



Lathom South Parish Council

servicing our local community



Newsletter 34

Winter 2024

Welcome to the winter edition of the Lathom South Parish Council.

Some of you may have already noticed that the Parish Council website and email addresses have changed to a '.gov.uk' domain name. For some time now, the Cabinet Office and external auditors have recommended that Parish Councils should use '.gov.uk' domain names. Using '.gov.uk' instantly highlights that emails and websites are from a trusted UK public sector organisation like a central government department or parish council. Only specific registrars are listed as approved suppliers of '.gov.uk' domains and an application has to be made to be granted '.gov.uk'.

In order to help with the cost of the crossover to 'gov.uk' the Cabinet Office offered, for a limited time only, some funding for Parish Councils wishing to make the switch. Lathom South Parish Council took advantage of that funding to make the move. At the end of August the new website, www.lathomsouthparishcouncil.gov.uk went live. The new website conforms with GOV.UK Design Standards and follows the GOV.UK guidelines for website content, accessibility and usability.

Those who used the old website may miss the inclusion of the planning application tracker which is not currently available. Our new web host Parish Online is looking at adding that feature in due course. In the meantime, please remember that planning applications can be followed on the WLBC Planning Portal <https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning>





New Residents of the Parish

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all new residents of the Parish, regardless of where you live and whether you are buying your homes (or own them outright) or are renting them.

There are, of course, two housing developments that are currently under construction and one that has been completed relatively recently, jointly comprising around 400 new homes which lie within the Parish boundaries, out of a total of more than 430.

We have opposed several elements of the plans for these developments but for reasons which affect both existing local residents and those of the new homes. We just want new developments to balance the needs of all residents with the interests of the developers. One major concern has been the impact of over 200 new homes on the safety of Firwood Road. Unfortunately, we have been unable to persuade the Borough and County Councils to respect the safeguards envisaged in the Borough's Development Brief, which was drafted in consultation with the County Council's Highways Department. The negative impacts of their disregard for road safety issues are already being felt, even though many properties on the Wainhomes development have yet to be built or occupied.

(Note: please drive very carefully and considerately.)

Issues which have arisen between the Parish Council and the developers have no influence on our attitude towards our new residents, who are most welcome. This Parish Council respects all residents equally and welcomes involvement in local affairs and initiatives from all.



An invitation from St James Church

O HOLY NIGHT



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

You are invited to join our Christmas Carol Service which takes place on the 22nd December 2024 at 4.00pm. Jingle and mingle, sing all of your favourite carols while accompanied by the Haydock Brass Band. Afterwards you and your families can join us for refreshments. We will be celebrating the most important Birthday of all so bring your family and get right into the spirit of Christmas.

St James Church
Vicarage Lane, Westhead

Other Services over Christmas:

- 8th December 10.30am – School Christmas Presentation, we join the staff and Children from our local school. We invite you to bring an unwrapped gift for local distribution to less fortunate children.
- 15th December 10.30am – Morning Prayer
- 22nd December 4.00pm – Family Carol Service (Haydock Brass Band)
- 24th December 2.30pm – Christmas Eve Crib and Christingle Service
- 24th December 9.00pm – Holy Communion
- 25th December 9.30 am – Holy Communion (with Families in mind)

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



Lathom South Parish Council NEEDS YOU!

MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT:
clerk@lathomsouthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

I have lived in and very close to this Parish all my life and have been a member of Lathom South Parish Council since its formation in 2007. However, a move away from the area is imminent and I will, therefore, be resigning from the Parish Council. A replacement councillor is needed - could this be you?

Before joining the Parish Council I honestly knew nothing about the workings of a Parish Council and have gradually picked up knowledge over the years particularly regarding the planning system and public rights of way. Training is available and help and advice is always on hand from the clerk and other councillors. Communications are generally via email and a separate Parish Council email address is provided for councillors.

You will need to live in or within 3 miles of the Parish and be prepared to attend monthly meetings, currently second Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in joining please contact our clerk. You could also just come along to the next meeting as a member of the public to see if becoming a parish councillor appeals to you.

Cllr Carol Blackledge

Friends of Jacobs Wood (FOJW)

Hopefully everyone is aware that we have some beautiful woodlands in our parish with entrances located off Plough Lane into Swells Wood and an entrance through a kissing gate off footpath 21 for Jacobs Wood. The two woods are linked by a path and the combination of the two woods offers quite a few walking routes, a place to sit in Jacobs Wood along with a bin to deposit any litter or dog mess that you've picked up.



One of the paths running through Swells Wood

Lathom South Parish Council have put a lot of effort into making the woods a relaxing place to be. We've erected bird boxes for owls, bats and other smaller birds. We've laid a lot of wood chippings to create the circular path in Swells Wood. We've installed benches, a bin and we've tried to keep the Himalayan Balsam under control. Plans are afoot to introduce a pond into Swells Wood to attract more wildlife and we've spent time removing tree protectors from trees that no longer need them.



Dogs are welcome in the woods, bikes and scooters are not

Recently we've created a Friends Of Jacobs Wood Facebook group so that people can stay informed of what's going on in the woods and can also report any issues such as fallen trees blocking a footpath or maybe share photos of the wildlife spotted in the woods. To join the group you can scan the QR code below with your smartphone or if you don't have a smartphone then the address is listed below.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/845442787417269>

A few times a year we organise "working parties" and do some light work to make the woods a better place to be and of course to meet up with our fellow parishioners. If you'd like to get involved in any way or stay aware of what's happening in the woods then please join our Facebook group.

Contact Details

Clerk: Mrs Jane Smith

3 Old School, School Lane, Melling, L31 1FE

Telephone: 07495 970005

Email: clerk@lathomsouthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.lathomsouthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Your Parish Councillors are:

- Andrew Beeston
- Carol Blackledge
- Andrew Chanter
- Roger Clayton (Chairman)
- Ernie Pallas
- Darren Steele (Vice Chairman)
- Andy Taylor

All contact via the Clerk

Meetings held at 7:30pm at the

Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane, Lathom, WN8 8TY

Meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month but please check the website

Please contact the Clerk (details above) to raise any items you wish your Parish Council to discuss.

