

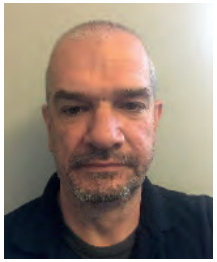
WINTER 2026

PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 80

FULFORD
PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2026 - ISSUE 79

PARISH CHAIR



Cllr Anthony Meredith

The last six months have been very busy for Fulford Parish Council.

During the summer, we arranged for a range of activities around the parish for local young people to take place during the holidays. These were very well attended and enjoyed, and something we will look at again next year.

On the downside, the summer also brought anti-social behaviour issues to Grindley Park. The Parish Council is working with external agencies regarding these issues as well as looking to install CCTV cameras. I would personally like to thank all the local volunteers and our parish wardens for all their hard work in helping to clean up the park after the anti-social behaviour had taken place. A big thank you to you all.

The council has also been working hard for some time on our Neighbourhood Plan, getting together all the information needed . The plan will take us forward and will help to protect our green space in the parish. We will shortly be at the public consultation stage – look out for more information soon.

We recently held our first Community Awards. This is a chance to thank local people who give their time for our parish, whether it's service to the community with litter picking, looking after neighbours or a community group that brings local people together. A very big well done to all the winners. Thank you for giving your time to this community.

I hate to say, but the Christmas season will soon be upon us again. This year the Parish is looking to celebrate Christmas with our Christmas trees around the parish. Look out for the dates when the tree decorating will take place. We are also looking at a Christmas Lunch event for local pensioners in the parish. A chance to come together for a hot meal and some Christmas cheer. Full details will be out soon.

During the autumn, we will be having a big bulb planting in the parish. This will be a local community event in the wards. The bulbs will provide us all with some colour and cheer after the cold of winter.

Finally, I would like to say that the Parish Council is here for you – our local residents and community. If you have any issues/ concerns that you would like to raise, please contact us and we will do all we can to help.

May I take this chance to wish you all an early Merry Christmas and a Happy 2027.

Cllr Anthony Meredith

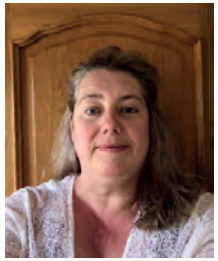
cllrameredith@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Gemma Keiher-Knapper - Parish Clerk/ RFO
clerk@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk | 07946 169337

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BLYTHE BRIDGE



Cllr Karen Deeth
cllrdeeth@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
07814 554886



Cllr Alec Sandiford
asandiford@staffordbc.gov.uk



Cllr Paul White
cllrpwhite@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
01782 397981



Cllr Derek Brindley
cllrbrindley@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Vacancy

BLYTHE BRIDGE

Parish Office – A Reminder

Just a quick reminder that the Parish Office is located at **209 Grindley Lane, Trade Locally/Leaflets Ltd**, next to the pet supplies shop.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to **Sue and Joan** for being so welcoming and accommodating, and for making us feel very much at home.

The Parish Clerk is available at the Parish Office on **Wednesdays and Thursdays, between 9.00am and 3.00pm.**

If you would like to visit, it would be helpful to **call ahead and make an appointment** to ensure the Clerk is available.

Telephone: 07946 169337

We look forward to welcoming you.

Speed Indicator Displays Introduced Across Fulford Parish

Speeding remains a significant concern for residents across Fulford Parish. While the Parish Council has limited powers to directly address speeding, we are taking practical steps within our remit to help improve road safety across all of our wards.

As part of this ongoing work, the Parish Council is gradually introducing **Speed Indicator Displays (SIDs)** at locations throughout the Parish. These displays remind drivers of the speed limit and encourage greater awareness of their speed, with the aim of helping to make our roads safer for everyone.

Importantly, the SIDs can also collect useful information about vehicle speeds and traffic movements. This data can help provide evidence of speeding concerns and support the Parish Council when working with **Safer Roads** and other relevant agencies to seek additional measures, such as traffic calming or other road-safety improvements, where these may be appropriate.

The latest SID has now been installed on **Uttoxeter Road, outside the Portland School.** This is another step in our programme to monitor speeds and encourage safer driving across the Parish.

The Parish Council will continue to introduce SIDs in other areas over time once Staffordshire County Council has concluded their SID consultation. Having SIDs helps us build a clearer picture of speeding issues throughout Fulford and provide evidence to support future road-safety measures.

Allotment Plot Available

An allotment plot has become available in Blythe Bridge and is open to applications.

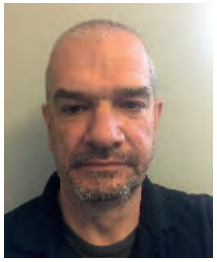
Applicants must be residents of Fulford Parish.

