
SMISBY PARISH NEWSLETTER

April 2024



Parish Council News

Chris Taft

This newsletter is now being e-circulated to Smisby Parishioners. Several paper copies will be placed in the village Telephone Box / Book Exchange, for those who have no internet access or who prefer the hard-copy format. The newsletter will be issued three times per year i.e. April, August and December.

Highways

It won't have escaped your notice that DCC Highways have started their long-awaited road repairs along the B5006. Their Information Portal indicate that repair work will take up to 20 days, between the 1st April and the 30th Sept. For more details see <https://one.network/?GB137502175>. Please be aware that traffic diversions will cause increased traffic through Smisby Village and adjacent parish side roads.

Smisby Parish Councillors routinely report potholes, blocked drainage gullies and damaged / obscured road signs etc. However, your direct support and involvement is very important. If we all report road faults to DCC Highways, we can amplify our parish "voice" calling for maintenance work. It's easy to report road faults (and submit other work requests) using the following link: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk>. Your participation will help to enhance the priority we receive.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training

In collaboration with Swadlincote First Responders, SPC are planning to host two CPR training classes, over the summer. Acquiring this life-saving skill is (quite literally) invaluable and it could be the reason someone, perhaps a loved one, survives a cardiac arrest. The two classes are suitable for adults and children over 12 years old. Each class will take approx 1 hour and consist of a 30-minute presentation followed by a 'hands-on' practical session, using manikins. The first class will be held on Thursday 4th July (7:30 pm) and the second class will be on Saturday 6th July (1:30 pm). Training is free-of-charge and to register for a place, please email crtaft25@gmail.com confirming your name, address, number of attendees and chosen course date. **Registration Close: 31st May**

Copper Beech Tree

Sadly, Smisby Village lost the magnificent Beech tree on the corner of Forties Lane and Chapel Street, but having addressed the safety concern, SDDC have replaced it with another 'Fugus Sylvatica Purpurea' and agree to us returning the two benches, for the public to use as they pause in the heart of our wonderful village.

Jubilee Grounds

Smisby's Parochial Charity and Parish Council are keen to revitalise the Jubilee Grounds, aiming to enhance biodiversity and inject fresh life into its amenities. Currently, the park boasts a football pitch, two Boules pitches, a wildflower patch, and a range of children's play equipment, along with a scattering of picnic tables and benches. Recognising the need for improvement, SPC are keen to upgrade the existing facilities and potentially introduce new features. Suggested enhancements include: re-profiling areas of land to accommodate the addition of a permanent shelter, installation of BBQ facilities, upgraded play equipment and installation of outdoor gym. However, we are seeking to muster a dedicated group of individuals to assess the community needs and lead this transformational project. If you're passionate about improving community spaces or have ideas to contribute, we invite you to engage with us. Please feel free to reach out to a Parish Councillors or email smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com to share your suggestions or express interest in getting involved. Your input is invaluable as we work together to create a vibrant and inclusive park for everyone to enjoy.

Community Speed Watch

Our Community Speed Watch (CSW) team is back in action, encouraging drivers to drive responsibly. Speeding remains a concern that the police are eager to address. Our efforts are showing results; initial statistics indicate a 30% reduction in speeding along the B5006 as it passes Smisby Village, with few vehicles now exceeding 60 mph. No accidents have been reported in this area since our CSW initiative launched two years ago. We're also making progress toward our goal of introducing a 'Speed Indication Device.' We invite you to join us in making our roads safer. If you would like to get involved and help make our roads safer, please call one of our Parish Councillors or email: smisbyparishclerk@gmail.com.

