
SMISBY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

March 2021



Phone Box

We welcome the arrival of our newly relocated phone box and hope you agree that it sits well in its new location.

Great thanks must go to Chris Taft and Simon Barnett as current and previous members of the parish council for researching, planning and organising the necessary works for the installation.

Also many thanks to the Parochial Charity for funding what is a landmark in the village.

There are still works to complete such as lighting and flooring but once finished we will be able to install an information point/ book exchange for visitors and villagers alike to access.

21st March is CENSUS 2021

Even before Covid-19 arrived Census 2021 was planned to be a Digital First Census with most people completing the form online. ONS now has no expectation that it will be possible to provide face-to-face help to people to complete Census forms.

Census Support Centres cannot at this time be classed as an "essential" service.

Census Support Centre staff will not be able to support residents complete their Census questionnaire due to security and confidentiality restrictions.

It is hoped that most people will be able to complete their form themselves online or with the help of a family member. Each address in the country will be sent a 12 digit household access code to enter at www.census.gov.uk.

From 1st March it will also be possible to get help, a paper questionnaire or to complete on the telephone at the ONS Contact Centre:

0800 141 2021

From Census Engagement Manager for South Derbyshire

Newsletter News!

We would like to trial a mainly online distribution of our newsletter via the village website and Facebook pages, with the availability of a few printed copies to be picked up from the new telephone box location for those who prefer something to read in hand! With that in mind this newsletter is planned to be our last published and posted version for the next 12 month at which point we will review how we manage the newsletter. The publication dates will remain the same i.e. mid-March, mid-July, mid-September and mid-November.

If you know that it might be difficult for you to access the newsletter online or don't think that you can pick a copy up in the village then please let us know via the parish clerk on smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

Alternatively call or text
07974 803729

SMISBY WOMENS INSTITUTE

Smisby Women's Institute was all geared up to start our meetings again in September as we were in Tier one and could meet with Thirty members in the village hall. We could still do our weekly walks and have lunch at a local restaurant. Once again events intervened, and we went from tier one to tier three overnight which meant we could not meet at all. So, plan B had to come into play with Julie our President registering with Zoom so that we could at least keep in touch with our members. After a few glitches we have now become very professional with about twenty members logging on, we have also invited other WI's into the meetings for which they have been grateful as not all WI's can afford the cost of zoom and the speakers.

We have a very vibrant craft section, so it was essential to try and maintain the momentum, to that end we have learnt how to make paper poppies and roses, made Christmas trees and Angels out of books, made glass peacocks, with seahorse Mosaics being made in March.

Via Zoom we have had coffee mornings or "chat and natter" twice a month and two evening speakers a month it has kept the members in touch, all though we realize not all members cannot log on or even want too, so therefore every day they receive via email, jokes, poems, pictures, and anything that we think will make them laugh and of course keep them in touch with Smisby WI. Our evening speakers have been varied, in December we learnt about a Russian Christmas, two authors who had written books gave very interesting talks, and a lady told us about deadly weeds or some that could be very beneficial.

We are all keeping our fingers crossed that Smisby can celebrate its 85th Birthday, albeit one year late with Lesley Smith of Tutbury Castle in July. We do have lots of events in the planning stage but of course will have to wait and see if we will be able to go ahead with them.



Smisby Village Hall

Sadly not a lot has happened in the Village Hall since our last Newsletter, obviously the covid lockdowns have impacted on us greatly. Although it doesn't seem as though we will be re-opening until June 21st at the earliest, but we will certainly be ready for then. A lot of work has gone in to ensure that the hall is covid safe and we are confident that it passes any scrutiny. At present your committee are planning a much needed refurbishment of the kitchen area thanks to the government grants that we have been able to obtain. Hopefully when we are able to open and it feels safe to do so we shall endeavour to host a village summer party which I'm sure you'll agree would be a great release after the dreadful times that we've all been through. However this all depends on the circumstances at the time but we shall try to be optimistic and hopefully return to the fun loving village we all enjoy.

Ron Walker

Smisby Parochial Charity

All of our recent Parochial Charity meetings have been conducted by zoom and this has not in any way impeded our ability to carry out our business effectively. Since our last newsletter we are delighted to report that one of our nominated Trustees (by the Parish Council), Rob Hounslow, has been re-elected for a further 4 years. Although Rob does not currently live in the village, he spent 20 years up until 2018 living here and during that time has served on the Parish Council, The Village Hall Committee (as chairman) and was initially appointed to the Parochial Charity. Additionally, following the sad passing of Jeff Barnes, we have now appointed a replacement co-opted Trustee – Paul Cooper – who lives at Smisby Manor. Paul brings a wealth of experience to the Charity, including currently running his own business.

Despite all the restrictions of Covid-19, the Parochial Charity managed to deliver, by hand, Christmas Hampers, together with children's presents to all those parishioners who qualified for these gifts.

The Parochial Charity was delighted to fund the 'telephone box' project outside the Village Hall, which is entirely within our remit of improving the life of the Smisby community. Our thanks go out to the project managers for bringing this to fruition – it really does look amazing having a micro library for everyone to enjoy. We are working closely with the Parish Council on other projects to improve everyday life within the village.

