



NEWSLETTER

**Ninth edition of the newsletter for; Upper Pleasley,
New Houghton, Stoney Houghton and Pleasley Vale**



The **Venerly Institute** built 1906 by Frederick Verney, nephew of Florence Nightingale. Read the history on our web site www.pleasleyparishcouncil.org.uk Available for booking for meetings, parties and functions.
Phone 810732

On our web site you can also read the past minutes and past Newsletters in case you have forgotten certain items.

NO. 53 BUS



A Special Parish Council meeting was called on 24th August. The Council's response to Stagecoach's decision to curtail the 53 bus route up Newboundmill Lane and Terrace Lane was discussed.

Residents were misled into believing this was a public meeting, consequently we were inundated by around 45 irate residents, and quite rightly so. However the 15 minutes allowed for public participation, which is usual for all parish council meeting was extended slightly due to the unusual public demand to try and resolve this problem.

The Parish Council is fully aware of the inconvenience and problems that this will cause and is very supportive of this problem but there is nothing it can do physically as it is beyond its influence and authority, it can only support the residents. This has been done by drafting two letters and the clerk presenting them to the committee for approval. They have been sent to Stagecoach and Derbyshire County Council. Letters have been sent to Dennis Skinner MP. I am sure many of you have written also. It has had coverage on the Radio, Television and Newspaper.

As pointed out by Cllr Wright when interviewed on BBC TV Central and on Radio Nottingham also by the CHAD.

RECREATION GROUNDS

Quote.

This service was an essential part of the Pleasley residents' quality of life by providing transport to the shops in Mansfield and Shirebrook and beyond, to the doctors. To hospitals and to their place of work and children to their schools. Five minutes extra time and .08 of a mile to a bus, is not much, but to the people of Pleasley in their 70s, 80s, and 90s carrying heavy shopping bags all uphill, it is a hard struggle, especially with winter approaching, they rely on the bus service.

There are no shops in Pleasley. It will affect over 290 homes, that is nearly 1000 people. A further 78 houses under construction,

Who will want to live where there is no bus service?

The new Conservative Leader of Derbyshire County Council asks residents to use public transport and use their cars less. He also makes a commitment to make sure bus services are spread evenly across all communities. Let's hope he listens to the residents of Pleasley.

Let's hope Stagecoach can have a change of mind and restore the bus service. Ask Derbyshire County Council to subsidize this daily service instead of a Sunday and evening service that no one uses.

The latest reply from Stagecoach is that they will not restore the bus service unless they receive help from the County Council.

This is despite making £13 million profit.

There will have to be some alternative mode of transport investigated by the local authorities.



Complaints have been received about the Terrace Lane recreation ground concerning the lack of infant amenities. This will come under discussion by the parish council. Vandals are to blame. The last pieces of equipment were damaged and some stolen. Trouble is no-one sees anything. Within the last few weeks the safety surface under the safety net has been damaged, this will be quite expensive to be repaired. £25,000 was spent on the play area when the Welmar development was in progress.

Another complaint has been received concerning the top entrance onto the recreation ground, asking why can't we have a gate fitted to stop children running on to the road, especially when traffic is using it?

The A frame that is there is recommended by health and safety to stop motor cycles from entering, a gate would not do that. From experience, when we did have a gate near Newboundmill Lane it was never closed, and the ones we have on New Houghton recreation ground are never closed. Therefore it would not be practical to have a gate.

The Parish Council has asked Highways to erect a safety barrier along the

pavement near the gate to prevent instant access and asked for a strip across the road to slow traffic down. Meanwhile we hope that Parents will take a responsible attitude and take extra care with children that may run ahead.

Complaints have also been received regarding cockerels crowing on Meden Ave allotments. **Bolsover District Council is monitoring the noise level.**

We are still waiting to hear whether we have been successful in our bid for funding for the New Houghton play area – like all residents we are anxious that this happens sooner rather than later and are getting increasingly frustrated by the delays we are encountering.

HANGING BASKETS

We are delighted with the reaction which we have received from you regarding our hanging baskets. Two were stolen in broad daylight early on, but we are pleased to say

that Glapwell Nurseries replaced these free of charge.

