



# NEWSLETTER

**62nd edition of the Newsletter for: Pleasley, Pleasley Vale  
New Houghton and Stony Houghton.**

## Scarecrow Festival & New Houghton Gala

14 and 15th of August will be this year's Scarecrow festival. We need people in the community to volunteer to make Scarecrows for the event. Please contact Neil on 819786 if you are interested.

On the 21st of August the New Houghton Gala returns on the Millennium Green from 12 until 4. It will host games for kids and various stalls, Pleasley Brass Band is booked to play on the day. If you would like to have a stall at the event please contact Tom on 07734274848

## Phil Crouch

We wish to pay tribute to a valued member of our parish, Phil Crouch, who sadly passed away in January. Phil was employed by the Parish Council as caretaker of the Verney Institute He was a very conscientious worker, one of a rare breed and will be sadly missed by all. Not only was he caretaker he was a member of the Verney Table Tennis club and played table tennis in the Mansfield league several years ago. He was a keen football supporter and coach, our thoughts go out to his family.

## COVID

The Government's rules relating to COVID changed in May to allow gatherings of groups in gardens and homes. Pubs and restaurants are also open again. The pubs in the parish have appropriate measures and controls in place to protect your health and welcome back old and new customers.

## Elections

Elections were held on the 6th May. Christine Dale was returned as our County Councillor and we have a new Police Crime Commissioner, **Angelique Foster**.



A few things she has declared to carry out:

I will ensure the people of Derbyshire are able to go about their daily business without fear of being victims of crime. I will increase police numbers and patrols. Provide a strong police presence in towns and villages.

Work with Government to bring tougher policing and a tougher approach to fighting crime. Tackle anti-social behaviour. Drive down burglaries, robberies and theft. Improve road safety. Fight rural crime. Tackle complex issues of domestic violence and drug relayed crime. Support Police Officers in use of powers such as Stop and Search to better fight crime and keep law abiding residents safe. Increase partnership working with other organisations to deter and prevent crime and reduce re-offending. Manage the budget sensibly to focus resources back to fighting crime.

## New Houghton Allotments

There have been problems with rubbish being dumped and then set on fire at the Meden Avenue Allotments. This will prove very costly for the parish council to remove, another problem is the size of buildings being erected without permission. This has been reported to the planning authority at Bolsover District Council as it has contravened the planning laws. Unfortunately some allotments are not now used for the purpose they were intended which has resulted in various other forms of usage being applied such as storage for certain items. This does result in vehicles having to be used which is a necessity and rather unfortunate.

It is likely that there will be changes made by the Council. Suggestions are an increase in rent, removal of water supplies or asking allotment holders to pay the water bill. There will be regular inspection of the allotments.

One resident questioned why do we allow pigeons on our allotments as we didn't used to. This dates back to the formation of the Millennium Green, the pigeon fanciers and breeders who were on the old Millennium Green and at that time refused to move without alternative space for their pigeons when they were served notice to vacate their plots. Consequently it was a council decision that they could use the empty allotment spaces and pay rent accordingly, hence the birth of the Millennium Green as we know it today.

The Parish Council is responsible for the allotment management. Following numerous complaints this management is being revised. Allotments should be used for appropriate use and we have to consider each application on its merits to avoid the land becoming overgrown and an eyesore.

## Your Parish Councillors are:

Ian Allen 810346  
Pauline Bowmer (Vice Chair) 811492  
Mick Gamble 810035  
Thomas Kirkham 07734274848  
Wendy Kirkham 0749500025  
Caroline Randall (Chair) 812318  
Louise Stokeley  
Howard Wright

Parish Clerk Neil Pocklington 819786  
[neil.pleasleypc@gmail.com](mailto:neil.pleasleypc@gmail.com)

## District Councillors.

**Thomas Kirkham** 07734274848  
[tom.kirkham@bolsover.gov.uk](mailto:tom.kirkham@bolsover.gov.uk)  
**Patricia Clough**  
[patricia.clough@bolsover.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.clough@bolsover.gov.uk)  
**Liz Smyth**  
[liz.smyth@bolsover.gov.uk](mailto:liz.smyth@bolsover.gov.uk)

County Councillor,  
**Christine Dale**  
[christine.dale@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:christine.dale@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## Shoulder of Mutton Lane

Another outstanding job has been carried out on the approach road to the allotments Shoulder of Mutton Lane and that is laying tarmac where needed.

