

SMISBY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

November 2021



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

At our recent meeting we discussed how we might commemorate the Queen's platinum jubilee in the village.

A query by a member of the parish about the maintenance of the wild flower meadow at the jubilee grounds and a discussion about the other areas of the field, including the condition of the trim trail and the practicality of using the different areas with the changes of levels, prompted a suggestion that we should look at the whole field area and make an overall plan to enhance the planting and usability.

We think that this would be a really good way to celebrate in the village and would like to encourage any suggestions from the local community including ideas for planting, trees, new or enhanced facilities. If you have any ideas for further development at the field please get in touch as soon as possible. If we are to make changes it should ideally be in place before the jubilee celebrations

Community Speed Watch News

The Smisby Community Speed Watch has now been operational since August.

We are grateful to have received funding from Cllr David Muller's community fund to help us buy the equipment needed to start our speed watch campaign.

We have three 'approved' locations (outside The Manor, outside the Village Hall and the B5006/Main St junction) and we have now carried out 11 sessions of monitoring activity, during which we have observed 2200 vehicles.

We currently have just 7 volunteers and would be delighted if anyone else would like to join in.

It is already very clear that the very presence of the Speed Watch group has a profound impact on vehicle speeds with many vehicles visibly slowing when they see the signs - and slowing further again when they see the speed-gun! Nonetheless, even after the deceleration, about 15% of the vehicles are still speeding to the extent that they would have been fined had the Police been present.

Approximately 150 warning letters have been sent by the Police to motorists so far and I am happy to report that all but one were not from local addresses. So it does appear that there is indeed an issue, as had been suspected, and most of it comes from 'rat-run' traffic. It also seems to be the case that many motorists are simply not aware that it's a 40 limit, not 60, on the B5006 despite the signs. Hopefully we are having an effect on awareness.

The Police have very recently carried out one session of formal speed checks on the B5006 and promise that this will become more regular henceforth, so perhaps our data-collection is paying off. So do please continue to be alert for monitoring activity.

On a positive note, I am very pleased to report that a large proportion of motorists are giving very favourable feedback, with cheerful and positive gestures (there are of course some - a small minority - who make their disapproval clear!) and it is surely a sign of the times that speeding, like drink-driving in the past, is now simply becoming socially-unacceptable.

If you are interested, or would like to know more, do please get in touch.
Mike Cuming

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Platinum Jubilee celebrations will take place on the weekend of 2nd - 5th June next year including The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons. The beacon lighting event will take place throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and for the first time, in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth countries on the 2nd June next year

Proclamation at	1pm
Pipers playing Diu Regnare at	9.09pm
Beacons are lit at	9.15pm.

SMISBY WOMENS INSTITUTE

The last Smisby newsletter I ended by telling you about the coffee morning that raised £418 for a local mental health charity which is Bank House located in Alexandra Road, Swadlincote. At our AGM on the 1st of July, we invited two of the support workers to come and receive the cheque and to give a talk on the work they do at the centre. The centre does an amazing job supporting people who have difficulties in accessing services we would take for granted. Our members have also generously donated Christmas gifts which will be given to the people who use Bank House over the Christmas period.

Smisby WI opened for meetings again in May with a game of Croquet at the Moira Club, since then we have had our regular monthly Thursday meetings in the village hall plus our two walks a month. But that is not all, thirty-four of us enjoyed a lovely lunch time pizza and pint at the Milking Parlour, we have done stone carving, wood carving, and still found time to attend the monthly craft sessions and have Lesley Smith of Tutbury Castle give an inspiring talk about Peggy Knight a WW2 spy.

On the 12th of October we provided an afternoon tea at Ticknall village hall for over eighty people and had a speaker telling us and showing clothes from the 1930's. This event was planned for April 2020, so it has been a long wait but well worth it. Christmas will soon be upon us and of course we will be having our Christmas party with carol singers and enjoy having a lunch at the Willesley Golf Club.

We have more events planned for next year, Lesley will be with us again giving a talk on Sex and the Tudors, plus a two-day trip to Liverpool in June for the NFWI AGM. Should any residents of Smisby wish to come along to our meetings it is always the third Thursday of the month at 7.15.p.m. in the village hall. We have a fabulous website kept up to date by Marie South with photographs and reports of our events, plus a list of the speakers we will be having in 2022.



Smisby WI .org.uk

Smisby Parochial Charity

Rob Hounslow

Work goes on behind the scenes in the Parochial Charity with all 4 Trustees engaged in projects to further benefit the local community. We are currently sourcing a bench in memory of Jeff Barnes who passed away last year and had been a very active member of the Parochial Charity - not to mention all the other local committees he served on over the many years. We are currently negotiating the sale of some local land (that is more cost effective to release than retain) and still eager to find other local land and that would benefit the community long term. The Charity is nearing completion with the handover to Rathbones, our new financial investors. We are looking to have a face to face meeting with them in the very early New Year to go through all of our investments and talk through with them where best to hold our cash deposits and how much of our funds we should continue to retain in cash. In order to work more closely with the Parish Council, one of our Trustees is invited to attend the Parish Council meetings to update them on our work and advise on the funding of any community projects that the Parish Council may put forward. We always welcome new projects to support financially that benefit the whole community.

www.smisby.org.uk/smisby-parochial-charity-home-page

Smisby Village Hall News

Your committee are working hard to complete the refurbishment of the kitchen. The kitchen fixtures have been fitted by Ian Rice of the village and is a very good advert for his workmanship. As always we prefer to use local businesses but to show due diligence all work is put out to tender and Ian's was the lowest quote. So if anyone requires a good handyman Ian is your man. The works are taking much longer than planned but I'm sure that any of you who are trying to use tradesmen will understand that it's far from straight forward in these times. The new floor has been completed and the stainless steel worktops, appliance fitting plus decorating are all scheduled in the next 2/3 weeks (fingers crossed), pleasingly all under budget. I would encourage as many of you as can to pop in and see the results of your committee's hard work. If anyone is looking for a superb venue to hold parties, get-togethers etc. then please, like your committee keep it local.

