

SMISBY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

July 2021



SMISBY WOMENS INSTITUTE

Like many WIs, Smisby has embraced zoom to enable us to keep in touch with members. Every month we had two evening guest speakers and twice a month a coffee/craft morning. Invitations were sent out to local WI's to log onto the evening talks, and they were well supported.

At one of the coffee mornings, it was suggested we crochet, knit and paint sunflowers to attach to trees in the local woods surrounding Smisby. After a long discussion Julie our President suggested we put them on the railings around the village hall, make a feature of it and have a coffee morning to raise money for a charity. Several dates were made but had to be pushed back for COVID reasons, members were busy making Sunflowers of all descriptions to decorate the railings with over one hundred and fifty made. Three of our members are Trustees of the village Hall and as we have complied with all COVID safe regulations we could allow people into the hall and treat it as if they were entering a restaurant, contact numbers taken and face masks had to be worn until they sat down where they were served by members.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015

May 31st Spring Bank holiday Monday, a glorious day, cakes were made coffee and tea at the ready, book stall, plants, and bric-a-brac sold outside everyone felt really pleased to be part of the community and doing something "normal". £418 was raised for a local mental health charity which was presented at our AGM in the village hall. It was time to take down the display but not before taking a picture of several of our ladies with some of the sunflowers made for the occasion.

Community Speedwatch

We have been very pleased to hear that a meeting will be set up shortly with the Safer Neighbourhood Team PCSO to confirm start-up arrangements, since we have lost 18 months due to COVID.

We have now ordered the necessary equipment and will be making arrangements with our PCSO who will provide the basic theory training which we hope will be in the village hall one day or evening - for about an hour.

Next comes practical training in Smisby.

Volunteers

We have already had expressions of interest from some volunteers but we need a big enough group to allow us to monitor the road speed regularly.

Please contact Cllr Mike Cuming directly if you are interested in being involved in the training and speed monitoring.

Smisby Lock Up

Following an assessment last year of the condition of the lock-up by the local conservation officer we have had quotes to carry out some remedial work and general maintenance. In order to offset the costs I am delighted to report that we have been successful in obtaining a grant from the east Midlands Airport Community Group for half the costs.

We will be applying to the Parochial Charity in Smisby for help with covering the balance. We would hope to complete the repairs before the winter weather sets in.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons 2nd June 2022

We think that this would be a really good way to celebrate in the village and would like to encourage suggestions from the local community with possible locations and ideas for catering. We obviously can't have a beacon at the Village Hall! Platinum Jubilee celebrations will take place on the weekend of 2nd - 5th June next year including The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons. The beacon lighting event will take place throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and for the first time, in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth countries on the 2nd June next year.

Proclamation at	1pm
Pipers playing Diu Regnare at	9.09pm
Beacons are lit at	9.15pm.

Village Hall News

Ron Walker

At long last we have been cautiously opening up the hall for our regular hirers and luckily our long standing hirers are returning slowly but surely.

Although the government has decided to lift all covid restrictions from the 19th, your committee have decided to opt for a more cautious approach and will be reminding hirers to be vigilant against a return of this dreadful virus. We will therefore be advising hirers to maintain social distancing and using the hand sanitising available in the hall.

As mentioned before we are planning to start the refurbishment of the kitchen in late July. After a lengthy process of obtaining and discussing three quotes for the work we are delighted to inform you that a villager Ian Rice has been awarded the work. Your committee has been very impressed with the jobs that Ian has carried out for the hall and are looking forward to a wonderful improvement to what is regarded as one the best village halls around.

The proposed summer party is still in our plans but again we feel that it is best to bide our time and see what the country is like after the restrictions are lifted.

Smisby Parochial Charity

Rob Hounslow

Over the past few months we have spent much time carrying out due diligence in selecting a new financial investment company for the Charity and are delighted to inform everyone that we have now down-selected Rathbones. They are a London-based company who specialise in investing for the Charity Sector. Our first meeting with them in person is scheduled for 19 July, where they will be introduced to the Parish of Smisby.

