

Smisby Newsletter Autumn 2015

Issue 48

A very warm welcome to this Autumn 2015 issue of the Smisby Newsletter.

The latest Community Event took place on 18th September with a successful Fish n Chips, Bingo and Quiz night in the Village Hall. Those who came along certainly enjoyed a fantastic evening with a lot of fun and laughs and a social evening with their neighbours, which is what all of the community events we host within the parish are all about.

The evening was hosted by the local Conservative Repton Branch, although all Political Colours were certainly left outside the Village Hall on the night. Please don't let this put you off coming next time as we plan to run a similar event again next year.

There was certainly no political agenda to the evening. In essence it is just a few of the local District and Parish Councillors investing their free time in the Community by organising the food and facilitating the quiz and the bingo.

The evening actually saw a record number of attendees for this equivalent event which is hosted across South Derbyshire throughout the year. Well done Smisby!

The next social event within the Parish is on the 28th November starting at 5.30pm which will hopefully see many residents and families, young and old, congregate around the tree in front of St James' Church to sing hymns and carols under the warm glow of candlelight followed by the Christmas Tree lights switch-on. As always Hazel Salt will provide the fantastic musical accompaniment.

This is a truly magical celebration and a wonderful and humbling reflection of the real spirit of Christmas within our community. Those who have come in the two previous years know what a really joyous occasion this is. This year the occasion will again be followed by a Hog Roast in the Village Hall which provides the ideal chance to have a festive tipple and a chat with your neighbours.

There will also be the surprise visit of an extra-special guest for the children with Santa visiting Smisby!

Everyone is welcome to attend this special occasion. So we have a sense check on catering numbers, any special dietary requirements, and in particular if you have children attending please return the reply slips sent previously under separate cover. Please return these by an extended deadline of 24th November to either:- Rachel Hewitt at Truro Cottage, Chapel Street or Dawn Barnett at Maycliffe, Chapel Street.

Hazel's Corner

Well done to the Children's Choir for their wonderful Harvest Songs. Please phone Hazel on 01530 411533 if any new children want to come and sing for the Christingle Service, or the Christmas Carol Service. The pumpkins looked great around the village this Halloween. It would be nice to see even more next year. Thank you to everyone who mow verges around the Parish and also to those who prepare the wonderful flowers troughs to make our Parish look so beautiful.



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



Parish Council NEWS

Items from the 10th November Parish Council Meeting

Dog Fouling

The Parish Council is concerned to report that dog fouling seems to have increased again within the village. An important reminder that bagged dog waste can now be placed into any litter bin. Please be considerate to your neighbours. There has also 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.

Potholes

The Parish Council are aware that there are still a large number of potholes within the parish boundary. Although the Parish Council make every effort to report these potholes, anyone can report them by ringing 08456 058 058 or 01629 533190. You can also report them via Derbyshire County Council's website www.derbyshire.gov.uk. Type Potholes into the 'search' box and it will take you to an interactive map allowing you to zoom in and pin point exactly where the pothole is. The more people who report a pothole the more likely it is that they are repaired!

Parking (Main Street)

The Parish Council are aware that parking can at times be a problem when the Village Hall is being used by some of the hirers. We would ask everyone to be courteous to the local residents and not to block any drives. This matter is also specifically referenced within the Smisby Village Hall article later in the publication.

Emma Stroud

Smisby Parish Clerk
(01530 587349)

Email: smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

Parochial Charity

Residents who have reached the 'traditional' retirement ages of 60 and 65, for women and men respectively, can look forward to receiving the usual hamper just before Christmas from the village charity. Likewise, book tokens will be given to children in the Parish who are between the ages of 2 and 16 on Christmas Day – and these will be handed out early in the New Year. Whether it is hampers or book tokens, we can only give to those who have notified our Clerk of newly acquired eligibility, perhaps by new residents or for people who have now reached a qualifying ages. (Contact Sheila Heap on 01530 414179)

Since the charity sold its endowed land in 2005, the resulting cash that is on deposit has not benefited from the protection afforded by the FSCS scheme. Currently this scheme protects the first £85,000 of an individual's savings deposited with an approved organisation - and this is being reduced to £75,000 on January 1st. The rules have recently changed and charities that have our level of total assets are now included in the FSCS scheme. The trustees have, until now, split charity cash on deposit between only 5 or 6 banks or building societies in a range of accounts, including: 7 day notice, 30 day notice and 90 day notice and in longer term bonds. We always aim to maximise income but also to retain accessibility to cash when it is needed. We also have to bear in mind, with advice from our financial adviser, how interest rates are expected to move in the future. We have now embarked on a process of reducing our deposits to £75,000 per organisation, in order to protect the cash that is on deposit. This will be carried out over a period of many months and will mean investing with a dozen or more banks or building societies. This will reduce our income somewhat as we will not always be able to go for the highest rates in the 'Best Buy' tables. However, the trustees have a duty to protect the charity's endowed capital against any banking defaults in the future.

