

# Smisby Newsletter

## Spring 2014

*Issue 42*

The beginning of 2014 had a melancholy feel within the Parish as one of Smisby's best loved residents, Janet Glover, had sadly passed away on 22nd December having lost her battle against Cancer. Janet was a wonderful human being and a very special person much loved by everyone and she adored living in Smisby.

Her role as Caretaker of the Village Hall meant she was well known within the Community. The funeral took place on January 8th and the fondness for Janet was truly reflected in the phenomenal turnout from the residents of Smisby. The service at Bretby Crematorium was led perfectly by Ian Higginbotham who had put together a quite wonderful eulogy of Janet's life. The gathering afterwards was poignantly hosted in the Village Hall itself, enjoying Janet's favourite past time of tea & cakes. Janet was much loved and is sadly missed by everyone.

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 2014. With Easter now almost upon us, in amongst all the chocolate and Easter Egg consumption there will be an Easter Sunday Service and Holy Communion at Smisby Church on 20th April at 9.00am with all families welcome.

In the summer, as the Nation begins to expect, we will look to embrace the Football World Cup, and get behind the England Team with a World Cup themed party on the evening of Saturday 14th June to watch the England v Italy game. This will take place on the Jubilee Grounds followed by a camp out for the brave and hardy amongst us. The party will begin at 7pm where we will be serving hot dogs on the evening. Everyone is encouraged to bring your own drinks and enjoy a chance to get together whilst cheering the boys on. Whether a footie fan or not, a great occasion to socialise together. The Sunday will begin with a BBQ breakfast followed by games throughout the day, including the popular Dad's in the Stocks, the bizarre sight of Wellie Wangling, and the traditional Tug of War competition with the continuing healthy rivalry between Chapel St and Main Street. The food for all the weekend celebrations is thanks to a kind contribution by the Parochial Charity. We will be looking for a working party on the Saturday around Middy to help set up the marquees and assist in taking them down on the Monday night.

Another important date for the diary is Saturday 29th November where we build on the hugely successful community event last year with the turning on of the lights on the Smisby Christmas Tree and the singing of traditional carols with the wonderful musical accompaniment of Hazel Salt. This year this will be followed by a gathering in the Village Hall afterwards where we can enjoy a Hog Roast, some mulled wine and music entertainment to kick the Christmas festivities off. This Community Event is again thanks to the kind donation of the Parochial Charity. Timings will be confirmed in the autumn issue of the Newsletter although we are keen to signpost the date now so families can protect the diary date accordingly. Those who attended last year's "Carols under candlelight" know how magical this festive gathering truly was.

Let's all look to embrace the occasions we are looking to put on and participate in your local community. Those who do know what joyous occasions these can be.

### **Smisby Village Hall**

The 2013 Village Hall AGM in December was suspended due to queries raised with regards to the adopted Village Hall Constitution and advertising of the meeting. The committee has been seeking advice from Rural Action Derbyshire and other third parties since December, and the 2013 AGM will be re-convened (and advertised in advance) once clarification on the Village Hall Constitution has been received. Members of the community are welcome to attend the Village Hall AGM.



In the mean time the Village Hall remains available to regular and 'one-off' hirers.

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.

# Parish Council NEWS

## Items from the March Parish Council Meeting

### New Parish Clerk

The Parish Council are delighted to announce the new appointment of Sarah Codd as Parish Clerk. Sarah took over at the beginning of March and can be contacted at [smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com) or on 01530 411488.

### Dog Fouling

The Parish Council is pleased to report that dog fouling seems to have decreased since the presence of Dog Wardens in the Parish. They will continue to have a profile in the area. Bagged dog waste can now be placed into any litter bin but there have still been the occasional problem of dog owners bagging the waste and leaving their bags in trees. This is not only very unsightly, but the bags do not biodegrade, it is littering. Please bin it.

### Thefts

There have been reports of more oil thefts and thefts of farm machinery, so please keep an eye out for anyone acting suspiciously in the village.