This lane is owned by the Parish Council and a **right of way** to the allotments only.

Allotment holders have a right to drive up to their allotment, the problem is turning round to come back. This has yet to be solved. It was a privilege to allow residents on Coronation Ave to use The Shoulder of Mutton Lane when the houses were built and residents needed access to the garages they built for cars which many of them do not realize.

## Terrace Lane Recreation Ground

A **complaint** has been investigated and that was a report of rabbit holes on the Terrace Lane recreation ground.

Efforts have been made to solve this problem whether they will return is uncertain so please take care.

The goal post area has also been re-laid. The goal posts have been relocated and some of the larger holes filled in.

## Road Safety

Mobile phone use is one the 'fatal four' offences, that contribute to thousands of deaths and serious injuries on our roads each year. A National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) operation will be taking place, with the aim to reduce the number of drivers that insist on using mobile phones whilst driving.

Between 2017 to 2020, Derbyshire police force has issued 1,207 Traffic Offence Reports (TOR) for mobile phone violations on the roads of Derbyshire. 82 road traffic collisions have involved one or more drivers using a mobile device and being distracted whilst driving, which has led to 133 people suffering injuries, 26 individuals attaining serious injuries and, sadly, one person losing their life to this easily avoidable crime.

This operation will be targeting irresponsible drivers and those who continue to flout the law in respect of using their mobile phones whilst behind the wheel.

Our Roads Policing Unit (RPU) will be patrolling to apprehend the offending drivers in both marked and unmarked vehicles.

Any drivers caught using their mobile phone whilst driving will be stopped and prosecuted for the offence.

"Drivers are slower at seeing and reacting to hazards when using mobile devices, it can drastically impair your control of the vehicle and put you four times more likely to be involved in a crash.

"Unfortunately, many people who use hands free think that they have taken the safe option and, therefore, think that this operation doesn't apply to them.

However, they'd be surprised to learn that research shows when using a hands-free kit while behind the wheel can actually be as dangerous as drink driving.

"The message is simple - don't use your mobile phone while driving, put it away before setting off. Place it somewhere like your glove compartment, so that you won't be tempted to use it and if using hands-free devices, please do so responsibly."

**Something that all residents over the age of 60 should be aware of, apply for a bowel testing kit. This may save your life. When you have done this they will send you a reminder every two years unless you are over 70, but you can still apply on your own.**

**Phone.**

**08007076060 for your kit**

## From The Land Trust

This is only a report about Pleasley Pit from The Land Trust, not necessarily the views of all organisations in our parish, not a parish council issue as one might get the impression with it being in our newsletter. The newsletter informs residents of things that are of interest to you and your thoughts can be expressed to the Land Trust, the organisation who intends to increase the facilities on their project.

**"The Land Trust** is very proud to be the owner and manager of Pleasley Pit, the colliery buildings, and to work with the Pleasley Pit Trust and both the Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group and the Friends of Pleasley Pit.

2020 has been a difficult year for many of us and it has been no different at the Pit or elsewhere in the Land Trust. Pleasley Pit Heritage Centre was completed and an opening was being planned for April – and is still to happen! Being able to deliver take away hot drinks was well received by many visitors to the area but the plans for extending the menu have not been carried through for reasons we are all too familiar with. The Pit buildings are totally unsuitable for any sort of distancing and so have been closed to the public since March.

What has been gratifying in this time is to see the value the public have placed on access to green spaces, although this has inevitably brought its own challenges.

The car park has been busy, and litter has been significant, although the bins have just about coped.

At the Land Trust we feel it is really important that the public still has access to these green spaces as the benefits to physical and mental wellbeing during this challenging time are clear. For most of 2020 the Covid restrictions have allowed us to meet in small numbers outdoors, and that social contact has been vital to many.

With many people furloughed or working from home we have seen a huge increase in demand at Pleasley and across our sites around the country. The vast majority of people are following the government guidance on social distancing, however we recognise there will be occasions where people don't and this can be frustrating for those that follow the rules and are considerate to their fellow park users. Now more than ever I think it is important that we are kind to each other and recognise that these are challenges that are being faced across the country.

All organisations managing open spaces have challenges with budgets, and at Pleasley Pit we are very lucky to have funding to help cover much of the cost of the maintenance of the buildings and a committed volunteer base who help with this and deliver considerable community engagement as well.

