



NEWSLETTER

70th edition of the Newsletter for: Pleasley, Pleasley Vale, New Houghton and Stony Houghton.

As the the daylight hours shorten and we wonder what the winter has in store for us, we take a brief look back to some of the things that have happened since the last newsletter. The main event was the Scarecrow Festival—more of which later.

RENOVATIONS AT THE VERNEY



The National Lottery Community Fund awarded Pleasley Parish Council funding of £20000 to carry out refurbishments. It was identified that the windows and the doors were a priority for repairs as these were in poor condition.

As The Verney is a Grade II listed building the windows and doors required specialist refurbishment rather than replacement. Funding also afforded decoration of the kitchen. A suitable contractor was selected to carry out this work starting work in late July which continued over the summer. Groups that usually met at The Verney were accommodated at New Houghton Community Centre during the refurbishments. The Verney re-opened to all groups on the 14th September 2024.



At the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 16th, Councillor Ian Allen was re-elected as Chair of the council and Councillor Wendy Kirkham was elected as Vice-Chair.

The Parish Council has decided to alternate its monthly meetings between The Verney Institute and New Houghton Community Centre. December's meeting will be at The Verney.

ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE were held at both of the parish's war memorials on November 10th where wreathes were laid by Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Ian Allen. The services were led by Rev Karen Bradley.



The Parish Council has continued to support Extreme Wheels sessions during the school holidays and is pleased to continue to do so.

Events were held at both Rotherham Road and Terrace Lane's recreation grounds during the summer and in the recent school break one session took place at Rotherham Road.



A Scary Time

Youngsters were treated to a spooky event at The Verney recently on the evening of Halloween.



A REMINDER that Welfare Benefits advice is available.

With the changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance it could be worth checking. **Are You Entitled?**

Karen Seymour who is a DUWC employee, is at

The Hub each Thursday from 10am until 2pm to help people navigate the complicated

welfare system. Karen has helped a number of people already and is at pains to point out that benefits are a right not a privilege. Each year millions of pounds are unclaimed by people who have an entitlement. This can be because there is ignorance of the system, because the system is complicated, because of a fear of means-testing, or because people are too proud.

Councillors are pleased to continue to support this confidential service. Just drop in to arrange to see Karen.

St Michael's Church, Pleasley

Dear Friends,

You may know by now that St Michael's church is not currently able to be open for public use. We have had two sections of plaster fall from the roof on the inside of the building and our architect advised that we close until we have made suitable repairs. The repairs will include re-plastering the damaged areas and also securing the rest of the plasterwork with wooden batons. We are currently in the process of obtaining quotes for this work and will instruct someone as soon as is possible. With St Michael's being a listed building the specification for the work is very particular and there is a formal process of approval that we have to go through before we can go ahead. This also means that any works cost significantly more than they would compared to other building repairs. We will need to raise some funds to pay for the work and would appreciate your support with that when it comes around. We will also be applying for grant funding to match the amount we raise.



On a more positive note, whilst we are unable to meet in St Michael's church building we have relocated to The Verney Institute for our Sunday morning services at 9.15am each week. We are very grateful to the Parish Council who made this possible and have been made very welcome in our new venue. Our Christmas services and events will take place in The Verney also and information about those will be available soon and distributed around the parish. It would be lovely to see you at The Verney for services or events, please do find me and say hello.

If you would like any other information about this or any other aspect of the life of the church, or if you would just like to talk something through with me, you can contact me:07823 440 513 or email rev.karen@yahoo.co.uk

With every blessing, Rev Karen Bradley Team Rector East Scarsdale Team Ministry

Derbyshire's mobile library will be in the parish on

Tuesday 3rd December

2.00 – 2.15 Newboundmill Lane.

2.20 – 2.35 Booth Avenue

2.40 – 3.00 Recreation Road



Community Speed Watch (CSW)

After agreeing to form the Pleasley Parish Community Speed Watch Group, the first volunteers undertook training with Derbyshire Police, and, with the help of County Councillor Christine Dale secured a generous grant allowing the group to purchase its own equipment.

Volunteers have been at locations in both Pleasley and New Houghton.

