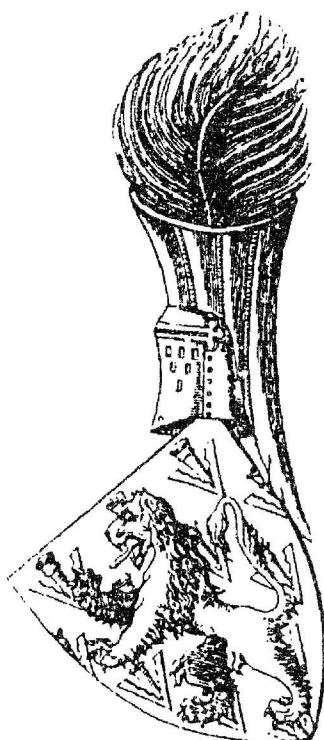


ROPE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



FOR THE YEAR 1999

ROPE PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings of the Parish Council are usually held every other month at the High School in Rope Lane, beginning at 7.00pm.

The Parish Council is always pleased to see residents at the meetings. Dates of meetings are advertised on the Parish Notice Boards.

The Parish Council

Mrs F J C Pownall	Chairman	12 Crestwood Close Tel: 664540
Mrs C Speed JP	Vice Chairman	1 Pinewood Court Tel: 662855
Mr A Davies		5 Bankfield Avenue Tel: 567382
Mrs B Cooke		2 Bankfield Avenue Tel: 569676
Mr J Cooke		2 Bankfield Avenue Tel: 569676
Mr M Klafkowski		24 Bankfield Avenue Tel: 662736
Mrs G Lindop		8 Rope Bank Avenue Tel: 568273
Parish Clerk: John Foster, Chapel Cottage, Bluestone, Acton		Tel: 629075

A HISTORY OF ROPE

Hedges, farms, footpaths and a brook remind us of the past

In 1290 land now in Rope Parish was owned by Phillipa Bassett. After some changes of ownership it was acquired around 1305 by Richard de Roop. The name changed to de Rope by the next generation, when the son of Richard married Elizabeth, daughter of James Wistaneston. The window in the south aisle of Nantwich Parish Church of St. Mary has the Rope coat of arms in full colour stained glass.

The area was made into a Civic Parish or township in the 1870s with a population of around eighty.

In 1934 it is described as a small straggling village two and a half miles from Nantwich with a population of about ninety. Letters came through Crewe. The nearest money order office was in Willaston and the nearest telegraph office in Shavington.

There are now approximately 775 houses in our parish and an estimated population of 2,500. Within our boundaries we have two schools, a

sports centre and four farms. About a mile of railway line passes through Rope and there are about five miles of road. A bus route between Crewe and Shavington runs through the parish. Traffic in Rope has increased dramatically and has brought its attendant problems.

What is still left of the straggling village? The four farms and their fields on the southern and south eastern sides of the parish, three footpaths across their lands, a brook, several drain ditches and a diminishing number of hedges.

A recent survey of several lengths of hedge shown on a map of 1876, undertaken by the Tree Warden and Parish Councillors, identified field maple, buckthorn, hawthorn, field rose, bramble, hazel, elderberry, oak, ivy, gorse and ash. These hedges, trees and some old ponds are all on private land. It is encouraging to see that their owners look after these environmental gems so that we can all enjoy them.

SMOKY BONFIRES

Several complaints have been received concerning smoky, smelly garden bonfires.

The Borough Council has given the opinion that, whilst bonfires are a useful method of disposing of garden wastes, they should be avoided wherever possible.

An alternative method of disposal such as composting or removal to the tip at Pym's Lane, where special

green waste skips are provided, should be adopted.

Garden bonfires can cause a nuisance to neighbours and action under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act can be taken against persistent offenders.

Anyone wishing further information or advice should contact the Environmental Health Division on Tel. No. 537424.

NEW YEAR FIREWORKS

Be safe and protect your animals

If you are having a fireworks display or a bonfire, let your neighbours or neighbouring farmers know in advance so that they may take any necessary precautions.

