

# Smisby Newsletter Winter 2015

Issue 45

A very warm Welcome to this Winter 2015 issue of the Smisby Newsletter.

I think as a community we will all reflect fondly on a hugely impressive turnout from within Smisby Parish which saw many residents and families, young and old, congregate around the tree in front of St James' Church to sing hymns and carols under the warm glow of candlelight. This year saw record numbers in attendance for this seasonal gathering with the turning on of the Christmas tree lights. Everyone was in full voice as the hearts of all those who attended were uplifted by this very special occasion.

As always Hazel Salt provided the fantastic musical accompaniment. This was another demonstration of a heart warming moment in the union of families, friends and neighbours coming together. Like the inaugural event last year, this was a truly magical celebration and a wonderful and humbling reflection of the real spirit of Christmas within our community. Those who came know what a really joyous occasion this was. It was also encouraging to see so many new faces in attendance to a village social gathering, including a number of new families to Smisby.

This year the occasion was also followed by a hog roast and live music in the Village Hall which provided the ideal chance to have a festive tippie and a chat with our neighbours. There was even the surprise visit of an extra-special guest for the children with Santa visiting Smisby!

The event has been such a success that many of those who attended would like to see us get together for this occasion every year so this will certainly remain an important fixture on the Smisby village social calendar for hopefully years to come. Many thanks again to the Parochial Charity for their kind donation which funded this successful community event.

Finally, we are all incredibly proud of our village and its natural beauty. This I think is captured wonderfully by the photo of St James' Church in all its glory on a beautifully crisp, bright winter's day after a covering of snow across the parish over the festive break.

This is an action packed edition with contributions from all of the Clubs and Associations within Smisby Parish highlighting recent events and looking forward to certain forthcoming activities this busy time of year with the relevant dates for your calendar.

A new Pilates class is starting on Monday morning 9th February at Smisby Village Hall. 8:45am-9:45am. £6 all levels welcome. The session will be run by Isabel. Tel 07790 059227

## **Hazel's Corner**

Well done to all the children for the beautiful singing and playing of instruments by the Christmas Tree, at the Christingle Service and at the Carol Service. It is really appreciated that more residents have put Christmas Lights up this year. They made the village even prettier this Christmas. Thank you for those who put grit on the snow to make it safer for all of us. I get to see and hear about lots of acts of kindness and good deeds within the village. We are so lucky to have such a community spirit.

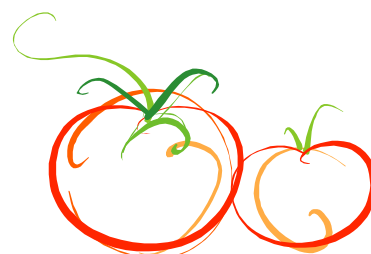


## **Smisby Allotment News**

We are continuing to work well in the allotments and the site itself is becoming well established with the hedging and free-wood filling out and starting to screen the area.

We are currently renewing tenancies and we do have both full and half plots available. Please pass on our contact details to anyone who may be interested.

If you are interested in a plot then please contact us at [smisbyallotments@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:smisbyallotments@yahoo.co.uk)



# **Parish Council NEWS**

## **Items from the January Parish Council Meeting**

### **New Parish Councillor**

It was unanimously agreed at the Parish Council meeting in November 2014 that Rob Hounslow should be co-opted on to the Parish Council. The Parish Council would like to welcome Rob onto the Parish Council and are looking forward to working with him.

### **Fly Tipping**

Unfortunately there have been a few incidences of fly tipping around Smisby, most notably in Annwell Lane. The Councils Clean Team try to ensure the swift removal of fly-tipped waste to prevent it being added to. Smisby Parish Council have been given the following advice about fly tipping by South Derbyshire District Council: Never accept an offer from someone you don't know to dispose of waste for payment. If you are approached then pass details onto the Councils Safer Neighbourhood Wardens who can investigate if they are a registered waste carrier. To carry out a search they need to know the name of the business or individual who approached you and the registration number of their vehicle. The Safer Neighbourhood Wardens can be contacted on 01283 595795. You can report incidents of Fly Tipping to the Clean Team on 0800 5872349.

### **Police Information**

There has been an attempted theft of outdoor/garden equipment in the Smisby area. Please ensure that any equipment, including sit on mowers are locked securely away. The Police are aware of the long standing issue in regards to reporting crime to Derbyshire Police due to Smisby being so close to the Leicestershire boarder. Discussions are taking place within the call handling department in order to try and get this resolved. The Parish Council have also have been asked by the local PCSO Karen Coldicott, to advise that the contact numbers for the police are 101 for non-emergency calls and 999 for emergency calls.

The next Safer Neighbourhood meeting is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6.15pm, in Findern Village Hall. All members of the public are invited to attend to discuss any community issues that police need to be aware of.

### **Safer Homes Initiative**

South Derbyshire CVS are offering a free service working to improve security in the homes of older (aged 60+) and vulnerable people who live in South Derbyshire.