Some hanging baskets for next year will be situated on different lamp posts because of visibility. We have found that due to the growth of leaves and branches some are not so apparent as others and we wish to get the best benefit of the of the lovely displays

PLEASLEY VILLAGE SIGN

Councillors Wright and Gamble met an officer from Derbys CC recently to agree the siting of village signs. Keep a look out!

WALKING FOR HEALTH

We are told that walking is a good form of exercise. This is a good time for year to take a walk in the countryside and appreciate the change from summer to autumn.

Two Counties Walk

Leave the country park car park and go left along the broad path. Keep on this path, through two stiles, past the large pond. After the path has turned to the right go through the stile on the left and turn left along Longhedge Lane bridle path.

Continue along the path, pass a stile on the right and then fork right with the bridle path. Follow this track until you reach Newboundmill Lane. Turn right, follow the road round to the left and cross the river at Moorhaigh Bridge. Go ahead and then take the road which forks to the left (Moorhaigh Lane). Continue along this lane for about half a mile up hill.

At the footpath sign on the left, cross the stile and head down the slope towards a gap in the bushes opposite. Go through the gap and then up a steepish slope towards a stile at the top of the field.

Cross this stile and then walk along the field edge. Follow the line of the hedge on your left through the next field and at the next field follow the hedge line before following the well used path towards a stile where the hedge and wall meet on Water Lane.

Turn left along the road and continue down into Meden Square. Go left along Chesterfield Road and then up the hill as far as Pleasley Surgery. Cross the road and return to the car park via Pit Lane.

Why not try this walk around Pleasley? See how nature takes back what we have spoiled and enjoy a good view over the Meden valley.

The instructions start from the car park at the Pleasley Pit Country Park.

Please wear appropriate footwear for walking on field paths and remember to keep to the Country Code. Take care on the road sections of this walk. Some parts of the route can be muddy in wet weather. Make sure dogs are on leads for the final section of the walk.

THE FLOWER FESTIVAL AND ITS ORIGINS



St Michael's Church Pleasley

The well dressing and flower festival was a huge success. The weather was very kind and enabled outdoor activities to take place, every one enjoyed the band and blessing of the well's church service on the Sunday.

One does wonder how long this marvellous event can continue, as there is a lack of youngsters to carry it on. Unfortunately age becomes a problem to us all and this event takes a tremendous effort on the physical ability of mind and body. Credit is due to all those who give their time to make this a success.

Perhaps we try and do too much.

The future of this event cannot be assured as it depends on support.

Anyone wishing to get involved with this event should contact either of the church wardens.

One new church member suggested that a detailed illustration is given of the well dressing to create an interest. This was done in the past when members of the public could see how the well was constructed, the sequence of events at stages were explained and the public could have a go at each stage as a lesson well learned.

Why Well Dressings in Derbyshire?

Once more the theorists suggest that in medieval times when plagues, such as the one that struck Eyam, swept through the land, the keen upland air and the pure spring water of Derbyshire moorland villages, kept them comparatively free from infection or aided recovery. An act of thanksgiving would be most appropriate.

Tissington was the first village to re-introduce well dressing in 1349, after the village managed to escape a terrible outbreak of the Black Death that swept through England at this time.

Many villages began to dress the new water taps when piped water first came to the villages as a thank you gesture for being able to get fresh clear water from natural springs. Well dressing involves the decoration of springs and wells with pictures made from living plants and flowers, and usually happens in the summer and early autumn. Some villages allow visitors to watch the preparations.

Well Dressings in Pleasley

The first well dressing in Pleasley was the brainwave of Rev Ian Winterbottom and his wife Irene. A school teacher, Rachel Rastrick who worked with Irene, already did this art at the village where she lived and Rachel helped for three or four years until she started with her family.

Irene asked her to explain the art and help us with the first well dressing.

Rev Winterbottom asked Margaret and Howard Wright if they would help in the construction of the well and the design so and they went to see Rachel working on her village project, then they went to the village of Youlgrave where they were constructing their wells. It was explained to the Youlgrave team what the intentions were and they were only to pleased to help and showed how the well was prepared. They asked if we would help them with their tableau.

