



# NEWSLETTER

*Eleventh edition of the Newsletter for Upper Pleasley,  
New Houghton, Stoney Houghton and Pleasley Vale.*



The  
**VERNEY INSTITUTE**  
built 1906 by Frederick Verney,  
nephew of Florence Nightingale.  
Read the history on our web site.  
On the web site you can also read  
the past minutes and past newslet-  
ters, in case you have forgotten  
certain items.  
[www.pleasleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.pleasleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

The VERNEY is available for booking, for meetings, parties & functions.

Phone: **PHILLIP** on: **01623 810732**

## **QUESTIONS - POINTS OF VIEW**

One thing we do not receive are people's questions, points of view and letters. There must be someone who wants to ask a question or speak their mind, or even relate matters of interest from their younger days.

We are happy to receive your views either by letter to: Cllr. Howard Wright, Chairman, Pleasley Parish Council, 59 Newboundmill Lane, Pleasley, NG19 7PT or by email: [johnwright828@btinternet.com](mailto:johnwright828@btinternet.com)

A questionnaire was presented to the Parish Council Liaison committee in December for parishioners to answer. It concerns the responsibilities of the parish council who are responsible for: public buildings, community centres and village halls, allotments, cemeteries, bus shelter maintenance, footpaths, play areas (recreation grounds and football pitches), special events, Christmas lights, festivals, etc.

***Do you know who your Parish Councilors are ?***

Do you know how to contact them ? How would you prefer to contact them – telephone, e mail, mail, in person, or at the parish council meeting during time set aside for public participation?

***To remind you of your parish councilors, they are:***

Ian Allen	810346
Pauline Bowmer (Vice Chair)	811492
David Clarke	810547
Val Douglas	811761
Pat Fisher	810926
Mick Gamble	810035
Christine Holland	810824
Neil Jordan	811615
Jackie Jones	811207
Howard Wright (Chair)	810486

The Parish Clerk is Brian Carnall  
[briancarnall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:briancarnall@yahoo.co.uk)

***District Councillors are:***

Pauline Bowmer and Anne Syrett	01246 850215
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***County Councillor is***

Marion Stockdale	01623 742197
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## NEW TERRACE FOOTPATH AND BUS SERVICE

The two foremost problems for the New Terrace residents are the bus service and access to the Welfare footpath as it is known locally. This should be the Parish Council footpath.

A bus service started on the 27<sup>th</sup> November running from Nottingham to Chesterfield via New Terrace and New Houghton. Although it is only once a week on Fridays, at least it is a start of perhaps better things to come. If you can do your shopping in Chesterfield this is an ideal service. It is up to residents to use it or lose it. A timetable is available and posted on both Parish notice boards.

## OPEN DOOR COMPUTER CENTRE

The Open Door Computer Centre funded by the Parish Council proposes to start in New Houghton in the Community Centre.

**For adults on Thursdays, 9.30am to 12.30pm.** It is proposed that the adult session will be staffed with a paid employee who will be able to offer training and support. You can bring your own laptop if you want advice. Wi-Fi will be available.

**Saturdays from 10.0 am to 12.0 noon** will be an open general session for all age groups, timed for say one and a half hours, we will have to see how many are interested. Let's see adult residents from the whole parish use the facility.

**The Junior sessions will be: Thursdays 4.30pm to 6.0pm, 7 to 11 years of age and 6.30pm to 8.30pm 12 to 17 years of age.** These sessions will be supervised by volunteers some of whom may only have basic computer skills.

Members of the public will be able to visit and take this opportunity to surf the web at their own leisure. We will have six computers, so it will be first come first served.

The intention is that computers will be

available for participants to use for their own work rather than that of training.

**Anyone wishing to volunteer to help the supervisor with the children's sessions of the computer group should request an application form from Brian Carnall 01246-273239.**

This **February Newsletter** covers the next three months and it is planned for the next Newsletter to be out late April/early May. You will see later on that we are proposing to have a scarecrow event and more details will given in April's newsletter.