When things return to normal it is hoped the café can generate funds to support further community engagement. Over the next couple of years we will be considering how we can generate funds to increase the experience of visitors.

We know we should be driving less, but this is not always possible, however the provision of parking has costs attached to it so we are looking at making a modest charge for parking.

Annual tickets and provision of disabled concessions are important to helping make this equitable, and we are considering having a parking discount available in the café. This would raise valuable funds to use on the site while also encouraging active travel."



We are keen to hear your thoughts on this via [enquires@thelandtrust.org.uk](mailto:enquires@thelandtrust.org.uk)

There was another similar report from **NORTH DERBYSHIRE/ NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE VISITOR ECONOMY CONSORTIUM**, the plan is about realising the tourism, in our area. The project is called Visit, Sleep, Cycle, Repeat.

The area boundary is defined by the roads and cycle routes in many neighbouring areas. It is not a defined tourism destination. It has shared history as a former colliery area. Easy cycling territory, ideal for leisure visitors who want to do some cycling while on a day trip or short break. The tourism opportunities are at Pleasley Vale and Pleasley Pit with opportunities for the pubs and shops in Pleasley village to benefit from increased visitor activity and spend.

The Pleasley Vale site is in a narrow-wooded valley, and comprises three large mill buildings that once formed the Viyella factory. Bolsover District Council has an interest in Pleasley Vale, both as a landowner and an operator of a business park and an outdoor activity centre.

Over the last few years there have been several attempts to secure the long-term future of the mills complex.

Developing Pleasley as a hub as part of a wider tourism vision for the project area will help bring to fruition ambitions for the site. Short cycling routes that link the hub to the Archaeological Way and the Phoenix Greenways encourages visitors to explore further and increases the appeal of the hub as a base for a short break.

Pleasley Pit can expand the footprint of the hub, creating a satellite hub with cycling loops linking it to the Mills and potentially provide camping in the Country Park.

The Outdoor Activity Centre run by Bolsover District Council is located at Pleasley Vale but currently operates as a split site.

Bolsover District Council has recently looked at developing a new, standalone outdoor activity centre with some accommodation, a café and cycle hire.

This option has been submitted for consideration as part of Bolsover District Council's Transformation Programme.

## THE NEW CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL WRITES:



"I was born and raised in Pleasley, educated at Anthony Bek and Shirebrook schools, before going on to local colleges and then distance learning.

After working in catering, knitwear factories, and then sales, I became ill and had to give up paid work but have volunteered with different organisations.

My various health conditions limit what I can do, sometimes quite severely. I might be in my wheelchair one day but not the next, it can often lead to people scratching their heads as to what is going on.

As a youngster I enjoyed being part of many local groups, be that Sunday school, Brownies, Guides, St John Ambulance Brigade, and ringing the bells at St Michael's.

After leading the local Brownie and Guide groups for several years, I volunteered with Y2k and The Landmark Centre and also the Summer Playschemes that were held in New Houghton and also at St Barnabas' Church. I am currently involved with St Michael's Church and both Houghton Hub (the children's group) and the New Houghton Community Hub. I would like to see groups set up for the older people within our Parish be that a luncheon club, craft sessions, or games nights.

Being elected to and serving on the Parish Council a few years ago is a huge privilege. I want to make a difference in our Parish. I thoroughly enjoy being out and about in the local community meeting people and helping where I can.

**The Christian Calendar** is divided up by festivals and seasons. Epiphany 6th Jan. Lent 17<sup>th</sup> Feb to 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. Holy Week 28<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Holy Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Easter Sunday or Easter Day 4<sup>th</sup> April. Easter Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Ascension Day 13<sup>th</sup> May. Season of Pentecost 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Pentecost is also known as Whitsun. Trinity Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Advent 28<sup>th</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> December. Then of course Christmas.

Lent is an old English word meaning "Lengthen" Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to lengthen and get longer. Do worshippers realize WHY? **40** is such a significant number in the bible, besides it being the period of day which comes before Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the **40** days of Lent Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the Wilderness for **40** days and **40** nights. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities. **40** is a significant number in Jewish and Christian Scripture. In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by **40** days and nights of rain. The Hebrews spent **40** years in the wilderness before reaching the Promised Land. Moses fasted **40** days before receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

## Parish AGM

The Annual Parish Council meeting was held on the 17th May In the Verney Institute. Social distancing was observed. The first item on the agenda was the election of Chairman for the following year.