If you're interested in growing your own fruit, vegetables, or flowers, please get in touch:

Clerk: 07946 169337
Email: clerk@fulfordparish.gov.uk

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FULFORD



Cllr Anthony Meredith
cllrameredith@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Peter Wilkinson
cllrwilkinson@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Stephen Green
cllrgreen@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Susan White
cllrswhite@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Stallington Sprink Solar Farm Planning Application

Finally the application for the solar farm at Stallington Sprink was heard, debated and great news, refused by the Planning Committee at Stafford Borough Council on 3 July 2026. The application had been an awful time for local residents with such a blight hanging over their lives and the beautiful greenbelt for nearly 3 years.

I'd thought, when volunteering to address the Committee, that I had just 3 minutes to get my important points across and had managed to cut my first draft down to 5 minutes but could get it no lower. Then I found out I had 10 minutes so reverted to my original draft to sharpen it up. I delivered my speech and was quite confident that I'd made a good job of it. Then a spoke was put in place and the application decision was deferred so a bit of a let down but never mind, we lived to fight another day.

It was just over a week later that the Committee met again and I presented my new speech. This time I was really nervous and found that the paper my speech was printed on was shaking in my hand so much it was hard to read it. Luckily I almost knew if by heart. I was very heartened to hear the arguments put forward by several members of the Committee, including by our own Cllr. Alec Sandiford. It seemed they were almost all against the application despite the Planning Officers being in favour of it. Finally, the arguments were over, and it was put to a vote. All bar 1 voted against the application, and it was a celebration all round. I want to thank the residents of Saverley Green for their thanks through Cllr. Sue White, I am very appreciative.

It's great news, and now we just have to keep our fingers crossed that there is no appeal.

Cllr Janet Crossley

Fulford and Hilderstone Swift Project

Swifts are amazing birds, similar in appearance to swallows. They are migratory, flying up to 14,000 miles each year on a return trip to Africa, and coming here each spring to breed. They spend the vast majority of their lives 'on the wing' – to eat, sleep, bathe and even mate – only landing to nest.

Non-breeding swifts can spend up to ten months in the air without landing. They are wonderfully acrobatic fliers and are often accompanied by their very recognisable 'scream' as they fly past in small groups. They usually arrive in May and are generally gone by mid-August, so they really are the sight and sound of summer.

Unfortunately, as is the case with many other bird species and wildlife generally, swift numbers are plummeting, and they are now on the 'red list' of Birds of Conservation Concern. Their numbers are now less than half of what they were in 1995. One of the main reasons is a lack of suitable nest sites.

Swifts like to nest in small cavities in old buildings, such as around gutters or under soffits, but with old houses being modernised and new houses not having any gaps in their roofs, nest sites are disappearing. Swifts partner for life and only have one brood per season, so sometimes they are flying thousands of miles and have nowhere to nest.

There has been a national effort by wildlife charities and many individuals to reverse this trend, and there has been a push for swift nest boxes (or swift bricks) to be a legal requirement for all new houses. Unfortunately, this has not yet happened in England and Wales, although it has become law in Scotland. As is often the case, conservation success depends on the enterprise and enthusiasm of individuals, and we have one such gentleman from Stafford who is intent on saving our swifts by installing swift boxes in church belfries.

Clive Davies is a member of the West Midlands Bird Club and co-ordinator of a small team of dedicated volunteers who make and fit swift boxes in church towers. Swifts are attracted to these new nest sites by the playing of recorded calls of the birds. I approached Clive with a view to fitting swift boxes in St Nicholas's Church, Fulford, and Christ Church, Hilderstone.

To date, Clive has visited both churches with the full co-operation and support of Vicar Lucinda Wray-Wear. He has surveyed the belfries and found them suitable and has prepared a report for the Parochial Church Council, which has been approved. Further permission needs to be granted by the church hierarchy, but hopefully work on installing the boxes will commence over winter, in plenty of time for the returning birds in May.

I will provide an update on this project in the next magazine in the new year. In the meantime, we hope for a 'swift' and successful outcome.

Sue White

Litter Picking

There are a group of dedicated litter pickers at Saverley Green who can be called upon, usually at weekends, to spring into action to clean up the grass verges along Saverley Green Road.

Unfortunately, we have an ongoing litter problem along this road between Saverley Green and Fulford which mostly comprises of Special Brew beer cans. Over the years we have picked up hundreds of these!

The person responsible for this littering obviously has no regard for the detrimental impact it has for wildlife or the environment or for local people who have to drive, ride, walk or cycle along the road and see it. There is a bin in place and another one has been requested from Stafford Borough Council.

If anyone has information that would shed light on this matter please could you contact our parish clerk or our community police team the details are in this magazine. We would all like to see clean road verges as we travel along and thanks to the Saverley Green volunteers that is what we're trying to achieve here.



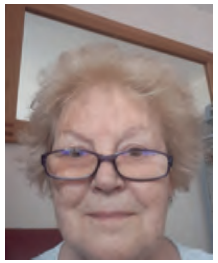
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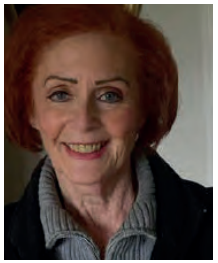
Cllr Angela Noblett
cllrnoblett@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Cllr Teri Bryce
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Cllr Janet Crossley
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01782 395759



Cllr Carol Baskin
cllrbaskin@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
07836 322343



Cllr Penny Meakin
cllrmeakin@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

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MEIR HEATH

Hilderstone Road Speed Campaign

I am delighted to tell you that the campaign to reduce the speed limit on Hilderstone Road has been successful!