By the end of the next three months we should see an improvement of the weather and be looking forward to spring, when daffodils, snow drops, crocus and tulips will be out. Our plans for the Parish will be taking shape and following last years success we will be having hanging baskets again throughout the community.

## RECREATION GROUNDS

The Parish Council is very disillusioned with the contractors who were appointed to do the funding work for the New Houghton play area two years ago and we are still no further forward. Therefore, the Parish Council is contacting other contractors to supply details for both New Houghton and Terrace Lane recreation grounds. We would like to have the improvements to both these grounds for the summer.

Whilst on the subject of recreations grounds the Terrace Lane ground is being treated with disrespect by certain dog owners. A recent inspection revealed that there was a large amount of dog faeces near the infants play area.

A single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million faecal coliform bacteria. All faeces contain bacteria that can cause stomach upsets if ingested. However, the greatest risk to public health from dog faeces is toxocariasis. Eggs enter the body tissue and manifest as cysts or in some cases

stomach ache. In worse instances, larvae can migrate through our body and end up affecting the optic nerve behind the eye. In rare cases, this can lead to blindness in one eye.

As well as being unpleasant and nuisance, you can contract Toxocariasis, which leads to blindness and epileptic fits. Toxocara eggs take 2-3 weeks to mature.

Removing dog mess immediately prevents this and restricts infection. It can live in the ground for two years, you only have to walk in it and carry it home for the bacteria to spread.

***Don't be responsible for a child going blind.***

The Parish Council will have no hesitation in fining anyone caught not clearing up after their dog.

The fine could be up to **£1000**. Keep your eye on your dog. If you let it run free you may miss it doing the obvious! Strict observation will be kept when any one is seen with a dog on the recreation ground.

Doggy bags are available from any councillor. Luckily not all people are guilty, the majority do clean up after their dog. Usually it is when someone else takes the dog a walk; ***This will not stop the owner from being fined.*** If you see anyone who is guilty report them.

### **NEW HOUGHTON CHRIST CHURCH**

Following a special meeting of the Pleasley Parish Council in September 2009 to discuss the proposed closure and future use of Christ Church and the suggestion by the Diocese that the building could be used by Pleasley Parish Council for community use, members studied all aspects after contacting consultants for advice and made the decision that it would not be a viable proposition – it would not be feasible to generate sufficient use to cover all the additional running costs.

### **ON A LIGHTER NOTE**

**The Christmas tree festival** at St Michaels Church was a huge success around 44 trees were decorated with lights.

**These trees and lights are very nice**, but then comes the time to take them down and believe me it harder work dismantling than erecting them, little thought is given to this task.

**The carols round the tree** outside the Verney on December 18<sup>th</sup> despite the very cold night was very much appreciated, approx 40 people attended and welcomed the warm mulled wine, mince pies and a friendly evening afterwards inside the warmth of the Verney and a chance to meet old friends,

The Parish Council Chairman thanked them all for coming, and gave a special thank you those that helped him to make this possible.

The large tree inside the church and the one outside the Verney and the one inside the community centre were donated to the parish of Pleasley by Glapwell Nurseries.

**On view in the Verney** on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> were examples of Scarecrows from neighbouring villages giving residents who attended the carol singing ideas in case they wanted to enter the Scarecrow Festival proposed by the parish council for the summer of 2010.

The date will be announced later, it is essential that many residents will enter this event, these examples will be on view from now until the event why not call in at the Verney and see how easy it is to do.

This event will depend on **YOU**. Lets hear from you do not miss out on showing your skills. **We need your support in this venture. See how to make a scarecrow**

**The General Election for a new government is scheduled for May or June 2010. Polling Stations will be The Verney for Pleasley and The Community Centre for New Houghton**

### **DUTIES OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

I will take this opportunity to carry on from the last Newsletter with procedures and duties of a parish councillor, things you are probably not aware of.