The scheme works by installing security equipment free of charge, including door chains, window alarms and spy holes. In addition, the Safer Homes operative will give free crime prevention advice.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this scheme, or know someone living within Derbyshire who may benefit, please contact Amanda Elliott on 01283 219761 or via email at [amandae@sdcvs.org.uk](mailto:amandae@sdcvs.org.uk)

Sarah Codd  
Smisby Parish Clerk  
69 Nottingham Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch,  
Leicestershire, LE65 1DN.  
[Email: smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com)

## **St James' Church**



It has been a busy Christmas season at church with lots going on, much of it involving the children. We had a Christingle service on December 14th during which the youngsters helped to put together the traditional decorated oranges, topped with a candle. On the Sunday before Christmas there was the Carol Service at which Hazel's choir sang three seasonal pieces really well, particularly for a choir so young! The Ticknall church choir came to this service as well, adding to an already packed church. The large Christmas tree was suitably decorated and lit up, and lots of holly all round the church. Holy Communion on Christmas Day is always a special time and was also well attended.

Looking to the future, it has been decided that the all age family services will continue to be held, mostly on the second Sunday of the month, at 10.30 am. The next few of these services are scheduled for 8th February, 15th March (as this is Mothering Sunday), 12th April and 10th May. Easter Day, highlight of the church's year, has Holy Communion at 9.00 am on 5th April.

## **Ashby Camera Club**

**Ashby Camera Club meeting most Wednesdays at Smisby Village Hall with a programme of talks, practicals, competitions and rambles.**

**See [www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk](http://www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk) for programme and more information.**

## **Ashby Art Club**

**The regular Monday evenings remain popular with members, when they get together to chat, paint and draw. The New Year gets off to a floral start with well known local artist Michael Lakin demonstrating botanical art on 12<sup>th</sup> January, followed by a demonstration of floral art by Lyn Bailey on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Visitors can attend these demonstrations at a cost of £5.**



**Also members are looking forward to the opportunity to paint along with member Jane Betteridge at the meeting on 9 March. Jane is publishing a book 'Watercolours Unleashed' which will be available from March 2015, and also a companion DVD/video this spring. Hopefully it will be available at the Annual Art Club Easter Exhibition at Ticknall village hall, when Jane will also show some of her paintings. This Art Exhibition is the major event in the Society calendar and Art Club members are all busy preparing their art work ready for this event on 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April.2015. This exhibition has been established for about 15 years and attracts hundreds of visitors. You can pop in for a browse and have a coffee and a piece of cake. Members are always there to chat to and you can ask for information about joining our club where you will be made very welcome. This spring there will be three Saturday afternoon workshops. Non-members can book a place at a low cost of £25.00 per workshop and more information and contact details can be found on the art club web site, [www.ashbyartclub.org](http://www.ashbyartclub.org).**

**These workshop dates are -**

**Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. Pen and wash with Di Lorriman  
Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> March Expressive watercolours with Carole Hill  
Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> April – Acrylics with John Smith (aka Jay Dubya)**



## Smisby Village Hall

The last few months have been a busy period for the village hall committee. Since the change in membership the committee has been working hard to ensure that the Village Hall continues to offer a first class venue for all of the users and parishioners.



The priorities of the committee have been focussed on: Reviewing the current trust deed to ensure that it reflects modern requirements. We are currently seeking independent advice as to how it should be updated and the committee will propose a resolution for changes to the trust deed at the next AGM which is planned to take place in April 2015. All residents and parishioners are welcome to attend the AGM, so please watch Village notice boards for confirmation of the date and time.

Evaluating the current use of the hall and reviewing the standard hire terms as well as all of the health and safety requirements that go with the hiring of a facility such as this. The standard terms of hire have now been updated and will form the basis of all hiring from January 2015 onwards. A new risk assessment has also been completed which will be available to all users. Assessing what maintenance work needs to be completed and what additional equipment / facilities should to be added to ensure the hall remains a top class facility for all users. We have a number of ideas, but suggestions would be most welcome. Reviewing the Village Hall website. A new site (linked to the village website) is being designed and it is hoped this will be live in the near future. The site will include information on when the hall is in use by regular hirers, hire rates and important documents (Booking Form, Terms & Conditions, Health & Safety Policy, Risk Assessment, etc). More details will follow when available.

We are grateful to all users of the Village Hall for their continued support and are particularly pleased that Smisby Day Nursery will continue as a key user of the hall.

The Village Hall remains available to regular and 'one-off' hirers and following the review of standard terms and individual users requirements, the hall is now also available for hire during school term time between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Hire rates for non-parishioners have increased slightly from 1st January 2015, but hire charges for Smisby Parish Members remain unchanged.

Booking enquiries can be made with the Bookings Clerk on the new number 07526 268698.

Smisby Parish Member rates are as follows:  
1 hour: £12; Up to 2.5 hours: £15.00; 1/2 Day (4 hours): £29.00;  
Full Day (8 hours): £44.50  
Hire times and charges include the setting up and clearing away period. Different charges apply to hirers from outside the local community. Deposits will be required separately, which are refundable following a satisfactory post event inspection. There may be certain occasions when one-off events can take precedence over long-term regular bookings, but normally this will require not less than one month's notice. **Continued above**

The committee members are -

Ed Kendall (Chair), Ron Walker (Secretary), Suzanne Jones (Treasurer), Barbara Ball (Bookings Clerk), Jeff Barnes, Pat Barnes, Simon Barnett, Richard Brooke, Rob Hounslow and Sarah Rushman. Please can any queries or questions relating to the Village Hall (including access to the hall) be directed to a member of the committee.