East Midlands Airport - Noise Action Plan

EMA recently completed their 4-yearly review of their Noise Action Plan. While some progress has been made, including the banning of particularly noisy aircraft and the imposition of punitive charges, EMA still appears to be trailing behind the rest of the UK by approximately a decade i.e. in terms of addressing noise sensitivity. SPC's response to the consultation is available on the village website and several parishioners have also submitted individual responses. The next review of the Noise Action Plan is scheduled in just over three years' time. Parishioners are encouraged to share their views, throughout the intervening period, to ensure that the best possible representations can be made, when the time comes. The airport maintains a log of known noise issues, and anyone affected by EMA traffic noise can still report particular noisy aircraft movements online. The following link provides useful info and the means to lodge noise complaints: <https://www.eastmidlandsairport.com/community/local-environmental-impacts/noise/>

You can also report aircraft disturbance(s) by emailing: community@eastmidlandsairport.com or by using our automated complaint line on 0845 108 8540. If you wish to write, our address is: Flight Evaluation Unit, Pathfinder House, East Midlands Airport, Castle Donington, Derby, DE74 2SA.

Future Airspace Programme - Flight Path Routes

The Civil Parish of Smisby is situated directly beneath many of the existing departure and arrival routes for EMA. The ongoing national review of these routes presents a unique opportunity to mitigate disturbances for parishioners. It's important to note that this review is separate from the regular 4-yearly Noise Action Plan (above). For over a year, SPC has been actively involved in discussions with the airport on this matter and our responses can be accessed on the village website. The draft plan is now in its second phase of consultation, with the public feedback period expected later this year, possibly extending into 2025 due to scheduling delays. Councillor Cuming serves as our designated contact person for this endeavour and he'll organise public meetings in the village during late summer / autumn to provide updates on progress and outline the current options being considered. If you'd like to review the process yourself, you can visit <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?PID=176>. Then, navigate to the 'Documents for this proposal' section, focusing on the 'Design Principle Evaluation.'

And Finally... To Those Who "Keep the Wheels Turning"

Sincere thanks to everyone who has selflessly dedicated their time to supporting our wonderful community. Far too many people to mention individually, so this is a collective 'shout-out' to all who decorate the village, keep the parish clean and tidy, distribute Christmas Hampers, organise social gatherings, plant and maintain flowers, report potholes, fallen trees and signposts, wind the church clock and generally keep the parish "wheels turning." **Whatever you have contributed and whatever you can contribute in future, your support is greatly appreciated ...a big THANK YOU!** 🙏

Parochial Charity News

Rob Hounslow

The Parochial Charity is nearing completion of its transition from a Charitable Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is the preferred status of such charities, as put forward by the Charity Commission. A CIO means that the Charity is an entity in its own right and is able to undertake many additional tasks e.g. employ people (if required) or enter into contracts. It gives additional protection to Trustees but does not absolve Trustees from following Charity Law.

We continue to provide support for welfare causes in the community and stand by to assist in any other community projects. We understand the Parish Council are looking at the future of the Jubilee Field activities, to make sure it meets the needs of Smisby Parishioners in the best way possible. The Parochial Charity will follow this project closely, to provide funding support in whatever is decided to bring this project to fruition.

While Christmas '23 is now but a fading memory, we were delighted to receive very positive feedback from the Christmas Hamper distribution. These are available to everyone over 60 in the community who had chosen to have a hamper delivered. Just as a very early reminder for Christmas '24, if you live in the Smisby Parish and will be celebrating your 60th birthday before Christmas this year, then please let us know, so that we can put your name on the list for receiving a hamper. If you choose not to receive one, still let us know and we can donate 'your' hamper to the Ashby Food Bank.

We recently held our annual face to face meeting with our charity investors, Rathbones, a leading provider in financial investment, who are specialists in assisting charities. As our charity has assets over £2.8M, we need to employ such a specialist company to ensure we preserve the value of our assets for the future. We were delighted to see that our investments over the last 12 months had on average, given a unit return of 11.4%. Our total funds as of 31 Mar '23 (our last submitted audited accounts) were £2.833M. As a reminder to everyone, we cannot spend our capital investment, just the income generated, and that income is split 50/50 with St James' Church Charity (after deduction of all expenses in running the Parochial Charity). Our half is used to support the local community, in whatever ways it is legally able to do.