Cllr Caroline Randall was duly elected as Chair for the following year and Cllr Pauline Bowmer was elected Vice Chair.

Prior to that, the Chairman at the time, Cllr Howard Wright had welcomed the new councillor, Louise Stokeley

The wearing of face masks did not help when members were speaking.

County Councillor Christine Dale gave her report.

District Councillor Tom Kirkham gave his report.

No member of the public decided to make any comment on anything on the agenda.

The dates of the next two parish council meetings were confirmed as 7th June and 5th July.

A decision on replacing the cemetery gates was deferred until a price had been agreed. Estimates were being sorted.

Report on the newsletter. It was agreed it could be sent to the printers after this meeting's reports were included.



The Scarecrow event was planned for Aug 14th and 15th. It was decided that this could be on a low key, just have it as a village event, no refreshments, no charity involved, no raffle, no charge for programmes. Visitors would be asked to return their programmes choosing their best scarecrow, prizes would be awarded to the best three. Volunteers would be needed to distribute the programmes and receive them back. Members agreed that this was the best option. Of course this will all depend on how many entrants we receive.

Three members declared an interest in the item of the request by the Secretary of the New Houghton Residents' Association **Tom Kirkham** and they had to leave the meeting.

This was a request to help support the Summer Fayre proposed to be held in **New Houghton** on the Millennium Green in August. The Parish Council agreed to support this event by using the allocated programmes of the Extreme Wheels that are already provided for the children of the parish, namely, to have two sessions on that day on the recreation ground if an agreement can be reached with the organizers at BDC. They have already received funding from the lottery and a donation from a District Councillor.

Other items included . Allotments, Cemetery Footpaths. Highways, New Houghton Community Centre. Recreation Grounds. Street Lighting. Verney Institute.

The resignation of Cllr Neil Jordan. Update on installation of CCTV in the parish To consider re-opening the Community Centre and the Verney Institute to members of the public.

It was decided that current legislation does not allow the possibility of re-opening of these buildings just yet. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

A caretaker to replace Phil Crouch has not yet been decided.

## Extreme Wheels.

The Clerk will submit a booking for sessions to take place during school holidays between May and October to be held at Rotherham Rd and Terrace Lane Recreation grounds.

## Bolsover District Council Lottery



Win £25k and support local good causes Tickets for the Bolsover District Community Lottery Scheme went on sale at 00:01 on Tuesday 13 April.

With a weekly jackpot of £25,000 up for grabs and the chance to support local good causes in the process, make sure you sign up and buy your tickets. More information can be found on the Bolsover District Community Lottery Scheme website. Residents of our parish can read about this in the BDC Newsletter they receive, **In Touch**.



## County Councillor Christine Dale's Report

I would like to give my thanks to constituents for their support in re-electing me. It is an honour and great privilege to be able to serve you for another four years. As many of you know cycling is a popular sport in this area.

During the winter period work by the highways authority has been on going in and around Pleasley Parish to create more cycle routes by widening existing footpaths and bridleways and in addition constructing new tracks, that was the reason for closure orders on a number of the footpaths while the routes were under construction.

This provides us with new opportunities for exploring more family outdoor pursuits in which everyone can participate safely on purpose built cycle tracks away from busy roads at little cost.

Cycling is an outdoor activity that improves our fitness, mental health and wellbeing and helps reduce the carbon footprint. In the summer BLAST a local charity is running bicycle maintenance courses which will be open to all young people in the area.

The course lasts six weeks and the tutors will help youngsters build their own bike from scratch to take away at the end of the course and also teach them how to maintain it. I'm informed the course fee will be around £35.00.

I have sponsored, through my leadership allowance, ten places for children from disadvantaged families to take part.

The first bike maintenance course is commencing at the beginning of June with children in year six recommended from local schools in the rear.

After contributing £2,000 towards the refurbishment of the Hub Centre in New Houghton I have arranged further funding through my leadership allowance for the professional mentoring and coaching of volunteers in New Houghton Community Hub.. Preparations I'm informed are now underway and it will not belong before the Hub will be open for business. **I am looking forward to meeting people and holding my surgeries in the Hub as soon as the easing of restrictions permits.**

## **Crisp Packet Blanket Project**

Some of you may know I'm Church Warden at Holy Trinity in Shirebrook and at present we have a couple, Deb and Simon, weekly devoting their time in Holy Trinity Church Hall to making blankets out of crisp packets for homeless people.