If anyone in Smisby has a good idea, or ideas, about projects that would improve community life, then please get in touch with Sheila Heap, Clerk to the Trustees, at sheila.heap@icloud.com

Please see the website for all the forms you need to obtain funds or grants from the Parochial Charity at <https://www.smisby.org.uk/smisby-parochial-charity-home-page>

Parish Council News

Sarah Rushman Chair

Following our meeting on the 9th March and I would like to summarise points not mentioned elsewhere in this letter

War memorial – we have agreed to look at the possibility of commemorating names of Smisby residents who fought and died in WW2 in some way. The current war memorial does not have space to add names but we will be looking at ways to mark their sacrifice

Smisby lockup - is ready for some repairs and we are applying for funding to assist with the costs.

Highways – we continue to communicate with the highways department about several new areas that need sorting out such as the footpath opposite the church and other footpath/pavement problems through the village. There are also several outstanding promises around drains and gullies which we are pressing them about although it seems that the promised increased inspection and clearing schedule on Forties Lane to reduce the surface water coming onto Main Street is already working well. If you notice areas which are in need of repair on both roads and pavements then please do report directly to the council via the link on smisby.org.uk. The more people who can report problems the more pressure it puts on the department to carry out repairs

Community speed watch – we are still waiting for a training slot to be available for us but are hopeful that, with the gradual emergence from lockdown planned over the next few months, we will be able to move on with training.

20's plenty – there is a county wide consultation on the introduction of 20mph limits in residential streets and as a council we have signed up to be part of that consultation.

Updates from local councillors

Coffee pod recycling is coming soon

Charlie's scheme – see insert

A new Freeport development in the East midlands has been approved the proposition is based around the East Midlands Airport Gateway Industrial Cluster as well as two other industrial sites in the region. Although this will be a significant boost to jobs in the area it will obviously have implications for both road and air traffic in our area. We will be keeping a close eye on how the development progresses and how any changes might affect Smisby

Charlie's Scheme run by Derbyshire Fire Service

Anyone with any of the following characteristics can get a free safe and well visit by the Fire Service.

To make a referral or book a safe and well check call 01332 777850

- Care and support needs
- Hoarding and mental health issues
- Alcohol and medication
- Reduced mobility
- Lives alone
- Inappropriate smoking
- Elderly – 65+

News from St. James Church

Canon David K Edwards

We took the decision in January to close the church for public worship despite this being allowed under government guidelines. The Bishop wrote to all parishes to say that she was supportive of this. Members of the church felt that with Covid-19 being so prevalent it would be safer to stay at home. This is the current policy of all four churches in the Melbourne Benefice. We will review this when it is clear that lockdowns and vaccinations are reducing its threat. Information will be posted on the church website.

However, work carries on to maintain the church building and to keep it clean – thank you Gary and Jessica; and Ray comes in regularly to make sure that the clock is wound.

Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire

 **Kilworth**
Kilworth Machinery Ltd
Anwell Lane, Smisby
Tel: 01530 412690
www.kilworthmachinery.co.uk

- Rotavators
- Tractors
- Mowers
- Log Splitters
- Saw Benches
- Sweepers





BLUEBELL ARBORETUM AND NURSERY

Visit our tranquil nine-acre woodland garden full of unusual trees and shrubs, many of which have been planted for their superb summer flowers/ foliage! Many of the rarities on display are available for sale from our adjoining specialist plant nursery. RHS Partner Garden.

Smisby, South Derbyshire LE65 2TA | 01530 413700 | bluebellnursery.com

Ashby Camera Club Update February 2021

We hope it is not too long before we are able to resume our weekly Wednesday meetings in Smisby Village Hall. However we are continuing to run the weekly lectures, competitions and practical challenges over Zoom.

We hope that by the time our meetings move outside in June that Covid restrictions allow us to offer our normal summer programme.

In the meantime, if you wish to join see what we are all about please drop me a line at chairmanacc@gmail.com.

Phil Richardson
ACC Chairman

Church Messages

Wayne Young walks from Boundary once a week. He is 88yrs old and climbs the church tower to wind the church clock.
The Parish appreciates it.
Hazel Salt

Smisby Village Web Pages www.smisby.org.uk

The village website has lots of useful information from many of the groups and associations in the village including St James' Church, WI, Parochial charity, Village Hall and Parish Council.

The Parish Council agenda, minutes and contact details are all published on the site together with the accounts and audit information.

The newsletter will be available to read on the website

There are links to council sites such as highways reporting, speeding reporting and contact details for planning and accessing the council. In addition, a link to easily access the police neighbourhood alert line.

Parish Councillors Chair Sarah Rushman 07974 803729 Vice Chair Chris Taft Councillor Richard Brooke Councillor Mike Cuming Councillor Hannah Das Parish Clerk Caroline Crowder smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com		Parish Council Meetings at 7.30 (2 nd Tuesday of alternate months) 18 th May 2021 (alteration due to absence) 13 th July 2021 14 th September 2021 9 th November 2021	
Smisby Village Web pages www.smisby.org.uk		Smisby Village News 	
Parochial Charity Trustee Clare Hynam 01530 481849 Trustee Simon Barnett 01530 412491 Trustee Rob Hounslow 07720 348860 Clerk Sheila Heap 01530 414179		Village Hall Committee Chairman Ron Walker Bookings Clerk Barbara Ball 07526 268698	
		Defibrillator code 2131 Village Hall	