Fred Shimwell was the man in sole charge of this well in Youlgrave he gave us very useful tips.

Next Stage

It was thought that the well dressing should be incorporated with St Michaels Flower Festival but at that time church members were already committed to holding events and stalls at the Mansfield Mardi Gras Carnival.

Howard collected the clay from a pottery and made the first well from pallets obtained from Pretty Polly, (very much different to the sturdy one used today). The well boards were soaked in water - a home made pond made from a wood surround and a tarpaulin filled with water in Howard's garden! This was to stop the wood drawing the water out of the clay too soon, to prevent the clay from cracking.

The clay was puddled and kneaded (soaked in water to make it pliable to be plastered onto the boards). Several ways were used over the years to get clay to adhere to the boards: drill holes partly into the wood so the clay would run in the holes: knock felt nails in and put in strips of narrow wood - anything to help the clay adhere!

The first few wells were done in the vicar's garage. Margaret drew the image free-hand on large sheets of white paper, then the paper was placed on the wet clay and pricked out, using a knitting needle to follow the drawing outline. Then the paper is taken away and then the indents are followed using wool of various colours. The picture very laboriously is then filled in.

There are so many things that can be used to create the picture: small flower heads such as feverfew;

alder cones; flower petals, leaves off various bushes, rice, orange and lemon peel, lichen from the walls in Derbyshire, various pebbles, elder flower, cow parsley. The list is endless.



Our first effort was Florence Nightingale in 1991. This project was received with much enthusiasm and a very dedicated team was formed for future well dressing, headed by Barry and Sheila Clay.

Margaret and Howard retired after ten years.

When Ian and Irene left Pleasley vicarage the garage was no longer available. Various venues were used: Roy Rossiter's garage, Anthony Bek School's room, the basement of The Verney, finally the Pydokke room.

THE CHURCH

One subject worthy of note regarding the Church. The church is there as a community item: for couples to get married in, be there for a funeral, also to baptize people. Little thought is given on how it survives financially or where the money comes from.

Who pays the electric bill, who pays for the heating, who pays the insurance, who pays the organist, who pays for the flowers in church, who pays for the maintenance and repairs etc etc? In addition to these expenses the parish share of **£12,500** is paid to Derby to help run the diocese.

Did you know this?

All this revenue has to be found through the collection plates and donations to our church at services, weddings, funerals, baptisms and church functions. Please support the church if you want it to survive for your convenience.

The Three Months Ahead

September, October, November.
Dark nights, cold weather, hopefully no snow!

September: Gemstone: Sapphire
Flower: Aster or Morning Glory

The name September comes from the old Roman word 'septem', which means seven, because in the Roman calendar it was the seventh month.

ST MICHAEL'S & CHRIST CHURCH

CALENDAR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

November 11th Remembrance Service will be at Christ Church 10-15 then, after the outdoor service to honour the fallen, a service will be held at the Pleasley Welfare Memorial at 11-30am.

November 28th at 2pm Parish Christmas Fayre at New Houghton Community Centre.

Friday 4th December Christmas Tree Festival with concert with the Forest Singers at **St Michaels 7-30pm**,. .

Saturday 6th to Tuesday 8th December church open 10am to 5pm

*Those who contribute by providing trees will be able to place them **Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd December***

Contact Church Wardens **Barry Clay 01623 810574** or **Ralph Holmes 810230**.

Tuesday 8th December 7-30pm Christmas Concert with Pleasley Band.

Sunday 13th December 9am. Said Eucharist & 9 Lessons with Carols.

Thursday 17th December 7pm Carols by candle light St Michael's.

Thursday 24th December 8pm Carols in Meden Square

11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Michael's

Friday 25th December 10am Carols & Readings St Michael's



The Anglo-Saxons called it Gerst monath (Barley month), because it was the time when they harvested barley to be made into their favourite drink - barley brew. They also called it Haefest monath, or Harvest month. The Romans believed that the month of September was looked after by the god, Vulcan. As the god of the fire and forge they therefore expected September to be associated with fires, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

September is the start of the school year.

