
SMISBY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025



Vibrant Autumn Colours at Bluebell Arboretum & Nursery

Let the Festivities Begin!

Chris Taft

Join us as we begin the festive season in our parish, on Saturday 6th December!

The evening will start at 5:30 pm in St James' Church with some hearty carol singing around our beautiful Christmas Tree, as we switch on the lights. Afterwards, we'll head over to the Village Hall for the much anticipated Smisby Caribbean Christmas Party, complete with authentic Caribbean food and lively steelpan music!

If you plan to attend this exciting event, please remember to complete your invitation slip and return it to Karen Walker at Cherry Tree Croft on Main Street, Smisby by Saturday 22nd Nov i.e. to help provision the Food & Beverage requirements.

Please Note: January Parish Council Meeting - Rescheduled

The first Parish Council meeting of 2026 will be held on Tuesday 20th Jan not the usual second Tuesday of the month. This change is necessary as several councillors are unavailable on the 13th.

To Our Community Champions

On behalf of the parish community, I wish to express heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has worked so tirelessly for our wonderful community. We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of hard-working groups, such as the Parochial Charity, Village Hall Committee, Parish & Church Councils. And a special thank you to everyone who has generously volunteered their time – from organising social events and supporting the Speed Watch initiative, to preparing and distributing Christmas Hampers. I can't list you all but please know that **your efforts are recognised and valued by us all.**

Smisby Parish Council Needs YOU!



Upcoming Vacancy

Are you ready to make a real difference in our vibrant parish community? Smisby Parish Council is seeking an enthusiastic individual, to fill a rewarding vacancy and become a champion for our wonderful community.

- Be part of a great team, and help shape our future
- Be a voice in our community
- Make Smisby an even better place to live

Interested? Please speak to a councillor (listed on last page of this newsletter) or email our Parish Clerk, Caroline Crowder, at clerk@smisbyparishcouncil.gov.uk to find out more.

As mentioned on the previous page, we will shortly have a vacancy! After several years of service on Smisby PC, including several as Deputy Chair and then Chair, Cllr Chris Taft is going to stand down from the PC shortly. Chris has been a steadfast Chairman and a particularly hard-working member of the Council, and he will be missed. There are too many individual achievements to list them all but the significant improvements to the state of the roads, drains, verges and highways apparatus are in large part a direct consequence of Chris' sustained engagement with the local authorities on our behalf; and the overall health of the PC is a tribute to his leadership and indeed to Sarah Rushman and others who preceded him in office. Chris' extensive business travel commitments have made it increasingly challenging for him to attend PC meetings and contribute as much as he'd like and so, we must seek a successor. This impending vacancy has been mentioned a few times over the last six months however it is now urgent that we look for a "volunteer" to step forward to take Chris' place. There are five places on the Parish Council, and we are looking for anyone who wishes to contribute to step forward now, please. Ideally by contacting the Clerk in the first instance, using the new email address, [clerk@smisbyparishcouncil.gov.uk] or by contacting any of the Parish Councillors (see back page).

Change to Parish Council Email Addresses & Website

Changes in local government legislation have required us to set up a new website for the Parish Council, and also distinct email addresses; this is currently a work in progress but please note that the Clerk in particular already has a functioning new email which is clerk@smisbyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Highways

With the active support of Cllr Charlotte Hill (Derbyshire County Councillor for Melbourne & Woodville and Cabinet Member for Potholes, Highways and Transport) Smisby PC report significant improvements to our parish roads and it's hoped this trend will continue.

The spate of accidents at the Heath Lane/B5006 crossroads continues to be a grave concern and we are continuing to chase up suitable action at that location. Smisby PC has been actively engaged with Cllr Charlotte Hill and Stephen Hughes (Traffic Management Unit for Roads Policing). Regrettably, progress has been slow and despite the installation of temporary Give Way signs, another accident (third this year) has occurred at this junction. Smisby PC will continue to push for the enhanced / permanent signage and the installation of 'countdown' rumble strips on the two Heath Lane approaches, to this junction.

Please continue reporting potholes, obscured or fallen road signs, blocked drains etc, via the DCC Highways Hub: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport-roads/roads-traffic/report-a-road-fault/report-a-road-fault.aspx>

Community Speed Watch (CSW)

The Speed Watch group continues to be active and indeed during the National "all out" day in July we were the single most active group of all, despite the very hot weather. You may recall that we looked for a good nickname for our mascot dummy which we attach to the road signs whilst we're out there - and PC Darth Radar has been duly christened!

