

SMISBY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024

Parish News

Chris Taft

Smisby Summer Party

The weather was a little damp and autumnal but as our parish community gathered, the Village Hall became a little oasis of summer warmth and cheer. The hall buzzed with laughter and conversation, as guests enjoyed the lovely BBQ, drinks, and music. What a great party ...and a truly fitting way to mark the end of summer:-



On behalf of the community, Smisby Parish Council extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who played a part in planning, preparing and bringing the event to fruition ...and the Parochial Charity, for their support of the excellent F&B provisions.

Christmas Carols & Parish Party!

This year's Christmas Gathering, to sing carols in church and around the tree, will start at 5:30 pm on Saturday 30th Nov. This will be followed by our Christmas Party in the Village Hall. Please register attendance, using the attached invitation.

Winter Fuel Help – Parochial Charity Smisby

We understand that losing the Winter Fuel Payment can create financial hardship. The Parochial Charity is here to help, we are offering grants to eligible individuals and families in our community who are struggling to afford their energy bills this winter, regardless of age. Visit our website or contact us to learn more and apply for yourself, or nominate someone in need: sheila.heap@icloud.com or <https://smisby.org.uk/smisby-parochial-charity>

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) & Defibrillator Awareness Training

In July, Swadlincote Community First Responders delivered two sessions of CPR & Defibrillator Awareness training, to a total of 25 parish residents. Community feedback was 100% positive, and trainers complemented the high levels of enthusiasm and engagement, displayed by parish attendees. There have since been requests for further 'life-skills' coaching classes ...so stay tuned for more!



Smisby Parish WhatsApp Group – aka “Smisby Crew”

Many readers will be aware of the Smisby WhatsApp Group, which is used to keep parish residents informed of community events, incidents, or matters of interest. Anyone who is a resident of the parish or closely connected to the parish and wishes to join the group, should contact Michelle ‘Shell’ Kiely on: 07415 783 066.

Highways

DCC Highways recently completed their refurbishment of the B5006. Not the ‘perfect’ job we’d hoped for ...but certainly, a welcome improvement.

Please continue reporting ‘Road Faults’ via: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk> as you come across them.

Smisby Village Pinfold

The ancient Pinfold, on the corner of Forties Lane and Chapel Street (and home to the recently planted Copper Beech tree), is in need of some TLC. Smisby Parish Council plans to tidy-up the area, return the two benches and make it a more inviting place for walkers to pause and enjoy the village ambience. However, there’s a snag – ownership of the land has recently been cast into doubt. This ties into a larger on-going effort to encourage DCC Highways and SDDC to review and update their mapping portals ...a project that’s incurred delays. At present, Smisby Parish Council is assessing what work needs to be done but we must then wait for DCC Highways and SDDC to clarify the land ownership situation.

St. James’ Church Clock

Some may have occasionally noticed the church clock chiming erratically. This is due to several factors, mostly involving clock ‘stop / start’ events e.g. during a recent overhaul, the steel cables operating the mechanism were replaced, requiring the clock to be stopped and restarted. Occasionally, the volunteer ‘clock-keeper’ (Councillor Cuming) doesn't get to wind-it-up in time (he says sorry!). The clock also needs adjusting when switching between summer and winter times. The mechanism doesn't like to go backwards, so resetting can trigger up to 11 chimes. Although the chimes can be muffled by hanging-on to the connecting wire, it’s not always effective. The clock must be wound every 10 days, whilst the chime mechanism requires winding every 7 days. In practice, both are wound every 5 or 6 days, which also presents an opportunity to adjust the pendulum, to ensure accurate timekeeping.

Community Speed Watch

The Community Speed Watch group has continued to monitor the B5006 and at one of the upcoming events, will be joined again by Officer 'Bob' Marley and the Safer Neighbourhood Team. The Speed Watch group is small and most of the activity is carried out by just two ladies. More volunteers would be extremely welcome. It remains the case that there have been no recorded accidents at the B5006 junction since the Community Speed Watch team was launched, resulting in reduced peak and average vehicle speeds. If you would like to get involved, and help make our roads safer, please reach out to one of our Parish Councillors or email: smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com.

Jubilee Grounds

The Parish Council are responsible for day-to-day running of the Jubilee Grounds and as such wish to begin a consultation process to determine a medium-term plan for the best use of this facility. The trees have recently been pruned and tidied (logs left over have been stacked near the gate as a habitat or for residents to take as fuel).