Members who think they might have any personal, pecuniary or prejudicial interest in any issue on the agenda should declare such before the meeting voluntarily, and should not be reminded of their obligation, this is why the present chairman resigned from the Parochial Church Committee he could not comment any church issue, but now he can, members should be made aware of this as an item on the agenda.

Failure to declare must be reported to the Standards Board automatically. This is one reason why councillors should be made aware of items well before a meeting.

**The Parish Council** is an elected tier of local government some councillors are co-opted during the four year term should a vacancy arise, Other tiers are known as Principle Authorities Bolsover District Council and Derbyshire County Council.

The most important person at a parish council meeting is one who has not been elected or co-opted that is the Clerk, he is there to guide and give advice to all members on point of protocol and law, he cannot however make decisions or proposals, he is what is called the proper officer and financial officer, he can have delegated powers on expenditure.

The next important person is the chairman who also cannot make important decisions other than what is delegated to him by members; he is however subject to civic duties.

***It essential that the Chairman and Clerk have a good working relationship.***

**The job of Councillors** is to represent the interests of the whole community and to be delegated to various other committees such as the LSP, PTA, Millennium Green and Pleasley Vale Committee.

One may wonder why AOB (Any Other Business) is not on the Councils agenda as it is on other meetings connected to council business such as the LSP who also have matters arising, The explanation is this, The LSP, PTA, PCC, meetings are not statutory bodies, they are not ruled by Government Acts, they can speak when they like and on what they like,

They are the chosen vehicle of public, private, community and voluntary sectors to promote the social and economic well-being of an area.

They do not necessarily have to go through the Chair like a Parish Council Meeting, also the Parish Council is a public body which has to operate in a legal and transparent way – governed by Acts and Statutes and it is those regulations etc which govern the procedures of a Parish Council,

The two should not be confused, that is why In Council meetings it is not a good policy and not an item to have AOB on the agenda as issues of importance could be brought up, and no decision could be made therefore a waste of time.

Only issues from previous meetings that were deferred can be discussed.

Raising an unspecified item is unfair to members present and the clerk, who may have wished to undertake prior research. To be a successful parish council coherence is essential as it is for a community that is split into four parts like ours. A Parish Councillor should not work only for their own patch they should work for the whole community and work together,

If you think you can uphold these strict and rigid rules of protocol the next **Parish election is 2011**. The same time as District.

**Before the next Newsletter in May. It will be the Parish Meeting before the May Parish Council Meeting.** This, as you all should know, is when any person in the parish attends along with any organisations to give an annual report on their activities and their proposals for the coming year.

This is not a Parish Council meeting but is called by the Chairman of the Parish Council. If he so wishes he gives a yearly report for the Council but it is not mandatory. It is when the precept is announced.

This is followed by the Parish Council Annual meeting when the Standing Orders are reviewed to see if there are any changes needed to Council procedure. Standing Orders must be reviewed every year even if they are only to repeat the year previous. It is also when the Parish Council decide on the charges it makes for the use of its facilities, when the agreements for the allotments are reviewed. It cannot change the rules of law to which it has to abide. It is the time when Officials are chosen for the coming year for various positions.

New rules of the Code of Conduct were given in the February council meeting when officers of the Standards Board came to brief the council on changes by law, and advise on certain procedures.

Pleasley Parish Council, by standing orders, does require that a resolution be seconded as well as moved. In the absence of such a standing order the Chairman should permit resolutions and amendments to be discussed only after they have been moved.

A resolution should be specific and wherever possible vagueness should be avoided. A resolution should not be duplex, the Chairman should require the mover to separate the component parts and move them one by one.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**PARISH OF PLEASLEY**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL**

**PARISH MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT**

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting for the above Parish will be held at the Verney Institute, Newboundmill Lane, on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 7.00pm.

Such persons only as are registered as local Government electors for the Parish will be entitled to vote at the meeting, but the meeting is open to the public during the proceedings unless the Parish Meeting by resolution otherwise direct.