St James' Church

We are starting to make progress in planning repairs to the church, with our new architects



(PR Architects of Nottingham) having been formally appointed by the PCC. They have been drawing up the specification for re-roofing the church, against which contractors will be asked to provide quotations. We aim to have these quotations before Christmas. Historic England have given outline permission for coated steel or zinc sheeting to be used for re-roofing, rather than lead, and based on the cost of similar work at other churches, the architect thinks we should budget for a cost of around £45,000 for this part of the repair programme. The specification has to be approved by the Derby church authorities, SDDC planners, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings as well as Historic England – quite a process!

Our insurance company payment of £15,000 has been received and donations received, in advance of any appeal being launched, already stands at £3712. This has come through continued outstanding efforts by Smisby WI and from generous personal donations. A new round of grant funding is to be launched by the government in November, called the "Church Roof Fund" and we are hopeful of possibly getting £10,000 (and maybe more) from this source, though the total funding available is limited so we will need to get in quickly with our application!

The church carpets were cleaned and other textiles were sent to the insurance company's specialist restorers. Two of the altar frontals were deemed to be damaged beyond restoration so we are in discussion about replacing these.

The first sign of repair work that you see may well be the rebuilding of the church steps. This may seem irrelevant in comparison with the roof but we are aware that some of the steps are now sloping inwards with water accumulating on them. The movement of these steps has probably been worsened by repeated vehicle impact in recent months. Whatever the reason, Health and Safety requires us to put this situation right before the onset of winter - which could lead to the hazard of ice forming on the steps.

When we have assessed the cost of the above work against funds available, we can start to schedule the other repairs that were highlighted as necessary by the 5 yearly structural survey of the building.

In the lead up to Christmas, there will be a Christingle service on Sunday 13th December at 4.30pm, the annual Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 6.00pm and then Christmas morning Holy Communion will be at 9.00am.

The number of families attending the monthly All Age Service has dwindled during year and it has been agreed that we should move the service from morning to afternoon when there are fewer competing activities for the youngsters. Starting in January, for an experimental period, this service will still be on the third Sunday of each month and will start at 4.00pm.

Smisby Village Hall



We have two very exciting pieces of news for the Parishioners of Smisby – the first is that we are now a fully-fledged registered charity operating to the Charity Commission's guidelines. This was necessary (and a legal requirement) as the Village Hall has an income in excess of £5K/year. What this now means is that each of the committee members is a trustee of the charity and it is their legal duty to operate the charity for the public benefit. As such, it is an offence, under Section 60 of the Charities Act 2011, for any of the trustees to provide false or misleading information about any aspect of the running of the charity. We have now been entered onto the Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1163710. This number will appear in future on all of our correspondence and on our website. The second piece of good news is that it has been confirmed that we have obtained our grant for audiovisual equipment from South Derbyshire District Council, which gives us 50% of the total cost of our project (complete with hearing loop). This, as mentioned in our last letter, will be installed on a self-help basis by two qualified electrical engineers, both of whom are currently serving on our Village Hall Committee.

On a separate issue, the Village Hall Committee are aware that parking can at times be a problem when the hall is being used by some of our hirers. We have asked everyone to be courteous to the local residents and not to block any of our drives. If this does continue please come back to me directly, ideally with a time, date and registration(s) of any offending vehicle(s), and I will speak to the hirer concerned. Contact details below. This is a double-edged sword as we want people to come into our village and use the hall, but at the same time we want to be able to get through the village safely and get access to our drives. As ever, it only takes the odd inconsiderate 'parker' to upset some of our residents.

In addition, we have had some problems with locking and unlocking the Village Hall for some hirers and for this I can only apologize. We are looking at a different system to ensure that no hirer is kept waiting at the start or end of their session, as I know this can be immensely frustrating and could lead to loss of business.