I have received confirmation from Staffordshire County Council and Amey that the 30mph is to be extended south of its existing location. Thereafter there will be a 'buffer zone' of 50mph along to the Blacklake Crossroads. In addition, Gateway signage into Meir Heath will be enhanced and there will be a new hardstanding for the footpath. All of this is included in this the SCC Capital Budget for this financial year, so will take place before 31st March 2027.



This would not have happened without the help of our County Councillor, Sean Baggeley, our MP, Dr Allison Gardner, our Borough Councillor, Alec Sandiford, BBC Radio Stoke and BBC Midlands Today.

Most importantly, it would not have happened without our amazing Community team, who helped collect the 1,000 signatures needed to instigate this whole process. Thank you so much to each and every one of you!

Cllr Penny Meakin

Meir Heath Community Facebook Page

Last November, I created the Meir Heath Community Facebook page. There was clearly a need for a local forum for members of our Community to communicate with each other and to look out for our many elderly residents, particularly now during the winter. The original idea was to encourage us all to have discussions and share information about local issues and concerns when they arise. Local businesses are also able to take part but are restricted to the number of posts per month.

I am delighted to say, that we now have over 1,000 local people using the site, which is quite amazing. Please have a look at us on Facebook and join us!

Cllr Penny Meakin

Meir Heath Calendar 2027

As a result of the amazing pictures that are regularly posted by members of the Meir Heath Community Facebook page, it has been decided to produce a Meir Heath Calendar for 2027. The cost will be £10 and will be available from me.

Please email pennystampartist@outlook.com and we'll arrange transfer of monies and delivery. All monies received, after production costs, will be donated to the British Heart Foundation and The Parkinson's Trust. As this is a trial, we will only have about 50 printed, so it's going to be first come first served!

Cllr Penny Meakin

Litter Picking Champions



What a summer we had not just with the heat but the huge amount of litter dropped in our Parish! After the children broke up from school in July, a group of us went around Meir Heath, Grindley Lane and onto Grindley Park. The amount of litter was dreadful and this is what we picked up in just three hours. We are delighted that we now have a litter picker employed by our Parish Council, which will really help the situation.

Cllr Penny Meakin

Footpath Clearance 2027

This is now the second year of working with the Stone Ramblers and Staffordshire County Council to clear and repair some of our local footpaths. This year we have cleared footpath 30, next to the Spotgate Inn and transformed footpaths 38 and 39 next to the Meir Heath allotments. Here the membrane, which had become dangerous, particularly in icy weather, and a fallen tree were removed and replaced with hardcore, supplied by Staffordshire County Council. New fingerposts were also installed. It's wonderful to see everyone working together to keep our Parish clean, tidy and beautiful.

For 2027, we have decided to work on Saturdays which will encourage more Community participation. We will then feedback any additional needs, such as replacement stiles and fingerposts back to the Stone Ramblers, who will repair as required.

Sessions for 2027 will centre on the area around Saverley Green and the dates planned are:

Saturday 8th May 2027
Saturday 5th June 2027
Saturday 3rd July 2027
Saturday 7th August 2027
Saturday 11th September 2027



All sessions will be from 10am until 4pm and you can stay for as long as you like.

For more information contact cllrmeakin@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk We do hope to see you there!

Cllr Penny Meakin

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MEIR HEATH

Planters

You may have spotted some great additions around the Parish in the form of the new green and gold Fulford Parish Council planters. Of course, with the Parish Council, one job always seems to lead to another!



Having refreshed the planters, we've now noticed that some of our Parish noticeboards have lost their original green colour over the years. So, in keeping with the new planters, we'll be giving the noticeboards a fresh coat of green paint too.

It's all part of our ongoing efforts to keep our Parish looking smart, welcoming and well cared for. We hope you like the fresh new look!

Grass Verges

Coming back again to the appearance of our parish, we try our best to keep the areas looking neat, tidy & attractive, but unfortunately more & more residents of Grindly Lane have grass verges that are flattened by parked cars or are home to rows of large boulders.

While this may seem to be a good idea as it prevents parking, it also poses a dangerous threat to drivers if they have to swerve to the kerb to avoid a dangerous situation. It then makes it more difficult to cut the verges in a proper manner.

People are also neglecting to trim their trees & hedges, so in some spots a person who is disabled can't keep on the footpath.

Cllr Baskin

MEIR HEATH

Grindley Park – Anti-Social Behaviour Update

This summer, our beautiful Grindley Park has unfortunately experienced a significant increase in anti-social behaviour, with large groups of young people gathering in the park. There have been numerous reports of suspected underage drinking, excessive littering and, particularly concerning, broken glass being left behind.