The business to be transacted at the meeting will be as follows;-

**AGENDA**

- Annual Parish Meeting :**
- 1, To confirm the minutes of the last meeting.**
  - 2. Apologies for absence.**
  - 3. Precept**
  - 4. Chairman's report.**
  - 5. Public Forum.**

**Councillor John Howard Wright.**  
**Chairman**  
**Pleasley Parish Council.**  
**01623-810486**  
**johnwright828@btinternet.com**

### PLEASLEY PIT

Restoration work has started on the headstocks and buildings at Pleasley Pit and will last for approximately 39 weeks. During which time the Pit will not be open to visitors on Thursdays.

Anyone wishing to visit on Sundays please contact either.

Pete Chambers on 01623-811231  
or Bob Metcalfe on 07831-635230.

Carol Abbott,  
Secretary Friends of Pleasley Pit

-view techniques, training, work trials and placement opportunities. Access to specialist support to overcome barriers to work such as debt, criminal records, homelessness, drug and alcohol issues and self employment advice and in work support. If you require further information please contact Phoenix Enterprises - 01246 211800 or pop in to the drop in session. Drop in session at the Community House every Monday 2pm - 4pm.

### ***New Houghton Community House 7A Rotherham Road***

The Community House is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9am - 5pm, Tuesday closed all day and Wednesday 1.30pm - 5pm. Bolsover District Council Neighbourhood Management Project provide a multi - agency approach to problems and will try to assist you at all times, if you require to speak to someone regarding anti - social behaviour, neighbour problems, domestic abuse, debt, community safety, or any other issues you may be facing or you would like to know more about the services we provide please call in for a confidential chat or ring 01623 812130 for further information.

### **POLICE INITIATIVES**

***The following three very interesting items have been forwarded to us by the Police.***

#### **Rape Awareness**

Derbyshire Constabulary has joined up with forces around the country as part of a national rape awareness campaign.

The campaign aims to reduce incidents of rape and sexual assault. In Derbyshire statistics show that a third of victims of rape or sexual assault thought their attacker was under the influence of alcohol and a quarter of victims felt under the influence of alcohol themselves.

The highest proportion of victims and offenders falling into the 16 to 25 year-old age bracket.

### **COMMUNITY HOUSE INFORMATION**

***Community House have forwarded the following for your information:***

#### **Connexions**

Talk to an adviser at New Houghton Community House every Thursday 2pm - 3pm, about your future career choices, courses, jobs and training or any personal problems that may be affecting your plans. This drop in session is for 13 - 19 year old. For further information drop in or contact Margaret Nash - 07919 552 789.

#### **Baby Peep**

Starts on the 8th January at the Community House New Houghton 10 - 11.15am - Sharon and Maria would like to welcome you to make new friends, talk about the things your baby is doing and learning, share ideas with other parents /carers, learn songs to sing with your baby, share stories, borrow books and toys and have lots of fun with your baby.

#### **Stay and Play**

Drop in session at the Community House every Thursday 9.30 - 11.30am, from birth to 4 years This is a chance for you to join in and enjoy positive play with your child, meet other parents and have a chat. A free healthy snack is provided.

#### **Phoenix**

If you are unemployed Phoenix offer one to one advice and guidance, job search, CV preparation, help with applications and inter

Many of the cases we deal with can often involve alcohol and we know that the more alcohol someone drinks, the lower their inhibitions are and the more vulnerable they become.

- Make sure that any taxi you use is registered and either one that you have ordered or one that you will be able to identify at a later date if necessary
- Do not take short cuts and stick to lit areas.
- Before leaving a venue ring whoever is expecting you at home to tell them you are on your way.
- Consider taking out a panic alarm, these are very inexpensive and a very effective deterrent.
- Think about what you are doing at all times and keep yourself safe.

If you have suffered rape or sexual assault and wish to speak to someone about what happened, you can contact Derbyshire police on 0345 123 33 33 or Derbyshire Rape Crisis on 01332 372545.

Ann Jones, C Division Community Information Officer, Chesterfield, Police Station.

