

# Smisby Newsletter - Issue 29 - December 2010

## Parish Council

Since the last issue of the newsletter there has been just one meeting of the Parish Council, held on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Whilst some of the topics discussed are reported elsewhere in the Newsletter, a few of the Agenda items can be summarised as follows:

### Dates for the Diary

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Village Hall AGM, at 7.30 pm.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December, Annual Carol Service, at 6.00 pm.
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January, New Year lunch party in the Village Hall, at 12 noon.
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, Parish Council meeting, at 7.30 pm in the village hall.
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February, the “Melbourne” meeting at Weston on Trent village hall at 7.00 pm

The first applicants for the vacancy of Parish Clerk, caused by the resignation of Marie South, withdrew their applications and the position had to be re-advertised. Two further applications have now been received and interviews have been arranged for December. In the meantime Marie has agreed to remain in post until a replacement is appointed.

The Parish Council application to the Land Registry, to have the “lock-up” and the War Memorial triangle officially registered in its name is now going through and title is expected to be confirmed shortly. This merely confirms the reality of the situation that has pertained for years but not previously “official”.

The County Council has installed two bins, to serve each end of Chapel Street, and they have been filled with the usual salt / grit mixture. The parish was given the ready filled bins by Derbyshire County Council. However, the Parish Council now has the responsibility, when the contents are used up, to get them refilled. The cost of this is paid for by each household, through the parish precept. The grit is intended for villagers to use on the icy roadways and public footpaths - and not on private premises. Mark Parnham has volunteered to refill the bins when necessary this winter. We therefore ask villagers to ‘phone the parish clerk, or Mark directly, when the grit bins get low on salt.

No-one has volunteered to take up the potentially interesting job of delving into the history of the War Memorial and what should now be done for it in terms of its cleaning, and possibly adding further names. If anyone is now willing to offer their services for this job, please contact Jeff Barnes on 01283 217319.

There have been one or two near misses, mainly in Chapel Street, caused by youngsters riding bikes without any lights, generally at the time it is just getting dark – and only being spotted by car drivers at the last second. Could parents please get their youngsters to have proper lights – or else to come off the road well before it gets dark.

It is unfortunate that it is again necessary to ask dog owners to act responsibly in regard to the fouling that their dogs cause. Some people in the village still do not clean up after their dogs and obviously do not care that children can contract serious illness if they become contaminated by the mess. Some of the people who do clean up after their dogs then proceed to throw the bagged contents under the nearest hedge – and then it is Hazel (the person who does her best to keep the village tidy) who has the job of retrieving the bags: how disgusting can some dog owners be? Pick it up and bin it! The obligation to clean up extends to off-road areas where public access is allowed, such as part of National Forest that is within the parish. If anyone knows which dog owners are at fault, contact any councillor and the Parish Council can take appropriate action.

**Village Hall AGM.** This will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December in the village hall, starting at 7.30 pm - and it would be good to see more residents than usual attending this annual meeting.

**Water Main Replacements.** At the recent Parish Council meeting, a representative of Severn Trent attended the start of the meeting to report on the forthcoming renewal of certain water mains in the parish. The work is being carried out to replace very old mains that have given repeated problems in recent times. Nigel McGuinness spoke of two projects which they hope to start in January. Households and businesses that are to be affected will be informed by post some time before the work is due to start. In Ashby Road, Boundary, it is intended to replace about 500 metres of main, from close to the by-pass traffic island, down in the Ashby direction. Properties will only be cut off for the short time that it takes to disconnect each property from the old main and connected into the new supply. The other water main that is to be replaced is in Annwell Lane, which will cause that road to be closed to through traffic for the duration of the project, expected to last about five weeks. The length to be replaced will be from the bend in Annwell Lane, near the "Smisby" sign, as far as the new bridge (adjacent to the field which is to be the new allotment site). Properties will be without water for about six hours when the time comes to be connected into the new main. Severn Trent promises adequate alternative access to properties will be properly signed and maintained.

**Low Water Pressure?** It has been reported that a number of properties in and around Smisby suffer from low water pressure at times. We are advised that the number to ring, to report such a problem, is 0800 7834444. If this is a widespread difficulty in Smisby then do please make it known to Severn Trent on that number – they might do something about it if they receive enough complaints!

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**New Year Party.**

There will be a lunch time gathering in the Village Hall on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January, starting at 12 noon. The Trustees of the Parochial Charity, and the Village Hall committee, invite residents to come and meet up with local friends and neighbours for a convivial drink and a bite to eat, to celebrate the New Year. Barbara Ball has again agreed to coordinate the event and anyone who is able to provide items of food for the buffet lunch is asked to get in touch with her on 01530 416411. Costs will be reimbursed by the village charity. The usual range of drinks will be available and the event is free of charge.

This will be an opportunity to see the village hall in its new modernised form. There are still one or two minor bits of work to be carried out, such as a railing to protect the ramp up to the new main entrance, but the hall looks really good, and a massive improvement on how it has been for many years.

**District Council Wards.**

For electoral purposes within South Derbyshire, the Boundary Commission had provisionally decided that Smisby should be linked with Woodville. The Parish Council, as well as a number of residents, disagreed strongly with this mis-match of electoral areas. As a result of representations being made to the Boundary Commission, they have now amended their proposals and intend to amalgamate Smisby into a rural ward that includes Ticknall and Repton, which was the preferred solution we put forward.

