

Smisby Newsletter

Winter 2017

Issue 52

A very warm welcome to this Winter 2017 issue of the Smisby Newsletter.



The Parish Council were delighted to see the successful conclusion to works being undertaken on Smisby village green with the planting of a new Fastigate oak, with a commemorative plaque and will be maintained in perpetuity by the Smisby Parish Council. In addition, the vista of St James' Church has now been permanently revealed and is visible for all residents and visitors to see. The Christmas lights were then mounted on a large seasonal fir spruce at Christmas time, which this year was very generously donated by Mark & Carol Parnham. The Village Green works were finished off with new ornate roped oak posts framing the green itself. These works were undertaken with the kind funding from The Parochial Charity and in part by Smisby Parish Council itself.

The traditional Smisby Village Christmas gathering then took place on 3rd December with the turning on of the Christmas Tree lights. This occasion again reflected a wonderful turnout within Smisby Parish, which saw many residents and families, young and old, congregate in St James Church where the singing of traditional hymns and carols took place beforehand under the warm glow of candlelight. As in previous years this was a truly magical celebration and a wonderful humbling reflection of the real spirit of Christmas within our community, where the hearts of all those who attended were uplifted. This year the occasion was again followed by a Hog Roast and gathering in the Village Hall which provided the ideal chance to have a festive tippie of mulled wine, a chat with our neighbours and saw a surprise special guest make an appearance for all the children. This year also saw a special raffle which was successful in raising a donation towards the St James Church roof fund. Thanks again to everyone who kindly gave prizes for the raffle itself.

Smisby Parish Council were also pleased to see the conclusion to the Chapel Street road works. The Parish Council had been lobbying Derbyshire County Council for the past two years and were successful in securing the approval and funding to undertake the remedial works following the implementation of a scheme which had previously been completely ineffective and caused an unacceptable eye sore within the village as the road and retaining verge were in a state of disrepair caused by vehicle usage. The new scheme now sees a beautiful part of the village restored again with the installation of new kerb stones and the complete road width now laid to Tarmac. We would like to thank the residents of Chapel Street for their patience during the remedial works which spanned across the Christmas break disrupting parking and normal access for certain dwellings.



Smisby Village Hall

A very Happy New Year to all our Smisby Village Hall users – it is your facility to be used and enjoyed by you. If you have functions or activities you would like to hold, please contact our booking clerk Barbara Ball on 07526 268 698. If you have a specific date in mind, please plan ahead and book asap as weekends are proving to be popular for parties.

During the latter quarter of the year, the Air Conditioning has been completed with wooden screening hiding the condenser on the eastern wall with access for maintenance. This will be a valued addition to the hall for keeping it cool during the summer months whilst minimising hall noise to local residents, by being able to keep doors and windows closed. In addition it can also be used to assist with the heating during the winter months. We are currently waiting for planning approval for the installation of new conservation approved windows with sound limiting glazing to provide further soundproofing for events using the Audio Visual System.

It has now come round to the next AGM Meeting for the Village Hall which will be held on the 31st January 2017 at 7pm and we would welcome maximum attendance for the evening. The AGM date and time has also been posted on the notice board outside the Village Hall. In accordance with our rules, the current elected committee members must stand down and there will be an election for the vacant positions.

As a reminder the committee comprises:

- Up to 4 elected charity trustees
 - Up to 2 appointed charity trustees from:
 - Smisby Parish Council
 - The Parochial Church Council
 - The Women's Institute
 - The Parochial Charity in the Ancient Parish of Smisby
- and may include:
- Up to 2 co-opted charity trustees

We look forward to seeing you on the 31st

Simon Barnett
Vice Chair Smisby Village Hall
07855 969719



Parish News

Possible Playing Field improvements

Outdoor play for teenagers and young adults is very important because of our sedentary and technology-based, indoor lifestyles. Smisby is very fortunate in having a well maintained playing field with play equipment for young children and also a trim trail and new boules area for parishioners. However, there is no play equipment suitable for 12 to 17 year old children. What do you think? Should the village ask the Parochial Charity to consider some funding to meet the specific needs of teenagers? Please contact either Sheila Heap (info@prestex.co.uk), the Parochial Charity secretary or Marie South on 01530 411235 to express your views about this idea. If there is enough support, there is a possibility that some funding might be obtained.

Defibrillator within the Smisby Village

The Parish Council are keen to remind the parishioners of 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. The code for the cabinet is 2131. The first training for residents on the use of the new Defibrillator took place last summer which was kindly facilitated by Doctor Ruth Green. Look out for information as further training sessions will take place in due course.

Chapel Street Bin Collection

It would be really helpful if all residents on Chapel Street who park on the road could ensure their vehicle is not obstructing or limiting access along Chapel Street on Tuesday evenings in readiness for the Bin Collection early on Wednesday mornings. In particular, bite points are on the corner at the top of the initial rise up from Main Street as the Refuse Lorry turns left along Chapel Street by the phone box and then at the Church end where the new kerbing has been laid. This will help the driver negotiate this particularly narrow street. Thanks for your help and co-operation with this.

Smisby Phone Box

BT had served notice to remove Smisby phone box as part of a national programme to de-commission boxes that did not satisfy minimum usage requirements. The Parish Council have applied to purchase the phone box for one pound to retain this iconic feature within the village. Following its de-commission we will be exploring different projects for its usage which have been undertaken by other villages.