If you have information relating to incidents or crimes, please call 0345 123 33 33.

In an emergency call 999. Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 with information about crime.

For any queries or changes to community messaging contact details, please call 0345 123 33 33 and ask for your Divisional Community Information Officer.

***Go out in groups and stay together. If you're not getting a taxi home make sure you're with someone.***

**Keys.** Make sure you have your keys ready when you reach your front door or car parked in a car park. Get someone to walk with you to your car.

Do not lose sight of your drink, preferably hold it at all times. This includes venues

such as house parties as well as in clubs and bars.

## DERBYSHIRE POLICE INITIATIVE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Derbyshire police have now resolved more than 3200 crimes under an initiative which reduces bureaucracy and deals swiftly with minor crimes, such as criminal damage, minor assaults and minor theft.

The Restorative Justice project which was launched in April 2009 means that local crimes are dealt with in a way that hopefully achieves a positive outcome in accordance with the victims' wishes without the case going through the court process.

***The crime is recorded as usual but dealt with in a more proportionate way.***

Some form of remorse, apology or compensation by the offender is required for this to take place which could include words of advice, giving an apology, completing reparation work or compensating the victim. 3,264 crimes were resolved under the scheme between 1<sup>st</sup> April & 28<sup>th</sup> December.

The scheme enables Officers to use their common sense and experience to get to the heart of the crime whilst working with both the victims and suspects to identify the best possible solution.

## WATER SAFETY

Particularly relevant in this very cold spell we are having – we are thinking particularly of the Pleasley ponds at the Pleasley Country Park. Message from the Warning and Information Forum.

We recommend the following advice and ask that you inform others, especially those with children.

Water Safety – Around Derbyshire at this time there are several locations where there is frozen water, please do not walk or allow your children to play in these areas.

No matter how thick the ice looks, **ICE IS NEVER SAFE**. It can easily break and the water underneath is very cold and could be deep. Even at other times water is never safe; please help others to understand the dangers of water. If you require further information please contact Derbyshire Police on 0345 123 3333.

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

*This is the Chairman's column with comments and items of interest to the readers, not necessarily the views of council members.*

One thing that is arguable and here I quote the novelist P D James. Britons are living in a culture bedevilled by political correctness. Speaking to minorities we have to weigh every word in advance in case inadvertently we give offence, how can we be at ease with each other? Increasingly there is a risk that we live in communities with our own kind, with a strong commitment to our local community but there is little contact with those outside it. Mutual respect and understanding and recognition of our common humanity cannot be nurtured in this isolation. Unquote; This is believed by many and is spoiling society today being too PC, Along with so called Health and Safety and Human Rights, it finds people a lot of useless jobs, the latter seems to favour the perpetrator rather than the victim. it didn't hurt any ones feelings in the 50s and 60s, when children came home with grazes, cut knees and black eyes, or should that be coloured eyes now, years ago if you had cane at school you didn't tell your parents because you probably had some more when you got home, you did in my days in the 1930s, I can honestly say it didn't do our generation any harm. you knew you would be punished if you did wrong; consequently you behaved and respected people and property. Those were the days when the local PC Plod knew all the children and parents in the village.

Now modern police are being hampered a culture of blame and red tape. Today chil-

-dren are being banned from paddling in water under health and safety guidelines unless first a full risk assessment is carried out and proper measure put into place.

What would they have said or done when in the 1930s we used to go to a local disused pit site and paddle and swim in the lagoons created by the pit waste and I couldn't even swim, there were no casualties. Ten pin bowling is now considered a danger, what next, Cricket, Rugby, Football??

## VERNEY INSTITUTE

Much to the supposition that the Verney Institute was built by Frederick William Verney as sole benefactor, This was not quite the case. Research found other people being involved.