Firstly, Fulford Parish Council would like to sincerely thank the neighbouring residents and local dog walkers who have worked tirelessly to help clean up after these gatherings. The level of litter and debris has been relentless throughout the summer, and without the efforts of local residents, it would have been much more difficult for other park users to safely enjoy Grindley Park.

What is being done?

Fulford Parish Council is taking steps to address these issues and is in the process of installing **CCTV cameras** in the park. The aim is to help identify those responsible for anti-social behaviour and provide evidence to support enforcement action, with the ultimate goal of preventing these large gatherings from continuing.

The Parish Council has also arranged a meeting for local residents and relevant supporting agencies, including the **Police and Stafford Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour team.** The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the problems being experienced, consider what further action can be taken and work together to prevent a repeat of the situation next summer.

The Parish Council also intends to engage with neighbouring schools and relevant local authorities, so that everyone involved can work collaboratively to address the issue and reduce anti-social behaviour in and around the park.

Please continue to report incidents.

We understand that reporting non-emergency incidents through the 101 telephone service or online reporting system can sometimes be frustrating or time-consuming. However, we would strongly encourage residents to report every incident of anti-social behaviour.

Reports are important because they help the Police and other agencies understand the scale and frequency of the problem, identify patterns and determine where resources are needed. Without reports, incidents may not be fully reflected in local crime and anti-social behaviour data, which can make it more difficult for agencies to allocate appropriate resources to the area.

We appreciate that this has been a frustrating summer for many residents, and we are grateful to everyone who has helped look after Grindley Park and supported the wider community.

By working together, reporting incidents and engaging with the relevant agencies, we hope to make Grindley Park a safe, welcoming and enjoyable place for everyone to use.

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ROUGH CLOSE



Cllr Andrew Lovatt
cllrlovatt@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Gareth Brunt
cllrbrunt@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
07411 592408

Vacancy

Moorlands Music Centre

Moorlands Music Centre gives young musicians the opportunity to make music together, develop their skills and make new friends – and we're inviting YOUR young people to come along and join the fun!

Part of Entrust Music Service Staffordshire, membership of all our groups is **FREE OF CHARGE**.

Whether your child plays an instrument or sings, and whether they're a complete beginner or have been playing for a while, they'll receive a warm welcome at our supportive, high-quality groups. If their instrument needs to remain at school, we may also be able to provide a loan instrument so they can attend – again, completely free.

Led by experienced music teachers from local schools, members develop their musicianship, make new friends and have the opportunity to perform in at least two concerts each year.

Our groups are based at:

ENDON HIGH SCHOOL (ST9 9EE)
Tuesdays, 4.30–5.30pm

• *ENDON BLAST OFF*
Beginners to Grade 1

CHEADLE PRIMARY SCHOOL
(ST10 1EN) Wednesdays, 4–5pm

• *CHEADLE BLAST OFF – Beginners to Grade 1*

WILLIAM AMORY PRIMARY SCHOOL,
BLYTHE BRIDGE (ST11 9PN) 5–7pm

• *BLYTHE BRIDGE BLAST OFF*
Beginners to Grade 1

• *BLYTHE BRIDGE MAESTROS*
Grade 1 and beyond

• *BLYTHE BRIDGE CHOIR*
Any child aged 7–18 who loves to sing!

For more information, email dan.hollingshurst@entrust-music.co.uk, or simply come along to one of our groups.

We look forward to welcoming you and your young musicians!

VILLAGE HALLS

Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall (registered charity 506032)

Monday
0900-1600 Available to hire
1700-2000 Karate
Contact Carol 07947771772

Tuesday
1000-1100 Yoga *Contact Jan 07765966911*
1900-2030 Allsorts Choir *Contact Tracy 07585892598*

Wednesday
0900-1600 Available to hire
2000-2200 Stone Fencing Club
Contact stonefencingclub.co.uk

Thursday
0900-1500 PJ Day Opportunities (Over 60s Club)
Contact Jane 07807 566831
1800-2200: Line Dancing
Contact Zoe 07783 695673

Friday & Saturday
0900-Midnight Available to hire

Sunday
0900-Midnight Available to hire

Available for public use
Fees £20 per hour

For booking enquiries contact the booking officer on 07864015187 or email mhrcvillagehall@gmail.com

www.meirheathandroughclosevillagehall.co.uk

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VILLAGE HALLS

Fulford Village Hall (registered charity 522663)

LITTLE LEARNERS
(Fulford Pre-school) operates during school term time.
Monday to Friday 0700 - 1600 *Contact Amy Colclough on 07736575036*

Monday
1100-1300 Knit & Natter *Contact Jan 07972 817309 (Alternate weeks)*
1800-1900 YOGA *Contact Noel Beckhill 07546 360095*
For any ability, beginners welcome. Stretch out and improve your posture and mobility.

