

Smisby Newsletter Summer 2016

Issue 51

A very warm welcome to the latest Smisby Newsletter. In this edition we reflect on the Summer season within Smisby.

We begin with the sad news within the Parish of one of Smisby's eldest residents, Dolly Swindall, having passed away peacefully on 11th September 2016. The funeral took place on 20th September at St James' Church in Smisby.



Earlier in the summer the Parish Council were delighted to conclude the installation of a Defibrillator within the Smisby Village as an important Emergency resource. This has been wall mounted under the entrance canopy to the Village Hall. The cabinet is unlocked allowing access to the public. The cabinets alarm sounds when the door is opened which can be disarmed with the use of a key code. This we felt provided the access we wanted to offer in case of an emergency situation, whilst also acting as a security measure and deterrent if someone was actually trying to steal the unit.
An important reminder that the code for the cabinet is 2131.

The first training for residents on the use of the Defibrillator has already taken place, which was kindly facilitated by Doctor Ruth Green. This is a cause Ruth is very passionate about. Ruth helped save the life of a fellow runner who suffered a heart attack at the Allestree Park race in Derby where she was also competing. Assisted by fellow runners and the use of CPR and a defibrillator, they were able to co-ordinate a quick response as a team, which has enabled the runner to be making a full recovery after his ordeal.

The survival rate of patients who suffer a heart attack outside of a hospital is very low, so Smisby Parish Council is pleased to have the facility of a Defibrillator for emergency use within the village. This important initiative has been kindly funded by a County Council Grant and The Parochial Charity. Look out for information as further training sessions will take place in due course.

The summer also saw the laying of a petanque (boule) court, called a piste, completed on the Jubilee Grounds playing field. The Leicestershire Petanque Association visited Smisby on Sunday 3rd July to talk about the Petanque sport, and its rules, and then to give some basic coaching on the piste. This event was well attended by Smisby Parishioners, young and old, full of enthusiasm which provided healthy competition in which everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed. The guest coaches were certainly impressed with the new amenity and was one of the largest turnout they had seen at similarly organised village events. The facility is available for everyone to use and go up to the new piste to try out. This is a game suitable for all the family and all ages.

The Smisby Village Hall film night originally scheduled for the 24th September will now be arranged into the New Year with a revised date to be confirmed.

The final social 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. Please see reply slip below.



Smisby Christmas Gathering

We sincerely hope to see record numbers in attendance for the Christmas gathering on SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER beginning at 5.30pm with the singing of carols under the glow of candle light in the church before the Smisby Christmas Tree lights are turned on.

The last few years this has been a truly magical occasion and a wonderful and humbling reflection of the real spirit of Christmas within our community. This year the occasion will be followed by a Hog Roast, Complimentary Drink, Cash Bar and Festive Music in the Village Hall and the ideal chance to have a festive tittle with your neighbours. There will also be the surprise visit of an extra-special guest for the children!

This event will have limited spaces available, therefore please fill in the reply section below and overleaf if children attending. The replies will need to be back by SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER and returned to either -

**Rachael Hewitt at Truro Cottage, Chapel Street or
Dawn Barnett at Maycliffe, Chapel Street.**

Family name: _____ Address: _____ No of Vegetarians

Please indicate how many attending.

Adults Boy (Under 11) Boy (Over 11) Girl (Under 11) Girl (Over 11)



Parochial Charity

Rob Hounslow has been appointed to the charity Trustee committee by the Parish Council and he is warmly welcomed by the other Trustees. We also want to pay tribute to the excellent work done by Andrew Parnham who recently resigned from the committee after several years' valuable service.

After the petanque piste was installed in the Jubilee grounds we had a visit from two officials from the Leicestershire Petanque Association who both gave talks in the village hall about how to play this sport. Over 20 Smisby residents came along and we all then went up to the playing field and had some coaching about how to play. It was an enjoyable introduction to the game and we hope that lots of people will try their hand at the sport and make use of the piste. The sport is growing in popularity in this country, not least because it can be played by everyone, age is no barrier, young or old can enjoy it! Several sets of boules (the steel balls that are used for the game) have been purchased and are currently stored in the village hall from where they can be borrowed by contacting any member of the village hall committee. There is a set of petanque rules with each set of boules.

We are glad to learn that the hearing loop that we have funded is very close to being commissioned and that the air conditioning system is also fairly close to completion. The charity has paid for the removal of the old conifer on the War Memorial triangle and its replacement with a tree from the oak family, but not one that will grow massively in the coming years.