As we improve the facilities in the Village Hall, please consider using it for your club or personal use – our rates are really attractive!

Rob Hounslow
Chairman Smisby Village Hall Committee
07720348860

New committee members are -
Rob Hounslow (Chair), Simon Barnett (Vice Chair), Ron Walker (Secretary), Suzanne Jones (Treasurer), Barbara Ball (Bookings Clerk), Sarah Rushman, Pat Barnes, Jeff Barnes, David Waters. Please can any queries or questions relating to the Village Hall (including access to the hall) be directed to any member of the committee.

Help At Hand 365



Domestic / Commercial Cleaning Services

Domestic / Commercial Gardening
& Grounds Maintenance

Home Pet Care Visits

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Contact

Emilie Barnett or Sarah Batterson

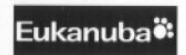
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Ashby Art Club

Our first demonstration of the season was a portrait in oils with Stephen Ashurst. New member, Julia (who was attending her first meeting!) was asked by Stephen to pose for the evening and she kindly agreed. Firstly, Stephen drew Julie in 8B pencil. Members were impressed with the excellent drawing. However, some became worried when he covered it with runny paint! This was the second stage, a tonal under-painting using a mixture of runny oils. Stephen used ordinary and water-soluble oils mixed with both water and turpentine. Stephen moved on to add details using a variety of colours such as reds, greys and blues to develop the features and clothing, to produce a stunning portrait, which can be seen on the club website.

Members also enjoyed the first Saturday workshop of our 2015/16 Programme of Workshops with Steven McLoughlin. Steven is a very talented professional artist who mostly works in oils, developing the paintings on location, and finishing the pieces back at his studio. The British coastline and countryside have been Steven's inspiration for many years and for our workshop was based on his Cornish Cove picture in acrylic.

Full details of our programme can be found at www.ashbyartclub.org



Smisby WI

The Centenary year of the WI is drawing to a close but we enjoyed a wonderful celebratory evening on September 15th with the other Institutes in the Harpur Crewe Group when we were entertained by the Ashby Musical Theatre Group. A good evening spent with good friends.



"Murder at the Big Top" was the title of our second Murder Mystery evening which was great fun with a lovely meal prepared and served by members and family. The Village Hall was beautifully decorated and full to capacity and we were delighted to welcome members from Melbourne and Swannington along with friends from the village. Another good evening spent with good friends!

Due to new regulations we are now holding our AGM in May at the Resolutions meeting instead of in November. In view of this we are starting our Desert Island Disc evening with a fish and chip supper. Lovely! After our "Christmas Miscellany" in December, the January meeting in the Village Hall will be an evening of indoor croquet following on from this year's indoor kurling.

The Smisby Striders and the Craft Group are still providing members with friendship and new skills. The Craft Group are having an extra meeting this month and the Striders will be back in January with their regular walks.

Monthly meetings are usually on the third Thursday in the month at 7.30pm. For more information please call 01530 416411. If you would like to come along as a guest to any of our meetings please call 01530 416411 for more information.

Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire

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Useful Smisby Village Contacts:

Parish Councillors:

Chair - Steve Hewitt (07908 620002)

Vice Chair - Sarah Rushman

Parish Clerk - Emma Stroud (01530 587349)

smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

Councillor - Mark Parnham

Councillor - Simon Barnett (07855 969719)

Councillor - Rob Hounslow (07720 348860)

Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to include anything in the next Parish Newsletter.

South Derbyshire District Councillors:

Councillor - Michael Stanton (07768 010251)

michael.stanton@south-derbys.gov.uk

Councillor - Peter Smith (07894 338129)

peter.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk

Derbyshire District Councillor:

Councillor - Linda Chilton

linda.chilton@derbyshire.gov.uk

Parochial Charity:

Trustee - Barbara Ball (01530 416411)

Trustee - Jeff Barnes (01283 217319)

Trustee - Simon Barnett (01530 412491)

Trustee - Andrew Parnham (01530 411202)

Clerk - Sheila Heap (01530 414179)

Village Hall Committee:

Chairman - Rob Hounslow (07720 348860)

Secretary - Ron Walker

Bookings Sec - Barbara Ball (07526 268698)

Smisby Church:

Churchwarden - Gary Margerrison (01530 414453)

Churchwarden - Carol Morgan (01530 411314)

Newsletter Publishers:

Steve Hewitt

James Barnett

Sam Hewitt (Photography)

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 10th November 2015