As highlighted in previous newsletters, the Parish Council is keen to rejuvenate 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 support of our community. We invite residents to share ideas, offer suggestions, or express an interest in getting involved. To do so, please contact a Parish Councillor or email: smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

East Midlands Airport (EMA) Parish Forum

EMA holds a six-monthly parish forum as part of its community engagement programme. The most recent meeting, on 2nd Sept, was attended by Councillor Cuming, representing Smisby Parish.

The power station at Ratcliffe-on-Soar is to be decommissioned at the end of Sept 2024 and planning is being sought to develop the site for business. The Freeport plans continue to go ahead and much of the building for this will be on the south side of the existing airport.

There is a plan to review public transport access to the airport as part of its sustainable development plan. Note: the current sustainable development plan dates from 2015 and it will be updated – to view it, please follow this link: <https://www.eastmidlandsairport.com/about-us/development-plan> The airport plans to be carbon-zero by 2038.

Aircraft Noise

The ongoing Future Airspace Plan is running a little late, but it is hoped to conclude Stage 3 by April 2025 and then enter the public consultation phase. There will be presentations in Smisby to expand on the detail of this to give residents the opportunity to make informed comment, but the detailed documents are already on the EMA website for consideration.

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 and the number of complainants ...so do continue registering your views and concerns and let our 'voice' be heard.

The new cargo operator One Air are adding another Boeing 747 to their fleet (not great news for Smisby, being relatively noisy) but they're also adding a Boeing 777, which is much quieter. Hopefully, noise concerns will encourage them to use the B777, rather than the B747, when operationally possible.

On the 11th Sept at approx. 11:15 pm a particularly noisy B747 flew over Smisby. Several residents submitted a complaint to EMA over this specific flight so, on behalf of others who were disturbed by this noisy flight ...thank you.

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

Parochial Charity News

Chris Taft

In May 2024, Rob Hounslow's term as a Parochial Charity Trustee expired. On behalf of all parish residents, Smisby Parish Council extends its thanks to Rob for his dedication and support, whilst he served on the Parochial Charity, as a Parish Council nominated trustee. Smisby Parish Council have nominated Gemma Dickens as Rob's successor. She is a resident of this parish and a Chartered Accountant.

In Sept 2024, Claire Hynam stepped down as a Parochial Charity Trustee. On behalf of all parish residents, Smisby Parish Council would also like to express their gratitude to Claire for her dedication and commitment, whilst she served on the Parochial Charity, as a Parish Council nominated trustee. During the Sept Parish Council meeting, Elizabeth Sturgess was nominated as Claire's successor. She is a resident of this parish and a retired solicitor.

Smisby Parish Council is confident in the skills and expertise, that the two recently appointed trustees bring to the charity. Effective succession planning, for both the charity and the parish council, relies on a pool of experienced and dedicated individuals. If anyone in the parish wishes to serve the community, by contributing some of their time in a voluntary capacity, please reach out to a Parochial Charity Trustee, a Parish Councillor or express your interest to sheila.heap@icloud.com or smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

Gemma Dickens

Our operational focus remains on responsible stewardship of parish facilities, as evidenced by our ongoing support for the maintenance of Jubilee Field in collaboration with the Parish Council. We further demonstrate our commitment to the village through contributions to the Village Hall's floral displays and a donation to the Smisby WI.

Supporting Smisby parishioners remains a priority. We continue to provide individual grants, such as assistance with accommodation and books for university students. We encourage anyone in need to contact our clerk, as we are always eager to extend our support within the community.

Our commitment to fostering community engagement in the village remains strong. We were pleased to provide funding for the highly successful Summer Party on September 7th, organised by the commendable Karen Walker. We are equally delighted to support the upcoming Christmas party, scheduled for November 30th, another event made possible by Karen's generous dedication.

Smisby Village Hall

Ron Walker

The Village Hall continues to attract favourable comments, from hirers, regarding its condition and the facilities available. Our latest hirer Ki Aikido has rated it as by far the best he's been in. However, your committee is always mindful of not resting on their laurels and with this in mind we are currently in the process of upgrading the toilet facilities and modernising the lighting to LED. So please pop along to see the finished improvements, perhaps for the village party on 7th Sept. Plus, if anyone is interested in Ki Aikido then please pop along to their sessions on Tuesday afternoon 3- 4.30 or contact Maurice Freeman 07817 586158 for further details.