Jubilee Field – Development Project

The playing field area discussion is active and ongoing. A number of people seem to be under the impression that action may be either radical or imminent but in fact neither is likely: it will probably take some time to get it right. The intention of the project is to accumulate ideas and work out which - if any - might suit better than the current arrangements. Cllr Janet Sullivan is chairing a working group who have now met several times, held an 'open afternoon' on the field itself and have benefitted from a considerable volume of ideas and sketches. They are currently refining the various suggestions and costing-out those which appear to have most merit. Once that stage has been completed we will then consult further. In the meantime, it is not too late for other volunteers or ideas to come forward...

Aircraft Noise

Smisby Parish Council is delighted to announce that a team from East Midlands Airport will visit Smisby Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd December evening, to brief the parish community on airport issues which affect us all.

This is an opportunity for us to learn what they are planning in their Noise Action Plan and the National Future Airspace programme (dealing with flight path routes), of which EMA is a part. This is an opportunity to ask questions and learn how EMA Flight Operations will affect this community.

= **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND – DRINKS & SNACKS PROVIDED BY THE PAROCHIAL CHARITY** =

Evening Presentation by East Midlands Airport Team

Smisby Village Hall

Tuesday 2nd Dec at 6:00 pm



Topics Include:

- **Noise Action Plan** – which is updated every 4 years – the team will explain how they manage and mitigate noise
- **Noise Complaint Procedures** – and how complaints are handled
- **Future Airspace Programme** – an on-going but one-off event – where departure and arrival routes are examined

Ashby Camera Club

Larry South

Ashby Camera Club has started a new season, meeting in Smisby Village Hall on Wednesday evenings (check programme for details). The club has a packed calendar through to June next year with talks, practical evenings and competitions to suit all genre of photography and all abilities from beginners through to advanced. We pride ourselves of being a very friendly and sociable group which has been running for almost 60 years.



Start a new hobby or brush up on an old one, we would love to see you. Come along for a few free taster sessions. Details are on our website: www.ashbycameraclub.co.uk or contact us at chairmanacc@gmail.com

South Derbyshire District Council

Councillors Kerry Hains and James Lowe

Update on Local Government Reform

The Government is requiring two-tier council areas like Derbyshire to move to single-tier unitary councils on 1st April 2028. There are currently two proposals – the first from the District Councils which splits Derbyshire into North and South (South Derbyshire likely to be clustered with Derby City, Erewash and Amber Valley), the second from Derbyshire County Council who are proposing one unitary council for the whole of Derbyshire. The deadline for submitting a final proposal to the Government is 28th November 2025 with a decision being made on the new structure in summer 2026. At the moment the picture is very unclear, but we will let you know when we get any future updates!

Changes to Postal Votes

Postal votes are now valid for a maximum of 3 years with the expiry date being precisely the third 31st January after the postal vote was approved. The elections team will contact any residents who are affected via email, any electors without an email address will receive letters from week commencing 3rd December to advise they need to reapply before 31st January 2026. More details can be found on the SDDC website in the news section:

<https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/news/2025/nov>

Kerry.Haines@southderbyshire.gov.uk [07967 676404] and James.Lowe@southderbyshire.gov.uk [07890 543597]

St. James' Church

Rev'd Canon Rosemary Donovan



I am thrilled to be appointed as your new incumbent. My journey with the Melbourne Benefice began 25 years ago when I did a month's placement here as an ordinand from Queen's Theological College in Birmingham with the tutelage of John Davies. To my surprise and delight I have felt a very strong of calling to return. A series of what I can only describe as God incidences have made that abundantly clear to me, and I only have a desire to be faithful to the God who calls me. I am a Brummie and was ordained deacon in Birmingham Cathedral in 2001 and priest a year later. I served my Curacy at All Saints, Kings Heath an area where I had previously taught as a secondary RE teacher. My first incumbency was at St Mary's & St Anne's in Moseley where I helped to bring about a United Benefice and develop their youth ministry. In 2011 I moved to the Guildford Diocese as Vicar for Christ Church, Epsom Common. This has been an amazing place to exercise ministry, and we have seen growth and new life here. I was also Area Dean for Epsom and have held many other diocesan roles including being Clergy Chair, serving on the DAC and Bishops Council, as well as Diocesan Advisor for Women Ministry. Consequently, I bring a wealth of ministerial experiences from the past 25 years which I hope will stand me in good stead to lead and encourage all four church communities on a new adventure with God. I have really enjoyed worshipping at Smisby, particularly the poignant act of Remembrance and can see why many appreciate the calm peaceful atmosphere of the weekly 5:30pm service. If you have not yet explored St James, your parish church it is a beautiful oasis for reflection, and I look forward to meeting many more villagers there or out and about in due course.

Derbyshire County Council (Melbourne & Woodville) – Elected Representative

Cllr Charlotte Hill

Cllr Charlotte Hill has asked that her surgery dates are advertised as follows:-

1st Saturday of every month – Melbourne Assembly Rooms - 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

2nd Saturday of every month – The Dethick Hall, Hartshorne - 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Remembrance Service

Chris Taft

On the 9th November, members of this parish and surrounding area, solemnly gathered to remember the fallen. In particular, the brave soldiers from this parish who gave their lives during WWI & WWII.