Along with a grant from Derbyshire County Council, the Parochial Charity has provided funding for the provision and installation of a defibrillator and heated box. This important emergency resource is now wall mounted under the entrance porch of the Village Hall for the use of in such an emergency. Thanks go to Ruth and Jason Green for running the first training session for residents on the use of the defibrillator.

We are investigating the costs that would be involved if the charity were to commission BT to upgrade broadband speeds in Smisby and the surrounding Parish. BT wants to know where the upgrades are needed and how many properties would benefit from improved download speeds. A short questionnaire is enclosed for you to complete, if you feel you could benefit from an improved broadband service. Please return the form as soon as possible if you are interested. The Charity is always looking for future community projects such as this, so any new ideas are welcome and will be given due consideration.

The Trustees met with their financial advisers in June to review the 2015–16 financial year. Overall it was a rather disappointing performance, reflecting financial markets generally over that period. Cash deposits continued to yield low returns and that trend is set to continue with the recent reduction in base rate. Equity related investments continued to give generally good dividend yields but there was some erosion of capital values.

The charity made a presentation to Mrs Jean Statt in July at the Patronal Festival service in church. Jean has been collecting documentation, newspaper cuttings and photographing village events over many decades now and her work is mostly stored in the village hall but with church related information kept at St James. The archive will continue to be brought out for viewing at some village events. Jean will be using her cheque to buy a new camera, which she has needed for some time, and also to purchase some more photo albums as she continues to bring her archives up to date. Thank you Jean for all your dedicated efforts, very much appreciated!

In the run up to Christmas, the charity needs to know whether there are any new names to be added to the Christmas hamper list. If you have reached the qualifying ages of 60 / 65 (women / men) by 25th December then please let Sheila Heap know as soon as possible on 01530 414179. The same applies for any youngsters that are in the age range 2 to 16 by Christmas Day, who we may not know about, in relation to book tokens that the charity provides each year for children living in the Parish. Finally, a reminder that any youngster leaving school, and off to Uni (or equivalent) this autumn, can apply to the charity for some financial help, e.g. against accommodation costs. Please contact Sheila about any of these potential benefits.

St James' Church

We are delighted to report that the church has been successful in its application to the Government sponsored "Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund" for a grant to



re-roof the church, following the theft of lead last year. Only about 25% of applicants have been successful in this round and grants have almost entirely gone to churches that had immediately started fund raising after the loss of their roofing. The grant is capped at £56,600, the level which makes good the shortfall between the total project costs and the amount already raised towards the work – the latter being the balance of the insurance payouts plus the funds raised through special events and generous individual donations.

The church PCC is enormously grateful to all those who have contributed to fund raising in any way. This positive approach was undoubtedly one of the factors that contributed to the success of the grant application, otherwise we would be in the position of the other 75% of churches who have to find all the roofing repair costs themselves. Repairs to the roof are expected to take about 3 months to complete and are scheduled to start some time in November. Disruption to church activities will be minimised as far as possible but scaffolding will be in place for the duration of the project.

The St James Patronal Festival service at the end of July was well attended and the church was superbly decorated for the occasion.

Events coming up shortly include Harvest Festival on Sunday October 2nd at 5.30 pm which will be followed by a harvest supper in the form of a finger buffet served in church. Anyone who can bring along a cake, some sandwiches etc. on the day, is asked to contact Pat Barnes on 01283 217319 who will be trying to ensure the usual attractive mix of goodies is available for this "bring and share" event.

On 13th November it is Remembrance Sunday with the special service starting at 5.30 pm. The "All Age" service on Sunday 20th November will be held in the Village Hall starting at 4.30pm. This change of venue relates to some uncertainty as to when the roofing project will start but it could be around that time - and we cannot be sure of what access problems there may be initially.

Professor David Thomas is shortly retiring from his post at Birmingham University and will then be moving house. David has been an Associate Minister in the Melbourne group of churches (of which we are a part) for some years now and he has taken many services at Smisby over the years.

It is with much regret that we will only be able to welcome David once more to St James when, on Sunday 16th October, he will lead our service of Holy Communion. Jeff Barnes is organising a collection for David over the next few weeks and will be happy to receive donations in cash, or by cheque payable to St James Smisby PCC. Contributions can be made at any church service or can be dropped off to Jeff at Downend, Heath Lane.

The search for a new Rector for the Melbourne group of churches is proceeding smoothly and interviews will be taking place at Melbourne over the next week or two, and these will involve a representative from Smisby. The earliest we can expect our Rector to take up their new post would be some time in January / February.

Ashby Camera Club

Ashby Camera Club is starting its winter season of talks, demonstrations, practical evenings and competitions. The season started with a fabulous talk from Paul Sanders, former picture editor for The Times giving an insight and raising awareness of all the issues around photojournalism, much of which was in conflict zones.

