) Competition: We have entered this annual competition again this year, so please try to keep things well looked-after during the judging season, which runs from April to September. We received a Runner-up prize last year, so let's try to win First Prize in 2008.

A village litter pick has been arranged for Saturday 12 April between 10.00am and 12.00am - meet in the Village Hall car park. Please try to come along and help out -there are several 'grot spots' which could be improved without a lot of effort. Please remember 'Many hands make light work'.

Anne and Derek Panagakis tend the Railway Station gardens but would appreciate some help, so please ring them (722428) if you can spare a little time. It is hoped that planned improvements to the station garden, funded by a grant from C Y of G 2008, and with help of volunteers, will be done soon.

TaxiRider: Just a reminder: We understand that this will continue to operate until at least 30 April and that the longer term situation will be resolved during the next week or so. Please remember to use the TaxiRider - 01565 621222. Use it or lose it.

Local Elections : These were announced on 27 March. Nominations are open until 4 April. The elections for Cheshire East as well as for Plumley with Toft and Bexton Parish Council will be held on 1 May. Please see the noticeboard and the press for full details. Because of the timetable of events we have been unable to let you have more timely details.

Next Meetings: The Parish Council's next meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 30 April at 8.00pm at Toft Parish Hall and on Tuesday 27 May at 7.00pm at Plumley Village Hall. The latter meeting will be followed by the Annual Assembly at 8.00pm. As usual, you are welcome to attend these meetings.

Mrs Sybil Crossman (Chairman and Cheshire Association of Local Councils Rural Woman of the year 2007/8, and Mrs Sarah Sherwood (Clerk) on behalf of Plumley with Toft and Bexton Parish Council

The Newsletter is now partly funded by the Parish Council but principally by the Village Hall.

Something for the younger reader

Q. What do elves learn in school?
A. *The elf-abet*

Q. Why was the teacher cross-eyed?
A. *Because she couldn't control her pupils*

Q. Why did the man freeze his money?
A. *Because he wanted cold, hard cash.*

Q. What kind of dance do you do on a trampoline?
A. *Hip-hop.*

Q. Where do horses live?
A. *In neigh-bourhoods.*

Q. Why did Daddy Dinosaur have to sleep on his own?
A. *Because he was a Bronto-snore-us*

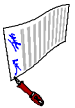
Knock! Knock!

Who's there? **Who's there?**
Keith. Emma.
Keith who? *Emma who?*
Keith me thweehart!
Emma ah crackin' you up?

Who's there? **Who's there?**
Jess. Arthur.
Jess who? *Arthur who?*
Jess me, open the door!
Arthur more jokes here?

No!!

Letter from the Editor



I have included something for our younger readers this time - a last minute attempt, I hasten to add so if anyone can supply something a bit more stimulating I would be happy to receive it, either by email or just post it through my letterbox. Anyone good at short stories or poetry? All contributions gratefully received!

AGE
Concern



Age Concern (Cheshire) is running a series of keep-fit sessions for Senior Citizens at Plumley Village Hall and they are proving to be very satisfactory. Open to both men and women they are informal with activities geared to each individual by a fully qualified leader. It's a convivial way to spend an hour in good company from 2pm to 3pm on Thursday afternoons. The cost is £2 per session and you do not have to commit to every week.

You are invited to just turn up and loosen up!

Plus!

FREE Eye Screening Checks, by Age Concern

for all Senior Citizens are available on Thursday 17th April between 1-4pm in the Village Hall.

Quick, simple, free and fun

Cooking

Games

The Sunday Club

Bible Stories

Crafts

The Sunday Club has been up and running for a few months now at Plumley Methodist Church and it seems to be going well so far. However, if there are any more children who would like to join us you'd be more than welcome. We are also in need of some more volunteers to help with the Club. We have a rota system so it wouldn't be every week. Experience with children would be beneficial.

If you are interested, please contact:

Sarah Royle at Plumley Village Stores on 01565 722277

All children aged 2 - 8 years welcome
at Plumley Methodist Church 10.30 - 11.30am

Plumley Village Hall

Plumley Garden Party, Saturday 28th June 2008 at 1pm

Just a brief reminder for you to note the date for this year's Garden Party in your diary.

I am pleased to report that arrangements are well in hand. Our thanks go to everyone who has already offered help and we are particularly grateful to Avril and Vinny Clarke who are organising the event again this year.

Entrance will be 50p per person and this will buy a programme which advertises local services and facilities.

If you wish to place an advert, please submit your request and 'copy' by email to: davini@lineone.net

As usual there will be a variety of events and a range of stalls and competitions, including:

Miniature Garden Competition

You can enter this by using a container not more than 16 inches round or square (e.g. a seed tray or dish.) Miniature Gardens to be placed on the Competition Table by 1.15pm on the day. Remember to put your name in an envelope and place it under your container. Prizes for Best Adult's display and Best Child's display.

