

# Smisby Newsletter Autumn 2014

Issue 44

A very warm welcome to the Autumn edition of the Smisby Newsletter.

We sincerely hope to see record numbers in attendance for the Christmas gathering on **SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER** beginning at 5.30pm with the singing of carols under the glow of candle light in front of the church before the Smisby Christmas Tree lights are turned on.

Last year this was a truly magical occasion and a wonderful and humbling reflection of the real spirit of Christmas within our community. This year the occasion will be followed by a Hog Roast and live music in the Village Hall and the ideal chance to have festive tipples with your neighbours. There will also be the surprise visit of an extra-special guest for the children! A separate leaflet for this event has been included within the distribution of this newsletter with an important reply slip required by Sunday 9th November to confirm numbers for the celebrations.

We would also like to introduce for the first time a new feature to the newsletter called "Hazel's Corner". This reflects the latest thoughts of our treasured Smisby Parish Lengthsman, Hazel Salt, and her views on the world whilst undertaking her important role. In her piece she will share her joys from walking around the village, reference special thanks on occasion and sometimes emphasise her frustrations whilst undertaking her duties. Hopefully her pleas will highlight certain matters and make the request more personal as it will make her life easier and the village and its surroundings ever more beautiful and in keeping with a village we can be truly proud of. This is an action packed edition with contributions from all of the Clubs and Associations within Smisby Parish highlighting recent events and looking forward to certain forthcoming activities across this busy time of year with the relevant dates for your Calendar.

**Fireworks:** As bonfire night approaches the Parish Council would like to remind parishioners of the legislation relating to the use of fireworks. Did you know? It is an offence to let fireworks off during night hours (11pm to 7am), except on Bonfire Night (midnight), Diwali, New Year, and Chinese New Year (1am). It is against the law to carry fireworks in public if you are under 18, and to sell fireworks to anyone under the age of 18. It is an offence under the Explosives Act 1875 to tamper with or modify fire-works.



## Hazel's Corner

The Harvest Festival this year saw another wonderful performance from the children's choir as part of a lovely service at St James' Church.

This was then followed with a shared table in the Village Hall with a great turn out from within the Parish.

The flower troughs have given us all so much pleasure again this year. Thank you to Karen and Ron Walker for doing the ones on the bend towards Annwell Lane.

Thanks also to Jeff Barnes and Joy Salt for the ones on the Church wall and again to Carol Parnham for the ones on the Village Hall. Also thank you to all of you who brighten up your own corner to make our village look so pretty.

Although it has certainly decreased recently, dog fouling continues to be a problem within the village. Can I ask all dog owners to please bag their waste and place it in the bins provided. Also chewing gum is incredibly hard to get up off the roads and pavements so again would please ask for it to be disposed of properly.

## 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](mailto:smisbyallotments@yahoo.co.uk)



# Parish Council NEWS

## **Items from the September Parish Council Meeting**

### **War Memorial**

The Parish Council have commissioned the repairs of the wooden posts and the broken tarmac around the War Memorial. They have also arranged for the railings surrounding the War Memorial itself to be re-painted in preparation for this year's Remembrance Sunday.

### **Playground Equipment**

The Parish Council have arranged for SDDC to have the playground gate repaired with a self-closing gate installed with a sliding bolt, which will be safer and less of a finger trap. We have also asked them to undertake the cleaning of the play equipment as well.

### **Storage unit on the Jubilee**

#### **Playing Field.**

The Parish Council are continuing to investigate the possibility of installing a half shipping container as a storage unit on the Jubilee Playing field. This would be used to store all of the equipment used for the village events. It has been suggested that this is located parallel to the hedge row and screened accordingly in an agreed location following a consultation process. The Parish Council would be interested to hear any views or thoughts on this idea. If you have any comments, please put them in writing to the clerk either via email or by post.

### **Garden thefts**

There have been a number of thefts from gardens including the theft of garden tools and ride on mowers. Please take extra care to ensure these items are secure and report any suspicious behaviour to the police.

