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# SMISBY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2020



## Parish Council News July 2020

Sarah Rushman Chair

As you all know the last few months have been very difficult for many and how we manage our roles and responsibilities has seen changes that we could never have dreamed of a year ago. We have continued to meet as a council via zoom and our last 2 meetings in May and July have also allowed our local and district councillors to keep us informed about local issues. All members of the public are invited to attend Parish Council meetings, even if they happen on zoom, and details of how to do so are published on the agenda which is available on the Village Hall notice board and on the [smisby.org](http://smisby.org) website.

Highways have been able to install the last of the signage and road-markings that were agreed last summer, including an increased number/repositioning of 40mph warning signs and SLOW road markings with arrow indicators of a reduced speed area.

As mentioned previously we will be looking for volunteers to help with our community speedwatch initiative, which has understandably been put on hold over the last few months. We will need a group of volunteers who will be trained to work together to detect speeding motorists and provide data to the Police. They in turn write to the speeders in the hope that education and encouragement will alter the drivers' behaviour. If repeated and escalating, letters don't work then ultimately enforcement becomes inevitable. Hopefully we will be able to change behaviour patterns by education, and with improved road markings. The next step is to identify volunteers who would be willing to be trained and then take part in occasional roadside monitoring activities. Will anyone willing to take part please e-mail [mikecuming51@gmail.com](mailto:mikecuming51@gmail.com) and he will set the process in motion. If we can get evidence of speeding we may be able to apply additional features such as a flashing speed limit sign. Please continue to report speeding concerns via CREST (link on [smisby.org.uk](http://smisby.org.uk)).

A number of people have asked Mike about setting up a neighbourhood watch scheme and he's researching what's involved. As a community we are very active anyway but the formal status should encourage policing and may reduce insurance costs. The phone box move will continue when we are able to confirm dates and times with the contractors. One proposal for the new use of the box is to present local, district and parish council news, together with printed information including the newsletter to allow parishioners to access information with ease.

The minutes of the meeting held in July will be available on the Smisby Village website shortly and all past meeting minutes are available there too.

## Smisby Village Web Pages

[www.smisby.org.uk](http://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.

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.

## Newsletter Development and Advertising

Currently newsletters are printed and posted out to every household in the parish. This does involve a cost and as a council we are required to keep all our expenditure under review.

Please would you consider the following and feedback to us via the parish clerk or directly to the councillors?

- ❖ Would you prefer/be happy to have an electronic copy rather than a printed copy?
- ❖ Would you be happy to pick up a printed copy from the new phone box location?
- ❖ Is there anything currently not covered which would be helpful to include?
- ❖ Do you have a company that would like to advertise locally for a small fee?



### Smisby Allotment Association

We are pleased that at the moment we have rented all our available plots and have instituted a waiting list for our outstanding queries.

We will be holding our regular communal day to tidy up and maintain the site in the autumn and details will be published on the notice board in September. If you would like to come along and see what's been happening at the site (or even put your name down for a future plot!) then please look out for the dates on the notice board

Sarah Rushman

### Parochial Charity

Trustee	Clare Hynam	01530 481849
Trustee	Jeff Barnes	01283 217319
Trustee	Simon Barnett	01530 412491
Trustee	Rob Hounslow	07720 348860
Clerk	Sheila Heap	01530 414179

Smisby Village Web pages  
[www.smisby.org.uk](http://www.smisby.org.uk)

Defibrillator code 2131  
Village Hall

### Smisby Parochial Charity

The Charity has had a busy few months working on the creation of its new webpages and more than 225 years since its endowment, Smisby Parochial Charity has now gone digital! Our new webpages are available for all residents to view on the [www.smisby.org.uk](http://www.smisby.org.uk) website where you will find a wealth of information about the Charity's history, its core objectives, its Trustees and how to contact us.

A key area of the Charity's work is the provision of financial support for village community projects, particularly those that can benefit a large number of residents living in Smisby Parish. We always welcome ideas for new village projects and as Covid-19 lockdown rules begin to relax, we are acutely aware of how difficult and challenging the past few months have been for many parishioners. We would therefore be particularly interested to hear of any ideas that could benefit our community, should a similar situation arise again in the future.

In addition, the Charity provides discretionary funding to individual parishioners and examples include Christmas hampers, children's book tokens and tertiary student funding. Parishioners are now also able to apply for a contribution towards the cost of funeral expenses for an immediate family member who has also been a permanent resident in the Parish. Application forms for all types of funding are now available to download from the website and we welcome applications from all residents, both long-standing and new. Once completed, application forms should be submitted to Mrs Sheila Heap, Clerk to the Trustees. Hard copies of the forms are also available from Sheila for those residents who do not have access to the internet.

We would like to express our sincerest thanks to Larry South for his help in creating the Charity webpages and contact details for the Charity Trustees and Clerk can be found on our webpages as well as the back page of the newsletter.

