

Smisby Newsletter

Spring 2015

Issue 46

Smisby village always looks particularly stunning at this time of year. This is captured in full with the wonderful view of St James' Church in Spring above. Also below in Hazel's Corner, are the beautiful bluebells found at the foot of Forties Lane reflecting a stunning backdrop for all to see.

Turning our thoughts to the rest of the year we are keen to highlight some of the Community Events we are looking forward to hosting during 2015. On Saturday 4th July, Smisby will be rolling back the years by hosting a VE themed tea party in the Village Hall. Celebrations will get underway at 4pm with high afternoon tea with sandwiches and cakes. The village hall will be beautifully decorated with a specialist Vintage Company providing all the china, speciality cakes and all the fitting music reflective of such a historical era. There will also be children's games on the day.

This will be a ticket only event where we can only accommodate a maximum of 110 people which will be on a first come first served basis. Please therefore return your slip below by 20th June to either Dawn Barnett at Maycliffe, or Rachel Hewitt at Truro Cottage, both resident on Chapel Street. This Community Event is again thanks to the kind donation of the Parochial Charity.

We will also be looking to host a Fish 'n' Chips, Bingo and Quiz night on Friday 18th September, again in the village hall. Full details will follow in the Summer edition of the Smisby Newsletter. We importantly wanted to signpost the diary date at this stage.

The final date for the calendar is Saturday 28th November where we build on the hugely successful community event with the turning on of the lights on the Smisby Christmas Tree and the singing of traditional carols. This year will again be followed by a gathering in the Village Hall afterwards where we can enjoy some mulled wine to kick the Christmas festivities off.

Let's all look to embrace all of these occasions and participate in your local community. Those who do, know what joyous occasions these can be.

Hazel's Corner

The snowdrops, daffodils, bluebells, magnolia and tulips around the village have given us all much pleasure this spring. They put a smile on my face as I flit about, and I hope they do the same for everyone.

Also thank you to all of you who brighten up your own corner to make our village look so pretty.



Smisby VE Tea Party

Saturday 4th July from 4pm

Re-live this historic war time era with a nostalgic celebration with themed music and decoration. Enjoy High Afternoon Tea with Sandwiches and Cakes.



Name:

Address:

Number of tickets required: Adults Children

Please return this slip below by 20th June to either Dawn Barnett at Maycliffe, or Rachel Hewitt at Truro Cottage Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis, as the event is restricted to a maximum of 110 people.

Parish Council NEWS

Items from the May Parish Council Meeting

Election News

Following an un-contested election all 5 Smisby Parish Councillors accepted their Terms of Office at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 12th May 2015. At this meeting Steve Hewitt was re-elected as Chairman and Sarah Rushman was re-elected as Vice- Chair. South Derbyshire District Councillors Peter Smith and Michael Stanton were both re-elected on the 7th May 2015. Both members, along with County Councillor Linda Chilton frequently come along to the Parish meeting so if you do have any issues that you wish them to address on your behalf, please feel free to come along and speak to them. 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; 7th July 2015, 8th September 2015, 10th November 2015, 12th January 2016, 8th March 2016 and the 10th May 2016. The current clerk, Sarah Codd is reluctantly stepping down at the end of May due to new work commitments, she would like to thank all the Councillors and residents she has met for making her feel very welcome. The new clerk, Emma Stroud will be taking over from the 1st June. She will be contactable from this date on 01530 587349.

Parish Projects

The Parish Council have been working in conjunction with The Parochial Charity this year on a number of projects which should hopefully go ahead this year. These include the repair and cleaning of the War Memorial and the installation of a gateway feature by the Smisby sign on Annwell Lane. The Parish Council have received a grant of £600 from Derbyshire County Council's Member's Community Leadership Scheme towards the cost of a public access defibrillator. A fold down bollard has been installed at the bottom of the lane leading to The Jubilee Playing field to help improve security, particularly when village events are held on the field.

News from South Derbyshire District Council

- Annual expenditure has been reduced by £1.5 million.
- Another District Council Tax freeze in 2015/16; the 5th in succession.
- A £650,000 Cash Pot to help fund matched capital grants of up to £25k to community organisations eg Parish Councils, Voluntary Organisations, Sports Clubs etc.
- Council House Stock independently assessed as among the best Nationwide.
- Support to Parish Councils and Voluntary Organisations has been increased each year in line with the RPI.
- Council's budget still in surplus after further anticipated reductions in the rate support grant.
- Capital Reserves still showing a £2 million surplus in 2018/19 compared to the Independent Auditors' target level of £1 million.
- Kerbside collections of glass, paper, cardboard and textiles introduced to reduce landfill costs and capacity pressure on black bins.
- Unemployment halved by 25% to 0.9% compared to the National average of 1.9%; youth and long term unemployment also below the National average.

Sarah Codd
Smisby Parish Clerk
69 Nottingham Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leicestershire, LE65 1DN.
Email: smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

Potholes

The Parish Council are aware that there are still a large number of potholes within the parish boundary. Although the Parish Council make every effort to report these potholes, anyone can report them by ringing 08456 058 058 or 01629 533190. You can also report them via Derbyshire County Council's website www.derbyshire.gov.uk. Type Potholes into the 'search' box and it will take you to an interactive map allowing you to zoom in and pin point exactly where the pothole is. The more people who report a pothole the more likely it is that they are repaired!

St James' Church

The church was superbly decorated with spring flowers for our Easter Communion, with a good attendance. The service was taken by Rev'd Sandra Chantry who handed out her own unique 'Easter eggs' to everyone at church, in the form of one or two gladioli bulbs, to plant and see blooming in the summer.