Derbyshire County (Melbourne)

Councillor David Muller

The year started on a very depressing note with Derbyshire County Council having a revenue overspend forecast of about £46.4M which was due to external forces beyond their control. DCC have worked hard to contain and reduce the overspend to about £21.7M which will be met from reserves. We have a statutory duty to support Adult Care and Children's services across the County which takes most of Derbyshire's revenue. Of course, there will be an effect on some services, but savings must be made where possible.

Devolution is now in place between Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, and Derby City. The advantages include having a greater say in how the East Midlands share of money is spent, including a new responsibility for transport and other local projects around the region. The election of a mayor was a condition of the new Authority and although it is early days, we are expecting great things from this new administration.

One of the main problems this year has been the extremely wet weather. There were significant flooding problems across the region and of course the dreaded potholes. We are presently repairing over 2,500 road defects each month and are continuously trying to find more effective ways of tackling the problem. We have started to apply a Micro Asphalt repair program for about 63 residential roads covering over 92,000 square metres. This is a liquid mix of stone, cement and bitumen and is applied to seal the road surface. We have now started a new trial of pothole repairing using 'Roadmender Asphalt,' which is produced in Sheffield. The repair material has a high recycled rubber content (from old HGV tyres) and is more elastic than traditional asphalt. This material is injected direct into the roads in need of repair to create a waterproof surface.

There are ongoing consultations in Derbyshire including the future of our Adult Care service and the possible disposal of some Care Homes across the region. This is a very sensitive subject, and we are very aware of the concerns and worries that need to be discussed before any decisions are made.

New boundary changes will soon take place around Derbyshire. At the County elections next May my District will include parts of Woodville. Willington, Etwall, Repton and Stenson will all have changes. I'm really looking forward to the next few months and the challenges there will no doubt be across the Melbourne District.

I wish Smisby Parish Council continued success during the next few months, in what has been an interesting year.

South Derbyshire District Council

Councillors Kerry Hains and James Lowe

The Local Plan review (Part 1) is now at the draft stage and SDDC will be undertaking a consultation to get views from residents about its planning policies and proposals for new development. The plan details existing housing allocations which have been carried forward from the previous plan plus any new allocated sites required to address some of the district's housing and employment need.

The consultation document will shortly be available to view on the Councils' website so please have a look and give us your views.

Free Tree Scheme will be running again in October this year and the available trees will be Cherry plum, Downy birch, Goat willow and Guelder rose. Further details will be available shortly.

The Annual Canvass is currently taking place - this is where the Council contacts every household in South Derbyshire to check it holds the correct information on the Electoral register. Residents can respond online, by phone or by post. Please get in touch if you have any queries about how to complete your Canvass return.

Please contact us! We are here to help so please 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.

Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire

Kilworth

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

- Rotavators
- Tractors
- Mowers
- Log Splitters
- Saw Benches
- Sweepers



Smisby Women's Institute

Suzanne Jones

In May, we held our AGM which saw the end of our year and beginning of another. How successful we have been in 2023/24, with a diverse group of speakers giving talks at our monthly meetings. The Strider's walking group is still going strong, even if the weather has sought to stop us. The Strollers group have been enjoying local walks and educational mornings learning about the Blue Plaques of Ashby with one of our members, who informed us of historical figures and even murders in and around Ashby. We now know about the bear in the pit, where the town prison was situated and the history of the Bulls Head Inn.

Simon Michael, our speaker in April, gave a superb talk on his life as a boy from the East End of London and how he made it to become a Barrister. He defended and prosecuted many murderers, armed robbers, con-artists, and other assorted villainy providing him with a lifetime's portfolio of true crime stories. Simon is now an author of the Charles Holborne series of crime novels, which are sold here and in the USA. He was 'Called to the Bar' by the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, and he invited us to visit the Middle Temple for a guided tour and lunch, plus to learn about the history of the building which dates to the Knights Templars.

In September, fifty members and several husbands will be enjoying a day in London, learning about this historic building. The visit to Saltaire in May was a great success with too much to see in one day and several requests have been made to re-visit it soon. We are also looking forward to forthcoming talks by Kath Ryan in August and Notty Hornblower in October. Our 90th Birthday celebrations are coming together. We will be having lunch at the Beeches Ashby, with the Potty Plotters giving a talk. I have been told they are very entertaining and are on Radio Derby every Sunday talking about the charity work that they do.