Our other major project, over a similar timescale, has been looking at one of our land acquisitions with a view to selling it on to an interested party. Negotiations have been going well and we are well underway to bringing this project to a successful conclusion in the forthcoming weeks. The funds from this investment will be re-invested in either equities or another relevant land purchase, should one become available.

In our March newsletter we mentioned about the sad passing of our longest serving Trustee - Jeff Barnes. To honour the work that Jeff has undertaken over many years in support of the local community, the Trustees have decided, in conjunction with Pat Barnes, to purchase a bench to be sited in the grounds of St James' Church. The bench will be marked with an appropriate plaque. If any parishioners would like to make a personal contribution towards the bench, please contact Sheila Heap, Clerk to the Trustees, at sheila.heap@icloud.com

Work is continuing on the Jubilee Playing Field football pitch to eradicate the mole hills, even up the ground and re-seed where necessary. It is hoped by the Autumn that the pitch will be in a very usable condition for people to continue to enjoy throughout the football season.

Finally, a continual reminder that if anyone in Smisby has a good idea, or ideas, about projects that would improve community life, then please get in touch with Sheila Heap, Clerk to the Trustees, at sheila.heap@icloud.com Please see the website for all the forms you need to obtain funds or grants from the Parochial Charity at www.smisby.org.uk/smisby-parochial-charity-home-page

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



Parish Council News -meeting held on July 13th 2021

Sarah Rushman

Councillor Taft reported that he and Councillor Cuming had recently met with DCC Highways to review the issues still being experienced in the parish. High-capacity grates have been installed at the bottom of Forties Lane and repairs have been completed on Main Street. A recent heavy downpour had caused problems with the drains as they were blocked. DCC advised they had contacted the land owner who fields had the run off and advised them to install french drains. Councillor Taft has written again to DCC Highways asking them to reinstate the agreed monthly inspection and road sweeps. DCC Highways had looked at the parking issue on Chapel Street and advised if the Council wished this to be officially turned into parking, then they would need to apply for the conversion of use. Repairs have taken place on parts of the pavement on the road into Ashby.

Our new County Councillor David Muller attended his first Council Meeting in Smisby.

There are new team members in the Highways department and he hoped this would mean that the Smisby issues were addressed. Any issues should be reported to DCC either via their website or by calling them in.

The Freeport would bring some issues locally around the Toyota site as well as increased air traffic through the airport

The previous County Councillor Linda Chilton was to be given the honour of alderman of Derbyshire.

He has a generous community fund and welcomes any applications to him.

He was able to respond to a member of the public who expressed their concern for the noisy night flights out of East Midlands Airport and asked what action could be taken. County Councillor Muller advised that with the Freeport going ahead at the airport the number of flights was likely to increase. He suggested that the Parish Council and individuals could write to the airport, lobby Heather Wheeler MP and also respond to the government consultation. For those wishing to see the consultation please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flights-restrictions-at-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-airports-beyond-2024-plus-national-night-flight-policy>.

We are writing to the airport formally, will contact our local MP and will be taking part in this consultation.

District Councillor Churchill advised that SDDC will put together a response to the consultation which will come to their Environmental committee in August for approval. He also advised that the issues around parking and anti-social behaviour at Foremark reservoir are under constant review.

Charlie's Scheme run by Derbyshire Fire Service

Anyone with any of the following characteristics can get a free safe and well visit by the Fire Service.

To make a referral or book a safe and well check call 01332 777850

- Care and support needs
- Hoarding and mental health issues
- Alcohol and medication
- Reduced mobility
- Lives alone
- Inappropriate smoking
- Elderly – 65+

Ashby Camera Club Update

"Ashby Camera Club have continued to operate over Zoom during the lockdowns. We are now in to our summer programme, when we are out and about at a different location every Wednesday evening.