Finally, please go to our website if you need any form of welfare support, for example, from personal assistance with a welfare project, assistance with university accommodation fees to provision of a grant towards funeral expenses. All of the forms required are on the website to download and then sent (suitably completed) to our Clerk to the Charity for action. Remember, we only exist to support the Smisby community.

Derbyshire County (Melbourne)

Councillor David Muller

The year so far has been challenging to say the least with the winter storms creating mayhem with flooding across the County and of course the pothole situation with Smisby not being immune to the deteriorating road conditions. We have 25 reactive teams filling around 2000 potholes each week and have invested additional Central Government funding to support an overwhelming national problem.

In Derbyshire indicators show there will be an overspend forecast of about £34.1m in the current financial year and a predicted funding gap of around £40m for 2023/24. The budget savings proposals put forward in the Revenue Budget Report would save approximately £66m over the course of the Council's Five-Year Financial Plan up to 2028/29. Children's Services and Adult Care have two of the largest budgets in Derbyshire and everything is being done to protect these statutory services during the next few years.

We now have an election on May 2nd to choose a Mayor for new East Midlands Combined Authority and the position of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire. The Devolution Deal will attract an investment of £4bn into the area which should help with the fixing of our roads, improving bus and train services and create new jobs and investment in the East Midlands.

A General Election will happen later this year and it would not be wise to predict the outcome. My own position as the Elected Melbourne District Councillor will be decided in local elections next year and I am realistic enough to know the challenges my fellow Councillors and I will face at these elections.

Prior to an election the Electoral Boundaries of Derbyshire will be decided with no change to the 64 County Councillors representing the County. The Wards with Two Councillors will change to one-man wards with the addition of three new Wards/Districts being created across the County. My own District might now include parts of Woodville to even up numbers across our region.

I thoroughly enjoy working with all the Parish Councils in my District of South Derbyshire and look forward to working with the Smisby Parish Council during the coming months. There will be challenging financial restrictions ahead but I will do all I can to support the Melbourne District. A change in weather would also help.



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.

South Derbyshire District Council

Councillors Kerry Hains and James Lowe

Elections on 2nd May

Elections for the East Midlands Combined County Mayoral Authority and Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner will take place on Thursday 2nd May. **If you are voting in person, you will need to take an accepted form of photo ID.**

Council 50th Year Anniversary

The District Council is commemorating its 50th year with a year-long programme of celebratory events which will be shared on the Council's website: www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/news

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.

Kerry.Haines@southderbyshire.gov.uk Mob: 07967 676404 James.Lowe@southderbyshire.gov.uk Mob: 07890 543597

Ashby Camera Club

Ken Hanrahan-Smith

Ashby Camera Club hold weekly meetings in the village hall on most Wednesday evenings from September through to May. The winter programme has a mixture of guest speakers, practical evenings and competitions. During the summer months, from June through to August, we have weekly visits to various locations where members can photograph a variety of subjects.

If you've an interest in photography, whether you are a beginner or a competent photographer, and would like to improve your skills as part of a friendly and welcoming group, then please come along to one of our meetings or events.

You can also get in touch using the contact form which can be found on our website and where you will find more information and details of the programmes:

<https://www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk/>



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Smisby Women's Institute

Suzanne Jones

In my previous reports I have given a brief history of Smisby and the WI, not many of you will know that on Tuesday 18th of October 1949 a bus carrying Smisby WI members to a WI Group meeting in Neatherseal was in collision with a brewery lorry at the Overseal crossroads. Sadly, two people died several Smisby ladies were hurt, some seriously. Offers of help and hundreds of letters from all over the country were sent and it was six months before a meeting of the WI was held. One of our members died Mrs. Helen Dickinson of Prestop Farm, and Mrs. W. Bates from Overseal who was standing at the crossroads was killed instantly. I can only imagine what a terrible time that must have been for all the members who were involved in the accident.