Students return to school after the six week summer holiday.

September begins on the same day of the week as December every year, because there are 91 days separating September and December, which is a multiple of seven

Nothing whatsoever happened in British history between 3rd and 13th September 1752.

The reason being these days did not exist!

In 1752 Britain decided to correct this by abandoning the Julian calendar in favour of the Gregorian. By doing so, 3 September instantly became 14 September - and as a result these days did not exist.

Many people believed their lives would be shortened. They protested in the streets, demanding "Give us back our 11 days!"

Michaelmas Day is the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, celebrated on **29 September**.

St. Michael is the patron saint of the sea and maritime lands, of ships and boatmen, of horses



and horsemen. He was the Angel who hurled Lucifer (the devil) down from Heaven for his treachery.

Michaelmas Day is traditionally the last day of the harvest season.

OTHER SEPTEMBER DATES

1st Sept 1971 The penny and threepenny piece coins cease to be legal tender as Britain changes over to decimal coinage.

2nd-6th Sept 1666 The great fire of London raged for four days—destroying more than 13,000 houses and 100 churches including St Pauls, 6 people were killed.

3rd September 1939 The Second World War started.

7th September 1533 Queen Elizabeth I was born.

9th Sept 1950 Soap rationing which was introduced in 1942 ended.

26th Sept 1955 Birds Eye fish fingers first went on sale.

30th Sept 1928 Penicillin was discovered by Alexander Fleming.

OCTOBER

When the leaves begin to change, transforming England's landscape into an array of beautiful autumn colours.

OCTOBER DATES

October 3rd is the celebrated GOOSE FAIR in Nottingham.

Oct 25th British summer times ends, **Clocks go back an hour.**

Oct 31st Halloween Night.

1834 Oct 16th A fire in London destroyed the Houses of Parliament and parts of the

city. Reconstruction measures included the building of Big Ben and Buckingham Palace.

1847 Oct Charlotte Bronte published her novel Jane Eyre.

1845 Oct 25th Charge of the Light Brigade.

Oct 16th Oscar Wilde was born.

1860 Oct 17th The first British Open golf championship, at Prestwick, Scotland. **1863**

Oct The Football Association was founded represented by 11 clubs.

1869 Oct 2nd Mahatma Gandhi was born.

1870 Oct 1st The British Post Office issued the world's first postcards. Henry Stanley met Dr David Livingstone, (I presume).

1879 Oct 21st Edison demonstrates his first carbon filament lamp light.

Famous people born in October

P G Wodehouse, Picasso, **1881**. Margaret Thatcher **1925**.

NOVEMBER

Fog, and the nights get dark earlier, time to fill the grit bins.

All Saints day **1st November**

All Souls day **2nd November**. Bonfire night

5th November when we burn the Guy Fawkes

11th Nov Remembrance Day.

30th Nov St Andrew's Day.

VILLAGES EVENTS

You will have seen that an increasing number of villages have a festival event such as a Scarecrow Festival. Is this something that could be done in our villages?

Any household can take part, it is then judged and a prize given to the best scarecrow. A bit of fun, tests the imagination.

What do you think?

Let us know.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

FRIDAY 18th December 7pm

The annual Christmas Carols round the tree outside the VERNEY.

This has been a success in the past. All are welcome.

Mince pies and festive drink inside the VERNEY afterwards.

(Provided by the Chairman of the Parish Council.)

Mrs Sybil Sissons will be asked to be accompanist to the carols.

COMPETITION

Regrettably we had no entries for our last quiz – why not try and enter this. Complete each line. First correct answer wins a £10 voucher for Glapwell Nurseries. Drawn at council meeting Nov 2nd.

----- -- ----- of them,
----- -- ---- of them,
----- -- ----- of them
----- --- thundered;
----- -- ----- and shell,
----- ---- ---- and well,
---- --- ---- -- Death,
---- --- ----- -- Hell
---- --- --- hundred.

Entries to the Verney Institute by Nov 1st.

DO not forget to order your Christmas trees from GLAPWEL NURSERIES