Best Single Rose

Enter by displaying your SINGLE ROSE STEM in your own simple container. Put your name in an envelope and place it under your container on the Competition Table by 1.15pm on the day. Prize awarded.

Funny Veg

Just for a laugh! If you have a curiously shaped vegetable, bring it along and display it on the Competition Table.

Fancy Dress

For adults and children: please be at the Village Hall by 1pm. Prizes awarded.

Please come along and have a look round the many stalls:

- Test your skills at various games
- Stock up your garden from our Quality Plant Stalls
- Find a bargain at the Trinkets & Treasure Table

and don't forget the Tombola and Raffle!

After all that, sit down with a cup of tea or coffee and something to eat provided by Plumley WI and have a chat with your friends while JPD Mereside Brass Band entertain you. Refreshments will also be available in the Beer Tent.

If you would like to help, it would make things so much easier - just contact Avril or Vinnie Clarke on 722006, or any Village Hall Committee member. Many thanks.

David Nichols
Chairman



Sunday 27th April at 2.30pm Church Anniversary. Preacher: Rev. Helen Kirk from Holmes Chapel

Saturday 3rd May 10am - noon Coffee Morning.

Saturday 24th May 7.30pm Organ Recital with robin Coulthard. Soloists Barbara Turner and David Hay. Tickets £5, Refreshments available.
An opportunity to enjoy a super evening with music played on the newly refurbished organ.

The Other Theatre Company



The Other Theatre Company are proud to present

“The Canterville Ghost”
on 24, 25 & 26 April, 2008 in Plumley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

A musical ghost story with a difference, full of mystery, chills and humour, this play is an adaptation from the story by Oscar Wilde; a culture clash between the stereotypical behaviour of a modern, brash American family (who rent an old mansion in rural England) and a sixteenth century English ghost.

Suitable for all the family, this show has some great musical numbers and a real feel-good factor.
Tickets are available from **Sophia on 01606 46989**

WYCHCRAFT BIG BAND

The music that became so familiar during and after the war years featured in a well attended concert in the Village Hall on February 23rd. The Wychcraft Big Band (who hail from **Nantwich**, **Middlewich** and **Northwich** but rehearse in Holmes Chapel) was an 18-strong ensemble of fine brass, woodwind and percussion accompanied by an excellent “Jazz” vocalist from Solihull; it was a welcome return for the band to Plumley.

The Conductor and MC was David Roberts and he soon drummed up audience participation and dancing to the tunes made famous by Glen Miller, Count Basie, Duke Ellington and others.
It was a grand, social, village occasion - one table even brought a picnic -and there was an excellent bar to lubricate the singing (and talking). The event was organised by the Village Hall Committee and a return visit has already been requested.



Scarcely had the ink dried on our last edition when it was announced that the return of the Class 8F steam locomotive 48151 to its old home ground was off!! Due, it is said, to restrictions on the Middlewich line and other operational factors, a replacement had to be found and the Community Rail Partnership, with the Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association have substituted ‘Black Five’ 45407, ‘The Lancashire Fusilier’, which engine, it may be remembered, ran the service a couple of years ago and also called at Plumley to take on coal and water on a tour from Cheshire to Lincolnshire. Timings and fares are as published and we understand that bookings for seats are well advanced for May 4th.

Bookings are also healthy on the Somerset Coast Express! from Plumley to Bristol and Minehead on May 10th. This is the usual mix of First and Standard accommodation with buffet car, bar and trolley service. It will be a long, full day out and many bring picnics and make a family party of it - your seat is reserved throughout. You are urged to book early for this train as last year it was fully taken by April. Your booking contacts for the above trains are:

Steam Train :- May 4th 07825 681583 or 0161 827 1969 for bookings already made or email: steamday@railday.org.uk
Minehead Express: 0161 928 2203 or 01606 888093 (Peter Davies/David Miller)

Finally, there is an amendment to the tip I gave for cheaper travel to Liverpool in that when booking Chester or Plumley to Liverpool you must specify ‘via Birkenhead’ (otherwise they route you via Warrington).
If you lose property on Northern trains the Lost Property Office is on Platform 10 at Piccadilly station. **Tel: 0161 236 8667** (Fax: 0161 236 8595) **P. Frier**

New National Concessionary Bus Pass

This scheme started on April 1st and provides a **free bus pass** for all Senior Citizens living in Macclesfield Borough. Even if you already hold a Rail Card from the Borough you can now still have a bus pass as well. This is a new concession. In Cheshire the pass entitles you to **FREE** travel after 9.30am Mondays to Fridays and all day at weekends and Bank Holidays; before 9.30 am you pay half fare.