Parochial Charity

The trustees have made a grant to the Parish Council which will cover much of the cost of replacing the rotting posts round the War Memorial green with sturdy oak posts that should last a generation and which have been set in concrete. The triangle project will be completed by a refurbishment of the Memorial stone itself. Ground conditions proved unsuitable for sowing a patch of the Jubilee grounds with a wild flower seed mix last summer and it is anticipated that this work will now be carried out in the spring.

Returns from residents, responding to our enquiry about broadband speeds in the area, has shown that an upgrade would be very popular amongst many residents throughout the village and surrounding parish. BT have told us that there are three feeder cabinets involved and that it would be a very expensive exercise but we are waiting for a detailed quotation before any decision is made on whether to proceed with this project.

The new air conditioning system for the village hall that the charity is funding is now installed and operational and will be available for cooling in the summer when needed – but can also be used as an alternative source of heating in cold weather.

Hampers were delivered to pensioners just before Christmas and the trustees are grateful to Andrew Parnham for providing the wheels (and the legs) in making these deliveries to recipients together with "Santa's helpers" (Sheila and Barbara). Promised book tokens for the children were a bit delayed but are currently being issued to youngsters who qualify for them.

It is important that the charity increases its investment in good agricultural land as it is a rare commodity that historically (and consistently) rises in value faster than inflation in contrast to our endowed cash capital on deposit that loses value directly in line with CPI. Our change of land agent to Fisher German has not so far yielded any potential purchases at sensible prices but they are continuing the search on our behalf. Land does not produce much income but it helps to maintain the value of the charity's capital base, together with our equity related investments but these are much less reliable in their performance.

St James' Church

Revd Steve Short is the newly appointed Rector for the United Benefice and he is transferring from elsewhere in the Derby Diocese. He and his wife have a young son and daughter and are now in residence at Melbourne Rectory. He will be formally installed in his new position at a special service at Melbourne at 7.30pm on 31st January and will take up his duties immediately after that event. We warmly welcome him to St James and look forward to seeing him here.



Following the theft of the lead roofs in 2015 it has been a long process to raise funds and get the various permissions to replace the temporary felt coverings with a permanent steel roof. However, scaffolding is now in place and work starts in mid January, with the project expected to be complete by early April. In line with insurance requirements the scaffolding is alarmed against intruders but should you see any suspicious activity outside of working hours, please do not hesitate to call the police. We needed planning consent from the Local Authority, as well as legal authority from the Chancellor of the Diocese for this work, as well as permission to start from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, all of which contributed to a delayed start.

Although St James' roof cannot be seen from ground level, the steel will be coated to look as close as possible to lead, but of course has a lower scrap value and is significantly harder to remove than lead. Many churches in the area, blighted by these thefts, have also been allowed non-lead replacements. With the total project costs expected to be around £82,000, the work could not have been started without the help and support from Smisby WI and individual donations which together having raised over £7,300 and understood to have helped to secure a grant of £56,600 from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund. The balance of the project costs will be met by the remainder of the insurance proceeds, VAT recovery, and from PCC funds.

Every parish has to make a financial contribution to the Diocese to help pay the salary, pension contributions and other related overheads for having the staff legally required to meet management and governance obligations as well as a minister in charge for each parish. There has been a formula in place for years that determined how much has to be paid in this way by St James and all the other parishes in the Diocese. However, after years of discussion centrally, a new formula has been derived and imposed, much to the detriment of Smisby who find their contribution almost trebled from a bit over £3,000pa to over £9,000pa – and it is non-negotiable. How we will cope with this additional burden, taken in conjunction with the high cost of unavoidable repairs and maintenance to the Church, does give cause for concern, as our income has remained quite static in recent years.

Our Remembrance Sunday service was well attended and for the first time our local MP, Heather Wheeler, joined Parish, SDCC and County Authority representatives in laying wreaths at the War Memorial during the service.

There were 47, including 14 children, at the Christingle service and the church was well filled for our annual carol service, and there was also a good attendance for Christmas morning Holy Communion.

We work very hard caring for and maintaining St James and it would be lovely to share this wonderful heritage and its services with even more of you. A warm welcome is assured, and refreshments are served after services.





Smisby Village Hall AGM

Next AGM Meeting for the Village Hall will be held on the 31st January 2017 at 7pm

Everyone welcome to attend the evening.

Help At Hand 365



Domestic / Commercial Cleaning Services

Domestic / Commercial Gardening & Grounds Maintenance

Home Pet Care Visits

Dog Walking

Contact

Emilie Barnett or Sarah Batterson

M: 07935 331174

T: 01530 413365

E: enquiries@helpathand365.co.uk

Ashby Art Club

The regular Monday evening meetings at the village hall continue to be well supported, and also the additional morning sessions, held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

In January, members enjoyed John Blundells demonstration of how to paint a seascape in water mixable oils. These new oil paints are environmentally friendly and now widely available.

Our next two demonstrations will both be by Art Club members; namely Bob Harris in February and Richard Knowles in March. Members are very busy preparing for the club Annual Art Exhibition at Easter, This is held in Ticknall village hall.

The art exhibition at the Castle Medical centre, Ascebi House, Burton Road, Ashby has now been replaced by the Ashby Camera Club photographic exhibition for the next month or so and then resumes. The Art Club also regularly 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).



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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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Ashby Camera Club

Ashby Camera Club started 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.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Smisby WI are a small but very friendly institute and meet on the third Thursday in the month in various locations. We have a varied programme with a speaker at most meetings.

Smisby WI meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month, 7.00 pm for 7.15 pm prompt start. All meetings normally in Smisby Village Hall.



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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

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 14th March 2017**