SMISBY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024/25

Parish News

Chris Taft

The Fallen from Smisby – Lest We Forget...

The St James' Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday 10th Nov, to remember all those who fell whilst serving their country. The names of ten men, originally from this parish (biographical details overleaf), were read out and two wreaths were placed upon the village war memorial, by representatives of South Derbyshire District and Smisby Parish Councils. The solemn roll call was a poignant reminder of the young men from this parish, who lost their lives in war. Most were under 30 years of age; two were only in their teens. *"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn."* ['For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon].

Some readers may be curious why ten names are read out, when only four are mentioned on the Village Green War Memorial. The stone monument was erected shortly after WWI and it commemorates the four men, who were residents of Smisby Parish when they fell. The three men from Smisby, who fell in WWII, are commemorated on the wooden memorial carving inside the church:-



World War 1 Memorial



World War 2 Memorial

This leaves the names of three men who were <u>born</u> in Smisby, but who were residents of other parishes when they fell, and it is understood their names appear on the war memorials of those parishes.

Of the ten, the remains of two soldiers, are buried in St James' churchyard. The remaining eight rest in "...some corner of a foreign field, that is forever England" ['The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke].

Garry Margerrison has undertaken some excellent research on each of the ten young men and shares his findings in this newsletter (see overleaf). This same information is accessible via: <u>https://www.smisby.org.uk/the-fallen-from-smisby</u>

It was great to see children from the Smisby Day Nursery visit the village war memorial at 11 am on the 11th Nov, and place their own poppy decorations on the monument ...and successfully hold a two minute silence. Well done!

Out of respect for the fallen (and in line with Royal British Legion guidance), Smisby Parish Council propose to remove the poppies & poppy wreaths early in the New Year i.e. before their condition deteriorate and give the impression of neglect. This action will also help facilitate a greater visual impact when fresh poppies are laid next November.

In addition, Smisby Parish Council will seek the advice and support of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, to get the delicate (limestone) monument professionally cleaned and preserved, as it is now stained with atmospheric grime.

Community feedback on the above is welcome and should be emailed to: smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

Thanks to research, by Garry Margerrison, we now have further details on all of the fallen, that we remember in Smisby. We now have, not just their rank and service numbers, but where they died and where they are buried, including those from WW2 on whom we previously had no information. The following men are listed In the order in which they fell:-

Rifleman Henry Walker – was a labourer at Elms Farm just along Derby Rd and was only 18 years old when he was killed in action in Flanders on 17th Sept 1916. He was the youngest of those whose names we remember and although his body was never recovered, he is commemorated on memorials in Smisby and Thiepval in Somme, northern France.

Rifleman William Knight – was born in Smisby although his parents later moved to Alton Grange Cottage at Ravenstone and to run the Burton office of Fisher's solicitors. He served in the London Regiment, Queen Victoria's Rifles and was 36 years old when killed in action by a shell at Ypres on 13th Aug 1917 where he is buried at the Hooge cemetery.

Private James Smart – served in the 16th Battalion North Staffs Regiment and was born at Boundary, and later worked at one of the nearby pipe works. He died aged 21 on 3rd August 1918 from wounds sustained in France and is buried here at St James.

Private Arthur Alfred Frederick Ketley – was born in Annwell Place, Smisby, to William and Phoebe and enlisted with the 9th Battalion Essex Regiment before being sent to France where is died on 21st Sept 1918 aged 24 from wounds sustained in Flanders. He is buried at the St Sever Cemetery in Rouen, France.

Lance Corporal Ernest Archer – was born in Smisby and was a grocery assistant before enlisting with the 15th Battalion Notts and Derbys Regiment also known as the Sherwood Foresters. He was killed in action at Flanders on 27th Sept 1918 aged 26 years old and is buried in the Perth Military Cemetery in Ypres.

Corporal Thomas Insley – was born in the School House in Smisby and was also a labourer at a local drainage pipe maker before enlisting with the 7th Battalion Lincolnshire regiment. He died aged 39 on 30th Oct 1918 from wounds that he sustained in Flanders and is buried in St James churchyard.

Private William Clifford Brazier – was born in Parks Place, Smisby to Hannah and Charles a local clay miner. He was enlisted with the 8th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders and was just 19 years old when killed in action in Flanders and is buried in Wez-Velain churchyard in Belgium.