The Mothering Sunday service in March saw the youngsters handing out potted primroses to their Mums - and to take one away for themselves - and there were enough for the Dads to be included as well, all contributing to a happy occasion. The all age services continue to be held on the second Sunday of each month and it is good to see village families in Church for these events. The future dates for these services are June 14th and July 12th, all starting at 10.30 am.

The Kendall memorial near the main Altar in church, has recently been cleaned and restored and looks much improved. A large part of the cost of this was covered by a grant from a national charity that specialises in restoring church memorials. Also, the Kendall family - some of whom live in the USA - have said they plan to make a contribution. Some of this family keep in touch with the church from time to time, their ancestors having originated from the area, hundreds of years ago.

Apart from regular weekly services, the next main event is the Patronal Festival of St James the Greater, celebrated this year on Sunday 26th July with a "Songs of Praise" service at the usual time of 5.30 pm.

Ashby Camera Club

The Ashby Camera Club's new programme for the next twelve months has just been published at www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk

A full programme of visits from now until September 2015, then evening meetings at Smisby Village Hall through to May 2016. Check out the website for more information.

Ashby Art Club

Art club members were delighted with the very successful and packed "paint along" session with member Jane Betteridge and then the chance to buy her book at the successful Annual Art Club Exhibition over Easter, held at Ticknall.



All the occasional Saturday afternoon workshops have been very successful and well supported. The final workshop of the season is with Barbara Colbert on 20th June. This will cover drawing with charcoal, see www.barbaracolbert-fineartist.moonfruit.com for examples of her work.

A Monday evening life drawing workshop is planned for 11th May and the remaining demonstrations for the season are as follows:

- 8th June Robert Guy: Line and wash demonstration
- 29th June Tony Sumpter: Using a sketch book
- 13th July Cheryl Clayton: Wildlife using mixed media demonstration

The last meeting is on 27th July before the summer break. Then the Autumn session starts with the joining night on 7th September. Members can join for £30 on this night, and get a £5 discount on the £35 membership fee. Programmes and all information about the Art Club can be found on the website, www.ashbyartclub.org.

Smisby Village Hall

Village Hall Report 2014/15

The village hall has continued to have regular hirers (Smisby Day Nursery, Ashby Art Club, Camera Club, Karate Club, Smisby WI, NFU Ladies). One off bookings (for children's parties, etc) were slightly down, but overall village hall use was in line with 2013.



In 2014 the committee received two complaints from residents with regards to parking issues and we are aware from hirers that the situation is not the most convenient for them either. No suitable alternative offroad parking has been found, but hirers have been written to, emphasising the need for courteous roadside parking. The hall's terms and conditions of hire have also been updated accordingly. Following the rescheduled 2013 AGM (held in July 2014) the Village Hall committee has been working to complete a number of key actions including:

- Assuming responsibility as trustees for all aspects of the running of the village hall in accordance with their responsibilities
- To create a resolution for update of the governing document (with independent legal advice)
- Progressing our registration with the Charity Commission which will be completed once the governing document resolution has been adopted
- To rewrite the conditions of hire and booking form which included an increase in rates for nonparishioners and commercial hirers, but no change for nonparishioners
- To renew hire agreements with regular hirers
- The creation of a new website (to include information about the Village Hall and key documents)
- Completion of a Risk Assessment which has also identified actions that have been completed (including replacement of lights in the main hall, first aid changes, emergency lighting checks and improvements etc) and others which are still being progressed.
- General upkeep and maintenance to make the hall more attractive for hirers including:
 - New equipment (microwave and water boiler)
 - New agreement with cleaning and ground staff company
 - Redecoration inside and out due to start in May

At the 2014 AGM (held on 29th April 2015), the committee presented a proposal for changes to update the Trust deed which governs the Village Hall Committee (Trustees), which was approved by the community members who attended. At the AGM a new committee was also elected. The committee believe actions being taken are helping to ensure we are operating in accordance with the legal guidelines of our governing document and the Charity Commission and providing a Village Hall that is sympathetic to Smisby residents and attractive to all hirers.

Ed Kendall
May 2015

New committee members are -
Rob Hounslow (Chair), Simon Barnett (Vice Chair), Ron Walker (Secretary), Suzanne Jones (Treasurer), Barbara Ball (Bookings Clerk), Sarah Rushman, Pat Barnes, Jeff Barnes, David Waters. Please can any queries or questions relating to the Village Hall (including access to the hall) be directed to a member of the committee.

Parochial Charity

The charity will be paying for a hearing loop to be put in place in the village hall quite soon. Also, we have heard of a number of villages having a defibrillator installed in a convenient and central location. The charity will be working with the Parish Council to jointly fund one of these life saving machines, to be kept somewhere easily accessible, probably in the environs of the village hall.

Help At Hand

365



Domestic / Commercial Cleaning Services

Domestic / Commercial Gardening
& Grounds Maintenance

Home Pet Care Visits

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Contact

Emilie Barnett or Sarah Batterson

M: 07935 331174

T: 01530 413365

E: enquiries@helpathand365.co.uk

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Smisby WI

How the year is flying by!

It's already time for our Resolutions meeting in May when we meet to discuss the resolutions put forward for possible inclusion in next year's National AGM. Three members are attending this year's Centenary AGM at the Albert Hall in London at the beginning of June.

Our monthly meeting on June 18th will take the form of a Historical Tour of St. James, our Parish Church right here on our doorstep followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. The History of the Concordia Theatre is the title of our July meeting on 16th. This is a group that has been around for a good many years and have a long and interesting history.

On August 20th we have an artist, Iain Risley whose talk is entitled "Animals in Pastels" which I'm sure will be as fascinating as it sounds. If you would like to attend any of our meetings as a visitor or potential member and for more information please call 01530 416411.



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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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 - Andrew Parnham (01530 411202)

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 7th July 2015**