Claire Hynam Trustee

## NEWS FROM ST. JAMES CHURCH

### Coronavirus

The Covid-19 virus has caused so much disruption for all of us and at the start of the pandemic few could have foreseen how far reaching its influence would be. Many people have been upset, angered even, that the churches, including St. James, were closed down. Surely, they should have remained open for people to use as quiet spaces for reflection and prayer; but the government was adamant that we couldn't be sure that they were free of the virus.

So, they were closed, and we became used to 'attending worship' by computer, tablet and 'phone. It has worked, it is different, and I for one will be glad when we can get back to physically worshipping together. Some of you will be aware that the government now allows churches to re-open, provided that stringent measures are taken to ensure that everyone is safe. We cannot simply re-open but have to get permission from the Archdeacon of Derby by proving we have done everything to ensure this is the case.

The Rector and Churchwarden have concluded that it is still too early to re-open Smisby Church.

For the time being the church building will remain closed, but they are consulting members of the Parochial Church Council to see if a limited re-opening sometime in August might be possible.

The PCC is grateful to the Revd. Steve Short, and his family, for the regular acts of Sunday worship; and to our churchwarden, Gary Margerrison, for seeing that the church building is properly maintained.

### Other news

In spite of the lockdown, work to repair and maintain the church building has continued; major repairs have been carried out; the clock has been kept in working condition; and the churchyard has been mown regularly.

### And something else...

We have a new curate and some of you may remember him from when he was a Reader in the parishes when Mike Alexander was the Vicar. He has also worked with Tony Luke, and until recently ministered at St. Luke's in Derby. Alan Winfield has been training for ordination but because of the Coronavirus emergency his ordination won't take place until September. However, Bishop Libby has licensed him to work in the parishes as a lay worker until that happens.

Finally, we will keep you updated on developments at the church; these will be posted on the church's website - [www.smisby.org.uk/st-james-church](http://www.smisby.org.uk/st-james-church)

Canon David K Edwards

## Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire

**Kilworth**

Kilworth Machinery Ltd  
Anwell Lane, Smisby  
Tel: 01530 412690  
[www.kilworthmachinery.co.uk](http://www.kilworthmachinery.co.uk)

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



### Smisby Village Hall

During the recent imposed closure of the Hall the trustees have managed to re-decorate the main hall at quite a substantial saving on previous work and with very favourable comments from visitors. Fortunately a government grant was obtained to provide for the obvious loss of income during the lockdown period, which helped to fund this and hopefully enable the kitchen and toilet area to be updated in the future.

Villagers will have noticed that The Smisby Arms have severely reduced their car parking, therefore all hirers have been asked to park even more sensibly and car share if possible. I would ask that when and if we ever return to "normal" and hopefully the hall is used again, if everyone could help on our busy nights which are only Monday and Wednesday with the parking problem.

**Ron Walker**

Smisby Village News

facebook

### Village Hall Committee

Chairman            Ron Walker  
Bookings Clerk    Barbara Ball  
07526 268698

## SMISBY WOMENS INSTITUTE

Suzanne Jones Secretary Smisby WI

On the 9th of March we had a committee meeting to plan our calendar for the rest of the year, our months were filling up quickly with a visit to see The King and I at Repton, craft show at Uttoxeter Race Course, RHS Chatsworth, Kilworth for Dinner and to see a production of Half a Sixpence, several members were going to the Albert Hall for the NFWI AGM and many more outings were suggested.

We started on the 12th of March with eighteen members enjoying a walk round Lount Nature Reserve, with lunch at the village hall provided by Pat Barnes and Myself. Money raised went to our designated charity this year, which is Hospice Hope. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we left by saying, see you soon! We kept in touch with our members by sending them a "smile of the day" and a recipe daily, and a Saturday a newsletter went out called "just for a laugh" with many members sending in anecdotes about their life during lockdown.

In June we were able to resume our Striders walking club albeit with only six members at a time, so we decided to do two walks a week Tuesday's and Thursday's as we knew that the walks would be extremely popular. On one occasion two different walks were arranged from Ticknall car park and we all met up for lunch, social distancing of course. We have had walks at the Swannington Incline, Barlestone, Ingles Hill and Shellbrook Woods, plus a walk from Measham to Donisthorpe and back, Melbourne and Blackfordby. It has been lovely to once again meet and just talk to someone different, as several of our walkers have had to shield for the three months, they were particularly pleased to be out socialising again.

Our membership is sixty now, having lost a long serving member Jean Statt and a past President Valerie Hanks, we will miss both at our meetings as they individually contributed so much to Smisby WI over the years.

We will be having a committee meeting soon to plan our way forward and we hope to be starting our first monthly meeting in August, but as only thirty people at anyone time can gather in the hall at the moment we may have to have two meetings a month to accommodate everyone.



### 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](http://bluebellnursery.com)

#### Parish Councillors

Chair	Sarah Rushman
Vice Chair	Chris Taft
Councillor	Richard Brooke
Councillor	Mike Cuming
Councillor	Hannah Das
Parish Clerk	Caroline Crowder

#### Future Parish Council Meetings at 7.30 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of alternate months)

8 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	via Zoom
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	TBC

[smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com)