Gunner Percy Wilfred Burrows – served in the 15th Battery Royal Artillery Heavy Anti-Aircraft initially defending Bristol then London during the Blitz. At the end of 1941 his regiment was en-route to the middle east when the Japanese invaded Malaya and they were sent to defend the airfields in Sumatra. The Japanese overran their position and he was captured in March 1942 and forced to work on the Burma Railway where he died on 4th December 1942 aged 36. He is commemorated on the Yokohama Cremation Memorial in Japan.

Private George Thomas Britton – was born in 1918 fought with the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and was killed in action on 16th Feb 1944 at the Anzio landings in Italy. He was 25 years old and is buried in the beach head war cemetery there in Italy.

Private George William Bailey – was an upholsterer and French polisher who lived with his parents in Wood St Swadlincote at the outbreak of WW2. He enlisted in the Monmouth Regiment and aged 28 years, was killed in action in one of the final battles of the war in Europe at Reichswalde Forest on 12th Feb 1945. He is buried in Reichswalde cemetery in Germany.



Private James Smart St. James' Churchyard

Corporal Thomas Insley St. James' Churchyard

Christmas Carols and Party

Our parish community gathered on the evening of Sat 30th Nov, to mark the start of Advent by singing carols, switching-on the village Christmas Lights and to celebrate with a Christmas Party in our village hall. Hazel Salt's inimitable enthusiasm and verve on the Accordion set high levels of energy for the carol singing and helped us all keep in-tune (well, nearly all of us... Dr Nick!! ()). The wonderful party atmosphere was made evermore possible with great music, excellent food & beverages ...and of course, a visit from Santa Claus and his delightful Elves! What a super start to the festive season!

On behalf of our parish community, Smisby Parish Council extends its heartfelt thanks to Guy Mansfield (who generously donated the two Christmas Trees to Smisby) and to everyone who helped decorate the village and organise the party. The village looks wonderful, and the decorations bring a warm sense of festive joy, during these dark, damp, winter nights. Of course, special thanks to Ron & Karen Walker, whose tireless efforts bring us together and help to unite us.

The Parish Council would also like to express their gratitude to David & Victoria Waters who, once again, undertook the monumental task of assembling and packaging the beautiful Christmas Hampers for residents over the age of 60 years...and thanks also to those who kindly assisted in distributing them around the Parish.

Of course, none of this 'festive cheer' would be possible without financial support from the Parochial Charity who have generously sponsored the Christmas Hampers. So, on behalf of the community, I express sincere gratitude to the trustees for their on-going commitment and support of our community, enabling these wonderful traditions to continue.

We have a fantastic community and a dedicated core team of volunteers (too numerous to mention, but we all know who you are!), whose commitment and generosity of time, make a real difference. How lucky we are in this parish!

With this, I wish you a Merry Christmas, happy holidays, peace to all and cherished memories with family and friends.

Highways

The Parish Council continues to engage with the Derbyshire County Council Highways (how they must love us!) regarding signposts, drains, road markings and ...everyone's favourite... potholes!

The drainage gullies in Forties Lane were cleaned by DCC Highways on the 20th Nov and I can confirm that this helped protect Smisby village from the effects of Storm Bert, which hit on the 23rd / 24th Nov. At this time of the year, leaves & and twigs (aka 'deadfall') can quickly cover drainage grates and prevent stormwaters from entering the drains. So, if you're out walking and notice this, please pause and clear the grate with your wellies or a stick or whatever else you have available ...thank you. In the meantime, please continue your support of the Parish Council, by reporting 'Road Faults' via: <u>https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk</u> as you come across them. Anyone can do this and it's 'dead-easy' ...please try it.

Smisby Village Pinfold

The ancient Pinfold, located on the corner of Forties Lane and Chapel Street (and home to the recently planted Copper Beech tree), needs "tiding-up" in preparation for summer. Smisby Parish Council has drawn-up a list of maintenance tasks, which are now out for private tender. The area, understood to be Adopted Highways land, has not been maintained to a standard befitting of a conservation area and given our prior experience with DCC Highways, it's unlikely they will undertake the work. To address this, Smisby Parish Council is hoping to take proactive action (with support from the Parochial Charity) to clear the overgrown vegetation, level the ground and re-seed areas of grass which have become damaged. Once complete, the Pinfold can then be incorporated into the existing schedule of maintenance for the Memorial Green.

Smisby Parish Council remains committed to preserving the conservation area at the heart of our village and ensuring it is sympathetically maintained, for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

Community Speed Watch

The Smisby Speed Watch group has continued to monitor the B5006 and at one of the upcoming events will once again be joined by Officer 'Bob' Marley and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team. The Speed Watch group is small and will ALWAYS welcome fresh volunteers. It remains the case that there have been no recorded accidents at the B5006 junction since the Speed Watch was introduced three years ago, perhaps connected with the significant reduction in peak and average speeds which have occurred. Statistics show that speeds have reduced by about 15% over this period, which possibly is converting actual accidents into 'near-misses' instead.