We hope to be back in Smisby Village Hall this September. For details of our current summer and forthcoming winter programmes, please see our web site at <http://www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk>."

Regards,

Phil Richardson
ACC Chairman

News from St James' Church

Gary Margerrison - Churchwarden

In January and facing the second wave of the pandemic, we reluctantly took the decision to again close the church to protect the congregation and those who came into contact with them. Happily, following approval of a new risk assessment, we were able to re-open and resume services in April in a socially distanced and COVID safe manner although frustratingly with limited capacity and with singing still not allowed.

Throughout what has been a very difficult time, the PCC has sought to keep the church ready to welcome worshippers and visitors when permitted to do so. The Churchwarden and PCC were determined that the church should not fall into disrepair or in any way look neglected or abandoned during the pandemic and hope that continued maintenance of the church grounds, regular winding of the church clock and keeping the flag flying has helped to lift the spirits of those who may have taken walk past or through the grounds or even paused for a moment's reflection.

No one looking at the church at the moment could fail to notice the scaffolding on the eastern elevation and in truth this has now been there for longer than we had hoped. We have been aware of the need to repoint the external masonry for some time but a recent inspection revealed that the weathering and decay was more advanced than thought. Mindful of the shocking collapse of a similar part of St Margaret's in Blackfordby last year, it was decided to tackle this and renew the east window tracery on a more proactive basis to allow more efficient work and save costs. The contractors have endured blistering sun, drenching rain, and driving winds but are making good progress and hope to be completed on this section in the coming months.

Although it looks as though the pandemic will leave a lasting impression on all our lives, we are now looking forward to when most if not all restrictions will be lifted and perhaps even to a music and singing filled Patronal Festival for St James' at the end of July!



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



Following final internal fitting out the Village Hall Book Exchange is now 'open for business'. Residents are welcome to deposit and borrow books / magazines / local information etc ...and maybe even CD's / DVD's. Paper copies of the newsletter will also be available.

Ashby Art Club

Marie South

Ashby Art Club meetings are restarting
Monday evening 2nd August.
Wednesday morning 4th August.

The first demonstration night is with Estelle Robinson using pastels on **13th September**

In addition the outdoor sketching and painting sessions continue with members visiting local venues and some photos of the artwork and members in action are on Ashby Art Club

The new membership year runs from September 2021 with the membership fee set at £45 although existing members are being offered a discounted fee of £25.

Information about membership, programmes and club activities can be found on the club website and on the club face book page.

www.ashbyartclub.org/programme
www.facebook.com/ashbyartclub/

Smisby Village Web Pages www.smisby.org.uk

The village website has lots of useful information from many of the groups and associations in the village including St James' Church, WI, Parochial charity, Village Hall and Parish Council.

The Parish Council agenda, minutes and contact details are all published on the site together with the accounts and audit information.

The newsletter will be available to read on the website

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.

Parish Councillors

Chair Sarah Rushman 07974 803729
 Vice Chair Chris Taft
 Councillor Richard Brooke
 Councillor Mike Cuming
 Councillor Hannah Das
 Parish Clerk Caroline Crowder
smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com

Parish Council Meetings at 7.30

(2nd Tuesday of alternate months)

14th September 2021

9th November 2021

Smisby Village Web pages
www.smisby.org.uk

Smisby Village News

facebook

Defibrillator code
 2131 Village Hall

Parochial Charity

Trustee Clare Hynam 01530 481849
 Trustee Simon Barnett 01530 412491
 Trustee Rob Hounslow 07720 348860
 Clerk Sheila Heap 01530 414179

Village Hall Committee

Chairman Ron Walker
 Bookings Clerk Barbara Ball 07526 268698

County Councillor

David Muller David.Muller@derbyshire.gov.uk

District Councillors

Kerry Haines Kerry.Haines@southderbyshire.gov.uk
 Andrew Churchill Andrew.Churchill@southderbyshire.gov.uk