Tuesday
1000-1200 Art Club
Contact J Barnard 01782 393141
1900-2100 Patchwork and Quilting
Contact Jane 01889505738
2000-2200 Medieval re-enactment
Contact Adrian 07760177776

Wednesday
1000-1200 Tai Chi
Contact Jane kannerant20@outlook.com
1900-2000 Badminton
Contact Sheila 07981 549013

Thursday
1000-1200 Village Residents' Coffee Morning
Every 3rd Thursday
1630-2000 Bluebells Dance Classes
Contact Louise 07813184225
2000-2230 Indoor bowls
Contact Martin 01782 397629

Friday
1000-1200 Table Tennis
Contact Sheila 07981 549013

Sunday
1630-2100 Staffordshire Geek Guild
Contact Joshua staffswg@hotmail.co.uk

For booking enquiries contact
bookings@fulfordvillagehall.org.uk
www.fulfordvillagehall.org.uk

SANTAS GROTTO
Plus Childrens Games & Craft Stalls
Saturday 5th December
1300-1600

VILLAGE RESIDENTS Coffee Morning
3rd Thursday of each month, 1000 – 1200
Contact J Conlon 01782 388784

Fulford Community Choir
Meet regularly for Choir Practice 4-6pm every Saturday and also weekend concerts.
Contact: fulfordcommunitychoir@gmail.com



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GENERAL NEWS

Fulford Parish Council Wardens

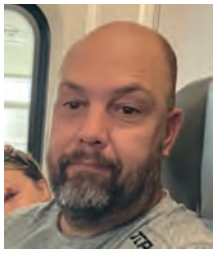
A heartfelt thank you to Sam



Fulford Parish Council would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Sam for his many years of dedicated service to our community.

His commitment, hard work and willingness to go above and beyond have been greatly valued and appreciated by residents and the Parish Council alike.

We wish Sam all the very best for the future and thank him sincerely for everything he has done for Fulford.



Mark remains the contracted Grindley Park Warden, and you may also see him working around the wider parish. We're grateful for his continued hard work and dedication in helping to keep our community and green spaces looking their best.

Fulford Welcomes Julian



Fulford Parish Council is delighted to welcome Julian as our new contracted Parish Warden.

We're sure many of you will soon get to know him as he works around the parish and helps to keep our community looking its best. Please do say hello if you see Julian out and about, and join us in giving him a warm Fulford welcome!

Fulford Welcomes Chris



Fulford Parish Council is pleased to welcome Chris, who is joining us as our new contracted Parish Litter Picker.

It is unfortunate that this role is necessary, and we would encourage everyone to do their part by taking their litter home and helping to keep our parish clean and tidy.

Nevertheless, we are delighted to welcome Chris to the team. You will no doubt see him out and about around the parish, so please give him a friendly wave and say hello!

PARISH AWARDS

The Parish Council Community Awards

On Monday 7th September, the P.C. hosted their inaugural Community Awards Evening at the Windmill pub Meir Heath, which proved a great success. There were six categories; business, young person, community group, neighbour, service to the community and parish councillor.

Details had been published in the parish magazine and online in the summer and nominations were invited from our local residents. The awards were an opportunity for the Parish Council to give a heartfelt thankyou to individuals and groups in our parish who help to enrich our community and to celebrate their achievements and contributions. The winners each received a small engraved glass trophy presented by the Chair of the Council Mr Anthony Meredith.



The Business Award went to Ms Jenni Walker who runs a cake making and decorating business 'Cup-cake Queen' from her home in Saverley Green. Jenni has gone from enrolling on catering courses herself to being a lecturer in cookery and cake decorating and then to successfully running her own business.

The Young Person Award was shared by brother and sister Oliver and Hannah Kirk from Stallington for their kindness and consideration to others and to Oliver Bolton, also from Stallington, for his bravery in the face of adversity.



The Neighbour Award was presented to Mr Andrew Plant from Meir Heath. He is the gentleman who was often seen walking along Hilderstone Level picking up litter. He has helped to keep Meir Heath neat and tidy over many years – at least 25. It is only latterly, that he can no longer walk the distances he once did. He is still however, picking up litter in the immediate vicinity of his house. The award is a well-deserved recognition of his community spirit.



The Service to the Community Award went to Parish and Borough Councillor Alec Sandiford. Alec has worked hard and continues to do so representing different groups of residents of the parish in their various battles against planning applications, illegal developments, resident association issues and every-day problems. He has had much success with many of these local issues due to his dedication and commitment to the community.



The Community Group Award was given to Fulford Community Choir. The choir was formed in 2012 and now boasts over sixty members of all ages. They perform concerts throughout the year and have off-shoot choirs that sing at Fulford Church on occasions and at nursing homes or for Alzheimer groups. It is a real community success story.

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PARISH AWARDS



The Parish Councillor Award was given to Ms Teri Bryce who runs a Tea and Toast drop-in centre at St. Francis' Church, Meir Heath on a Wednesday morning, with the aim of improving mental health and well-being. It is part of a larger organisation that Teri is also involved in and which she founded – Walk, Talk, Action, which aims to bring people together in a safe environment and to improve mental health and confidence with organised walks and well-being programmes. What began as a personal journey for Teri has grown into a successful organisation that helps many local people.

At the awards evening the two wardens for the parish council were also recognised and thanked for their 'above and beyond' work for the parish. They carry out all sort of repairs, building work, tidying, litter picking, bin emptying, grass cutting and flower planting among many extra tasks that come with their job. The wardens are Mark Knapper and Sam Robinson.