Jubilee Grounds

The Parish Council are delighted to advise that Councillor Janet Sullivan has volunteered to lead the project that will look at rejuvenating the Jubilee Grounds, with a focus on enhancing biodiversity and revitalising this communal amenity. While potential funding is available, turning this vision into reality depends on the engagement of our community. We invite residents to share ideas and offer suggestions ...or get involved and work with Janet on this important project. Please contact Janet with ideas / suggestions / offers of support, on 075 5796 1105 or via email: janetsullivan@gmx.com

East Midlands Airport Parish Forum

EMA holds a six-monthly parish forum as part of its engagement programme and Smisby Parish Council is participating in this. The level of flying activity this year has been broadly the same as last year. There have been a few instances where aircraft have 'deviated' from the approved noise plan and these have been drawn to the airport's attention by residents of Smisby, and followed up by the Parish Council.

There is a plan to review public transport access to the airport as part of the sustainable development plan for the airport. NB: the current sustainable development plan dates from 2015 and will be updated over the next month or two – it can be viewed through the EMA website.

Substantial repairs will be carried out to airport facilities over the coming years and as part of this activity, runway repairs are scheduled in Jan & Feb 2025 – see <u>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp9nyge9pd5o</u>. The airport plans to be carbon-zero by 2038.

The ongoing Future Airspace Plan is running late but they hope to conclude 'Stage 3' by April 2025 and then finally enter the public consultation phase. The detailed documents are already on the EMA website for consideration. To make life easier, the Parish Council is working on a summary of relevant aspects, and you can expect a series of Village Hall Briefing Sessions early next year i.e. as the public consultation draws near. Hopefully, this will enable you to provide informed feedback, without having to trawl through the endless documentation for yourselves.

Overall, aircraft noise complaints have reduced since 2023. Smisby appears as a new hotspot on the noise map with 13 complainants and a significant number of complaints. This suggests that the level of engagement, by residents of this parish, is higher than before. Importantly, the airport authorities pay attention to both the number of complaints <u>and</u> the number of complainants ...so do continue registering your views and concerns and let our 'voice' be heard.

It is very easy to register a complaint to EMA (for low flying, night flying, flying frequency etc) using this link: <u>https://complaints-eu.emsbk.com/ema5</u>. Only basic information is required, such as the time a noisy aircraft flew overhead. Alternatively, you can email the airport directly via: <u>community@eastmidlandsairport.com</u>

Household Waste Recycling Centres – Registration to Use DCC Facilities

Residents of Derbyshire are being asked to register to use the county's household waste recycling centres. It follows a 32% increase in the amount of waste collected since 2018 and is to ensure that those using the facilities are entitled to do so. According to DCC, neighbouring counties are introducing similar schemes but this has not happened at Lount ...yet!

For further details and vehicle registration, please follow: <u>https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/news-events/news-updates/news/residents-required-to-register-to-use-household-waste-recycling-centres.aspx</u>

Registration is free of charge and covers all nine recycling centres in Derbyshire.

Ashby Camera Club

Larry South

We're now well in to our 'Winter' season of guest speakers, practical evenings, and competitions. In January through to March we've got speakers on Kenya's Wildlife, tips on taking and presenting images, as well as our own members giving short presentations about their photography. Also, we have a competition against our neighbouring, Melbourne Photographic, and internal competitions for our members. While not a 'teaching' club, members are always happy to share expertise. The best camera to use is the one you have with you, whether it's a smartphone, bridge camera or SLR type. Check out <u>https://www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk</u> to find out what's on and drop in to join us sometime.



Smisby Allotment Association

Sarah Rushman



We continue to have a stable allotment group with few tenant changes this year. In fact, we have a waiting list at the moment. The ground is in good condition and we are all enjoying producing excellent fruit, vegetables and flowers.

We have some maintenance jobs to do over the next 6 months including fence post changes and tree care in the woodland planting at the far end of the field.

If you would like to come and see what we are doing at the site, then do please get in touch. We will be having a communal maintenance day in the spring and would welcome interest from the wider community. I will publish dates and details in the next newsletter. Smisby Allotment Association Contact is: <u>smisbyallotments@yahoo.co.uk</u>

Ashby Art Club

Victoria Chadwick

Ashby Art Club meets every Monday evening and every 2nd and 4th Wednesday morning at Smisby Village Hall and as a group, we enjoy many hours of creative enjoyment with our peers in the club.