A perfect way to start the season. For our forthcoming programme and to contact us, please visit ashbycameraclub.co.uk .

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

Smisby Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to thrive and several organisations are making use of the excellent audio-visual facilities. We are continuing to improve the adaptability of this system by purchasing cables, which allow all ages of club computers to link up. David Waters, our expert on the communications, is very willing to help anyone resolve any issues to enhance their presentations or entertainment requirements. You may have noticed the siting of the Defibrillator in the porch of the Village Hall. This is a most welcome, life-saving accessory for our village community.



Adding a trip hazard awareness strip (in bright yellow!) on the step of the village hall entrance has fulfilled our final health and safety requirement. The two outstanding internal items of improvement, air conditioning and the hearing loop, are nearing completion. The aircon was delayed, as there were several planning constraints on siting the compressor outside, as the Hall is situated within the conservation area of Smisby. Both of these essential editions are hoped to be up and running by early October.

We have recently acquired 10, one metre square folding tables and the WI have purchased table clothes to go with them, available to anyone, which adds to our flexibility for parties, meetings, quiz nights. We are applying for grants towards replacing the windows with better insulating and sound-attenuating glass. This will not only cut down our heating bills, but also with the aircon in place, will allow noise from parties or any social gatherings to be constrained within the building, without the need for opening the windows and creating noise pollution to the local residents. The Hall is there to be used by the local community – if you have any functions or activities you would like to hold there, please contact our booking clerk Barbara Ball.

Rob Hounslow
Chairman Smisby Village Hall Committee
07720-348860

Ashby Art Club

Ashby Art Club 2016/17 season got off to a busy start with Joining Night at the beginning of September, when discounts were available on membership and on the workshop fees. In addition to the regular Monday evening meetings at the village hall, members will also meet on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of each month for this season, so the £40 membership represents good value.



Well known portrait artist Rob Waring provides the first demonstration of the season. He will paint a portrait of a member, working with pastels. Rob spends the winter in South Africa painting commissions and so the art club is fortunate to have him visit before he leaves for a warmer climate! This pastel demonstration is followed by a mixed media demonstration in October, when local artist Mary Smith, shows how to add colour and dynamism to a picture with her adventurous techniques. Mary will also run the first afternoon workshop of the season, on Saturday 15th October, covering some basic mixed media techniques.

In mid September some of the club members and tutors will provide a new art exhibition at the Castle Medical Group, Ascebi House, Burton Road, Ashby replacing the successful Ashby Camera Club photographic exhibition, which has been running over the summer. The Art Club also displays paintings at the North Street surgery in Ashby. The full details of the Art Club programme can be found on the club web site, see www.ashbyartclub.org. Non members can attend workshops (£5 extra to the fee) and come along to the demonstrations too (£5 per demonstration). Full details of our programme can be found at www.ashbyartclub.org

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



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T: 01530 413365

E: enquiries@helpathand365.co.uk

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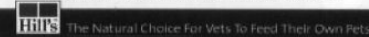
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Smisby WI

As the April monthly meeting was on the 21st, we toasted Her Majesty's 90th birthday, sang the National Anthem, and finished with a beautiful supper.

May was enjoyed with craft activities, a delightful walk through Hartshorne woods where bluebells, white blossom and fresh greenery was in abundance and an adventurous coach trip to London taking in The London Eye followed by a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament.

The end of May saw a group travel to Thorntons factory where a guided tour also took place finishing with a much enjoyed chocolate sample stop.

Many other activities have also taken place. An evening visit to Shardlow basin followed by a meal, a visit to a Melton Mowbray pork pie shop with an opportunity to make your own, a Tinsell and Tiara evening for the Harpur Crewe Group of WI's held at Ticknall village hall to celebrate the Queen's birthday as a group. Everyone dressed with much style and sparkle and a vivid talk about jewellery was given by the lady guest. The walking group, which takes place on the second Thursday of each month, enjoyed different venues and even ventured to Dovedale and the stepping stones. The craft group completed beautiful bracelets and an educational visit to Beumanor Hall was enjoyed by all. A petanque demonstration was given on the Park with a view to future regular games and a boisterous Race night followed by refreshments was held at the village hall.

The monthly meetings speakers have included a gentleman giving a thought provoking talk about Richard III and an ex naval diving officer who served on the Royal Yacht and also the Falklands war and was much admired for not only his bravery but also his sense of humour. Future speakers topics to look forward to are Canine Partners, a National Trust property, iradicating polio, gift wrapping skills and an evening of "Who do you think you are".



Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire

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

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Tel 01530 413 700 Fax 01530 417 600

www.bluebellnursery.co.uk

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 8th November 2016