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## Women's Institute

*Smisby WI ended the year with the Walking Group meeting at Staunton Harold, followed by lunch in the Garden Centre restaurant; we then met for our monthly meeting in festive mood with superb refreshments after our speaker took us through "Four Seasons in Forty Four Minutes." Unfortunately the Harpur Crewe Group carol service had to be cancelled due to the bad weather but we ended the year feeling very positive for our future as an institute.*

*We begin our New Year activities on January 20th with a talk entitled "India and the Tiger". In February we have a member of the Air Ambulance coming to talk to us. In March we will hopefully burn some of our excess calories at a Folk Evening which promises to be great fun with dancing. If you would like to join in any of our activities, contact numbers can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Village Hall, the Walking Group on the second Thursday at 10.15am. We'd be delighted to see you.*



**Melbourne Group meeting.** These are quarterly meetings arranged by SDDC at which County, District and Parish Council representatives (and members of the general public) can exchange views and also have the opportunity of hearing presentations on topics of common interest.

There were two talks worth reporting from the meeting in early November. i) Representatives of the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue service explained how they are starting to tackle a budget reduction that will rise to 25% over the next 4 years. They claim that they will be able to absorb this cut in funds without compromising front line services. They are planning to make better use of premises, with the inevitable closure of some stations in low risk areas and the redeployment of staff to areas of higher risk.

ii) There was a talk about the forthcoming national census, which is conducted every ten years. The next census date is 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and will provide statistics for both national and local government to make decisions on the allocation of resources in the coming years. The census return forms will be delivered by the Royal Mail, and if anyone needs help in completing their form, they will be able to get someone to call round and lend assistance. It was also mentioned that there are many full-time and part-time job opportunities available in connection with the census. If anyone is interested in some temporary work, the jobs on offer are to be found on the census web site. The remuneration starts at £7 per hour.



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**Like to shop at Budgens?** We have been informed that a Community Care mini-bus is willing to pick up passengers from Smisby to go shopping at Budgens in Melbourne, free of charge. This is sponsored by the shop itself and would pick up individuals from their own home at around 9.30 to 9.45 on a Friday. Shopping time is around half an hour at Budgens, before passengers are dropped back home with their purchases. Although this can apply to anyone, it is mainly intended for older people and for the less able bodied. If you are interested in trying out this service then you need to telephone the Community Care Manager, Victoria Hancock at her office on 01332 863585 (10 until 2), or at other times, at home on 01332 863668. The organisers need to know several days in advance in order to plan pick-up routes etc.



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## St James Church

The annual Carol Service will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6.00 pm. It will be led by Canon David Edwards with Prof David Thomas also participating. There will be the usual seasonal refreshments at the end of the service, including mulled wine. On Christmas Day there will be Holy Communion at 9.00 am led by Revd Sandra Chantry.

## Allotment Society

Tara continues to make good progress in setting up the Smisby Allotment Society, and contributes the following paragraphs:

*Firstly, thank you to the Parochial Charity Trustees for their continued support and help and in particular to Andrew Parnham who now knows every inch of the allotment site. Thanks to Andrew, the site has been gated, manured, ploughed and fenced (against rabbits), so we are well on our way to being able to get started.*

*By the time the newsletter is distributed we were hoping to have a date in the diary for our first meeting to allocate plots and to discuss any queries. However the snow and freezing temperatures have arrived, and the ground is frozen solid, so there will now be an unavoidable delay in pegging out the plots etc.*

*Planning permission for car parking on the land has not yet been obtained and water has still to be laid on - but this is all in hand. At the moment we have 20 plots definitely booked, but there is more space available, so please get in touch if you would like an allotment (or half one perhaps?) either for yourself or for someone who is interested, but who may live outside the parish. Also if you have any plants, leftover seeds or any other items which you feel may be of use for allotment holders, then please shout - we are already the delighted owners of 10 sapling trees for our community orchard (from the National Forest) and some donated strawberry plants.*

You can contact the allotment team via [smisbyallotments@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:smisbyallotments@yahoo.co.uk) or speak to Tara on 01530 560330

## Smisby organisation contacts.

It has been suggested that it would be useful to print contact details for people who are involved in community activities for Smisby and the surrounding parish, so here are a few to note:

Parish Council: Mark Parnham, Chairman (01530 563084), Tara Kerr, Vice Chairman (01530 560330), Jeff Barnes (01283 217319), Lee Beedle (01530 411603), Andrew Moseley (01283 217365) and (for the time being!) Marie South as Parish Clerk (01530 411235).

The Parochial Charity. Trustees: Barbara Ball (01530 416411), Jeff Barnes (01283 217319), Peter Heap (01530 414179), Andrew Parnham (01530 411202) plus Sheila Heap as Clerk to the Trustees (01530 414179).

Smisby Church. Currently without a Vicar, but we still have our Curate, Revd David Railton (01332 862383). Churchwardens: Gary Margerrison (01530 414453) and Jeff Barnes (01283 217319).

Village Hall Committee. Chairman, Peter Heap (01530 414179), Secretary, Alex Aherne (01530 416949), Bookings Secretary, Janet Glover (07960 361374).

Women's Institute. President, Val Hanks (01283 211695), Secretary, Suzanne Jones (01530 415346)

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