

Smisby Newsletter Spring 2017

Issue 53

Welcome to the latest edition of the Smisby Newsletter which is reflective of Spring News within the Parish. The ongoing emotional issue of parking concerns within the village was particularly emphasised with the potential problems this could cause with restricted access for Emergency Service vehicles. Hazel Salt, had the unfortunate trauma of a house fire at her residence on Chapel Street. This was a result of an electrical fault within an airing cupboard. Thankfully Hazel was not hurt in the incident although her house suffered considerable smoke, fire and water damage. During the incident the main concern surrounded access to the village along Main Street and up onto Chapel Street where certain cars had to be moved to accommodate the Fire Engines attending the scene. Any further unnecessary delay could have resulted in casualties and further adjacent properties could have been caught up in the blaze. In the face of adversity, it was however encouraging to see the remarkable community spirit within the village present itself with many people rallying around on the evening of the fire. In particular Mark Parnham and John Kiely actually trying to tackle the initial fire, whilst others helped providing blankets and cups of tea accommodating neighbours who couldn't gain access to their own properties on Chapel Street, which was cordoned off whilst fire crews tackled the blaze. As residents, we must all take responsibility to ensure we are not restricting access for emergency vehicles. Every club and association using Smisby Village Hall will also be made fundamentally aware of the potential tragic consequences to the lack of concern or heightened awareness to their actions of poor or inconsiderate parking whilst visiting the village. We are also exploring possible parking restrictions along one side of Main Street to avoid log jams and bottle necks at the narrowest points of the road.

WE'RE HOPING IT ISN'T A DEAD END



When you really need us, will we be able to reach you?

When you park, please ensure:

- You leave extra room near tight corners
- Do NOT park on double yellow lines
- Check that there is enough space for a fire engine to pass
- Park as close to the kerb as possible

LEICESTERSHIRE
FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE



WARNING!

On Saturday 7 March, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Leicestershire Police and City Parking Wardens will be checking this area for illegally and irresponsibly parked vehicles.



We wanted to raise the awareness of the Smisby Facebook Group within the Parish. This is called Smisby Village News and there are currently 41 active members. This network forum is a good way to communicate with fellow parishioners or alert people to a particular subject. This allows you to have live instant messaging conversations. You don't have to be friends on Facebook to participate in these conversations. Using the instant messaging feature gives you real-time contact with your fellow neighbours.

Yuk! dog fouling - Please don't let your dog foul outside my home.

Yuk! is the Derbyshire County Council campaign against dog fouling. Help to keep our Village free of dog mess. Dog fouling is ongoing problem and nuisance within the Parish. As always, unfortunately it is the responsible dog owners who are implicated because of the actions of a very small minority within a community who fail to follow the basis etiquette of being a dog owner and clearing up after your own pet. This requires vigilance by everyone and anyone observed not bagging up dog foul should be reported to the Council. South Derbyshire's Dog Control Order makes it illegal for an owner not to pick up after their dog in all public open land in South Derbyshire. They are also instructed to investigate all complaints about dog fouling and to act on any intelligence about possible offenders. Not only can dog mess cause stomach upsets and headaches, but also asthma and blindness. To help combat the danger you can display one of the weather-proof Yuk! signs. Pick one up from any Derbyshire library or complete the form on line and they will post a sign out to you. They can be attached to gates, fences, or displayed in a window. These signs should act as a reminder to the small amount of irresponsible dog owners to think of the health risks if they don't clear up after their pets. It is every dog owners duty to clean up after their dog. There are no excuses, fouling is unacceptable



Commonwealth Chance



Laura Hewitt, one of the young parishioners from Smisby village has achieved tremendous success as an elite athlete in her specialist sport of Weight Lifting. Laura competes in the female 58kg category and is currently British Champion 2016 and English Champion 2017 within her weight division. Laura is hoping to be in contention for potential selection for the England squad for the Commonwealth Games to be held in April 2018 in Australia. We wish Laura all the best in her pursuit of achieving her ambition to compete for her country on the international stage. She will be competing in the British Championships at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry in July as part of the ongoing selection process.

Smisby Village Hall



The long-term plans that we have had in place for improving the Village Hall are nearing completion. Recently, we have installed air conditioning so that during the summer months when we have bookings inside the hall and the weather is warm enough (hopefully),

the windows can remain closed and the air conditioning switched on. This would mean that any potential noise nuisance is contained within the Hall. All hirers will be briefed on this practice accordingly. Minor works have been carried out to the internal plumbing and Severn Trent have changed the water meter to a current model, as we believed the old one was faulty and we were paying too much for our water supply. Time will tell if our thoughts were correct.

The only outstanding upgrades are some minor building works at the rear of the hall, where the land height needs reducing below the damp course and the installation of replacement windows. The windows require planning permission, as the Hall is within the conservation Area, and this process is currently underway.