Check in bonfires for small animals, especially hedgehogs, before lighting them.

Every year countless people sustain injuries from fireworks; make this a safe and happy time for all.

Please be aware that most animals are terrified by loud noises and bangs. While you may be having a wonderful time, your pet may be in a state of shock. Take all precautions to protect your pets, whether they are dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits or fish. Exercise them early in the day and bring them inside at night. Outside livestock may well be upset at this time.

WISTASTON MEMORIAL HALL BOWLING CLUB

Successful year for competitive bowlers

The club enjoyed a successful competitive season in 1999 with one team winning the Crewe and Nantwich Retired Bowls League Division A Championship and the Knock-out Cup of the same League, while another team in the Sandbach League won promotion for the third successive year.

In addition to the serious stuff of league bowling, many friendly matches were enjoyed along with another bowling holiday week in Spain.

Every Tuesday afternoon

and Saturday afternoon throughout the season there is an activity which ensures everyone present by 1.50pm is involved.

For next season, a new kitchen in the pavilion and a new covered shelter for spectators are planned.

Membership is open to all residents of Wistaston and Rope and a letter of application to the secretary, Brian Simpson, 119 Church Lane, Wistaston, Crewe CW2 8ER could have you ready for the start of the year 2000 season next April.

Rope Parish Charity - a reminder

Residents are reminded of the existence of a charity exclusively for the benefit of inhabitants of Rope. It is intended to help anyone whose quality of life has suffered in some way. It is not necessary

to prove a financial need before help can be given. The Trustees, Fiona Pownall and John Cooke, who can be contacted on 664540 and 569676 respectively, are always ready to receive enquiries.

TIDYING THE PARISH

Please use a poop-scoop

Each year we ask residents with dogs to carry a poop-scoop at all times and to pick up after their pets.

Many responsible owners do this as a matter of course and we thank them for their efforts.

To those who still allow the pavements and verges

to be despoiled we ask them please to consider the welfare of children, those with poor eyesight and your fellow residents and keep Rope tidy.

The Parish Council has recently provided another dog faeces bin, which is located in Rope Lane.

Litter pick

Only Parish Councillors turned out to clean up this year on the day of the Litterpick. We do, however, realise that some thoughtful people do help throughout the year and to them we say thank you.

Please encourage all members of your household to take their litter home. Our walkways are attractive green areas and they can be really spoiled with discarded cans, plastic bottles and paper.

Prune overhanging branches

Householders are reminded that trees on their property which border public footpaths and pavements should be pruned and should not obstruct pedestrian passage.

To avoid accidents, the overhanging branches should be cleared well above eye level and any diseased limbs removed. Foliage should not obscure streetlights.

Sustainability Alliance - Local Action Group launched

A new organisation has been set up to help make Crewe & Nantwich Borough a greener place to live.

The Crewe and Nantwich Sustainability Alliance brings together people from across the community.

Growing out of the Borough's Local Agenda 21 initiative, members of the Alliance have already been involved in many environmental schemes in the area. For example, it was recently announced that community woodlands are to be created across the Borough to celebrate the Millennium.

Local Agenda 21 grew out of international concerns about the environment and the need for every community around the world to take action locally to encourage a more environmentally friendly life for everyone.

Already the Sustainability Alliance has working groups meeting regularly to take action on five main areas of interest:

- Transport
- Planning Policy
- Food
- Waste
- Nature Conservation

A wide variety of people are involved in the Alliance with representatives from local businesses, community and environmental groups rubbing shoulders with councillors and ordinary folk concerned about the future.

Pam Minshall, who has been elected to lead the Alliance, says everyone should get involved.

"The Alliance is all about ordinary people taking the lead in making their community a better place in which to live. We can all make a difference but together we can be a real force for environmental change," she said.

Everyone is welcome to join in and change their world for the better.

For further information about the Sustainability Alliance ring Pam Minshall on 01270 560795.

SHAVINGTON LEISURE CENTRE

Shavington Leisure Centre has a packed programme this winter, with activities for all ages:

■ For the youngsters there is the **Saturday Children's Club** from 10am-12 noon, at just £1.00, but it doesn't stop there.