The Verney Institute was a replacement for the Pleasley Parish Hall the headquarters for the Pleasley Parish Council before the Verney was built, the land on which it stood was no doubt in the manor of Pleasley which was now owned by Frederick William Verney through inheritance from Lady Parthenope Verney, nee Nightingale who died in 1849,

The scheme to build the Verney was brought about through Frederick William Verney in which he promised to give **£400** towards the building of a new Parish Hall to be named '**The Verney Institute**' Mr **Carnegie** **£400** Stanton Iron Works **£50** & W Hollins and Co **£25**. This information was brought before the Parish Council by John Warner at the Parish Council **Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> September 1904**, the following resolution was adopted, It was resolved by Mr W Richardson, seconded by Mr James Argyll, that they ask Mr Verney to complete the building and the Parish Council will then be glad to take it over.

At the Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Room on **20<sup>th</sup> June 1905**, it was announced that owing to the old Parish Room having to be pulled down, the Clerk on **12th July 1905** he would publish the following. This Library will be closed for an indefinite

period owing to this building being pulled down. It was decided that this matter be left until the new Parish Hall be built. It was resolved **5<sup>th</sup> July 1906** that the lending library be opened on Tuesday and Fridays from 7pm to 8pm.

The Clerk received the Trust Deeds on **September 18<sup>th</sup> 1906** they were signed by the Chairman and two other members.

*'And it is further agreed and Declared* that if at anytime hereafter within twenty years after the death of the last survivor of the said *Frederick William Verney* and his children living at the date of these presents the said premises or any part thereon shall be used for any other purpose than those hereinbefore mentioned it shall be lawful for the said *Frederick William Verney* other the *Lord of the Manor of Pleasley* for the time being by *Deed* executed by him to revoke the *conveyance* hereby made which shall thereupon absolutely cease and determine.

And the said piece of land building and premises hereby conveyed shall thenceforward be vested in the said *Frederick William Verney* or other *Lord of the Manor of Pleasley* aforesaid as if these presents had never been executed *UNTO* the said *Parish Council* hereby covenant with the said *Frederick William Verney* that the *Parish Council* will at all times hereafter maintain and keep in proper repair the said *Public Library and Parish Rooms* (including all proper painting and colour washing and also will insure and keep insured against damage by fire the same in some reputable Insurance Office.

*WITNESS* wherefore the said *Frederick William Verney* has hereunto set his hand and seal and the Chairman and two members of the *Parish Council* have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first before written.

Sealed and Delivered by the before named

*Frederick William Verney*

in the presence of

*William Richardson*

*(Chairman)*

12 Connaught Place

Marble Arch

London W

*John Warner*

*John Beere*

*PLEASLEY PARISH COUNCIL*

Signed Sealed and Delivered by

*William Richardson* Chairman presiding at a Meeting of the Council duly convened and held on the *eighteenth day of September. One thousand and nine hundred and six* at Pleasley aforesaid and *John Warner* and *John Beere* (two other members of the Council. Also present at such meeting) in the presence of *Alfred Henry Palfreeman* Clerk.

It is thought that the Mr Carnegie was Andrew Carnegie the American Steel Magnate, who was born on 25 November 1835 in Dunfermline, Scotland.

His father decided to emigrate with his family to Pennsylvania in the United States in 1848 for the prospect of a better life.

Andrew earned most of his fortune in the steel industry. In the 1870s, he founded the Carnegie Steel Company. By the 1890s, the company was the largest and most profitable industrial enterprise in the world. Carnegie gave \$40,000 for the establishment of a free library in Dunfermline.

He contributed thousands of pounds to Libraries and reading rooms throughout Scotland and England and was friendly with the aristocracy such as the Verney family. His money built the Carnegie Hall in Leicester.

*Some dates which may be of interest to remember, although not Parish Council news are:*

**1<sup>st</sup> February 1949** – Clothes rationing ended

**2<sup>nd</sup> February** – Candlemas Day

**5<sup>th</sup> February 1922** – the first Readers Digest was printed – I wonder if any readers were told they had won a fortune like they have today.

**4<sup>th</sup> February 1928** – the first demonstration of coloured television by John Logie Baird.

**14<sup>th</sup> February** – VALENTINE'S DAY is celebrated.

**15<sup>th</sup> February 1971** – Decimal Currency is introduced into Britain, the half crown and florin are withdrawn.