Needless to say, because of the excellent facilities that we offer, the Village Hall is a very popular venue for a variety of activities. However, the popularity of the Hall brings with it the issue of parking. I am very much aware that this causes safety issues, highlighted recently by a house fire in Chapel Street (see comments by the Chairman of the Parish Council). Thankfully, the fire engine was able to get through after some cars were moved, but this caused an unnecessary delay. Although very upsetting for the house occupant, this fire has proved the seriousness of the overcrowded parking in the Village. This is not always the fault of the Village Hall as walkers, cyclists and visitors to the Smisby Arms, do contribute towards this issue. To highlight this issue on 12 March Main Street was almost impassable, owing to a visitor to School Row parking an Audi TT on the road, too close to a resident's Ford S-Max parked opposite.

Hirers of the Village Hall will be briefed on this specific issue by myself, asking for them to car share whenever possible and be mindful about parking and potentially blocking the road. Additionally, the Parish Council will be looking at bringing in more parking restrictions, in conjunction with the local Council, in Main Street to prevent parking in certain areas where the road is not considered wide enough to have double parking.

Parochial Charity

An area of the Jubilee grounds will be sown with a mix of 'wild meadow' seed this coming August. The contractor will inspect the chosen area in July, prior to the most suitable seed mix being formulated. He was unable to carry out any sowing this past spring due to work commitments already made but advises that an August sowing is much more likely to be successful anyway. Three new benches and two picnic tables have been ordered for the playing field and should be delivered fairly soon.

The land agents working for the Charity have been unable to locate any land near the village centre that could be converted into use as car parking. The Charity did make an offer (at a figure recommended by our advisers) for some land that was for sale on the Derby Road but our bid was unsuccessful. The land in question would hardly have been suitable for car parking but it was felt that it could have been a useful investment for the long term future.

The Trustees met with their financial adviser a couple of times recently. The first meeting was to discuss potential equity related investments that our adviser felt would suitably widen our portfolio. We subsequently agreed to accept three of the four suggestions he put forward and these will take the place of recently matured investments. The following meeting, just a few days ago, was the annual review of all Charity investments – these producing the dividends and interest that the Trustees can spend for the good of Smisby Parish and its residents. There has been a healthy increase in our total capital over the last year, brought about largely by the excellent performance of stock markets across the world in which we are invested. On the other hand, even lower return on cash capital has reduced the revenue that is available for us to spend. We discussed the possible need to invest further cash capital into equity related investments and Clear Solutions will be putting further advice to us about this in the next month or two.

Parish News

Following an un-contested election all 5 Smisby Parish Councillors accepted their Terms of Office at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 9th May 2017. 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; 11th July 2017, 12th September 2017, 14th November 2017, 9th January 2018, 13th March 2018 and the 8th May 2018.

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.

St James' Church

There has been a warm welcome for Revd Steve Short, as the new Rector for the United Benefice, and we include a brief message from him: "I'm thrilled to have been appointed



as your new Rector and, along with my wife Rachel and our two young children (Sophie and Benjamin), very much look forward to meeting everyone in Smisby." As Steve settles into the new role we unfortunately lose our curate, Revd Angela Plummer, who has been attached to the Melbourne group of churches for the last four years and took many of the services at St James. We wish her well in her new post as Vicar of a parish in the Newcastle area.

The re-roofing project was completed on schedule in early April but it took an age for the protective scaffolding and screening to be removed. All now looks back to normal however and the project was obviously successful as there were no leaks to be seen from recent heavy rain!

Easter was celebrated with a morning Communion on Easter Sunday and this service was well attended. Otherwise, a normal pattern of services has been maintained by the new Rector - though it is a tough call managing without the help of a curate in the four parishes.

You may have noticed that the churchyard has recently suffered from an invasion of moles which required a pest control company to be brought in. So far, they seem to have been successful, with no new mole hills in the last week or two.

By the time the newsletter is circulated the cherry trees bordering Annwell Lane should have been trimmed back as they had reached the stage where they could cause an obstruction to high sided vehicles in the lane.

The next major event in the church calendar is our Patronal Festival and the church will be beautifully decorated for the occasion, with the evening service starting at 5.30 pm on Sunday 30th July. As always, a warm welcome is extended to everyone who can join us on this St James' day.

Ashby Art Club

The club has just held its Annual Easter Art Exhibition at Ticknall, which was opened by the Mayor of Ashby, Mr Mike Ball. There was a 25% increase in public attendance, with 520 visitors, excluding club members. Forty nine paintings were sold and the raffle raised £378 for the Air Ambulance charity.

A number of Art Club members are exhibiting their 8'x4' painted boards in the Ashby Arts Festival Outdoor exhibition. These are on show on walls in Ashby town centre and are part of the Art Trail. members are also exhibiting their pictures in the Festival Art exhibition held over the Spring Bank holiday at the Ivanhoe College, North Street

The next Monday evening demonstration will be on watercolour flowers by local artist Cheryl Wilberham, on 12 June. Ashby Art Club takes a short break during August when there are no Monday evening meetings and then the 2017/18 programme starts on Monday 4th September, with a reduced joining fee on the first night. Information about the all various events, demonstrations and workshops running this season can be found on the Art Club website, www.ashbyartclub.org.



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Contact

Emilie Barnett or Sarah Batterson

M: 07935 331174

T: 01530 413365

E: enquiries@helpathand365.co.uk

Ashby Camera Club

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.

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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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)

Facebook:

Smisby Village News



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

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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