The purpose of the CSW sessions is to highlight to motorists that the speed limit through our villages is 30mph. Some people hold the mistaken belief that the purpose of CSW is to “catch” speeding motorists whereas it is actually about educating drivers. So that the quality of our lives is improved. It is true that drivers travelling above the speed threshold do receive advisory letters from the police.



Now that the Pleasley Parish Community Speed Watch Group has its own equipment speed, in theory, checks could be held everyday - if there was a sufficient number of volunteers!

Four volunteers are needed each time and currently, sessions have lasted between only one and one and a half hours so the time commitment is **not** too demanding.

Do YOU want to make a difference? Protect our community? Make our villages safer?

Here's how. Register an interest in being a CSW volunteer in Pleasley Parish please contact Mick Gamble: mickgamble@aol.com. Your help is needed.

DEALING WITH SCAMS

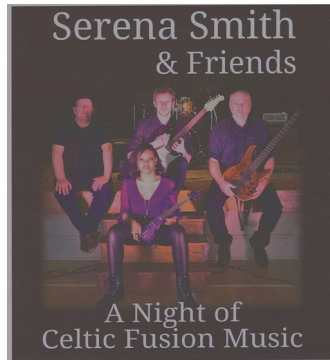
Have you seen BBC TV's "Scam Interceptors"? Highly skilled people exposing criminals attempting to get money from unsuspecting victims? Here's some practical advice you can follow when it comes to dealing with suspicious messages and calls:



- If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly using the contact details on their official website.
- Do not use the number or web address in the message. Your bank, or any other official source, will not ask you to provide sensitive information by email.
- Received an email that doesn't feel right? STOP! Report suspicious emails by forwarding them to: report@phishing.gov.uk. Send emails to this address that feel suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam – they will be checked. Always report suspicious text messages or scam call numbers, free of charge, to 7726. Your provider can find out where the text came from and block or ban the sender.
- To report a scam text, forward it to 7726 and then send the sender's number when prompted.
 - To report a scam call, simply text 7726 with the word 'Call' followed by the scam caller's number. If you've lost money or provided financial information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

LIVE AT THE VERNEY

There are four Live and Local concerts taking place in the new Live and Local season which is already underway with the first concert, Serena Smith and Friends having taken place on September 28th.



From our audience: "What a great night - again. Record "Strictly" and don't miss these local events".

"Such a fab night with talented musician. Hard to keep the feet still."

From our reviewer Chris: "Serena plays folky fiddle from the outset. She anchors the tune in a static, reel informed, phrase whilst from behind her comes a precise, hard rock backing."

"In comes Mark on bagpipes! Serena takes her heavy ankle boots off right there and gives us a proficiently executed Highland dance!! The gig has gone from unusual, through bizarre, to (oxymoron alert) plain surreal".

The next concert is on November 16th offers a different expression of a similar genre.



54⁰ North is a 3-piece Celtic Folk Fusion Band, which features 3-part vocal harmonies and a wide range of instruments including

cajon, fiddle, synth, guitar, mandolin and Bb cornet. Their music combines elements of folk, blues and hints of 80s synth to create a sound that represents each of the musicians in the band in both original music and arrangements of traditional folk songs.

Musicians appearing later in the season are Filkin's Drift (January 18th) and on March 15th the very popular Blair Dunlop returns. Booking now for this event is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment.



Tickets are all priced at £12.50 and booking is possible now for all the concerts.

Payment by cheque, BACS or cash.

Contact 01623 810035 or mickgamble@aol.com



BOLSOVER DISTRICT CULTURAL CORRIDOR Cultural Corridor Events

The Doe Lea Centre

8th December Craig Gould & The Noble Thieves present: The Campfire Sessions

15th February How to Survive and Thrive in an Impossible World—with a piano!

24th May WATSON: The Final Problem

All tickets are £15 (inc a light supper)
Contact info@doelea.org.uk for more information.

Drama Cats: A Musical Theatre class at the Verney Centre Pleasley



Every Tuesday and Wednesday, the Verney Institute in Pleasley comes alive with Drama Cats, a dynamic musical theatre class for children aged 3 to 16. This engaging programme combines singing, dancing, and drama, allowing young performers to explore their artistic talents in a supportive environment.

