
SMISBY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Sarah Rushman

March 2023

SMISBY VILLAGE STREET PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

Sunday 7th May 2pm until 11pm

*Smisby Street Party with a free BBQ and toast to the KING
Bring your own refreshments and puddings.*

Live entertainment!!

*CAKE MAKING COMPETITION FOR ADULTS AND KIDS
(Cakes must be entered by 3.30pm)*

A Prize for the best/most appropriately dressed person (optional)

Please remember to send your RSVPs by 16th April to

*Karen and Ron Walker, Cherry Tree Croft, Main Street, Smisby
07970789205 or 01530 560512*

Smisby Parish Council

Consists of volunteers who have been elected or co-opted to serve as members of the council. We need a minimum of 3 elected councillors to continue to run our own affairs as a parish.

Local elections are taking place on the 4th May

Closing date for applications is 4pm on the 4th April 2023

Forms are available from SDDC and should be hand delivered to the council offices prior to the deadline.

Voter Identification

From May 2023, all electors who wish to vote in person, including those acting as a proxy on behalf of another individual, will be required to produce an accepted form of photographic identification (photo ID) at polling stations before being provided with a ballot paper. The Cabinet Office has decided to introduce this requirement to reduce cases of voter fraud. The requirement was brought in under the Elections Act 2022, and the relevant sections are now in force.

- UK Parliamentary General Elections
- Local Elections
- Local Referendums
- Police and Crime Commissioner Elections
- Recall Elections

The first poll this will apply to will be the local elections on 4th May 2023.

Poll Clerks will be able to accept many forms of identification, including:

- Various concessionary travel passes
- PASS cards
- Ministry of Defence identity cards
- Photocard parking permits issued as part of the Blue Badge scheme
- Driver's licenses

Passports Expired photo ID will also be accepted, if the photograph is still a good likeness of the elector. What if an elector does not have an accepted form of photo ID? Electors without photo ID will be able to apply for a 'Voter Authority Certificate' in advance of the poll. This will be a free photo ID document, specifically issued for the purpose of voting.

If you have any other questions or queries, please contact the Council Elections Office on 01283 221000 or the Councils Website www.southderbyshire.gov.uk

Jubilee Grounds Volunteers

As many of you will remember the recreation field in Smisby was renamed the Jubilee Grounds in honour of the last Jubilee. The Parochial Charity have funds available and have already had some suggestions about changes at the Jubilee Grounds. We think now would be a fitting time to make some changes in honour of this Platinum Jubilee.

We would like to set up a working group with members of the parish and parish councillors.

- to assess how the field currently gets used.
- to discuss the longer-term uses of the field
- to look at how we might change and improve the current facilities
- whether we should look at making areas more accessible by, for example, levelling or terracing the ground or improving the access approach

If you are interested in being part of this exciting group, then please contact one of the councillors or the parish clerk or come along to a meeting

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 is 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.

SMISBY WOMENS INSTITUTE

In my last report for the AGM, I gave a potted history of how Smisby WI started here in the Church Room with 24 members present. A lot has happened since then with Smisby WI at one time nearly closing through lack of numbers, but I can assure you that with a membership of sixty and an extremely healthy waiting list we will not be closing anytime yet.

Let me take you back a few years to 1935 here in Smisby Mrs. Hilda Mosley of the Harpur Crewe estate wrote to the Smisby Parish Council to complain about the village having "town fittings" following the proposal to introduce electricity to the village. They were eventually erected in 1936 at the princely sum of £7 each, with electricity coming to Smisby in 1937 but Mrs. Mosley insisted that the cables had to go underground. Also, in 1949 a telephone kiosk was installed in Chapel Street but as many villagers now have a mobile or land line, the box was taken out of service and removed, but we do have a lovely replacement as a bookstore next to the village hall which really enhances the village. Smisby Women's Institute meet twice a month with our craft session and our main meeting with a speaker the third Thursday of the month. We did celebrate the Queens Jubilee and really enjoyed decorating the village railings with crowns, coaches, corgis, and red, white, and blue bows. I know the village had a wonderful street party; we had an afternoon tea in the hall with the Baroness of Bolsover telling us how the afternoon tea became about with Queen Victoria, hence the Victoria sandwich cake made especially for her. Best frocks and hats were the order of the day, sandwiches and cakes all washed down with Prosecco.

We of course did feel immense sadness when The Queen died as she was a very fond member of the Sandringham WI and many memories of meeting her were talked about at our meeting. That gives us another chance this coming May when we have the Coronation of Charles III, we will be having a speaker Dr Gareth Williams telling us about the life of Charles II, which we feel is very appropriate as we are having Lesley Smith Gareth's wife in March giving us a talk on Nell Gwyn who we all know was the mistress of Charles II.

Smisby WI have a packed schedule of meetings with speakers and outings for the rest of the year, we are looking forward to going to an Astronomy evening, the Moorcroft Pottery in Stoke on Trent, and to Broadway and Sezingcote House, and many more planned outings all education visits which is the principals that the Women's Institute was founded upon.