**17<sup>th</sup> February** – Ash Wednesday

A word we have all come to recognise these past few years is the word **LOTTERY**. We speak of it as in the National Lottery, the Euro Lottery, did you know in February 1839 a horse named Lottery, ridden by Jem Mason won the Grand National race at Aintree Liverpool.

Two national saints for the month of March: For the Welsh – **Saint David's Day 1<sup>st</sup> March** and for the Irish, **Saint Patrick's Day, 17<sup>th</sup> March**.

**March 1916** – Harold Wilson was born.

**26<sup>th</sup> March 1923** the first radio play was produced by the BBC – 'The Archers'.

Of course one must remember, the sooth-sayer's warning to Julius Caesar, "Beware the Ides of March," this is the day Caesar was stabbed to death by Brutus and this has forever imbued that date with a sense of foreboding. But in Roman times the expression "Ides of March" did not necessarily evoke a dark mood—it was simply the standard way of saying "**March 15**"

The two well known sayings that cannot be ignored and for us to well remember are "March winds doth blow and we shall have snow", let's hope not, and the other is "if

March comes in like a lion it will go out like

a lamb". Therefore March is a very unpredictable month, not yet time to leave your long johns off!

Do not forget your clocks go forward on the **29<sup>th</sup> March**. The lighter nights are approaching.

Don't be fooled in this the **first day of April**, It has been known to snow. Good Friday **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Easter Monday **April 5<sup>th</sup>**.

One momentous day in **April 1905** was when Shirebrook who was in the parish of Pleasley formed their own Parish Council and became an independent parish, now of course it is a Town Council.

**1926 April 21<sup>st</sup>** Queen Elizabeth was born **23rd April** is our own national patron Saint; St George

The May Day Bank Holiday, on the first **Monday 4th May**, May Day can refer to various labour celebrations that commemorate the fight for the eight hour day. May Day in this regard is called International Workers Day, or Labour Day.

Perhaps the most significant of the traditions is the Maypole, around which traditional dancers circle with ribbons. By the middle Ages every English village had its Maypole. The Maypoles were of all sizes. And one village would vie with another to show who could produce the tallest Maypole. Maypoles were usually set up for the day in small towns, they would then choose the **MAY QUEEN**.

## GRIT BINS

Complaints regarding grit bins were received during the cold spell of the weeks during January, Complaints were, the bins being empty.

The **explanation** was that although they were filled before the cold spell came, they were used extensively by parishioners, which is why they are there, the **reason** why they were emptied so quickly is another issue, people filled bags to use on their own driveways, This is illegal and amounts to theft. It is for residents to grit the causeways and roads near their houses to prevent cars from skidding,

## HOW TO MAKE A SCARECROW

*For those who wish to take part in the Scarecrow festival here are a few tips on.*

### Log on the internet.

Scarecrows are not expensive to make, and you can have fun by easily making a scarecrow from everyday items that are lying about the house, they can be as crazy or silly as you like. Remember it requires no more complicated skill other than cutting and tying.

You only need a few items to make your scarecrow and clothes that are too far gone to give away are great. Suggest that you will need a pair of tights or nylons, an old shirt, an old pair of pants or jeans, scraps of fabric, and paper or hay for stuffing.

Making the scarecrow head is possibly the hardest part, but with an old pair of tights or nylons you can make an easy start. Tie a knot at the top of the leg, or legs in the case of tights, then stuff the top, not the legs with hay or paper (shredded is easier). When the top is full tie a further knot in the top. You will now have a large round base for the head. Insert a wooden stake or pole upright through the body to make them stand solid.

For the body, button up the shirt, and starting with the arms fill with straw or paper. If you use hay, you can pull a bundle through the arms to resemble hands. A similar effect can be achieved by tying the wrists of the shirt with string. Fill the shirt as full as possible, but remember you will need room to get your hands into the front and back of the shirt when you assemble the scarecrow.