- On Saturday afternoons **Junior Badminton** takes place with expert coaching from Crewe and District Badminton League.
- Every Sunday morning there is **short tennis** coaching in the sports hall with Lawn Tennis Association coaches.

■ Don't forget, every school holiday apart from Christmas, there is a **Playscheme** for over-fives with a variety of activities on offer. Look out for the '**Drop and Shop**' days nearer Christmas where we keep

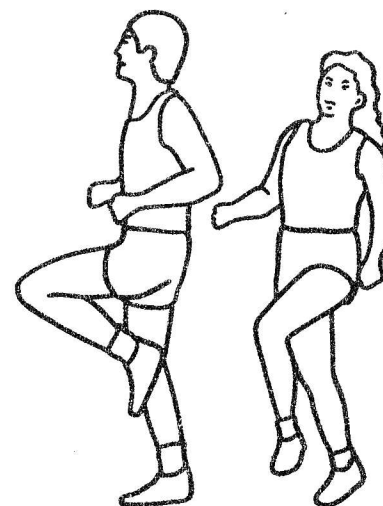
your children happy whilst you do your shopping.

■ **Children's parties** are also catered for with football or netball parties available all with free room hire!

■ Not exclusive to the adults is **badminton and squash**, available all week, with reduced rates for squash all weekend and for badminton Friday to Sunday.

■ On the fitness side there are a multitude of **aerobics classes**, plus circuit training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

■ For the full fitness experience why not try the **Planet Pulse Fitness Suite** - it's well worth a look! It can be used on a casual basis or have a look at the membership schemes available. Inductions are available by appointment.



■ There are also two **Youth Fitness** sessions from 4-5pm on Thursday and 12 noon-1pm on Saturdays.

■ If **line dancing** is your thing - then every Tuesday from 7.30-9pm

Charlottesville will take you through your paces.

■ After your activities why not relax in the **Lounge Bar** which now features **SKY Digital TV**. If you want to watch **Live Football** call in anyway - all are welcome and there are always special offers on bottled beers.

■ The upstairs lounge suite with fully licensed bar is now available for private functions with **FREE room hire**. Why not hold your party at Shavington Leisure Centre?

For more information on the above activities, and much more, call in or phone the centre on (01270) 663221.

**DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENTS
HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS
AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Please cancel immediately if you do not require or cannot attend any of the above.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

After a long campaign to try to improve safety at Rope Green Bridge, we are happy to report that new signs and road markings have been put into place. These give a clearer message to motorists of the need to slow down and we hope that we are now seeing an improvement in the situation.

PARISH AWARD

Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council Leisure Services Division presented Rope Parish Council with a 'Thank You' award for its efforts to provide leisure opportunities for local young people.

The Parish Council continues to support youth activities and has recently contributed to the cost of refurbishment of Shavington Youth Club.

MILLENNIUM DAFFODILS

The Parish Council has planted 2000 daffodils to commemorate the Millennium. The bulbs have been planted at the corners of Bankfield Avenue and Rope Lane, Fuller Drive at the rear of Brackenwood Close and at Beechcroft Avenue adjacent to Beechwood School.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Chairman wishes to thank Parish Councillors past and present for their service to the community.

Their time and effort goes unpaid and often unrewarded, but the satisfaction is in making our Parish a better and safer place in which to live.

Wistaston Memorial Hall

1999 has seen the Hall redecorated internally and externally. The Community Service organisation has been a tremendous help, providing all the labour.

A grant of £2867 from the National Lottery Small Grants scheme enabled a major refurbishing, especially the replacement of the heavy wooden trestle tables, which had been a trial for older users, by lightweight folding tables.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Hall in 1949, a history of the first 50 years was published and thanks to Spar, Londis and Rowlands Chemists, who provided sales points, sufficient copies were sold to cover costs and make a small profit.