### 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.

### Grant

The Parish Council are very pleased to have been awarded £400 from the Members' Community Leadership Scheme run by Derbyshire County Council. County Councillor Linda Chilton allocated this grant to Smisby Parish Council to help towards the cost of providing the Christmas tree lights. The Parish Council would therefore like to thank Councillor Chilton for her assistance and on going support.

### Removal of SDDC public recycling centre at Smisby Day Nursery

Following the successful introduction of the Easy Green Recycling Scheme in October 2013 the Council feel that the usage of the cardboard and plastic bottle recycling has decreased significantly and therefore will be removing both bins by mid April

2014. We have noticed that the cardboard bin is still used by many residents and have asked that it remains. However, the Council feel it is not justified and have suggested that should residents cardboard recycling not fit in their new bins then it is ok to leave it at the side of the bin for collection. Should residents feel this is not working for them then they should raise through the Parish Council who may be able to put forward reasons to re-instate the service.

### Sewerage Issues

The water authority, Severn Trent, has had to be called out in emergency on several occasions recently with blockages in mains drains. Could we ask that all residents be careful and considerate with what they discard, as the drains are clearly struggling to cope.

## St James Church



### **Easter Service**

Easter Sunday Service and Holy Communion at St. James Church, Smisby on 20th April at 9am, with all families welcome.

### **Forthcoming Services**

The next services will be held at 10.30 am on the second Sunday of the month on 11th May and 8th June

## Ivanhoe Countrystore

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## Smisby Art Club

Ashby Art Club meet in the village hall on Monday evenings, when members can get together to paint and socialise. New members are always welcome. The club regularly invite demonstrators and hold workshops. On April 14th Brian Steventon demonstrates pen and ink monochrome techniques. He is the onsite artist at the Black Country Living Museum. This demonstration is followed by Tony Sumpter holding a life drawing workshop on 12th May.



Members are currently very busy preparing for the club annual art exhibition over Easter This is held at Ticknall village hall. ( from April 19th to April 21st ). The exhibition opens at 10am and closes at 4.30pm over the week end and at 4pm on Easter Monday. There are paintings on sale, refreshments and a raffle for charity. All are welcome. Art Club members are also busy with preparations for the Ashby Art Festival. This festival opens on 17th May and runs until 31 May. Members are involved in painting some of the 8' x 4' wall boards for the Outdoor Art gallery which are displayed on buildings around the town for one month. The theme this year is "Myths and Legends".

Art Club members are also involved organising and preparing entries for the Festival Art Exhibition and competition, which will be held on the 24th to 26th May at the Royal Hotel, Station Street, Ashby. More information about all the festival activities can be found at [www.ashbyartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.ashbyartsfestival.co.uk)

## Parochial Charity

In the last Newsletter we stated that disposable funds are now building up and that we are looking for ideas for a substantial project in Smisby that the Charity could fund. We also asked if any residents would be willing to join a small discussion group to put forward ideas for consideration. Sad to relate, not a single idea was forthcoming nor did anyone volunteer to talk about possible future projects. Maybe in the run-up to Christmas there were more important things to think about, so now we are briefly repeating those same questions and hoping that this time there will be some response! All activities of the Charity are mentioned in the Newsletter from time to time and the charity Report & Accounts are to be found on the Charity Commission web site [www.charitycommission.gov.uk/find-charities/](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/find-charities/), our registered charity number being 515251. The Trustees of the Charity very much want to fund activities or projects that are widely supported by local residents so do please give thought to how our growing disposable funds might be used to benefit the community. Comments can be to any one of the Trustees (contact details elsewhere in the Newsletter) or to the Clerk to the Charity, Sheila Heap on 01530 414179.

A suggestion was made some months ago for a boule area to be created on the playing field so that petanque could be played there, as part of any events that involved the recreation ground. We have ascertained the dimensions for the flat gravelled area that would be needed, and two of the Trustees are visiting the site of a boule court in Nottinghamshire, to find out more about costs and about the increasing popularity of this originally French pastime.