Fulford Parish Council would like to thank Sam Robinson for all his hard work and dedication during his time with the Parish. As Sam moves on to pastures new, we wish him every success and happiness for the future.
Thank you, Sam, and all the very best for your next chapter!

The awards evening was a lovely opportunity for parish councillors to thank members and organisations of our community who have contributed so much to others in the parish and beyond and to celebrate their success. It is hoped that the Community Awards will take place every two years from now on.







Outward timings	
Blythe Bridge Flats, Uttoxeter Road - bus shelter	10:00
Stallington Road, Stallington - bus shelter	10:05
Fulford Village Hall, Fulford Road - bus shelter	10:20
Windmill Pub, Meir Heath - car park	10:26
Morrisons, Stone - car park	10:50
Marks & Spencers, Stone - layby near Canoe Club	11:00

Return timings	
Marks & Spencers, Stone - layby near Canoe Club	13:00
Morrisons, Stone - car park	13:10
Windmill Pub, Meir Heath - car park	13:30
Fulford Village Hall, Fulford Rd - bus shelter	13:36
Stallington Rod, Stallington - bus shelter	13:42
Blythe Bridge Flats, Uttoxeter Road - bus shelter	13:47

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GENERAL NEWS

Neighbourhood Plan

After many months of gathering evidence, listening to your views, working with residents and stakeholders, we are delighted to announce that the draft Fulford Parish Neighbourhood Plan has now been completed.

The Plan is currently undergoing the required screening process by Stafford Borough Council, and once this stage is finalised, our Fulford Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be published for Regulation 14 consultation. This marks an important milestone and gives everyone who lives and works in the community the opportunity to read the full Plan and tell us what they think. You will have a formal period of 6-weeks to view and comment on the Plan in Spring 2027.

The Fulford Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been shaped by the ideas, aspirations and needs shared by our community. The upcoming consultation is your chance to review the proposed vision, aims and planning policies, that will help to shape and inform development in the future for our Parish, reflecting what matters most to our community.

We encourage all residents, businesses, landowners, community groups and other interested parties to take part. Every comment received will be carefully considered before the Plan is updated and submitted for the next stage of examination.

Details of how to view the draft Plan and provide feedback will be published on the Fulford Parish Council website in Spring 2027.

Together, we can create a Plan that reflects our community's ambitions and helps guide positive change for years to come.



STONE RAMBLERS



News from the Stone Ramblers and 'Walk of the Month'

Well, eventually we cancelled ***six*** of our walks this Summer because of the heat and high winds! That has never happened before…

We have just had our annual Summer Stroll and Social at the Boar Inn in Moddershall, with a two mile walk around the area and a fabulous buffet by 'Gather and Graze'. It was a really good event, with over forty people in attendance and we raised nearly £200 for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

Recently, a group off us headed off to Holmfirth for a few days walking in beautiful scenery. We've also been walking the Two Saints Way from Lichfield to Chester in stages. It really is great fun!

For those of you that have enjoyed walking along the canal from Aston Marina, the good news is that Upper Burston Bridge has been rebuilt and is fully functional. As a result, the walk this edition is from Aston Marina walking over the new bridge. Enjoy!

Walk of the Month: A Walk around Aston Marina

This is 4.5 mile circular walk which should take just over 2 hours on mainly flat terrain, with a few stiles.

Refreshments are available at Aston Marina.

If you haven't been to Aston Marina before, now is your opportunity. This is a lovely walk beginning from the actual Marina, giving you the chance to look at the many boats and the wildlife. The Marina has 200 berths which are used for both long-term and temporary moorings and provide a colourful display of tradition canal boats.
The Trent and Mersey Canal itself, runs for 93 miles from the Bridgewater Canal to Shardlow and was designed (as the name implies!) to link the River Trent to the River Mersey and was completed in 1777. Josiah Wedgwood was one of the main promoters of the canal, as it allowed his fragile porcelain and china to be transported safely, without using bumpy roads. Canal traffic was heavy but now it's main use is recreational.

1. From the main car park, go back towards the entrance drive and main buildings of the restaurant and bar. Turn left to follow the paved walkway, with the terrace and bar building on your right. Bear right to stay alongside the buildings, passing the circular waterside deck on your left. Bear left and continue on the tarmac walkway between fences, with main building on your right and the marina on your left. Stay with the path as it swings right to continue with the canal on your left and fenced fields on

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your right. At the end of this path, pass through the Aston Marina gates to reach a junction with the village lane. Turn left to cross the canal bridge and then turn immediately left again to join the canal towpath.

2. Walk ahead along the canal towpath with the canal running on your left. The towpath soon leads you past Aston Lock (No. 26) and Aston Lock Cottage. The towpath continues ahead, now simply a grassy canal-side bank which can be muddy in parts. You will pass the Marina across to your left, on the far bank. Stay with the canal towpath for about a further 1.2 miles, passing under Carr House Bridge (No.89), Iron Bridge, (No.88) and Long Meadow Bridge (No.87) to reach Upper Burston Bridge (No. 86).