Early in the year, cracks were found in the upright portions of the concrete frames which form the main load carrying structure. A structural survey concluded that these were due to expansion of the steel reinforcement

due to attack by chemicals in the concrete. If allowed to progress, the residual life of the building could be as little as five years but if treated and repaired by a specialist concrete repairer, the structure would be good for another twenty years. Consultants have advised on the choice of contractor and a quotation has been accepted.

A grant from the Borough Council's Community Initiative Fund will cover consultant's fees including the inspections of work in progress. An application has been made to the National Lottery Charities Board for the major part of the cost. Efforts are in progress to achieve a timing of the work so as to minimise disruption to the users.

This evidence that the materials of construction of the Hall will not last for ever gives added impetus to the need to build up funds in the Rebuilding Fund which was established last year.

THE BERKELEY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

School reopened in September for the last term of the century with a new name to carry us forward into the next. We are now known as The Berkeley Primary School and hope that this will quickly become established as the symbol of excellence and quality in education for which Wistaston Berkeley Primary School has been known for many years.

Our school has continued to develop. We now have 376 pupils on roll following an intake of 52 Reception children.

Two new classrooms were opened in February 1999 and the Governing Body is planning the redevelopment of our courtyard area to accommodate a Learning Resource Area.

During the latter part of the Summer Term, the school underwent a rigorous OFSTED

inspection helping us to plan our direction for the future. The Inspectors were very complimentary about the school, paying tribute to the high standards achieved by the pupils and were very impressed with the ethos of the school, which 'enables the pupils to make good progress and enjoy all aspects of school life'.

The Summer Term itself was very busy with our usual events, Sports Days, Music Festival, Leavers Assembly and residential visits to York and Anglesey.

Year 5 pupils enjoyed a week participating in many exciting activities during P.C. '99 at South Cheshire College.

As we move into the new Millennium, we look forward to the continued success and development of our school and its pupils.

REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

There will be no refuse collection during the week between Christmas and New Year. Just find your usual day of collection below and read across for the next collection day.

NO COLLECTION (Usual Collection Day)	NEXT COLLECTION
Monday 27th December	Monday 3rd January
Tuesday 28th December	Tuesday 4th January
Wednesday 29th December	Wednesday 5th January
Thursday 30th December	Thursday 6th January
Friday 31st December	Friday 7th January

Surplus domestic refuse will be removed the week following a missed collection. You may dispose of domestic waste free of charge at the Household Waste Site, Pym's Lane, Crewe. The site is open daily from 8.00am to 4.00pm except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

BLUE BAG WASTE PAPER COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS OVER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

NO COLLECTION (Usual Collection Day)	NEXT COLLECTION
Monday 27th December	Monday 10th January
Tuesday 28th December	Tuesday 11th January
Wednesday 29th December	Wednesday 12th January
Thursday 30th December	Thursday 13th January
Friday 31st December	Friday 14th January
Monday 3rd January	Monday 17th January

MID-CHESHIRE HOSPITALS

Preparing for the Millennium

This year because of the extra bank holiday and to ensure we are fully prepared for any emergency, there will be extra medical, nursing and support staff on duty and on standby to provide the best possible service to you.

Leighton Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department will be providing 24-hour medical emergency service through the holiday. Telephone number is 01270 255141.

You can help us by being prepared for the longer holiday, using your hospital and GP services appropriately and celebrating safely.