Landscaping and Horticultural machinery for Sale or Hire

Kilworth

Kilworth Machinery Ltd

Anwell Lane, Smisby

Tel: 01530 412690

www.kilworthmachinery.co.uk

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- Tractors
- Mowers
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District and County Councillors

County Councillor Muller, pot hole repairs completed 1588 in the last seven days. DCC had 21 gangs now have 34 gangs on pothole repairs. Council tax set at 3.75%, 1.2% of which is for adult social care. Coronation fund, he has some money available that he could support any celebrations with anyone wishing to apply should email him directly. Nothing on Freeport. Devolution, consultation has happened, the affected authorities are going to debate the results next week. Proposal will then go through to government. Decision likely to be late 2024. Stakeholders are not just the City and County Councils, but they are the ones that can vote on decision. He also thanked Councillor Rushman for her time as a Councillor. A member of public said pot hole repair quality has improved a lot. Councillor Taft regularly reports potholes. District Councillor Churchill, advised that he is not restanding in the elections this year. He also thanked Councillor Rushman. District Councillor Haines, grass cutting up and running again.

Highways

Councillor Cuming encouraged more people to report the potholes via DCC website. Link on the Parish Council website to DCC Highways. All drainage seems to be holding up.

Speed Watch

Speed Watch activities have been difficult lately due to darkness and couldn't do with the recent road works. The data gathered will hopefully assist in getting a SID, the process is also getting a lot easier.

The Parochial Charity in the Ancient Parish of Smisby – Annual Report to the Parish Council – 14 Mar 23

Registered Charity No: 51521

At the end of our last FY ending 31 Mar 22, the Parochial Charity's Endowed and General Funds totalled £2.95M. This compares favourably to the previous FY of £2.92M, especially bearing in mind the world financial crisis. The key change during FY 22 was the decision to move away from our long-term investor, to a London based investment company, who specialises in the Charity sector. This changeover was finally completed this February.

The Charity is not allowed to spend its capital, only the income and that is split 50/50 with St James's Church Charity. This is in accordance with our founding document – the Scheme of Arrangement.

All our allowable funding is focused on the Smisby Parishioners. Grants were made to Students in tertiary education and book tokens given to children living in the Parish. A grant was made to fund a village Christmas party, held in the village hall. This was the first time since COVID restrictions were lifted that such a party could be held. A further grant has been applied for, to celebrate the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III, by having a party for everyone in the village hall on 8 May. A grant was also made to the Smisby WI to allow them to pursue visits worthy to their cause. One of the main highlights every year is the distribution of Christmas Hampers to pensioners in the Parish. For Christmas 22, we agreed to lower the qualifying age for everyone to 60 – previously it had been 60 for females and 65 for males. The Trustees considered in these days of equality, the qualifying age should be the same for both sexes. In addition, support for community projects, or for individuals, has been offered when assistance is not possible from the public purse, either by grants or when other sources of public funding has not been available. During the last year, 2 such individual grants have been made to Smisby Parishioners.

The Charity owns land assets in and around a 15-mile radius of Smisby valued at around £440K, most of which is rented out to farmers for grazing land. Part of this land estate includes the Jubilee Field in Smisby and this is leased to the Parish Council on an annual basis. The Parish Council is responsible for organising the upkeep and general maintenance of that field.

In order to carry out all of the above work, the Charity has 4 elected Trustees, 2 by the Parish Council and 2 by the Charity Trustees themselves. Trustees must either be resident in Smisby, or have extensive knowledge of the village. To assist in their task they employ a clerk, who is responsible for all the administrative duties of the charity. The Trustees meet at least 6 times a year.

Finally, the Trustees are always eager to find new projects that would support the Smisby community. Any ideas should be forwarded to our clerk to allow the Trustees to consider the projects fully.

Contact details for Clerk: sheilaheap@icloud.com



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 Allotment

Association

Continue to be well attended, no plots available, it is looking neat and tidy. The hedges have recently been cut. Three plots are run by people in the village, most of them are from Ashby. Need to be considering how the management goes forward. They have started paying rent to the Parochial Charity now that the allotments are established. National forest woodland planting and an orchard are within the allotment area. There are orchids in the meadow area and to allow these to be appreciated for longer they have scaled down the maintenance. Maintenance for the area is to be reviewed.

Ashby Art Club Report

Ashby art club continues to use the Village

Hall every Monday evening and on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

Our club has gained several new members throughout the year, and we are still accepting new members.

Our periodic demonstrations have also continued this year, with increased interest from the surrounding area.

We have also resumed occasional weekend workshops this year, which have similarly proved popular within and beyond the Club. We hope these can continue going forward, despite competing demand for the Hall.

Our annual Easter Exhibition will be held again in Ticknall Village Hall, Saturday 8th April through to Monday 10th April 2023.

See our Ashby Art Club website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for more information on the Club, and various other local information sites for our Events.

Doug Hague,

Ashby Art Club Chairman

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)

Pending the results of the local elections our next meeting will be on the 9th or 23rd May,

11th July

12th September

14th November

Smisby Village Web pages
www.smisby.org.uk

Smisby Village News

facebook

Defibrillator code
2131 Village Hall

Parochial Charity

Trustee Claire Hynam 01530 481849

Trustee Simon Barnett 01530 412491

Trustee Rob Hounslow 07720 348860

Trustee Paul Cooper 07415 867768

Clerk Sheila Heap 01530 414179

Village Hall Committee

Chair 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