In the rest of England your pass lets you travel **FREE** on most local services from 9.30am - 11.00pm, Monday - Friday and **FREE** all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. If you travel into Wales you travel **FREE** providing your bus service starts or ends in Cheshire.

To obtain your pass, apply to the Knutstord Information Centre, Council Offices, Toft Road, Tel: 01565 632611, taking with you proof of age (passport, driving licence or pension book), a recent utility bill showing you live in the Borough and a recent passport size photo. Each pass is valid for five years. There is no charge for bus passes but if you also want a Rail Card it will cost you £16 and give you a third off most rail fares on the National networks. Full details on: www.macclesfield.gov.uk



Plumley W.I.



Monday 7th April at 7.30pm, Bobby King (ex-Music Hall star) will be speaking on the "History and Humour of Music Hall". The competition is for a programme or autograph of an entertainment star.

Monday 12th May at 7.30pm. This will be the Resolutions meeting, followed by "Hobbies Night". The competition is an unusual photo frame.

Monday 2nd June. This will be the annual "Members' Night". Always an enjoyable evening and full of surprises. *To be finalised nearer the date.*

The **first two** above meetings will be held in Plumley Village Hall. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Call in to see us one evening; you are always sure of a friendly face, delicious refreshments and the best cup of tea in Plumley!

Virginia Williamson - Tel: 01565 722260

The Rural Touring Network



It must have been very satisfying for Sarah Sherwood, her team and the Village Hall Committee that this event on March 1st produced a virtually full house that thoroughly appreciated the return to Plumley of The Shifting Sands Theatre Company, with their new production of "The Deadline".

The Rural Touring Network sometimes offers controversial works but this performance was a slick presentation by a trio - two men and one girl - who assumed many roles, costumes and sequences and it was evident that they enjoyed every minute. The story centred around the postman, Flynn and the 'object of his desire', Mona; it had some irreverence, a lot of humour and great drama, backed by superb special effects, lighting and sound. The audience was entranced.

Truly an enjoyable evening, even if you did not quite follow all the intricacies of the plot; the set (their own) was so comprehensive it took over two hours to dismantle!

Mums & Toddlers



9.45 - 11.15 in term-time.

Pre-school children (and babies) can enjoy toys, craft activities, sing-alongs and refreshments. New members are always welcome. Join us for a chat and a cup of tea.

Only £2.00 for one or more children.

Please tel: **Carolyn on 723190** for more information



A couple of useful snippets taken from E-News, the Manchester Airport Community Newsletter

Runway Closure

A programme of closures for routine maintenance work on Runway One has started and will run until 6am, Friday April 11th. The work will include repairs to a taxiway and lighting checks and will be carried out from 10.15pm to 6am between Sunday and Thursday nights only.

Runway closures later in the year will be carried out from Sunday July 6th to the early hours of Friday July 11th and Sunday October 5th until 6am on Friday October 10th.

Outreach Projects

The airport's Community Relations team is gearing up for another season of outreach projects, which are a major part of their calendar and have proved popular events when held in previous years. Anyone who attends the sessions can find out about projects organised by the Community Relations Team, the Manchester Airport Trust Fund or new developments being planned by the airport. Residents can also find out more about the new EU Environmental Noise Directive, which will affect the way in which the airport measures aircraft noise. There is a regular outreach session every Tuesday at Knutsford Library and as usual they will be attending the Cheshire Show at the Tabley Showground on June 17th & 18th, where they are happy to meet people from the local area to discuss any problems.

Plumley Station



Exciting proposals planned for part of the station by award-winning local designer Daphne Jones (see last issue of Newsletter) have been submitted to the Parish Council. The development, on the 'up' or Manchester -bound side, proposes raised beds, ornamental trees with underplanting and a grassed area.

The next big step is the work of translating the plans into an attractive approach to the platform. To this end an interest in helping has come from, amongst others, the "Plantation" nursery on Plumley Moor Road. Formerly known as "The Hidden Nursery" it was leased from Peter Yates to Aidan Killeen. Following his departure at Christmas, Peter Yates' son Andrew, himself an award winner at the RHS show at Tatton Park, together with his wife Eilly, have taken over the reigns and, as we understand, there are innovative changes afoot in design and layout.

The station work will be carried out under the terms of the £500 grant announced by the Community Rail Officer Mark Willcox, who is liaising with Anne Panagakis for the Parish Council. Offers of help are always welcome!
www.cheshiregardensexpress.org.uk

“Down on the farm” from Stephen Wharfe



Following on from my report last month concerning the environmental work being carried out at White House Farm, I am pleased to say that the scheme is already showing results. A survey carried out by the RSPB showed no less than 22 different species on one day alone. Those considered at risk were in profusion with 14 Yellow Hammer, 15 Meadow Pipit, 9 Long-tailed Tit, 14 Snipe and numerous Partridge, Reed Bunting and Duncock.