Next make the scarecrows legs by stuffing the jeans or trousers with paper or hay, or any other substance, don't forget to close the zip, then fill from the ankles to the waist. Like the wrists, you just tie the pants close to the bottom with string, or let some hay hang out for feet. Leave the pants open at the top.

There will be another reminder in the next Newsletter April or early May, the route will be decided when we have the entries in, so please please decide if you want to be part of this new event and let the Parish Council know, either by **Phone**, 810486, **By Letter** The Verney Newboundmill Lane. or **Email**, [johnwright828@btinternet.com](mailto:johnwright828@btinternet.com)

You can inform any member of the sub committee: Howard Wright, Chris Holland, Pauline Bowmer, Jackie Jones. Further details will be announced on the notice boards and the Newsletter.

Examples can be seen during the spring and summer months on the veranda of the Verney when the gate will be left open for a time on Saturday mornings and while the hall is being used.

It was discussed by members of the sub committee that with our parish being so large an area of streets it would be difficult to produce a manageable walking route for people wanting to see all the scarecrows we envisage will take part, therefore it was suggested to concentrate on Pleasley for the first year and New Houghton next year if there is enough interest shown, and to use the Verney as a base for people to obtain their route of streets and the return of voting papers to choose the winning entry. This will be put to members for them to decide. There is still much to discuss.

## STROKE AWARENESS.

**Know the signs of a stroke !!** Has their face fallen on one side ? Can they smile ? Can they raise their arms and keep them raised ? Is their speech slurred ?

**No time to waste call 999 if you see any of these signs.** Take more exercise. Regular physical activity helps to lower blood pressure, Things like walking, dancing, swimming, cycling, tennis or golf. It doesn't matter what you do as long as it makes you feel warm and slightly out of breath. Gardening and housework are also good exercise.

**COMPETITION TIME**

**THIS WORDSEARCH IS.....**

10 Parish Councillors surnames, 2 District councillors, one of whose name is also among the parish councillors, one County Councillor, and the clerk to the parish council.

*All the names appear in the Newsletter*

The winner of the November Word Search chosen at the a meeting in January was Mrs Jean Haywood of New Houghton.

**ANOTHER BUS SERVICE**

Veolia bus service. You will be pleased to know that other than during the really bad weather that the amended diverted Chesterfield service has been carrying people from Pleasley/Upper Pleasley and they really seem to appreciate it. There has not been a soul from New Houghton, however, so we will probably take that out at the earliest opportunity.

Prior to Christmas I also spent a morning in Pleasley delivering leaflets to the Post Office at Meden Square and also the Landmark Centre who agreed to post one up. The ladies in the post office said that they had access to one of the village notice board and would put one up in there also.

We are looking into providing a limited service, probably just on a few days a week from Bellamy Estate into Tesco store at Oak Tree Lane, as bus provision by Stagecoach is poor.

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Y	A	L	L	E	N	G	T	E	A	C	N
S	L	N	A	H	I	H	L	L	D	A	S
S	C	D	S	S	G	T	L	B	N	R	N
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B	O	W	M	A	R	L	C	G	G	L	J
D	J	U	S	T	O	C	K	D	A	L	E

On one of the other days do you think that a similar need may exist from Pleasley/Upper Pleasley ( and possibly New Houghton) to the new Tesco store on Chesterfield Road, on a similar basis (Not on Fridays, but one of the other days).

This service would use a vehicle between school runs but could be an attractive possibility for your residents also.

Please note that these initiatives would be our own commercial venture and are not being paid for by Tesco or Notts County Council or even Mansfield District Council. What do you people of Pleasley think to this, which would be the best day for you to visit Mansfield. Please phone 810486 or email johnwright828@btinternet .com

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**PLEASLEY PARISH SCARECROW FESTIVAL**

**I WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL FOR PLEASLEY PARISH**

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

**PLEASE TEAR ALONG DOTTED LINE AND RETURN TO PARISH COUNCIL**