

Smisby Newsletter Winter 2018

Issue 55



Welcome to the latest edition of the Smisby Newsletter which is reflective of Winter News within the Parish. The beginning of December brought the very sad news that Chris Smith had unfortunately lost his incredibly brave battle with cancer. Chris died peacefully on 1st December. Chris was a hugely popular character within the village and a truly wonderful person, friend and neighbour. His goodwill and care to many of elderly residents within the Parish over a number of years was a reflection of Chris's kind heart and human spirit. He always had a smile on his face and his personality always lit up a room. His funeral service which took place on 14th December at Bretby Crematorium saw a huge congregation with a particularly strong presence from Smisby residents. Chris loved living in Smisby and was such an important part of the happiness within his life. His partner Neil been incredibly touched by the strength of community that has rallied around him to support him at such a difficult time. The purple balloons displayed at many of the dwellings within the village on the day of the funeral was a very touching tribute to Chris and Neil. On behalf of Chris's family Neil would also like to thank everyone for their generosity and support which saw them raise £1205.71 for Macmillan Cancer in Chris's memory. After the service a gathering took place in Smisby Village Hall which was a fitting celebration of Chris's life. Neil wanted to thank the Village Hall Committee for allowing them to use the venue and also to Jane Mansfield and her team for the superb job in providing the catering to mark the occasion.



The traditional Smisby Village Christmas gathering took place on 2nd 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 tittle, a chat with our neighbours and saw a surprise special guest make an appearance for all the children.

The ongoing emotional issue of parking concerns continues within the village. Chapel Street now appears to be having its own issues with more resident cars now evident in the street and building works being undertaken at a number of properties. As residents, we must all take responsibility to ensure we are not restricting access for emergency vehicles. 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 St. In particular, bite points are on the corner at the top of the initial rise up from Main Street onto Chapel Street by the phone box and then at the Church end where the new kerbing has been laid. It is also important to keep access to the Jubilee Grounds clear at all times and not park in the front of the bollard. Grounds maintenance contractors will need access throughout the year and it is an important safety control as children and families are accessing the playground area. Thanks for everyone's help and co-operation with this.



**THINK
BEFORE YOU PARK**

The extra time taken
to reach an incident
can cost lives!

PLEASE MOVE YOUR CAR

Selected for the Commonwealth Games



Laura Hewitt has been selected for the Commonwealth Games to represent England down under in Australia on the Gold Coast in April 2018 as a Weight Lifter in the Female 58kg competition. Laura had previously been a competitive gymnast for Coalville Gymnastic Club representing the club successfully at both Regional and National levels. Following a brief spell competing in the growing sport of CrossFit, her talent for weightlifting was spotted and she was invited by British Weightlifting onto a Golden Chance screening process at Loughborough University, to identify potential athletes for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, where she was selected onto the elite training programme. Now aged 23, and in only just over 3 years into her specialist sport, Laura has already been successful in becoming British Champion twice in the 58kg female category winning successive senior Gold Medals at the Coventry Ricoh Arena in both 2016 and 2017. Laura has subsequently competed for Great Britain in the U23 European Championships in Albania last Autumn achieving personal bests in both the Snatch with 81kg and the Clean & Jerk 101kg which has been the catalyst for her selection for the Commonwealth Games by Team England. Laura trains at Atlas Gym in Alfreton, Derbyshire under the expert coaching guidance of both Cyril Martin and Dave Sawyer, who including Laura, have three girls in the England Team for the forthcoming games. Following confirmation of her selection Laura is incredibly proud to represent her Country on the international stage which has always been a lifelong dream. There are 70 participating nations scheduled to compete at the 2018 Commonwealth Games where the Female 58kg Weight Lifting competition takes place on 6th April.