We have an excellent new seat to put in place under the beech tree at the junction of Forties Lane and Chapel Street. We find that certain authorisations are needed before that can be done, and we are currently seeking those approvals. So look out for the improved seating in a week or two!

The Charity has agreed to help fund two events for Smisby people this year. Details of the summer event, on the weekend of 14th and 15th June will be found elsewhere. The date of the second event is Saturday 29th November, when there will be a party in the village hall, after the Christmas lights have been switched on. Details will appear later in the year, but do put the date in your diaries now.

### Ashby Camera Club

Captain Jack Sparrow and his glamorous assistant were last seen in the Smisby Arms on 19th March following some drunken revelry aboard the Black Pearl – all staged as one of Ashby Camera Club's photo-shoots in the village hall.

This season continues with competitions, socials, and a not-to-be-missed talk by one of Britain's foremost professional wildlife photographers, Ben Hall.

The club will soon be into its summer programme including photo visits to Donington Aero Park, Sailing, Calke Walled Gardens, Melbourne Parish Church, Sealwood Vineyard, Rothley Great Central Railway, and maybe some kickboxing!

And in the autumn as well as the usual competitions, the programme includes:

Hilary Shedel – one of the UK's foremost dance and movement photographers - commercial and dance

Jerry Daniels – photography as art – widely exhibited

Bob Moore – Bob and Sue talk by two of the UK's top photographers and judges

Des Ong – absolutely tip top nature photographer

....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)

## Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire



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## Smisby Allotment Association

If you are interested in an allotment plot, or know of someone who is looking for space, then please contact: [smisbyallotments@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:smisbyallotments@yahoo.co.uk).

Chairman: Simon Barnett; 01530 412491; Vice Chair: Sue Kendall; Secretary/Treasurer: Sarah Rushman





## Smisby WI

The WI is going from strength to strength. Each month we welcome visitors and new members to our meetings in the Village Hall. We meet on the third Thursday in the month at 7.30pm and we would be delighted to see you. We have a varied programme and flourishing walking and craft groups.

Next month on April 17th we have Peter Cousins, a local Family Historian coming to talk to us about Underage Soldiers and Nurses from W.W.1.

On May 15th we have our Resolutions Meeting when we will be discussing the Resolution(s) that gained the most votes when we voted nationally earlier in the year. The winning Resolution will then be discussed further and voted upon at the National AGM to be held in Leeds in June.

On June 19th we are having our summer walk, this year at Calke, followed by supper in the Wheel at Ticknall. The walking group, Smisby Striders meets on the second Thursday in the month at 10.15am at various locations. A member, who also arranges lunch with a local pub for those who feel the need for sustenance, including non-walkers, leads this.

The Craft group who meet in the Village Hall on the first Thursday in the month at 10am, make a wonderful variety of different things, all amongst gales of laughter. A few groans can usually be heard too but this is put right with help from the leader and the essential coffee and cake.

The Shotgun Affair is the title of the Murder Mystery evening we are holding in the Village Hall on Saturday June 7th at 6.30 for 7pm. Several members of the WI have major roles in this fun evening, which also includes a four-course meal. If you would like to join us for the occasion we have 15 tickets at £12.50 available (please bring your own wine or soft drink).

More details of these events can be found by following the WI link on the village website [smisby.org.uk](http://smisby.org.uk) or calling 01530 416411



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

## Useful Smisby Village Contacts:

**Parish Councillors:** Steve Hewitt, Chair (07908 620002); Sarah Rushman; Vice Chair; Mike Smith; 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, Alex Aherne (01530 416949); Bookings Secretary, Sheila Higginbotham (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.

**The Public are Invited to attend.** 15/05/2014 which will be the Parish Council's AGM; preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm, where local community groups can present an overview of their activities during the previous 12 months.