Ron Walker Chairman of Trustees

Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire

Kilworth

Kilworth Machinery Ltd
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Tel: 01530 412690

www.kilworthmachinery.co.uk

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DRAINS, FLOODING AND HIGHWAYS

We continue to have many conversations with SDDC about the management of ground water and drainage. Cllr Chris Taft attended the recent flood liaison meeting and has submitted a comprehensive update as to what we were promised following a site visit in 2019 and what we feel has been delivered so far. Together with Cllr Mike Cuming they have continued to report problems with the cleaning and maintenance of the existing drains and drainage and the condition of the highways including potholes. The main road has been marked up for repair and we await the next steps to improve the road surface.

Smisby Parish Council appreciate the efforts of DCC Highways to improve the drainage within Smisby village (e.g. repairing the road edges on Main Street and installing two new drainage grates) but further work is required to reduce the flood risk and negate the need for members of the community to have to leave their homes and clear highway drainage grates, during heavy rains. We recognise that this issue will need to be prioritised alongside other flood concerns within the county but we would like this topic to be placed onto the Flood Liaison Meeting agenda, to help give it visibility and greater traction.

DO IT NOW! [Road maintenance - Derbyshire County Council](#)

This is a Derbyshire County Council portal to allow the reporting of highway or flooding issues including potholes or drainage issues. There is a link on the parish council webpage to allow you to access the reporting feature directly. The interactive map allows you to pinpoint accurately where the problem is and there is the facility to attach photographs which is very helpful in illustrating the severity of these problems

POD BACK www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/podback

Podback is a consortium of the leading coffee pod manufacturers. Households will be able to sign up to recycle their used plastic and aluminium coffee pods in separate bags weekly alongside their brown and black bin collections. This includes coffee pods from Nespresso, NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto, Tassimo, L'OR and Starbucks.

People can register for the new service at www.podback.org there will also be a link to the site from the Council's website. Podback will send them a roll of bags for recycling aluminium or plastic coffee pods. Once received, they start recycling straight away. The plastic and aluminium pods are processed separately to produce plastic pellets and aluminium ingots. The plastic pellets will be used by manufacturers to produce high grade plastic items, like garden furniture, while the aluminium ingots can create drinks cans, car spare parts and other everyday objects.

Ashby Camera Club Update

Phil Richardson

Ashby Camera Club continue to meet most Wednesdays in Smisby Village Hall.

For the foreseeable future, meetings will also be broadcast over Zoom for those members not wishing to attend in person.

The club run a mixture of Competition, Practical and Lecture evenings.

For details of upcoming events, please

check www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk

New members are always welcome.

Please contact chairmanacc@gmail.com

Ashby Art Club Report

Marie South

Ashby Art Club continues with weekly meetings on Monday evenings and holds twice monthly morning sessions, as shown on the Club programme of the website <https://www.ashbyartclub.org/programme>

The next demonstration night is on 8th November with local artist, John Smith using an impression approach, acrylics and a big brush. Outdoor sketching and painting sessions have continued into the Autumn and some reports can be found on

Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/ashbyartclub/>

Members have been busy painting canvases for the **2021 Ashby Poppy Trail**. This comprises of 100 poppy paintings, painted by local artists and displayed in shop windows around Ashby de la Zouch, to mark Remembrance Day, and to raise money for the Royal British Legion in their centenary year. These acrylic pictures are to be displayed in shop windows for 3 weeks from the 1st November. People wishing to purchase a painting, will be able to bid on them by silent auction. Art Club member Margaret Jones from Smisby has worked very hard to organise this event (She also organises the Ashby Art Festival, which is held each Spring.)

News from St James' Church*Canon David K Edwards*

The church is now fully open for worship although we encourage people to take whatever precautions they feel are necessary for their own, and others, safety.

Our Rector, Steve Short, remains on sick leave and is having treatment. The news about this is encouraging and we hope that he will be back with us by the Spring.

We held our Harvest Festival service in October and the goods collected were taken to the Padley Centre in Derby. They work with all sorts of people who are finding life difficult, for example the homeless and rough sleepers, people with learning difficulties, etc. Our churchwarden, Gary Margerrison was able to take a carload of food, clothes, and toiletries to them.

Our service of Remembrance will be on Sunday 14th November when we will remember all who have served in war and all who have been affected by it.

In December we will hold the Church Carol Service at 6.00 pm on Sunday 19th December and everyone is invited to this.

There will be a Communion Service at 9.15 am on Christmas Morning and everyone is invited to this.



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

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

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 (2nd Tuesday of alternate months)

11th January 2022
 8th March 2022
 10th May 2022
 12th July 2022
 13th September 2022.

Smisby Village Web pages
www.smisby.org.uk

Smisby Village News

facebook

Defibrillator code
 2131 Village Hall

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

County Councillor

David Muller David.Muller@derbyshire.gov.uk

District Councillors

Kerry Haines Kerry.Haines@southderbyshire.gov.uk
 Andrew Churchill Andrew.Churchill@southderbyshire.gov.uk