The observer who carried out the count was delighted with the results and it is interesting to note that virtually all the birds were spotted on the over-wintered stubbles. We are surprised at the interest being shown in the scheme and a number of school visits are planned during the coming weeks. I have also been out to several organisations with the audio visual show of a year on the farm. I first set this up almost twenty years ago; the title then was ‘Sustainable Agriculture’ which is now the ‘buzz word’ in the industry.

It is also pleasing to see many walkers pausing to read the various notices dotted along the footpath. It is gratifying to see that they are of interest.

Plumley Tennis Courts

Hopefully with the start of better weather our tennis players, both senior and junior will be thinking of picking up a racket again and using our village courts. You may be interested to know that the total amount raised last season through tennis activities was in excess of £1000. This money is used towards the upkeep of the Village Hall and courts and you will see that since last summer the outside of the Hall has been redecorated and double-glazed windows and doors have been installed.

A letter has gone out to the players who contributed last year and we look forward to hearing from them again. We are also hopeful that more people will make use of the facilities which are on their doorstep.

The cost to play for a year for adults is only £25 per person and there is no charge for juniors. Full details of how to make payment are given in a notice on the Hall noticeboard.

A sad note is the fact that this season there will be no Junior coaching sessions in Plumley as we have been unable to find a coach to take them. If, however, there are any juniors interested in having coaching then I can put them in touch with Hartford or Knutsford tennis club who run junior coaching sessions.

Iain McCulloch

PLUMLEY LANE Continuing my historical ramble

Another Plumley Lane. Trouthall Lane.

The main portion of Trouthall Lane is part of the old track leading from the parish church at Great Budworth, via Holford Hall, to Peover. In medieval days the (then) chapel at Lower Peover was not licensed for baptisms and marriages, so the local inhabitants would have used this track to get to their parish church. At the Peover end, the track probably led from Little Peover (now Smithy Green) and then crossed what is now Peover Golf Course. At the Plumley village end it crossed the Peover Eye near the present bridge on the drive to Brook House Farm. The stretch of Trouthall Lane from there to the Methodist Chapel was probably originally a spur leading to the Malt Kiln, since this stretch was previously known as Malt Kiln Lane, and the chapel itself was at one time called Malt Kiln Lane End Chapel. (Regular readers will know that my hunch is that the kiln was situated somewhere behind Malt Kiln House.) Where Yew Tree Road now joins the lane there was quite a large pond and I am told that local farmers sometimes drove their carts through it to wash them; you might call it a Cart Wash!

Cheadle Lane was another old track, crossing the Peover Eye and leading south along the edge of Holford Moss. Situated at its junction with Trouthall Lane is Trouthall Farm. About three centuries back this was a fishing lodge belonging to the Tabley estate. There was good trout fishing on the Peover Eye so it would be quite natural to call it Trout Hall.

Regrettably there are only two original ‘black-and-white’ thatched cottages still standing in Trouthall Lane. Beech Farm is largely unaltered but is unoccupied and sadly dilapidated. Yew Tree Cottage, on the other hand, has been renovated and rethatched, albeit with some alterations and additions over the years. Previously there was a cottage situated just the other side of Back Lane and another near the railway bridge. At the village end, Brookside Cottage was completely rebuilt many years ago on the site of a much older half-timbered cottage. Round the corner, Malt Kiln Farm is no longer thatched but the black-and-white portion dates from about 1650. It is a very old style, known as ‘baffle entry’, the chimney is in the middle of the house and on entering the central front door you faced the side wall of the chimney-piece, with a room on either side. Access to the (rather cramped) upper storey will have been by wall-ladder, rather than by stairs. These six cottages were probably the only houses on the whole length of Trouthall Lane in the 17th century.

Can I now make a plea to local farmers? Have you ever found curiously shaped stones in old walls or elsewhere? I have recently been told that before the introduction of perforated tiles for the kiln floors (about 1820) the grain was spread on horse-hair sheets spread over poles laid across the kiln above the fire. The ‘rack-stones’ that supported the poles are very distinctive and their discovery would be sure evidence of the site of that long-lost kiln! They have been described as “unmistakeable in appearance, commonly around 3 to 4 feet in length, a foot wide and 4 to 6 inches thick”. They have a series of grooves on one face where the poles would be laid. Incidentally, the kiln was often situated completely separate from other buildings. When you think of the fire hazard of a wooden structure directly over the fire, this would certainly make sense.

Mike Morton