The 1st Thursday Club

We wanted to raise the awareness of a new social initiative in Smisby this year called The 1st Thursday Club. It's an informal opportunity to meet in The Smisby Arms once a month and enjoy a couple of sociable drinks with your neighbours. On each first Thursday in the month we will meet in the snug of the Smisby Arms for drinks around 8.30/9pm. It would hopefully create a real sense of a village pub atmosphere with neighbours enjoying drinks together. People can come alone or come down as couples as we would hope there should be plenty of people to chat to. Chance to look forward to a few drinks amongst friends. The next gathering is scheduled for 1st March. Hopefully see you there.

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 basic 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

Smisby Village Hall



This news comes hot off the press following another successful AGM, held on 30 January 2018 at the Village Hall. The minutes of the last meeting were passed without comment and the Chairman went through the achievements of this year and the issues that still challenge the committee.

I am pleased to say that we have published a new Risk Assessment Register (available to see in the Hall) and are fully Health & Safety compliant. This is in line with Charity regulations for an organisation such as ours. We provided a set of certified accounts for 1 Nov 16 – 31 Oct 17 and we remain in a viable position. Our income for the year ahead is predicted to be slightly down, as we lost one regular hirer. However, that situation could easily change, should new organisations wish to use the hall on a regular basis. We have set aside a reserve of £10K, in accordance with our policy, which is earning interest annually. In sum, we are in a strong financial situation. We are about to install the long-awaited replacement windows in the hall – work will commence on 5 or 6 February and will take about 3 days to complete. Our final planned project will be to replace the window blinds and fit curtains in the main hall. We are looking for other projects to improve the facilities that we can offer.

Last November we held a very successful Wine Tasting Event organised by Mike and Chris Cuming – this was attended by about 25 villagers and will be repeated by popular request! On 24 February, there will be a Quiz Night with food, organised by David Waters, which we hope will attract wide interest.

Parking remains an issue, though it was agreed that the new parking awareness signs had played a significant part in reducing complaints. The committee are continually looking at other options that may help relieve the situation. The current committee were voted in, unopposed, for a further term of 12 months. We are very fortunate to have Trustees, who serve on the Committee, with such a range of diverse skills, who can cover almost anything!

Please consider using this excellent facility for your social events – it is really cheap to hire!

Rob Hounslow
Chairman of Trustees
Smisby Village Hall

Parochial Charity

Parochial Charity The Report & Accounts for the Charity's financial year 2016 / 17 were submitted to the Charity Commission and can now be viewed on their web site under the name of our charity. Our expenditure was some £6,000 greater than our income in the year with several projects coming to fruition, as reported in previous newsletters. The Parochial Charity has healthy financial reserves, so the Trustees would be delighted to hear of any good ideas for potential future projects that anyone might like to suggest. Projects need to benefit the Village / Parish or the residents of our community. You can talk over any ideas with Dawn Barnett or Rachel Hewitt (being a sub-committee that connects with the Trustees) or talk to any of the Trustees directly, whose contact details are to be found at the end of the newsletter.

At long last, a small area of the Jubilee grounds was sown with a wild flower seed mix in late summer and this has been roped off to give it the best chance of success (and to avoid its being mown of course). We are told that there is only a slim chance of the flowers doing well as the grass has been cut for years with the clippings being left to rot down in the ground. This naturally enriches the soil – something that wild flowers do not appreciate. We will just have to wait and see!

A substantial area of National Forest, to the south of the village, was recently on the market and the Trustees examined the area together with their Land Agent. It would be good to have some woodland that residents could utilise, but we found that maintenance costs are high, not only for forest management itself but because of the waterlogged state of much of the ground – so we decided not to make an offer for the land. We'll keep looking!

Replacement windows that we have funded are to be installed very soon in the Village Hall and will much reduce the noise levels emanating from musical events in the hall, the windows being especially constructed for this purpose.

Finally, a big "thank you" to several people: first to Dawn and Rachel for the tremendous effort they put into making the Christmas party such a success, starting with the carols in church and moving to the village hall for supper and entertainment - and for Santa's gifts to the children, the evening all being paid for by the charity. Secondly, to Peter and Sheila Heap for their delivery of the Christmas hampers to the pensioners in the Parish, which they carried out under difficult and wintry conditions.