### **Potholes**

The Parish Council are aware of the large number of potholes within the parish boundary. A number of these have been reported and some of them have now been repaired. It is important to report potholes when you see them, especially as more money is being made available to County Councils to repair potholes. Anyone can report potholes by ringing 08456 058 058 or 01629 533190. You can also report them via Derbyshire County Council's website [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk). Follow the link to 'Transport and Roads' then click on 'Roads and Traffic' then 'Report a Road Fault'. There is an interactive map allowing you to zoom in and pin point exactly where the pothole is.

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

## **St James' Church**



### **Forthcoming Services**

**Service of Remembrance** – 9<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30 pm

No morning Service

**Christingle** – 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30 am

**Carol Service** – 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.00 pm

**Morning Worship** – 11<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 am

**Morning Worship** – 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30 am

If any children in the Parish want to sing in the Church Choir at the Christingle and Christmas services please contact Hazel Salt on 01530 411533.

## **Ashby Art Club**

September brought the start of a new season for Ashby Art Club, with 54 members joining and also the launch of a new Art Club web site, designed by Larry South. The programme and news can be found on line at [www.ashbyartclub.org](http://www.ashbyartclub.org).



The well known Derbyshire artist Geoff Kersey was our first demonstrator of the year. He painted a Derbyshire mill scene to a captivated audience, which contained a number of visitors from other Art Clubs. He returned the following weekend to run a Saturday workshop, where Art Club members had the opportunity to learn his mixing and painting techniques, with step by step guidance to each person to successfully complete their painting.

Linda Wain is the next visiting artist, demonstrating realistic acrylic painting of wildlife on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Visitors are welcome for a small fee. Full details of the programme can be found on the club web site.

Apart from the regular demonstrations, exhibitions and workshops, members come to the club to work on their own art projects in the company of like minded club members. If you would like to paint or draw, do come along and see what the club has to offer.

Art Club member Kate Devey is to be congratulated for winning the prestigious Melbourne Festival Open Art competition this year.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December the Art Club is holding an Open Day, with an exhibition and sale of member's paintings and a table top sale. There are also live demonstrations by artists. This is part of a joint open day with Smisby WI, who will provide coffee/tea, home made cakes and lunch and the Ashby Camera Club, who will be present with their photographic display. All are welcome.

## **Ashby Camera Club**

Ashby Camera Club winter programme is well under way and continues with:

**Bob Moore** – Bob and Sue, two of the UK's top photographers and judges (12<sup>th</sup> November) **Des Ong** – absolutely tip top nature photographer (19<sup>th</sup> November)....as well as internal and inter-club competitions, socials, rambles....and much more..... and even more in 2015.. **Martine Hamilton Knight** (architecture), **Andrew Parkinson** - "Wild Nature", **Colin New** .....

For more information and/or to contact the club, please visit [www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk](http://www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk)



## Parochial Charity

This is the time of the year that the Charity needs to update its information about residents who qualify for a Christmas hamper. You qualify for the first time if you reach 65 (for men) or 60 (for women) by Christmas Day, and are a resident in Smisby Parish. Please contact Sheila Heap on 01530 414179 with your details if you are not already on our list.

For the first time this year, the Charity will provide a Christmas hamper for anyone below retirement age who has not been able to work for 6 months or more through sickness or disablement.

Also, book tokens are given to children who are between the ages of 2 and 16 on 25th December this year. A reminder too for youngsters of 17 and 18 who are in full time education that payments can be made for books bought for study purposes up to a maximum of £100, (against receipts). For any of these benefits, please contact Sheila if you want to go on her list for the first time.

The charity is hoping to install a decorative feature at the Smisby road sign in Annwell Lane. Sometimes referred to as 'gates', these now appear at the entrance to many villages across the country. The other two roads that have Smisby signs do not lend themselves in the same way to this feature. There are several hurdles to overcome with the authorities before work can be commissioned.

It is good to report that the new bench has been fixed into position under the beech tree near the war memorial. Installation took longer than expected to arrange, through a number of unforeseen delays, but in the end many thanks are due to Andrew and Mark Parnham who took over much of the work involved.

## Smisby Village Hall



The Village Hall committee is continuing to review the roles and responsibility of the hall and committee to offer a positive experience to all users and inhabitants of Smisby and the surrounding area whilst evaluating the current trust deed to verify that it reflects modern requirements.