3. Leave the canal at this point and turn right across the stile immediately before Upper Burston Bridge (No.86). Keep ahead to follow the tree-lined grass track which leads you to a metal footbridge over the River Trent. (Fingers crossed!). Cross the footbridge to enter the wetland pasture which is part of Aston Hall Farm. This farmland alongside the River Trent

STONE RAMBLERS

is owned by Severn Trent Water and managed for the benefit of wildlife. Keep an eye out for wading birds (such as lapwing and curlew), waterfowl and you might even be lucky enough to glimpse the elusive water voles and otters. Ignore a footpath signed to the left, instead keep ahead on the main path with a fence running on your right. Join a stretch of boardwalk, passing the large shallow lake on your right. Beyond the boardwalk, keep ahead and pass through a kissing gate to enter a crop field. Keep ahead on the path. This stretch of slightly elevated path gives you beautiful far-reaching views. At the end of this first field, you will reach a wide hedge gap alongside a beautiful old oak tree.

4. Go ahead to join the grass farm track with fields on each side. You may notice some waymark symbols, showing that this is part of The Two Saints Way, a 92-mile walking route, that links Chester Cathedral to Lichfield Cathedral. In fact we are walking this in stages at the moment!

At the end of the fields, keep ahead on the farm track. This leads you past a property on your right, dog-legs right then left and leads you out to a T junction with the village road in Aston-by-Stone. On your right you will see a tree set within a grass circle, planted in 1911 to mark the coronation of King George V. Bear diagonally right to follow the village road, leading you between houses. At the end of the road, you will see a choice of two paths. Ignore the kissing gate on your left, instead turn right to follow the stone track. Pass a couple of properties on your left and then keep ahead to join a section of grass track between fences. Follow the track as it swings left, now with fenced fields on your right and the converted buildings within the complex of Aston Hall on your left.

Notice the beautiful old brick wall on your left and you will have a glimpse of the lead-topped turret of the present main hall (dating from 1855) above this.

5.
Keep straight ahead to join a tarmac access drive. Pass the Aston Hall Catholic Chapel on your left and keep ahead through the stone gateposts to exit Aston Grange (with the entrance gates for Aston Hall and its church on your left). Turn immediately right to enter the grounds of the Church of England St Saviour's Parish Church and follow this access drive which leads you just to the left of this large stone church. Continue on the access drive as it swings left and you will emerge through more gates to reach a junction of lanes. Turn right onto Aston Bridge Lane and follow this, taking care of any occasional traffic, as it leads you over the River Trent and then over the canal. From this point we will be retracing our steps back to the Marina. Immediately after the canal bridge, turn right through the Marina gates and follow the Marina path leading you ahead and then turning left. This path will lead you directly back to the bar and restaurant.

If you fancy joining us at any time, please have a look at our website www.stoneramblers.org.uk, where you will find all of the information that you need.

Happy walking!
Penny Meakin, Chair, Stone Ramblers

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Meet the Fulford & District Community First Responders

What do they do?

Community First Responders (CFRs) are unpaid volunteers, trained by West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS), who respond to emergency 999 calls in their local communities in their spare time.

In life-threatening situations, every second counts. CFRs can provide vital emergency care, including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and early defibrillation for patients in cardiac arrest, helping to bridge the gap until an emergency ambulance arrives. They also provide training and raise public awareness of life-saving skills such as CPR and the use of public-access defibrillators.

Although we operate under the clinical governance of WMAS, we are a self-funded registered charity (Charity No. 1121824) and rely entirely on donations and grants. These help fund our responder vehicle, insurance, maintenance, kit and equipment.

Wearing navy blue uniforms to distinguish us from WMAS staff, we proudly support patients across Fulford, Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook, as well as responding further afield whenever requested by WMAS.

Who we are

Our group currently has 10 active responders, all with full-time roles in a variety of sectors, including an IT consultant, civil servant and two student paramedics. One team member, who works part-time in a local pub, recently



provided assistance to four patients involved in a two-car collision outside the pub until the emergency services arrived.

New Vehicle Appeal

We are currently fundraising to replace our responder vehicle, call sign 660, which is now 14 years old. We need to raise around £30,000 to purchase a replacement, have it liveried and fully equipped for our operational needs.

You may have seen us bucket collecting at Tesco stores in Meir Park and Longton, and we are extremely grateful to staff and customers for their generosity. We also receive valuable grants from the Parish Councils in Fulford and Forsbrook, helping towards our annual running costs, equipment and uniforms.

We sincerely hope you never need to call for an ambulance, but if you do, it might be a CFR who comes to your aid first. If you would like to support our work, you can make a donation by scanning the QR code below.

Tea & Toast – Celebrating Three Wonderful Years!

The End of a Chapter, but the Beginning of Something New!

Since launching in 2023, Walk Talk Action's Tea & Toast has grown into something truly special. With 120 sessions delivered and over 80 guest speakers and organisations welcomed, we've achieved far more than simply bringing people together for a cup of tea and toast.