For ages 3 to 5, classes focus on imaginative play and basic performance skills through fun games and storytelling. As children progress, they tackle more complex songs, choreography, and character development.

Live Performances

A highlight of Drama Cats is the opportunity to perform live, showcasing students' hard work in an annual performance featuring songs and scenes from popular musicals. This event celebrates creativity and creates lasting memories for both performers and audiences. We also perform a full musical/ show per year—our recent production of Matilda JR was a big success!

****Join the Drama Cats Family!**** Drama Cats at the Verney Centre is a vibrant community where young performers can thrive. Classes are held every Tuesday and Wednesday, and enrolment is now open!

Contact the Drama Cats on 07956040121, or drop us an email at laurenw.dramacats@gmail.com for more information on class schedules and registration. Look forward to hearing from you!

NEED HELP WITH YOUR COMPUTER?

The Open Door computer sessions are held in the community centre in New Houghton on Thursdays from 9.30 to 12.30.

Improve your skills at the same time as sharing experiences with others over a cup of tea or coffee.

Richard is on hand to offer assistance and sort out those problems encountered when using a computer, tablet or smart phone. Laptops are available for use during the session or people may bring along their own devices.



These drop-in sessions are free to residents of the parish with a charge (£3.00) to those residing outside the parish. All are welcome to drop in.

KEEPING FIT – AT THE VERNEY

Slight changes since the last newsletter

The Exercise class takes place upstairs at The Verney Institute for one hour on Tuesdays from 10 — 11am.

Come along and improve your fitness with



a series of light exercises and stretches, with a qualified instructor.

There is no charge for Pleasley parish residents but there is a small charge of £3 per session for those residing outside the parish.

All are welcome.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

<p>Ian Allen (Chair) 07872 376598</p>		<p>Hayley Smith 07708 724594</p>	<p>Wendy Kirkham (Vice-Chair) 07749 500025</p>	
<p>Liz Smyth 07842 531451</p>		<p>Mick Gamble 01623 810035</p>	<p>Louise Stokeley</p>	
<p>Howard Wright 01623 810486</p>		<p>Christine Dale 07811 995612</p>	<p>Liz McCormack</p>	
<p>Lynda Radford lyndaradford1@gmail.com</p>				

Parish Clerk Ian Weekes 819786 ian.pleasleypc@gmail.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

<p>Thomas Kirkham tom.kirkham@bolsover.gov.uk</p>	<p>John Ritchie john.ritchie@bolsover.gov.uk</p>	<p>Catherine Tite catherine.tite@bolsover.gov.uk</p>
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR Christine Dale christine.dale@derbyshire.gov.uk

You can find this newsletter and other information about the council on the council's website: Scan the QR code to go to the website.

www.pleasleyparishcouncil.org.uk



COMPETITION TIME

WORDSEARCH

Find the 24 seasonal words listed in the table below and return your entry to The Verney Institute letterbox on Newboundmill Lane or any councillor by Dec 1st.

Name

Address

Contact number

There will be a £10 Store Voucher for the winning entry.

The winner of the Wordsearch in Newsletter 69 was Brenda Fisher of Old School Lane, Pleasley .

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

ALL SAINTS DAY
 CHRISTMAS EVE
 ICE FAIRY
 ROBIN LEAVES
 CIDER NUTS
 RED CHESTNUT
 TINSEL FALL
 HOLLY AUTUMN
 TURKEY FROST
 SNOW BELLS
 EQUINOX IVY
 FOG JINGLE
 STAR COLD

ROOM HIRE

The parish council has two venues which can be hired. The Verney Institute (right) and New Houghton Community Centre are both available for room hire by arrangement with the caretakers.

To book The Verney Institute contact Phillip Briggs 01623 810732

To book New Houghton Community Centre contact Loretta Brudenell 01623 811390



MANY THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

A big thank you and well done to all those who contributed to the success of the Scarecrow Festival on July 20th and 21st, both entrants and organisers.

The winners, voted by the viewing public, were entries 15, 7 and 25.



As a result of the fundraising efforts the sum of £500 was presented to Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre.

The council hopes that many more people will get involved in next year's festival to make it even bigger and better.

LOOKING BACK

Do you remember when this event took place?