The committee members are Ed Kendall (Chair), Ron Walker (Secretary), Suzanne Jones (Treasurer), Barbara Ball (Bookings Clerk), Jeff Barnes, Pat Barnes, Simon Barnett, Richard Brookes, Rob Hownslow and Sarah Rushman. Please can any queries or questions relating to the Village Hall be directed to a member of the committee.

The Village Hall remains available to regular and 'one-off' hirers with hire rates remaining unchanged until at least the end of 2014.

For one-off events, hire charges for Smisby Parish Members are currently as follows:

Up to 2.5 hours: £15.00; 1/2 Day: £29.00; Full Day: £44.50  
Hire times and charges include the setting up and clearing away period. Different charges apply to hirers from outside the local community. Deposits will be required separately, refundable following a satisfactory post event inspection.

There may be certain occasions when one-off events can take precedence over long-term regular bookings, but normally this will require not less than one month's notice.

Booking enquiries can be made with the Bookings Clerk on 07507 789292.

Ashby Art Club & Ashby Camera Club are holding an Exhibition in Smisby Village Hall on Saturday 6th December. 10am - 4pm.

Homemade Cakes - Soup and Roll - Lunch Time



Provided by Smisby W.I.  
Plus a table top sale.



## 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
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## Smisby WI



The summer has flown past but has been enjoyed by WI members with various walks and lunches, craft mornings and friendly busy monthly meetings with excellent speakers.

The autumn programme is well under way now, with a local speaker, David Bell telling us about "Ladies in Leicestershire," followed in November by our AGM and a "Show and Tell" with a display of the achievements of the craft group. December's meeting is entitled "Circle Dance." This could well be a fun evening! More walks, lunches and craft sessions are organised and if you would like to join us, 01530 416411 is the number to ring.

On Saturday December 6th we are joining forces with the Art Club and the Camera Club for an exhibition in the Village Hall. The WI will be doing what they are good at, that is providing tea coffee and cake and light lunches of homemade soup. So please pop in to see us in our new WI pinnies. We'd love to see you.

Our meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the third Thursday in the month and visitors are always very welcome. Please call 01530 416411 if you would like more information.

## Ivanhoe Countrystore

Remember to stock up on dinner for your best friend!



And don't forget the **FRONTLINE**

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- ◆ Easy free parking ◆

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[www.mannoeks.co.uk](http://www.mannoeks.co.uk)

Tel: 01530 411066

Fax: 01530 411062

## BlueBell Arboretum & Nursery, Smisby

*Specialist Growers of Rare Trees,  
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Opening times:

March to October: 9am to 5pm (Sundays 10.30am to 4.30pm)

November to February 9am to 4pm (Closed on Sundays)

We are closed from December 24th to January 2nd

Tel 01530 413 700 Fax 01530 417 600

[www.bluebellnursery.co.uk](http://www.bluebellnursery.co.uk)

## Useful Smisby Village Contacts:

**Parish Councillors:** Chair; Steve Hewitt, (07908 620002); Vice Chair; Sarah Rushman; Mark Pamham; Simon Barnett (07855 969719), Sarah Codd, Parish Clerk (01530 411488), [smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com)  
Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to include anything in the next Parish Newsletter

**South Derbyshire District Councillors:** Michael Stanton, [michael.stanton@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:michael.stanton@south-derbys.gov.uk), Tel-07768 010251; Peter Smith, [peter.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:peter.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk), Tel-07894 338129

**Derbyshire District Councillor:** Linda Chilton, [Linda.chilton@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.chilton@derbyshire.gov.uk)

**The Parochial Charity:** Trustees: Barbara Ball (01530 416411), Jeff Barnes (01283 217319), Simon Barnett (01530 412491), Andrew Pamham (01530 411202) plus Sheila Heap as Clerk to the Trustees (01530 414179).

**Village Hall Committee:** Chairman, Ed Kendall [sekendall@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sekendall@tiscali.co.uk); Secretary, Ron Walker  
Bookings Secretary, Barbara Ball (07507 789292)

**Smisby Church:** Churchwardens: Gary Margerrison (01530 414453) and Carol Morgan (01530 411314).

**Newsletter Publishers:** Steve Hewitt, James Barnett

**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 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014**