

Dates for your Diary

Tue 1 Nov	Garden Club AGM, followed by talk 'Wild about Africa' and Supper, Tiverton Village Hall 7:30pm
Tues 8 Nov	Parish Council Meeting, Tiverton Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri 11 Nov	Remembrance Service at Tiverton War Memorial, 10:45am
Sat 26 Nov	Holistic Event, Tiverton Village hall (see below)

If you would like to have your event listed here, please send details to info@tiverton-chehire.org.uk

Well-being and Relaxation Event

To be held by Obsidian Holistics on 26th Nov at Tiverton Village Hall 10 am to 4 pm.

The following therapies will be available: Clothed massage, Crystal therapy, Energy balancing, Reflexology, Reiki, Seated Acupressure, There will also be stalls selling crystals, books and jewellery, refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Entrance fee £1.50 includes a complementary tea or coffee, young people under 16 free.

Special discounts are on offer, full details and further information about the event can be viewed at www.obsidianholistics.co.uk

Chairman's Notes (contd from page 1)

The NFU has recently identified the growing problem of un-checked ragwort throughout Cheshire and I have seen plenty of specimens around Tiverton. Ragwort is a virulent weed that is poisonous to animals and potentially deadly for horses, being especially palatable when dead and dried out. Landowners and tenants are required by law to control ragwort but all country-dwellers should be on the look-out for the plant with its distinctive yellow flower-heads and be ready to pull them out, roots and all, (usually quite easy!) and then destroy them.

Gordon Ibbotson, Chairman

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council Newsletter

October 2011

Chairman's Notes

The summer months were relatively uneventful for the Parish and the Council, but at least the renovation of the war memorial was successfully and satisfactorily completed.

I would personally like to thank Roger Blake for his excellent Homewatch contributions over the past years. Ian Lambert has kindly taken over the responsibility for the Homewatch scheme – see the separate article that he has written for the Newsletter. Unfortunately rural theft from garages, farms and stables has figured large in recent police reports, as well as door-to-door scams, particularly targeting the elderly.

The Parish Council recently circulated everyone regarding a planning application for a caravan site on Huxley Lane. The Council objected to the application on the grounds that it breached several principles in both the Parish Plan and the Chester District Plan. The outcome is still awaited but I would like to thank everyone who took the time and trouble to make their views known to the planning authorities, whether or not they were in favour of the development. The scale of the response was very gratifying and, as your representatives, we welcome the views of all our residents.

Your participation will also be needed when we embark on the revision of the Parish Plan. Under the emerging framework of the Localism Bill we have to make sure that the views of local residents are captured in the Parish Development Plan which, we are led to believe, will have to be considered by developers and planners in relation to new housing and other developments in the parish. You will probably know from the press that the proposals regarding rural development under the Localism Bill are still being hotly debated so it will be some time before we know how they will work in detail.

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HOMEWATCH REPORT

I am pleased to have taken over from Roger Blake as the local police registered co-coordinator for our village. 'Homewatch' in Cheshire - the successor to Neighbourhood Watch - is growing in importance and is increasingly regarded by the police as a valuable tool in both disseminating information to help individuals protect themselves and their property, as well as gathering valuable data on concerns raised by residents. There is a full-time co-coordinator based at Northwich, and a newly constituted West Cheshire Homewatch group. Inspector Keith Curbishley has recently taken on the role of heading up the Western Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team and sees Homewatch as an important way of strengthening established community and partnership links.

Homewatch exists not only to help reduce opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour, but also to reduce the fear of such events taking place. Successful Homewatch schemes, and there are many examples locally, have formed a focus for community support, particularly for vulnerable and isolated members of the community, contribute to quality of rural life, and provide information on suspicious activity to the police. The role of the co-ordinator is to receive police updates, crime reduction information, and warnings from various sources such as Trading standards, and disseminate this to others. Recent reports received - of which there are several each week - include information from surrounding villages and there are some recurring themes:

Theft from garages, sheds, farms and stables has figured large in recent updates, with reminders to secure outbuildings and keep an eye on empty buildings. This is particularly relevant in the context of metal theft from disused buildings, farms and anywhere remote - not just lead but cabling, pipes, and even gates.

Suspicious vehicles - there are repeated examples given of sightings of vehicles - vans in particular - causing concern. The police are clear that if registration numbers are reported they will be checked against the Police National Register, and if found to be 'of interest' details are put out to patrols as a routine.

Scams - particularly in the context of unsolicited telephone calls

about computer viruses. Many people in the village have had these calls and are a national nuisance. The message is that these can always be assumed to be fraudulent.

Charity collections - while this may not be illegal it is a practice that many don't like and attracts criticism. Collectors get paid for doing this - the general term is Chugging - (charity mugging) which is a good term. Also anyone leaving a bag for 'charity collection' - clothes etc - needs a licence, and there have been some fraudulent collections recorded.

Distraction burglaries can be particularly distressing so please report any suspicious activity or callers to the police as soon as possible.

The only way this system can be made to work quickly and effectively is by use of email, supported by individuals who are willing to share the information directly with any immediate neighbours who are not connected. I am particularly looking for someone from the Brassey Green area to complement the group, but anyone - and the more the better - who is willing to get involved or just to be on the distribution list for on-line reports should contact me on homewatch@tiverton-cheshire.co.uk, or by telephone on 730203. The circulation list is kept confidential - for security reasons no recipient can see the details of anyone else on the list. With this Parish Newsletter is a leaflet from Cheshire Western Watch giving more details of the scheme and some useful contact numbers, which should be kept for reference. I also have a small number of Homewatch window stickers available for those interested. Finally, remember some insurance companies offer a discount to active members of schemes.

My thanks to Roger for passing on his knowledge of the scheme and I look forwards to hearing from as many as possible that would like to receive information.