St James' Church

St James Church. The church was packed for our Carol Service on Christmas Eve and the occasion was extra special thanks to Hazel and her children's choir. This made an early start to Christmas festivities for many Smisby residents - and just a few hours later many of our 'regulars' were back in church for Christmas Day Communion.



Our Christingle service on 21st January had to be cancelled at short notice due to snow and ice making the church paths quite dangerous. However, this Christingle Service has now been re-arranged for Sunday 18th February, starting at 4.30pm and we hope to see many of the children at this traditional service for them and their families.

There will be a Mothering Sunday service on 11th March, which again starts at 4.30 pm and the youngsters can expect to receive potted plants to pass to their parents at some point in the proceedings.

Due to low attendances at our All Age Worship, over quite a long period of time, the PCC has decided to discontinue these services, in terms of these being regular monthly events, but to maintain them for special occasions, as per Christingle and Mothering Sunday, mentioned above. Possibly for other events as well – and these will be notified through future newsletters and by notices on the church gates. We very much want to engage with youngsters in Smisby and would welcome any ideas for ways of having All Age Worship in a different form, in a different place, at a different time or on a different day of the week. Any suggestions? Just make contact with someone at church if you have a good idea about a possible way forward.

At the end of Lent, we look forward to Easter and Holy Communion on Easter Sunday will be at 9.00 am.

Ashby Art Club

Ashby Art club meets on Monday evenings and bi monthly Wednesday morning in the village hall. Visitors and new members are welcome. Information about the all various events, demonstrations and workshops running this season can be found on the Art Club website, www.ashbyartclub.org.



The first, well attended demonstration, of 2018 was an acrylic cityscape by well known member John Smith who paints as Jay Dubya. This followed a Saturday morning watercolour workshop run by member Bob Harris. He described the tonal work of Edward Musson, and a picture of Wells Next Sea was painted by each participant. The next demonstration will be on 12 February by Bill Lupton, showing members how to paint a dramatic water colour landscape, as a monotone or using colour. (see pictured example). This is followed by a beginners oil painting workshop on 17 February run by member Yve Hill. The March demonstration will be a watercolour wet in wet picture by Christine Adams, a member of Birmingham Watercolour Society, who specialises in floral and interiors. Members learnt that the theme for the Ashby Festival wall art is "Transport through the Ages" and a number have volunteered to paint 8' x 4' boards. However, before this festival over the late May bank holiday, members are busy preparing art work for the club's Annual Easter Art Exhibition, held at Ticknall. www.ashbyartclub.org.

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.

Happy New Year to all.

Here is a run down of all the WI activities in the past six months.

General meetings with various interesting speakers have taken place on the third Thursday of each month. Craft on the first Thursday and Smisby Striders on the second.

In addition to these we visited Trentham Gardens and went on to the potteries. An evening at Chatsworth Farm Shop. A day out to Bletchley Park where several husbands also came along. Ladies Day at Uttoxeter Races. Murder Mystery evening in the village hall. A visit from the new WI Chair. A Quiz night and to round off 2017 a lovely Christmas lunch at Willesley Golf Club.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

VILLAGE ISSUES HAVE YOUR SAY

Do you feel strongly about issues in Smisby village?

Do you want a say on local matters?

Do you want to give something back to your community?

Are you interested in volunteering in coming on to the Smisby Parish Council?

The current Committee have been together for a number of years now and are always keen to encourage and welcome new members to the Parish Council.

If this is something you would be interested in please speak to any of the current serving Councillors, Steve Hewitt, Sarah Rushman, Mark Parnham, Simon Barnett or Rob Hounslow.

Ivanhoe Countrystore

Remember to stock up on dinner for your best friend!



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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

[facebook](#)

Defibrillator Code

2131

Location: Village Hall

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

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Next meetings are - 13th March 2018 and the 8th May 2018.