On a happier note, last year our Christmas Party was superb with Peter & Iris Sayer plus friends who entertained us with a repertoire of songs from Rocking Around the Christmas Tree, the Beach Boys, and many others that we could sing along too. We have added three extra talks to our programme this year, besides the monthly meeting. In April Simon Michael a Barrister and now Author, August Cath Ryan, founder of the charity "Cakes for Casualties" and a 1930/40 fashion show by Notty Hornblower in October. Notty has a fantastic collection of vintage clothes & a museum in Derbyshire and puts on shows all-round the country. We chose 1930/40 fashions as in January 2025 Smisby Womens Institute will be celebrating our 90th birthday.

Days out have been planned to Saltaire a Victorian model village in West Yorkshire, and in September a day trip to Liverpool. We are still busy with the two walking groups, craft morning and have recently added crochet every Thursday afternoon in the village hall, making blankets for incubators and little burial gowns for premature babies. All information about Smisby WI can be found on our website www.smisby.org.uk updated regularly by Marie South.

Smisby Church Spring Village News 2024

Canon David Edwards

It's a bit late to wish everyone a Happy Easter but I will do it in any way!

I expect that by now everyone in the village is aware that the Rev. Steve Short has moved away from the Melbourne Benefice and is now in charge of the Repton Benefice. The members of the ministry team, with help from some retired ministers, will keep the patterns of worship in each of the churches as normal as possible, but there may be occasions when we must make other arrangements.

Any enquiries can be directed to the Benefice Office on melbourneparishchurch@gmail.com or 01332 862153. It is intended that there should be an answering service on this number as the Benefice Administrator only works part time, and that a divert can be installed so that it can be transferred to a member of the Ministry Team.

You can also contact David Edwards who will pass on a message to the relevant person. Contact details at the end of this news. There is also information on the Parish website www.smisby.org.uk/st-james-church.

Many of you will wonder what is happening about the appointment of a new Vicar. The process will take some time, and it may be early 2025 before someone is appointed and in place. A group made up of members of the ministry team, the church wardens of each church, and the area Dean are meeting each month to deal with essential business and to ensure that the pattern of services is maintained as far as possible. Each church is being asked to appoint two representatives who will form a group to work with officers from the Diocese to oversee the appointment process. More news on the Parish Website as we have it.

Thank you to those of you who have responded to Hazel about what qualities and abilities you would like to see in a new Vicar. The Vicar is there for everyone in the village, not just for those who attend the church, and it is important that those who make the new appointment have as much information as possible.

The church's Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 6.30 pm on Sunday 28th April. Any one is welcome to attend but if you wish to vote on anything you need to be on the Church Electoral Roll; Pat Barnes is the person to speak to about this. The meeting is to appoint, church wardens, hear reports about the work of the church over the last 12 months, and to appoint members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The meeting will take place after Evensong, also held in the Village Hall, which starts at 5.30 pm.

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

Smisby 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) 14 th May '24 7:00 pm (Annual Parish Meeting) 14 th May '24 [subject to quorum] 9 th July '24 [subject to quorum] 10 th Sept '24 [subject to quorum] 12 th Nov '24 [subject to quorum] 14 th Jan '25 [subject to quorum]	
Smisby Village Web pages www.smisby.org.uk	Smisby Village News 		Defibrillator Code Outside Village Hall – device not locked but will trigger an alarm, silenced using Code <u>2131</u>
Parochial Charity Trustee Paul Cooper Trustee Clare Hynam Trustee Simon Barnett Trustee Rob Hounslow 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 James Lowe: James.Lowe@southderbyshire.gov.uk	



Registration Form: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training	
Name:	
Address:	
Number of Attendees:	
Course Date (please tick preference):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday 4 th July @ 7:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday 6 th July @ 1:30 pm
Return to: Hasbury Cottage, Main Street, Smisby LE65 2TY	
<u>Return By: 31st May 2024</u>	