## Parochial Charity

Hampers were delivered to the OAP's in the village and surrounding parish just before Christmas by the usual Santa gang of Andrew, Barbara and Sheila. The goodies were well received as always. Book tokens for the local youngsters were being handed out during January and hopefully these will encourage a bit of light reading for the recipients. The excellent pre-Christmas party in the village hall was funded by the charity and it was good to see such an excellent turnout with residents of all ages enjoying the festivities.

The charity has not embarked on a major project for Smisby since the village hall was fully modernised. Since that time we have been building up our revenue funds, waiting for a suitable project to be identified. The Trustees felt that it would be useful for a working group to be formed to act as an interface with the charity and appealed for volunteers to act in this capacity through an earlier edition of the newsletter. We are now delighted to report that two village residents have volunteered to be this sub-committee, namely Rachel Hewitt (Truro Cottage, Chapel Street) and Dawn Barnett (Maycliffe, Chapel Street). The aim of the sub-committee will be to provide a conduit between people in the parish and the Parochial Charity, for project ideas that might be funded by the charity. Any ideas put forward will be reviewed in detail for financial viability and merit with respect to improvement for the community at large. If anyone has suggestions or ideas, then please don't hesitate to discuss with either Rachel or Dawn, or to send them a note or letter - and of course you can always have a word with any of the Trustees or with Sheila, Clerk to the Trustees.

The report and accounts for the charity for 2013 / 14 should be available on the web by the time this newsletter is circulated - do have a look if you are interested in the finances. The charity's registration number is 515251, once you are logged into the Charity Commission web site.

## Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire

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Kilworth Machinery Ltd  
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Tel: 01530 412690  
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## Smisby WI

Christmas is now but a distant memory but for some of us the extra calories are still a reality so a session of Tai Chi on February 19th with our speaker, Michael Cashmore, following on from our January Curling Evening, might help just a little.



On March 19th our thoughts will turn towards holidays when our speaker Gary Root, explains what happens "Behind the Scenes at Birmingham Airport."

"THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER YOU." On April 16th we have a forensic scientist, Paul Newsham, coming to tell us about his fascinating work. This will be an Open Evening when we hope friends and relations will join us for what promises to be a most interesting evening.

Our programme of monthly local walks began again in January and the Craft Club will be meeting again on February 5th.

Monthly meetings, on the third Thursday in the month, are held in the Village Hall and visitors are always very welcome.

The number to call is 01530 416411 if you would like more information.

## Ivanhoe Countrystore

Remember to stock up on dinner for your best friend!



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[www.mannocks.co.uk](http://www.mannocks.co.uk)

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## BlueBell Arboretum & Nursery, Smisby

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Opening times:

March to October: 9am to 5pm (Sundays 10.30am to 4.30pm)

November to February 9am to 4pm (Closed on Sundays)

We are closed from December 24th to January 2nd

Tel 01530 413 700 Fax 01530 417 600

[www.bluebellnursery.co.uk](http://www.bluebellnursery.co.uk)

### Useful Smisby Village Contacts:

#### Parish Councillors:

**Chair** - Steve Hewitt (07908 620002)

**Vice Chair** - Sarah Rushman

**Parish Clerk** - Sarah Codd (01530 411488)

[smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com)

**Councillor** - Mark Parnham

**Councillor** - Simon Barnett (07855 969719)

Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to include anything in the next Parish Newsletter.

#### South Derbyshire District Councillors:

**Councillor** - Michael Stanton (07768 010251)

[michael.stanton@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:michael.stanton@south-derbys.gov.uk)

**Councillor** - Peter Smith (07894 338129)

[peter.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:peter.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk)

#### Derbyshire District Councillor:

**Councillor** - Linda Chilton

[linda.chilton@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:linda.chilton@derbyshire.gov.uk)

#### Parochial Charity:

**Trustee** - Barbara Ball (01530 416411)

**Trustee** - Jeff Barnes (01283 217319)

**Trustee** - Simon Barnett (01530 412491)

**Trustee** - Andrew Parnham (01530 411202)

**Clerk** - Sheila Heap (01530 414179)

#### Village Hall Committee:

**Chairman** - Ed Kendall

[sekendall@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sekendall@tiscali.co.uk)

**Secretary** - Ron Walker

**Bookings Sec** - Barbara Ball (07526 268698)

#### Smisby Church:

**Churchwarden** - Gary Margerrison (01530 414453)

**Churchwarden** - Carol Morgan (01530 411314)

#### Newsletter Publishers:

Steve Hewitt

James Barnett

Sam Hewitt (Photography)

**Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings; Held on Tuesdays @ 7.30pm in Smisby Village Hall.**

**Members of the public are welcome to attend.**

**Next meeting is on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015**