1. Find out your GP's Christmas opening times before the holiday period.

2. Deal with minor injuries, such as small cuts and bruises at home.

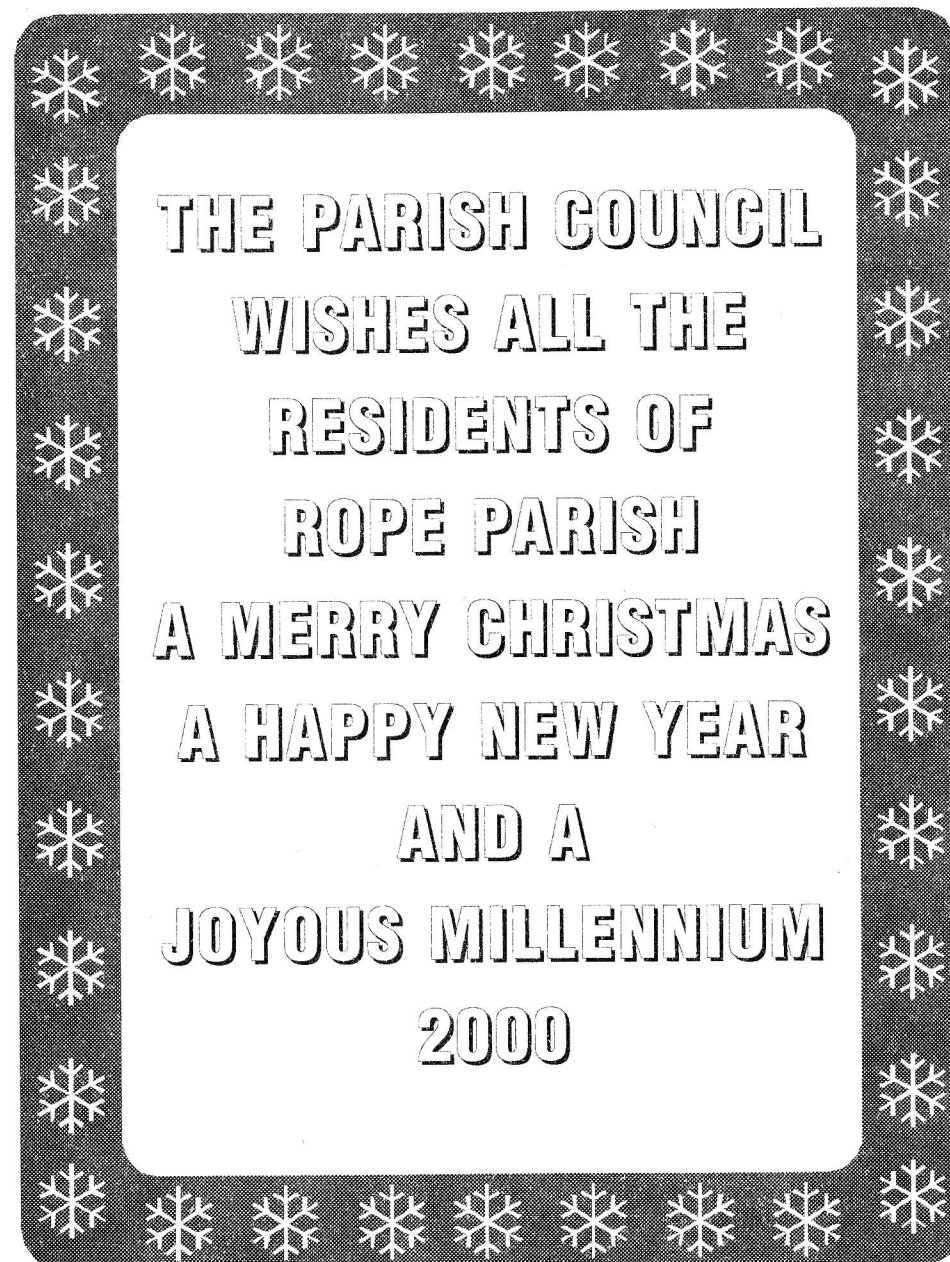
3. Find out your local pharmacy's holiday opening hours – they are usually advertised in the local press. If you have a prescription for

regular medication such as an asthma inhaler or the contraceptive pill make sure you have a sufficient stock. If you need emergency contraception over the holiday period and cannot book an early appointment with your doctor, it will be available from Leighton's A&E department.

4. Do you use any medical equipment in the home that is vital for your health – for example a kidney dialysis machine? If so check with your supplier that the equipment has been maintained and is working efficiently.

5. If you need further help and advice on health issues during the holiday, **HEALTHWISE** is the North West's free helpline. You can contact Healthwise on **0800 665544**. Calls are free and lines are open from 9am-9pm every day of the year.

*** Wishing you a very healthy and happy Christmas and New Year from all staff at Mid-Cheshire Hospitals.**



Outline of ROPE Parish

