



Brizlincote  
Parish Council

November 2013  
Issue 13



## Brizlincote Parish Council Newsletter

### First the Good News...*Brizlincote Play Areas Revamped*

East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) has invested a considerable amount of money improving play areas within Brizlincote Parish. The latest to be improved are the Play Areas at Franklin Close & Trevelyan Close (Carpenter Close) to improve the play facilities for younger children within the Parish.



*Franklin Close Play Area*



*Trevelyan Close (Carpenter Close) Play Area*

### Now the Bad News...*Vandals Set Fire to Tower Woods Play Area*



ESBC invested a total of £35,000 to improve the Tower Woods Play Area last year, and vandals have caused £3,000 worth of damage to a large number of wooden retaining posts, stepping blocks and balance beams, and a large area of bark chippings.

Investigations by fire investigators and Staffordshire Police have discovered the fire was a 'deliberate act' and are searching for those responsible.

If anyone does have any information please get in touch with the police to assist them in catching the culprits.

*See East Staffordshire Borough Council & Staffordshire County Council Local News item on page 4*

### Keep Brizlincote Litter Free

The Parish organised two successful litter picking events earlier in the year. Although the number of volunteers was disappointing the extra litter collected in addition to that gathered by the ESBC street cleaners helped make our area a more pleasant place to walk around in.

Since the local schools returned in September, there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of litter deposited in the vicinity of the schools in Violet Way. We appeal to parents to encourage their children to take their litter home.

Some parents collecting pupils from the schools have been observed dropping litter from their parked cars while waiting for their children. This litter includes cigarette ends, dummies, sweet wrappers, chewing gum, drink cans and even a bottle of Calpol!

Come on parents set an example to the young!

## Message from the Chair...Cllr Geoffrey Willett

The replies to our questionnaire in early 2012 showed relatively very little enthusiasm for a Community Centre in Brizlincote and even less for a Church.

It seemed that parishioners were satisfied with the availability of St Peter's Church Stapenhill for those living south of the path between the Water Tower and Tesco Express, and St Mark's Church Winshill for those north of the path. The boundary is similar to that defining the catchment areas of local schools. There is also church accommodation for Roman Catholics and Methodists in each parish, not forgetting the Community Church which currently meets in the Paulet High School or the Brethren Church in Hawfield Lane. This means that for all who enjoy a Christmas Service there need be no disappointment. I have been informed of the following services, to which you will be most welcome.



### St Peter's Church, Stapenhill

22nd December	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	3.30 pm	Children's Carol Service
	11.30 pm	Carols at Night (Holy Communion)
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Carols & Holy Communion

### St Mark's Church, Winshill

22nd December	10.15 am	Nine Lessons & Carols
	5.00 pm	Parish Eucharist
Christmas Eve	4.00 pm	Christingle Service
	11.30 pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10.15 am	Family Holy Communion Service

### Short Street Methodist Church

Christmas Day	9.30 am	Christmas Morning Service
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### Winshill Methodist Church

22nd December	10.45 am	Carol Service
Christmas Day	9.45 am	Christmas Morning Service

### Community Church at Paulet High School

15th December	4.00 pm	Carol singing at Tesco Express
22nd December	11.00 am	Carol Service

*I wish you all a Happy Christmas...Geoffrey Willett*

## A good piece of Handy-Work!

ESBC have recently installed a hand rail on the path down from Leander Rise, an excellent job encouraged by the Brizlincote Parish Council to enable people feeling unsteady on the steep slope to have a rail to hold on to.



## Grit Bin Reminder

Grit bins are provided in key locations to help local communities keep local roads and pavements clear. These are looked after and topped up by Staffordshire County Council, but may empty quickly during cold snaps. Grit bins should not be used for private drives and pathways.

If you do need to treat your own property, please buy your own salt and grit.

## Brizlincote WI a Blooming Success

The creation of flower beds within Brizlincote 'stemmed' from a meeting of Brizlincote Parish Councillors, WI Members and Paul Steed of the Greenhouse Centre. Volunteers from the WI planted out the eight circular beds along Beaufort Road and Violet Way (funded by the Parish Council with plants donated from The Greenhouse Centre). The result was a very colourful display that brightened up the Parish. The Heart of England in Bloom judges listed the Brizlincote Floral displays and shrub maintenance by the WI group as a special achievement. Next year the WI will independently enter in the 'The Heart of England in Bloom competition' as Brizlincote in Bloom. We wish them every success in this exciting venture.