We've created a wonderful community where friendships have blossomed, both within the Parish and beyond. People who once arrived as strangers have formed lasting connections, helping to reduce loneliness, tackle social isolation and build confidence.

Throughout the project, we've introduced residents to exciting new experiences and opportunities. From clinical research surveys with Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT), to photography projects with GRAIN, including our current Capturing Remembrance project. We've even welcomed Everyone Health from Nottingham to deliver a cooking workshop!

And these are just a few examples of the wonderful opportunities we've shared.

But our greatest achievement isn't measured in numbers. It's the friendships, confidence, laughter and sense of belonging that will continue long after the project ends.

Why Are We Taking a Break?

As our three-year project comes to a close, it's an opportunity to reflect, refresh, adapt and adjust.

Change is a natural part of growth. Sometimes we need to create space for new ideas, new opportunities and different ways of doing things.

At Walk Talk Action, we encourage people to embrace change, become more independent and recognise that moving forward doesn't mean leaving everything behind.

The end of a project doesn't mean the end of the friendships, opportunities or progress it has created. It means a new chapter can begin!

Let's Celebrate Together!



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Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 25th November
10am–1.30pm

Come along and enjoy some festive cheer! Stalls are available to book. Contact info@walktalkaction.co.uk for more information.



Christmas Meal
Wednesday 2nd December
11.30am–2pm approximately

Christmas Party &
End of Project Celebration
Wednesday 9th December
10am–12pm

Our grand finale! Everyone is welcome to join us for a joint celebration of three wonderful years of Tea & Toast.

Volunteering Opportunities

Interested in volunteering? Training opportunities are available every Wednesday up until 9th December. A fantastic way to develop new skills, build confidence and give something back to the community.

Thank You!
To our volunteers, parish community, residents, guest speakers, organisations and everyone who has supported Tea & Toast since 2023 – a heartfelt thank you!

You've helped create something that has made a genuine difference to people's lives.

120 sessions. Over 80 guest speakers. Countless conversations. Friendships that will last a lifetime.

Tea & Toast may be coming to an end, but the connections we've created will continue to flourish.

Because moving on isn't the end – it's the beginning of a new chapter.



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Get Involved With Your Local Christmas Tree!

Christmas is coming, and we'd love local residents to get involved in decorating our community Christmas trees!

Come along, get creative, and help us bring some festive cheer to your local area. Everyone is welcome!

Meir Heath Christmas Tree
Saturday 28th November
Contact: Cllrmeakin@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Saverley Green Christmas Tree
Saturday 28th November
Contact: Cllrswhite@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fulford Christmas Tree
Saturday 5th December
Contact: Cllrameredith@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Stallington Christmas Tree
Tuesday 11th December
Contact: Clerk@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Moss Gate Christmas Tree
Saturday 28th November 4-6
Contact: Clerk@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Come along, get involved and help make our villages sparkle this Christmas!

We look forward to seeing you there!

LOCAL POLICE

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STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

Your local officers

Stone Town

Oulton, Barlaston, Fulford, St Michael's & Stonefield and Walton



PCSO 25565
Megan Rogers



PCSO 8849
Rebecca Davies



PCSO 28240
Neil Moffatt

"Your local police and Borough Council working together to keep your community safe"

Visit us at www.staffordshire.police.uk

Non-Emergency 101 | Emergency 999 | staffordshirepolice | @staffspolice

USEFUL CONTACTS

Dates for next Parish Council Meetings

Thursday 14th January 2027
Fulford Village Hall

Thursday 11th February 2027
St Francis Church

Thursday 11th March 2027
Fulford Village Hall

Thursday 8th April 2027
St Francis Church

Thursday 13th May 2027
Fulford Village Hall
Annual Parish *1800 hrs*
Annual Meet *1900 hrs*

Thursday 10th June 2027
Fulford Village Hall

Note: All meetings start at 7.00 pm with an opportunity for any local government elector from the parish to ask questions of the Parish Council relating to any parish issue. These matters will then be considered; the public may also attend but are not allowed to join the debate. Alternatively, write to the Clerk so that the matter can be raised at Fulford Council.

Stafford Borough Councillors
Cllr Mike Dodson- 01782 399855
Alec Sandiford- asandiford@staffordbc.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Councillor
Cllr Sean Bagguley
sean.bagguley@staffordshire.gov.uk

Fulford Parish Council Office
07946 169337 (Wed and Thu Only)

Stafford Borough Council
General Enquiries 01785 619000
info@staffordbc.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council
01785 276207
contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk

Staffordshire Highways Department
https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk

Non-emergency Police
101- In an emergency, where life is in danger or a crime is in progress, call **999.**

Medical Help
111

Electricity Issues
105

The Samaritans
24-hour confidential telephone helpline on 08457 90 90 90.

Staffordshire Mental Health Helpline
0808 800 2234

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

StreetScene
01785 619000

We hope that you have enjoyed our Parish newsletter.

If you have any suggestions on content then please contact our clerk via e-mail:
clerk@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk