

Smisby Newsletter Spring 2016

Issue 50

A very warm welcome to the Spring Edition of the Smisby Newsletter, the 50th edition of this local community publication. Smisby village looks forward to celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday with a special social gathering on Saturday 4th June 2016. The event gets underway at 2pm with a short talk and a tour of our local and beautiful St James' Church in Smisby. This will be hosted by Jeff Barnes where you can hear the church's fascinating history, and for adults there will also be the opportunity to climb the bell tower to enjoy a wonderful birds eye view of the village and the surrounding parish.

Celebrations then continue at 3pm with a shared table of sandwiches and cakes in Smisby Village Hall. Please all bring along some food and drink as we come together as a community to enjoy the afternoon. The village hall will be beautifully decorated to recognise this special occasion of the Queen's 90th Year. This will also include a Charity Tombola to raise money for the St James Church roof. Leading organisers Rachel Hewitt at Truro Cottage, and Dawn Barnett at Maycliffe, both resident on Chapel Street would really welcome any kind donations of prizes for this very important local cause.

Another important date for the community social diary will be a Film and Fish "n" Chip night, again in the Village Hall, on Saturday 24th September, where we can look forward to enjoying a cinema blockbuster on the superb audio visual system recently installed in the Smisby Village Hall. Full details will follow in the Summer edition of the Smisby Newsletter. We importantly wanted to signpost the diary date at this stage.

The final date for the calendar is Saturday 3rd December where we build on the hugely successful community event with the turning on of the lights on the Smisby Christmas Tree and the singing of traditional carols in St James Church.



This year will again be followed by a gathering in the Village Hall afterwards where we can enjoy some mulled wine to kick the Christmas festivities off. Let's all look to embrace all of these occasions and participate in your local community. Those who do, know what joyous occasions these can be.

The lovely photograph inset is the newly installed gateway feature and Smisby sign on the approach into Smisby along Annwell Lane. This provides a lovely welcome into our picturesque village and this project has been kindly funded by the Parochial Charity.

The New Petanque Piste On The Jubilee Grounds

The laying of a petanque (boule) court, called a piste, started on Saturday 7th May on the playing field.

There is only about a week's work involved, given fine weather, but the contractors have to use heavy machinery which until now they have been unable to move across the wet ground – and wet weather could yet cause a long hold up in completing the work, though hopefully that is unlikely. Two or more people from the Leicestershire Petanque Association are coming to Smisby on Sunday 3rd July to talk about the Petanque sport, and its rules, and then to give some basic coaching up on the piste. The talk itself will only last about a quarter of an hour, in the village hall, after which we go up to the new piste for the practice. The coaches will bring sets of balls with them, so no problem there. If anyone wants to have a go before that time, all it requires is to have a set of boules – if you don't have any, perhaps you know someone who does. This is a game suitable for all ages.



Parish Council News

Items from the 10th May Parish Council Meeting

Following an un-contested election all 5 Smisby Parish Councillors accepted their Terms of Office at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 10th May 2015. At this meeting Steve Hewitt was re-elected as Chairman and Sarah Rushman was re-elected as Vice-Chair. Councillors Mark Parnham, Simon Barnett and Rob Hounslow also remain on the Parish Council.

A reminder that all members of the SPC take on their respective roles purely on a voluntary basis and will always look to serve the best interests of the Local Community on a best endeavours basis. All members of the public are invited to parish council meetings, which are held in the village hall at 7.30pm. The dates for the next 12 months are; 12th July 2016, 13th September 2016, 8th November 2016, 10th January 2017, 14th March 2017 and the 9th May 2017.

If you do have any issues that you wish them to address on your behalf, please feel free to come along and speak to them. Smisby parish council members have themselves just undertaken a cleaning of the playground equipment on the Jubilee Grounds to ensure the youngest members of the parish can play in a clean and safe and environment.

The recently commissioned referendum on the proposed removal of the village green fir tree resulted in 100% in favour from the 61 voting slips returned, all in favour of removing the current tree. This will be replaced with a smaller Fastigate Oak and a separate plinth also put in place for a festive spruce each Christmas. The work for this will be undertaken in the next couple of weeks where the recently damaged posts around the village green itself will also be replaced.

The Parish Council is pleased to announce the imminent installation of a Defibrillator within the Parish as an important Emergency resource. This will be wall mounted under the entrance canopy to the Village Hall. Medically trained professionals, who live locally within the village, have kindly offered to undertake training for residents on the use of the defibrillator in case of an emergency. We are hopeful this will be installed within the coming weeks. Details of forthcoming training dates will follow under separate cover. This important project is being part funded in combination by Derbyshire County Council and the Parochial Charity.

Ashby Camera Club

Ashby Camera Club is pleased to continue meeting at Smisby Village Hall and appreciates the recently upgraded facilities. We have over 40 members ranging from novices through to professionals, and in age from junior school to, well, getting on a bit! Again, we've had several competitions throughout the year both within the club and against our local rivals Shepshed, Coalville, Burton, Melbourne and Earl Shilton. Competitions are a useful opportunity to have our work independently critiqued. We have a wide variety of renowned guest speakers and in the summer months visit local places of both general and photographic interest. Last year we had a display at Calke and will do so again this August. We were at Sharps Pottery during March and will be again next year. We're currently displaying at Ashby Library, and will be at Ashby Arts Festival.

We also have 'photo rambles' in our list of activities. These range from well-known local routes, like Calke and Staunton, to further afield including the Peak District, plus another popular weekend trip to the Lake District in preparation.

Our new programme, with about three meetings every month, is published on www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk. Winter programme meetings (Sept through to May) are usually at Smisby Village Hall, and Summer ones are as advertised.

For further information and contact see www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk, or speak to any member.

Parochial Charity

There have been unexpected delays in the implementation of a number of items that the charity is funding and which were mentioned in the previous newsletter. In regard to projects for the village hall, it will not be long before the air conditioning is installed (currently just held up by planning) and also for the hearing loop to be commissioned.

Planning consent is also awaited for a storage unit to be put in place on the Jubilee grounds. Hopefully the piste which is to be provided for petanque to be played on the grounds should also soon be in place. It seems that the contractor was unable to get onto the field for several months because of its waterlogged state.

A contractor has also been lined up to prepare a small area of the field onto which will be sown a 'wild meadow' seed mix, probably in August, ready to produce a show of flowers in 2017. If it works successfully then it should be self seeding for subsequent years, providing the 'meadow' is cut at the right time each year - in late summer and not before.

Following an overwhelming vote by residents in favour of removing the conifer on the green, the charity has agreed to make a grant to the Parish Council to cover the cost of felling the tree, digging out the roots and planting a suitable replacement tree that will only reach a modest height when it matures. The war memorial itself is to be cleaned and repaired where necessary. Investigations are being made to find out whether or not the names of some Smisby men who died in the two world wars are commemorated elsewhere, as there are some names that are currently missing for men who were born in Smisby but moved out of the village before they joined up. If the names are not engraved elsewhere then they will be added to the Smisby memorial.

St James' Church

Fundraising continues for the permanent roof replacement following the theft of almost all the lead covering last summer. The Smisby WI has been marvellous in



running a number of fund raisers for this project and plans another in the shape of bacon butties and a talk on the church history on Saturday May 14th starting at 10.30 am in church. Tickets are available from Pat on 01283 217319 or from Suzanne on 01530 415346. We have also been delighted to receive some extraordinarily generous personal donations for which the PCC is extremely grateful.

The total cost of the project which includes the replacement of rotted timbers (and modification of the gutters to prevent this happening again) as well as the architect and survey fees is now estimated at £82,000 including VAT. We have the balance of the insurance claim proceeds plus the donations received to date but currently we are still £56,300 short of meeting this cost. We await the outcome of grant applications that have been made - which are to some extent also dependent on demonstrating that we are ourselves successfully fundraising. (The Church Charity cannot be expected to contribute greatly to the roof repairs as its funds are earmarked for the very considerable amount of work that was highlighted by the 5 year structural survey carried out over a year ago.) The fundraising "thermometer" shows where we are currently. Fortunately it is anticipated that we will be able to recover the VAT element so this and the insurance payments we have received have been included in the total to date, as this makes us feel a bit better about the task in hand!

Whilst getting funds in place, we have also applied for consent for the work from SDDC and started the faculty process (the Church's equivalent of planning consent) but with Derby Diocese. We do not anticipate any problems as we have already ascertained that there will be no objections to replacing the lead sheeting with a zinc equivalent.

Even with the costs of such a big project to meet, maintenance and repair to the building has to go on. With some parts of the church over 900 years old it is not surprising that these are an unavoidable necessity. Recent investigation into wobbly pews revealed that there was a significant damp problem requiring complete reconstruction of a large area of the nave floor along with repairs to the lower stone course of the nave wall. Once removed it was evident that the base of some of the pews were badly rotted and these too are undergoing repair.

Any donation amount is important and most gratefully received; as every few pounds helps to demonstrate to those evaluating our grant applications that the Church is valued, whether for its heritage or as a place of worship, and that the community wants future generations to enjoy it as much as we do now. If you would like to donate, cheques should be made payable to St James PCC (although cash is equally welcome) and the use of your donation will be 'restricted' so that it is guaranteed to be spent on the roof work. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation this will make it even more valuable.





Smisby Village Hall

Twenty-three people attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Smisby Village Hall (SVH) on 26th April 2016. Ideally, this meeting should have been held at the end of January, to be within 3 months of the end of our financial year (31 Oct). However, the committee decided to delay the AGM, to be able to show the local parishioners the work achieved in upgrading the village hall. The following list outlines those achievements by the committee:

- Enabled SVH to become a Registered Charity (1163710) – necessary legal requirement as the annual income level was greater than £5K
- Updated the Risk Assessments
- Moved to on-line banking
- Set a Reserves Policy, with £10K invested for interest
- Redecorated SVH, both inside and out
- Refurbished the floors in the Main Hall, alcove and storerooms
- Installed a 'state of the art' Audio Visual system (with a 50% grant from SDDC)
- Installed free Wi-Fi
- Fitted a hearing loop into the ceiling of the Main Hall
- Replaced the SVH chairs to comfy cushioned seating
- Agreed funding for the installation of air conditioning into the Main Hall – we are just awaiting planning permission for the siting of the outside condenser
- Obtained quotes for replacement windows – these will be fitted with noise attenuating glass (this, together with air conditioning, will remove the need to open the windows in the summer when there are functions in the hall and hence avoid creating a noise nuisance for people living close-by)

Other on-going issues include:

- SVH is registered with the Charity Commission as a Trust, in accordance with our Governing Document. However, as we have 'members' (the local parishioners), who vote on electing up to 4 Trustees to serve on the committee, we operate more like a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. More information needs to be obtained and there will be a consultation process with the Charity Commission, before any changes are made
- Parking continues to be a problem in Smisby on occasions where both SVH and the Smisby Arms are busy. Both the Parish Council and local Councillors have taken up this issue. Yellow and white lines have been ruled out, as have defined areas for residence parking. The situation has been eased considerably during the day, since the Smisby Day Nursery has moved to its new premises. SDDC will be providing 'polite' stickers for the SVH committee to attach to the vehicle windscreens of those people who park inconsiderately, such as blocking resident's drives.
- When all the work is finally completed to upgrade SVH, the committee will be marketing the refurbished premises to the wider community, as there are still vacant opportunities for hire during the day.

Overall, SVH is in now in excellent order, we are in a strong financial position and our current hirers have stated how much they enjoy the facility. It is there to be used and enjoyed!

Rob Hounslow
Chairman Smisby Village Hall Committee
07720-348860

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Ashby Art Club



Ashby Art Club celebrated the successful Easter exhibition with a well attended party! The Easter Art Exhibition at Ticknall had record sales and a raffle raised money for the local charity Hospice Hope. Pictures can be found on the Art Club web site, www.ashbyartclub.org. February with local artist Di Lorriman was very well attended and members enjoyed the challenge of painting in a tonal range using just one colour. This was followed in March by a pastels workshop with Sarais Crawshaw, the well known wildlife artist. April featured a feather and ink workshop with Barbara Colbert. This was great fun as participants battled with painting with either end of a feather dipped in ink! An example of Barbara's work is shown in the photo. Currently members are busy preparing for the Ashby Art Festival outdoor art gallery and Art Exhibition as part of the running from 27th to 30th May 2016.

Full details of our programme can be found at www.ashbyartclub.org



Smisby WI

This year sees a change in the WI calendar. Instead of having our AGM in November it is, along with many other WI's being held this month, on May 19th at the Resolutions Meeting when we will also be discussing "Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia" and "Avoid food waste, address food poverty." We will then vote on each resolution and the results will be taken by our delegate to the Annual Meeting in Brighton and if successful will be presented to HM Government.



June 16th, our midsummer meeting will be a walk around Shardlow with our supper provided by Shardlow WI. This will be followed on 22nd by the Harpur Crewe Group "Tinsel and Tiara Royal Celebration" evening to mark the official 90th birthday of our Queen. This event will be held in Ticknall Village Hall.

The topic for our meeting on 21st July is King Richard 111. The speaker for the evening is Richard Stone from Barton under Needwood who is a regular speaker at the Magic Attic in Swadlincote.

The craft group continues to meet in the Village Hall at 10am on the first Thursday morning in the month and the Smisby Striders on the second Thursday, the third Thursday evening being our monthly meeting.

We now start the slightly earlier time of 7.15pm. Visitors are always welcome and more information is available by phoning 01530 416411.

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Useful Smisby Village Contacts:

Parish Councillors:

Chair - Steve Hewitt (07908 620002)

Vice Chair - Sarah Rushman

Parish Clerk - Emma Stroud (01530 587349)

smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

Councillor - Mark Parnham

Councillor - Simon Barnett (07855 969719)

Councillor - Rob Hounslow (07720 348860)

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

Councillor - Peter Smith (07894 338129)

peter.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk

Derbyshire District Councillor:

Councillor - Linda Chilton

linda.chilton@derbyshire.gov.uk

Parochial Charity:

Trustee - Barbara Ball (01530 416411)

Trustee - Jeff Barnes (01283 217319)

Trustee - Simon Barnett (01530 412491)

Trustee - Rob Hounslow (07720 348860)

Clerk - Sheila Heap (01530 414179)

Village Hall Committee:

Chairman - Rob Hounslow (07720 348860)

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 12th July 2016