



# The Yew Tree

March 2012

Newsletter for Keele Parish Council

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## Keele Parish Councillors

Graham Bibby

John Downing

Duncan Hindmarch

Sue Hughes

Wenslie Naylor (Chair)

Val Newman

Angela Studd

Robin Studd

Jane Tillier

Sue Wedgwood (Vice-Chair)

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## The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee is a big event in 2012, and to mark the occasion Keele Parish Council is planning to plant additional orchard trees in the new Cemetery, this will enhance the small community orchard that already exists.

The Diamond Jubilee Heritage Orchard is intended to be a 'gene heritage' scheme, with the emphasis on planting varieties that are old or in danger of disappearing, so they can be saved for future generations, and maybe provide a gene pool for growers.

The Borough Council is working with the Parish Council to realise the first phase of this scheme in this Jubilee year.

We would like to know how else you might like to mark the Diamond Jubilee? Have you got any ideas for an event over the Jubilee weekend? For the Golden Jubilee there was a party in the village, would you like to repeat that? Please let us know your ideas.

## **Parking in the Village**

Over the past few months parking issues have been the most frequent topic raised by residents at the Open Forum prior to each meeting. The Parish Council is working with Keele University and Staffordshire County Council to improve the situation, but unfortunately there are no "quick fixes" to the problem, so it will take time to resolve the issues. Although it may sometimes appear as if nothing is being done, please be assured this is not the case.

The county council are about to undertake a feasibility study to determine the best solution for the village, as not only do residents in The Village need parking to be available, but cars parking on Quarry Bank Road are also causing obstructions and making it dangerous for pedestrians and road users. Three Mile Lane is now also being used on regular basis, and this significantly reduces the sight line for traffic leaving the university.

## **Dog Waste Bins**

We would like to hear from you about where you think we should site additional dog waste bins within the parish. There are currently 2 bins, one at the end of Quarry Bank and the other on Quarry Bank near Knights Croft. If you would like to propose a site please email [clerk.keelepc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.keelepc@gmail.com) or contact a councillor.



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### Winter May Be Over...

You may have noticed that stickers have been affixed to the “salt/grit” bins, reminding people that the grit is for use on public roads and footpaths only. A lot of grit has been taken and used on private land this winter, this not only means there may not be enough for the roads when it is required, but also increases costs for the County Council.

Over the winter some people have been unsure about whether they should help to clear roads or pavements, as they are concerned that they may be held liable if an accident occurs. This is not the case, unless you have deliberately created a hazard you are not liable if an accident occurs.

### Sporting People in the Parish

Every year Newcastle-under-Lyme Sports Council hosts a Sportperson’s Evening to recognise the achievements of sports men and women of all ages within the borough. There are categories for individuals, teams and coaches/administrators, so if you would like to nominate someone please contact the Parish Clerk for a nomination form. The closing date for nominations is April 26<sup>th</sup> 2012.

The nominees need to live in the borough and to be worthy of an award for their dedication, commitment and achievements.

Throughout the year the Sports Council considers requests from deserving individuals for financial assistance to help them in training and attending competitive events.

### Fly Tipping

Fly-tipping continues to be a problem, with the small copse on the corner of Three Mile Lane and Lymes Road currently being a “popular” spot! Please remember if you see any illegal dumping near you please call 01782 742500. The call will be logged and passed to Streetscene. Always ask if the rubbish can be traced, as there have been successful prosecutions.

### A Community Led Plan for Keele

A small steering group has met to start work on the best way to start on a plan and get people involved. We will be holding at least one open event where you will be able to find out more, but if you have access to the internet you can search for “parish plan” or “community led plan”, and find examples produced in other areas and also guidelines for producing these plans.

### Keele Parish Council Website

Our website will be available from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 at [www.keeleparish.org](http://www.keeleparish.org). The site will continue to be developed and enhanced with new material, but Parish Council Minutes, Agenda, and issues of The Yew Tree will be available on the site on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

We would welcome contributions to the site, especially information on events in the parish.

**Parish Council Clerk Contact Details - [Clerk.KeelePC@gmail.com](mailto:Clerk.KeelePC@gmail.com)**