

# Smisby Newsletter

## Winter 2013

*Issue 41*



The first day of Advent was celebrated with a wonderfully festive Community gathering seeing the new Smisby Christmas Tree Lights being officially switched on, last Sunday 1st December. A hugely impressive turnout from within Smisby Parish saw many residents and families, young and old, congregate around the tree in front of Smisby Church to sing Hymns and Carols under the warm glow of candlelight.

Everyone was in full voice as the hearts of all those who attended were uplifted by this very special occasion. Musical accompaniment as always was provided by the wonderful Hazel Salt. Everyone within the Parish is incredibly proud of the natural beauty of our village. The Parish Council & The Parochial Charity thought it would a fantastic idea as a joint venture initiative, to have a new set of Christmas Lights in making the tree a wonderful focal point in the centre of the village at this special time of year.

This won't just bring Joy into our lives for this particular Christmas but for hopefully many more years to come as well. This was another demonstration of a heart warming moment in the union of families, friends and neighbours coming together which made us all reflect fondly on the tremendous community spirit within Smisby. The event was such a success that many of those who attended would like to see us get together for this occasion every year.

It is also nice to reflect on our young parishioners putting on such a wonderful performance of Christmas Carol's at the Christingle Service last Sunday 8th December at Smisby Church.

The Parish Council would like to congratulate all the children who took part and give a special mention again to Hazel Salt for her help in organising and coordinating this lovely occasion.

# Parish Council NEWS

## Items from the November Parish Council Meeting

### Dog Fouling

Dog fouling continues to be an issue within the Parish, for your information SDDC have designated all land in South Derbyshire accessible to the Public under The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. The designated land includes roads, pavements, footpaths, school playing fields, sports fields, parks and other open spaces. It is an offence for a dog owner not to clean up after their dog in these areas. Failure to comply can result in a prosecution and fine up to £1,000. It is no defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions. Allowing your dog out unescorted to foul in the owner's absence is also an offence under the Act.

### Controlling Dogs

It is important to keep your dog under control at all times even whilst off the lead when walking within the Parish Boundary. We have had complaints of some owners allowing their dogs to run freely which can intimidate other owners and has even seen attacks on smaller dogs whilst the owner is completely out of sight away from the dog whilst off its lead on a designated footpath.

### Street Lighting

Part Lighting Scheme - The Parish Council were unsuccessful in challenging the DCC ruling following the introduction of the part lighting scheme. In particular certain lamp posts along Chapel Street and Annwell Lane had seen specific concerns raised by residents. The County Council's part night lighting proposals have been formerly reviewed following our request to have them reinstated. We would recommend that the situation be monitored to ensure that any problems are identified and appropriate action is taken.

### Reduced Fire fighting Service- Melbourne & South Derbyshire

The Parish Council wants to make residents aware of the consultation process for a reduced fire fighting service and the impending cut backs in Melbourne and South Derbyshire. The deadline for public consultation ends on the 23rd December. If you have any queries or want to read about the plans to go to the following web link. [www.derbys-fire.gov.uk](http://www.derbys-fire.gov.uk) Anyone concerned can fill out a survey on the website. The fire authority plan to make a decision by the 13th February 2014.

## Indulgence Evening

A fabulous evening was held on the 1st November at Smisby Village Hall to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. 120 ladies enjoyed local shopping, good food, drink and entertainment in a beautiful setting. We would like to thank everybody who helped to make it such a successful evening raising £1290.

Special thanks to contributions from the Parochial Charity, Smisby Village Hall Committee, Saffron Catering, The Wedding Singer, local businesses and residents for their generosity and donations.

A special mention should go to Charlotte and Dawn Barnett for being the driving force behind this hugely successful fundraising event and the overwhelming turn out from Smisby Ladies.

## Smisby Village Hall

The Village Hall is a great asset to the village and has seen the number of one-off bookings increase since the refurbishment works took place. The Village Hall committee have set up a website to make the hall more visible to potential hirers. The website [www.smisbyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.smisbyvillagehall.co.uk) provides details of the facilities, booking details, committee members profiles and photographs of the facilities to be seen on-line.



The hall has a number of regular hirers, Smizkids, Ashby Art Club, Ashby Camera Club, Karate Club, Woman's Institute, NFU Ladies, and Family Games Evening.

Booking enquiries can be made with the Bookings Clerk on **07507 589292**.

## St James Church

Your parish church will start regular morning services in the New Year, which are less formal and aimed at all ages. We extend a warm welcome to everyone in the village, including children and families.



### Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December at 6pm (Carol Service) and Wednesday 25th December at 9am (Holy Communion)

### 2014 Services

The services will be held at 10.30 am on the second Sunday of the month. 12th January, 9th February, 9th March, 13th April, 11th May and 8th June

There will also be an informal service at 5.30 pm on Mothering Sunday. We hope that the new children's choir will be able to sing at some of these services. For further information please contact the Rector, Mark Powell (01332 864741)

## Ivanhoe Countrystore

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## Parochial Charity

Some years ago, when the charity started to provide Christmas hampers for residents who had reached state pension age, this was an age that had been 'fixed in stone' for generations. Now that state pension age is gradually increasing, and will see further change in the future, we need to redefine qualification for the Christmas hampers. The Trustees have decided that for the time being, during the current years of transition, residents of Smisby parish will qualify for the hampers on the basis of the original pension ages of 60 for women and 65 for men. The issue will be addressed again in the future with the likelihood of equalising the age for qualification in some way. All this is a preamble to remind those in the village and surrounding parish that if you have not in the past received a hamper, have reached the qualifying ages by Christmas Day, then now is the time to notify Sheila Heap that you would like to be added to the list for a hamper this year. Where a couple both qualify, it is still one hamper, but bigger and better than that of a single person – though not quite double in size.

This is also the time to remind parents that book tokens will be given to children between the ages of 2 and 16 (by Christmas Day), distribution being very early in the New Year. The charity has no way of knowing where qualifying children live, so please make contact with Sheila, the charity Clerk, to let her know of children who need to be on the list for a book token for the first time this year.

To complete the reminders, don't forget that some financial help is available from the charity for each academic year that a young person, normally resident in the parish, is away at University or equivalent after leaving school at around 18. This benefit takes the form of paying bills, relating to further education, up to a total value of £250 pa - and is not given as cash to individuals. The Trustees recently planted 12 kg of mixed daffodils in the grass verge alongside the churchyard wall in Annwell Lane. This has been an ongoing process for some years, but many more bulbs could be planted – if volunteers were available in coming years to help with the planting! (Let us know if you could join the gang next autumn.)

We have been pleased to help with the renewal of the Christmas lights on the tree by the war memorial, by sharing the total costs with the Parish Council. Hopefully by the time you read this note, the lights will have been switched on and make us all feel more Christmassy in the village.

It is some time since the modernisation of the Village Hall was completed and that project effectively used up the charity's disposable reserves. Since then, optional expenditure by the Trustees has been kept at quite a low level, though the unavoidable expenses incurred from the involvement of professional advisers (accountant, investment manager, land agent, and solicitor) cannot be reduced. However, the disposable reserves of the charity are now building up and the Trustees feel that the time is now right to start thinking about another major project. It cannot be on the scale of the Village Hall project (that cost over £90,000), unless we wait for our income to build up a lot further. It would be good though to start getting some ideas together on what projects could be contemplated for 2014 or beyond. The Trustees want to get ideas from residents, on what we might fund, to benefit as many local people as possible.

How can we go about this? We called several village hall meetings of parish residents in the past but except for the first one, these were very sparsely attended. We are now thinking about a different approach in seeking out ideas and opinions. We would like to form a sort of sub-committee of perhaps 3 to 5 volunteers from the village/parish who could seek out the thoughts of local residents and make recommendations to the Trustees about what sort of project might be undertaken, up to the value of several tens of thousands. At this stage it is the project thoughts that are needed rather than the worry about whether they can be afforded or not. If something came up, currently out of reach financially, we would just have to wait a year or two, but could still get on with planning the venture. If you have any thoughts on this suggestion or would like to head such a sub group, do please speak to a Trustee or to the charity Clerk – telephone numbers are given elsewhere in the newsletter.

### 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 and Ashby Art Club

On Saturday November 30th the Village Hall hosted a very successful event which was the first joint venture with the Smisby WI and Ashby Art Club who displayed a fantastic range of their art work. This was intended to let Smisby residents see who and what happens in the Village Hall every Monday evening at The Art Club, and give a chance for any Smisby residents who may have an interest in painting or drawing a chance to discuss joining the club.



On display was a selection of paintings and drawings club members have produced, as well as live demonstrations by club members Richard Saville and Wendy Eccles, and by local artist John Smith. In addition Smisby Women's Institute had some wonderful jewellery, plants and preserves for sale as well as information regarding the Institutes activities. The excellent refreshments provided by the ladies of the WI were very much appreciated by all in attendance. The event was very well supported by the local community and Ashby Art Club would like to extend its thanks to all Smisby residents and in particular the ladies of the WI for their continuing support for the club and its activities.

Smisby WI begin their 2014 programme with a quiz and social evening on January 16th followed on February 20th by a demonstration by Jane Wood on making rugs from rags....should bring back a few memories for we older members! Then on March 20th we have talk entitled, intriguingly, "Girls from the Big House". All of the WI meetings are held in the Village Hall on the third Thursday in the month starting at 7.30pm. Visitors and friends are always welcome to join us. We are a very friendly group so please come along. More details can be found in the link on the Parish website.



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### BlueBell Arboretum & Nursery, Smisby

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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; Amanda Hancock, Parish Clerk(07969 814260), [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, Janet Glover (07507 789292).

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

**Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings; Held on Tuesdays @ 7.30pm in Smisby Village Hall.**

**The Public & Press are Invited to attend.** 14/01/2014, 11/03/2014 & 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 pre-send an overview of their activities during the previous 12 months.