Every member has their own style and favourite medium, be it oil painting or watercolour, or soft pastels. We try many different art techniques and have many visiting artists who offer demo evenings throughout the year. We were out in the village during the hot weather this summer, painting 'en plain air,' as below:-



We have an exhibition at Ticknall Village Hall every Easter and we're always looking to welcome new members. Potential new members are asked to pop along for a free taster session any of our painting nights or mornings, to sample what we have to offer.

Parochial Charity News

Simon Barnett, Paul Cooper, Gemma Dickens & Elizabeth Sturgess

The Smisby Parochial Charity continues to work diligently behind the scenes to support our community. We are delighted to welcome our newest Trustee, Elizabeth Sturgess, to the board. Elizabeth is a retired solicitor who brings a welcome and highly valuable legal mind to the team. Her expertise will be invaluable as we continue to serve the residents of Smisby. As a board, we continue to diligently manage the Charity's existing land holdings and investment portfolio, while actively exploring new opportunities to grow our resources and further benefit the Smisby community with the funds generated.

We are thrilled to announce a significant increase in the Tertiary Student Fund, which will now provide £2,000 per academic year to eligible students pursuing further education. This expanded fund reflects our commitment to investing in the future of our young people and empowering them to achieve their full potential. In addition to the increased funding, we have also established a new "Empowering Futures Fund" to offer further financial assistance to students facing unique challenges or pursuing specialised opportunities. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

Smisby resident, Edward Lauder, is embarking on an inspiring journey! At 13 years old, he's been selected for a 4-week expedition to Cambodia in 2026, focused on community development, environmental projects, and wildlife conservation. Edward recently approached the Parochial Charity for support in his fundraising efforts and we were so impressed with his initiative and dedication that we were delighted to sponsor him. We wish him the best of luck in his endeavours!

The Smisby Parochial Charity remains dedicated to serving our community and responding to the evolving needs of our residents. We encourage you to stay connected through the website for updates and ways to get involved. *Don't forget you can apply for book tokens for under 16's – deadline is 31 December, please see our website for details!*

Get in touch with our clerk Sheila on sheila.heap@icloud.com if you would like to get involved or hear more!

Derbyshire County Council (Melbourne)

Councillor David Muller

2024 has been an interesting year with the Derbyshire County Council deficit creating many challenges across all areas of the County. The unusually wet and stormy weather has increased the pressure on our Highways Department, but we continue to repair and improve road surfaces when and where possible. We continue to find savings across the entire budget to maintain the financial viability of the County. We are also aware of our statutory duty to support Adult Care and Childrens Services in Derbyshire.

The Melbourne District has not been immune to the many challenges this year has brought but on a positive note, my monthly surgeries in Melbourne have been beneficial for many of the "behind the scene" issues. My intention for 2025 is to hold additional surgeries around the district, including Smisby.

I am looking forward to working with the Parish Council and the residents of Smisby in 2025. May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

South Derbyshire District Council

Councillors Kerry Hains and James Lowe

It's the budget setting time of year for SDDC where Officers & Councillors consider SDDC's budget setting approach for the coming year, residents may seek info or put forward anything of concern or interest, to their local Councillors (below).

We're here to help, so please also contact us if you need advice or have any concerns on issues including bin collections, street cleaning, anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and planning applications. If it's not an area that we cover, we can usually point residents in the right direction.

Our contact details are: kerry.haines@southderbyshire.gov.uk and james.lowe@southderbyshire.gov.uk

News From St James' Church

Canon David Edwards

Work to recruit a new Vicar is a drawn-out process and rumbles on! The panel of representatives appointed by the four churches in the Benefice produced their draft Benefice Profile and submitted it to the Archdeacon and Bishop some time ago. We know that they have accepted it and must add diocesan related information to it before sending it back to the PCCs for final approval. We are still waiting for this to happen, as well as for discussion with the diocese over arrangements for advertising, short-listing and interviewing.

In the meantime, we are grateful for the work and dedication of the Ministry Team who work hard to keep the regular pattern of services throughout the Benefice.

Every Church of England parish must arrange an inspection of the church building every 5 years; and our latest one took place in October. The architect has suggested several areas where work needs to be carried out.

We are lucky to have the Church Charity, but this is a restricted fund that can only be used for repairs and capital work. It cannot be used for day-to-day running costs that must be paid for out of our income. A major call on our income is the annual Parish Share, payable to the diocese for their running costs but for 2025 the PCC has decided that the first call on our income will be running costs. The church will try to pay as much of the Parish Share as it can, but like many other churches we may only be able to pay a reduced sum.