Several members decided in May not to re-join and, as we had eleven people on the waiting list, it was decided to extend our numbers to sixty-five to accommodate them. We are still open to any Smisby resident who wishes to join. Just come along to the Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 7p.m. where a warm welcome awaits you, plus a piece of homemade cake.

All information, programme of events, reports on outings etc. can be found on our website which is kept up to date by Marie South www.smisby.org.uk

News From St James' Church

Canon David Edwards

We are still without a Vicar but the group of representatives from the four parishes have agreed on the information that will go into the Benefice Profile that will be sent to everyone enquiring about the post. This is now with the Archdeacon who will review the information and share this with the bishop. The next stage will be to agree on the process of advertising the post and how the interviews will be conducted. It all takes time, but we hope that someone may be in post by Easter 2025. It might seem a long, drawn-out process but we must get it right. In the meanwhile, the usual pattern of services is continuing in all four churches, and we are grateful to everyone on the ministry staff for enabling this.

The churchyard is an asset to the village, and we have it maintained by BETEL, a Christian charity that works with the homeless and others to provide work. They love coming to Smisby because it is so peaceful.

In the past few months, some work has been carried out on the church. The porch doors have been repaired and rehung. Some repointing has also been carried out to the church walls. This year the church is due its Quinquennial (5 year) inspection and this will be carried out by our architect in October.

Our church is dedicated to St James, one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the Church of England calendar celebrates his life and work on the 25th July. We always celebrate this on the nearest Sunday, so our Patronal Festival was on the 28th July when the Dean of Derby came to preach. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed to this. Some dates for your diary:-

13 th Oct	5.30 pm	Harvest Festival
10 th Nov	5.30 pm	Remembrance Service
30 th Nov	5.30 pm	Carols (In Church & Around Tree)
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.

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



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 Village Web Pages 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

Chair	Chris Taft	0777 222 4976
Vice Chair	Mike Cuming	
Councillor	Richard Brooke	
Councillor	Gemma Dickens	
Councillor	Janet Sullivan	
Parish Clerk	Caroline Crowder	smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

Parish Council Meetings at 7:30 pm (2nd Tuesday of alternate months)

12 th Nov '24	[subject to quorum]
14 th Jan '25	[subject to quorum]
11 th Mar '25	[subject to quorum]
13 th May '25	Annual Parish Meeting – 7:00 pm
13 th May '25	[subject to quorum]
08 th Jul '25	[subject to quorum]

Smisby Village Web pages
www.smisby.org.uk

Smisby WhatsApp Group aka "Smisby Crew"
Access Requests: 07415 783 066

Smisby Village News

Defibrillator Code

Outside Village Hall – device not locked but will trigger an alarm, silenced using Code **2131**

Parochial Charity

Trustee	Simon Barnett	
Trustee	Paul Cooper	
Trustee	Gemma Dickens	
Trustee	Elizabeth Sturgess	
Clerk	Sheila Heap	01530 414179

Village Hall Committee

Chairman	Ron Walker
Treasurer	Claire Hynam
Bookings Clerk	Barbara Ball 07526 268698
Trustees:	Pat Barnes, Hazel Salt, Chris Taft, Suzanne Jones, Sarah Rushman, Janet Sullivan

County Councillor

David Muller: David.Muller@derbyshire.gov.uk

District Councillors

Kerry Haines: Kerry.Haines@southderbyshire.gov.uk
James Lowe: James.Lowe@southderbyshire.gov.uk



SMISBY VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GATHERING
 SATURDAY 30th November 2024
 SINGING IN ST JAMES CHURCH - 5.30PM
 LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS TREE - 6.00PM
 SANTA ARRIVES - 7.00PM
 HOT FOOD IN THE VILLAGE HALL - 8.00PM
 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!!



Please return the slip below by
Saturday 9 November 2024
 to Karen Walker:
 Cherry Tree Croft, Main Street, Smisby
 07970 789205 or 01530 560512

Please bear in mind that the village hall can only accommodate 120 people so it is first come first served!!!



Name:.....
 Address:.....
 Email.....
 Tel:

Guest Name	16 and under	Vegan, Veggie Or other dietary needs	Ale	Lager	White Wine	Red Wine	Rose Wine	Fizz	Soft Drink

This year we are providing barrels of beer, white, red, rose wine and prosecco, please choose your preference per person in order for us to calculate quantities required.

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