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning...*



We Will Remember Them

Wreaths were laid on Smisby's War Memorial by representatives of the community and we stood in silence to remember.

Thanks go to Canon David Edwards, Rev Canon Rosemary Donovan, Gary & Shirley Margerrison and Peggy Moore, for their support of Remembrance in our parish ...and children of Smisby Day Nursery, who helped decorate our memorial.

Anyone wishing to read about Smisby's Fallen heroes; please refer to <https://www.smisby.org.uk/the-fallen-from-smisby> or the winter 2024/25 edition of the Smisby Parish Newsletter: <https://www.smisbyparishcouncil.gov.uk/newsletters>

Smisby Village Hall

Ron Walker

As we enter the festive season our hall has, not surprisingly, seen a few more parties booked. Apart from the village extravaganza the rest are mainly kiddies parties which all helps with hall's coffers. Our continued improvement programme has seen the latest addition of new oak doors fitted to the lobby and hall area, once again attracting very encouraging compliments. Our regular hirers are, as usual, ensuring that our hall is being used regularly but we do have a few spaces if required. Please take the time to look round the hall when attending the parish Christmas Caribbean Party, your comments are always welcome.

Smisby Women's Institute

Suzanne Jones

We've had quite a year for our 90th Anniversary as a Women's Institute, with the superb meal at the Beeches and entertainment by the Potty Plotters setting the agenda for the year.

After Notty Hornblower's talk last year, we were invited to afternoon tea and to visit her museum of vintage clothes. We accepted the offer in May so that we could visit the famous well-dressing at Tissington along with the lovely shops that are dotted around the village.

In June Lesley Smith entertained us with a wonderful account of the life of Florence Nightingale. Lesley told us about the amazing work Florence did for the soldiers of the Crimean War, in which she organised care for wounded soldiers at Constantinople. Sandwiches, cake and Pimm's were served before the talk by our own very able catering crew.

September saw our visit to Liverpool. The weather was glorious and Jean our 'outings organiser' arranged tickets for the yellow hop-on-hop-off bus. The bus took us to see the many historical places that make this city only second to London, for grade two listed buildings. We could do our own thing for the day, visit the two well-known churches, art galleries or just go for a boat ride on the Mersey. A wonderful clean city and well worth a visit.

In November we will be having Dr Gareth Williams, Lesley's husband, giving a talk on The Witchfinder General and to round up our 90th year we will be having our Christmas Party at the Tap House.

We have a superb website kept up to date by Marie South, which has pictures and reports of events we have held at the village hall plus the striders and strollers walking groups, along with our successful craft & crochet/knitting groups, plus many other causes we as a WI support.

All information can be viewed on our website: <https://www.smisby.org.uk/womens-institute>

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



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

Parish Council: <https://www.smisbyparishcouncil.gov.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.

And for those who enjoyed reading this newsletter, previous issues are available via the Parish Council website (above).

Parish Councillors

Chair	Mike Cuming	07747 841 348
Vice Chair	Gemma Dickens	
Councillor	Richard Brooke	
Councillor	Janet Sullivan	
Councillor	TBA	
Parish Clerk	Caroline Crowder	

clerk@smisbyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings at 7:30 pm (2nd Tuesday of alternate months)

20 th Jan '26	[subject to quorum]	... not 13 th Jan
10 th Mar '26	[subject to quorum]	
12 th May '26	Annual Parish Meeting – 7:00 pm	
14 th July '26	[subject to quorum]	
8 th Sept '26	[subject to quorum]	
10 th Nov '26	[subject to quorum]	

Smisby WhatsApp Group aka "Smisby Crew"

For Parish Residents and those with strong connections to this parish

Access Requests: 07415 783 066

Smisby News

facebook

Defibrillator Code

Outside Village Hall – device not locked but will trigger an alarm, silenced using Code **2131**

Parochial Charity

Trustee	Paul Cooper	
Trustee	Gemma Dickens	
Trustee	Elizabeth Sturgess	
Clerk	Sheila Heap	01530 414179

Village Hall Committee

Chairman	Ron Walker
Secretary	Suzanne Jones
Treasurer	Claire Hynam
Bookings Clerk	Janet Sullivan 07557 961 105
Trustees:	Pat Barnes, Hazel Salt, Sarah Rushman, Karen Walker, Barbara Ball, Simon Barnett & David Waters

Local Derbyshire County Councillor (Elected)

Charlotte Hill: Charlotte.Hill@derbyshire.gov.uk

South Derbyshire District Councillors

Kerry Haines: Kerry.Haines@southderbyshire.gov.uk
James Lowe: James.Lowe@southderbyshire.gov.uk