## Community Speed Watch Update

Two new volunteers who trained at Burton Police Station recently joined the Brizlincote Community Speed Watch Team, increasing its membership to six. This will allow them to operate more frequently in the parish and deter motorists from speeding.

**PLEASE SLOW DOWN & KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE**

## Allotments Still Available

North Stapenhill Allotment Association has a number of vacant allotments available at their Woods Lane site. The allotments are offered as half plots. For more information contact

**Mick Jones on 07974 838889**

## Are We The Fools? by Councillor Jim Muir

Are you like me, fed up with high energy bills, not because of a wasteful nature and failure to obtain the best tariff, but because of the way the supplier treats you. I found that at the end of each year my supplier advised me that I was in credit. Not by a few pounds but often by several hundred pounds. Yet still they attempted to increase my monthly direct debit. If you're in the same boat I suggest that you contact your supplier and in the first instance instruct the company to maintain or reduce your payments, and advise that if there is a shortfall at the end of the year you will settle your bill then. I have a friend who asked the amount that she was in credit at year end to be refunded to her bank account. She had a real tussle but in the end got her money back. Think of it this way, when the big power companies announce their monster profits ask yourself how much is made up of interest on *your* money in *their* bank!



I have also been annoyed lately by e-mails instructing me to submit my meter readings. This may be no big thing, but it does involve my completing work on behalf of the energy provider, and I think it only fair that I'm paid for doing it. I have accordingly advised the company that I shall be invoicing them for the time taken. I've said that my fees are £80 an hour and have apportioned 10 minutes for reading an outside gas meter and 5 minutes for an indoor electricity meter. I will therefore submit an invoice to the sum of £20 should they continue to require that I complete these tasks. Alternatively they can ask one of their operatives to do it on their behalf. I await their response.

# East Staffordshire Borough Council & Staffordshire County Council Local News

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**Have your say!**

Bins are left in the middle of the pavement. Not where they were taken from.

Keep levels of service WITHOUT increasing Council Tax.

We must be realistic that you can't spend what you have not got. Everyone should tighten their belts and hope it will come right.

Need activities for young people. We complain about them hanging around the streets but there is nothing else for them to do.

**Got your own views and comments?**

**Join our Citizens' Panel and Have Your Say!**

**For more information see ESBC's website**

**[www.eaststaffbc.gov.uk](http://www.eaststaffbc.gov.uk) or phone 01283 508685**

## Caught on Camera...coming soon?

Proposals have been outlined by Cllrs. Jake Fellows & Bernard Peters for solar powered CCTV cameras and lighting to be installed in Tower Woods, an area blighted with antisocial behaviour. Problems came to a head earlier this month when vandals caused £3,000 worth of damage after setting fire to a play area.



ESBC has been working with the police in a bid to catch those responsible and stop others from committing other acts of antisocial behaviour.

## Neighbourhood Working Forum

Brizlincote Ward has submitted the following items onto the Borough Priority List;

*Path restoration work for the link between Elms Road and Tower Road, and improved access to Tower Woods.*

*Solar CCTV/Lighting for Tower Woods Play Area.*

*Project to improve/rebuild Scout Hut for 16th Burton Scouts.*

## Brizlincote Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Geoffrey Willett	01283 548868	Arthur Goldstraw	01283 567974	Peter Lyne	07415 679107
Bill Warrilow	01283 567447	Ruth Goldstraw	01283 567974	Jim Muir	01283 544477
Michael Ball	01283 534095	Cedric Insley	01283 561497	Kay Sherratt	01283 547504
Adrian Cowan	01283 530472	Graham Lomas	01283 538721		

**Burton MP:** Andrew Griffiths

Email: [andrew@andrewgriffiths.org.uk](mailto:andrew@andrewgriffiths.org.uk)

Telephone :01283 564934

## Can We Have Your Feedback Please!

Send us your comments by contacting **Liz James**, Clerk of the Brizlincote Parish Council; email [clerk@brizlincote-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brizlincote-pc.org.uk), Phone **01538 702077**, or use contact form available on the Parish Council website, [www.brizlincote-pc.org.uk](http://www.brizlincote-pc.org.uk).

### Editorial Committee

Michael Ball, Adrian Cowan and Graham Lomas

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## Brizlincote Parish Council Meetings for 2013/14

Thursday 19th December

Thursday 16th January

Thursday 20th February

**Meetings are held at Violet Way Academy & Nursery with a prompt 7:00 pm start**