The blankets are life savers in cold weather and help prevent hypothermia. They are durable and last up to two years as well as having passed the tested for being fire retardant. We need more empty crisp packets to continue the good work. It's a good way of re-cycling rubbish to make something useful.



If you can help by saving your packets for this lifesaving project then please contact Deb and Simon on [cppshirebrook@gmail.com](mailto:cppshirebrook@gmail.com) who will be grateful for your support.

## New Marriage Regulations

Reverend Karen Bradley of St Michael's Pleasley and Holy Trinity Church, Shirebrook has some advice on the new Marriage Regulations which came into force on 4 th May 2021.

The Church of England has been closely involved in witnessing and solemnising marriage since the 11<sup>th</sup> Century and from the Reformation parishes were required to keep a written record of all those married in their churches. The Marriage Act 1836 introduced the Green Register books into churches. If you have been married in a C of E church since that date, you will have signed one of these registers.

These registers were closed on 4th May this year and a new procedure for the registration of marriages took effect.

The change was initiated following an online petition which called for a mother's name and occupation to be included in marriage certificates. Prior to this, only the names and occupations of fathers had been included.

The new procedure from 5 th May 2021 happens like this:

The Parish Church will undertake checks of identity and eligibility for marriage for a couple and will read the banns of marriage in services.

On their wedding day, the couple and their witnesses will sign a Marriage Document which includes details of up to four parents per person. A record of the marriage will be held in the church, but this will not be a legal document. The Marriage Document will be sent to the Registry Office by the Church and the marriage will be registered on-line by Registry staff.

The newly married couple will be able to obtain a MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE from the local Registry office following the registration. A charge will be made.

It has been a great privilege to make and hold the Legal Register over the years and we give thanks to God for the gift of love and remember the many men and women whose marriages were registered at the parish churches. If you have any questions about the new procedure, or about getting married in church please contact Reverend Karen Bradley on 01623 748577

Well this is all my news for now readers until the next issue.

Keep safe. Cheerio Cllr Christine Dale email: [Christine.Dale@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.Dale@derbyshire.gov.uk)



The former Chairman, **Howard Wright**, has been chairman for over 20 years. He regarded it as a privilege and was proud and honoured to serve the public, the residents of our parish. He considered it was his duty was to serve and guide and advise members through meetings and difficult decisions and represent the Parish of Pleasley on civic occasions such as laying the wreath on Armistice Sunday, attending the Annual District Councillors' Chairman's Church service and giving a speech if required, consulting with Derbyshire Association of Local Councils for advice on legal matters and preparing the agenda for

parish council meetings along with the Clerk. Attending funerals when the Clerk could not attend to see to the paper work, marking the graves when the clerk was unavailable and contacting the grave digger. To be on hand when the burglar alarm goes off, being the first point of contact when the clerk is on holiday, being in regular contact with members daily with information from DALC or NALC attending invited meetings at DALC. Calling the Annual Parish Meeting (not Council) that has to be done by an act of parliament (Local Government Act 1972) PARISH OF PLEASLEY, NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, which is not a meeting of the council, but of all electors. This needs to take place between the 1<sup>st</sup> April and the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Over the years Howard has undertaken a large workload as co-ordinator of the annual Scarecrow Festival.

It is pleasing that Howard's experience will not be lost as he continues to serve the people of Pleasley Parish in his role as a councillor.

# PLEASLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Late Spring 2021

## Competition Time

24 Farm Animals  
For amusement only

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Cow.       | Deer.     |
| Duck.      | Geese     |
| Hen. Goat. | Dog.      |
| Sheep,     | Boar,     |
| Horse,     | Sow.      |
| Pig.       | Piglet.   |
| Lamb.      | Chicken   |
| Goose.     | Cockerel. |
| Turkey.    | Cattle.   |
| Bull.      | Llama.    |
| Foal.      |           |
| Rooster.   |           |

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## PLEASLEY PARISH SCARECROW FESTIVAL

**I WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL for PLEASLEY PARISH on August 14th-15th**

Name ..... Tel No.....

Address.....

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTRY FORM TO "Scarecrow", Verney Institute, Newboundmill Lane, Pleasley NG19 7PL or email your entry to the Parish Clerk.

neil.pleasleypc@gmail.com as soon as possible and before **August 2nd**.

## **DISCLAIMER.**

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