22 nd Dec	5.30 pm	Carol Service
25 th Dec	9.00 am	Christmas morning Holy Communion

You are all very welcome to attend these services.

Wishing you all a very peaceful and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Canon David K Edwards: Email: dedwards804@gmail.com Tel: 01530 412604 Mob: 07530 114169

Smisby Village Hall

Ron Walker

Our village hall continues to be popular with all our regular groups and as such there is limited availability at present. However, should anyone like to use the hall then please contact our Booking Clerk (Barbara Ball) and take advantage of the discounted rates available to parishioners. The Hall has recently undergone extensive improvement and repair work, LED lighting installed and refurbishment of the toilet facilities. Our AGM is on Wed 5th Feb (at 7:30 pm) so please come along and meet your committee who work hard to keep our hall in such sparkling condition. We're always looking for new blood to join in so, if you can, come and join us. For further information see : https://www.smisby.org.uk/svh-home

Smisby Women's Institute

Suzanne Jones

As I reported in the last newsletter, we were arranging a visit to The Middle Temple in London. After a lengthy journey into London, they finally arrived at the Temple to be met by the guides who would show them round. Once the tour finished, lunch was served in the Grand Hall where judges and senior barristers sit and eat their lunch. Yes, there were some having lunch but not wearing their wigs. With out exception everyone enjoyed the day, and we are planning to return next year but will let the "train take the strain."

The talk and afternoon tea with Notty Hornblower, a historian of fashion and clothes, was very well supported by our members. As it is our 90th birthday in January next year, she bought clothes from the 1930's 40s, and right up to 1970. Many of the clothes she has collected over the years she keeps in her museum in Derbyshire, which of course we will be visiting next year.

The last strollers walk in October was to the Arboretum to see the Autumn colours. We started the morning with a "pop up café" in the village hall, seventeen members enjoyed crumpets, toast, & tea cakes, all washed down with copious amounts of tea & coffee.

We have a very full programme arranged for next year and we are really looking forward to celebrating our 90th birthday party on the 16th of January 2025.

If anyone wants to come to our monthly meetings you will receive a very warm welcome.

All information can be viewed on our website: https://www.smisby.org.uk/womens-institute



Household Bin Collection Services Over Christmas

Chris Taft

P.S. And for those still reading (😂), may I remind you of the temporary changes to SDDC's Bin Collection Services over Christmas. For Smisby village, Black Bins need to be out by 6 am on Saturday 21st Dec and Green / Brown Bins by 6 am on Saturday 4th Jan. There may be variations to this elsewhere in the parish, so I recommend checking the collection dates for your postcode, via: https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/our-services/recycling-bins-and-waste/bin-collection-dates

Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire

Kilworth

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

- Tractors
- Mowers
- Rotavators
 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

Smisby Web Pages https://www.smisby.org.uk

The village website is a treasure trove of useful links and information from many of the groups and associations within the village including St James' Church, Women's Institute, Parochial Charity, Village Hall and Parish Council.

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

And for those who enjoyed reading this newsletter, previous issues are also available on the website!

Parish Councillors	Parish Council Meetings at 7:30 pm (2 nd Tuesday of alternate months)
ChairChris Taft0777 222 4976Vice ChairMike CumingCouncillorRichard BrookeCouncillorGemma DickensCouncillorJanet SullivanParish ClerkCaroline Crowder smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com	14th Jan '25[subject to quorum]11th Mar '25[subject to quorum]13th May '25Annual Parish Meeting – 7:00 pm13th May '25[subject to quorum]08th Jul '25[subject to quorum]
https://www.smisby.org.uk	Defibrillator Code Dook. Dook. Defibrillator Code Outside Village Hall – device not locked but will trigger an alarm, silenced using Code 2131
Parochial Charity	Village Hall Committee
Trustee Simon Barnett Trustee Paul Cooper Trustee Gemma Dickens Trustee Elizabeth Sturgess Clerk Sheila Heap 01530 414179 County Councillor David Muller: David.Muller@derbyshire.gov.uk	ChairmanRon WalkerSecretarySuzanne JonesTreasurerClaire HynamBookings ClerkBarbara Ball07526 268698Trustees:Pat Barnes, Hazel Salt, Chris Taft, Sarah Rushman, Janet SullivanDistrict CouncillorsKerry Haines:Kerry.Haines@southderbyshire.gov.uk James Lowe

Wishing You a Happy and Prosperous 2025!