



NEWSLETTER

72nd edition of the Newsletter for: Pleasley, Pleasley Vale, New Houghton and Stony Houghton.

Pleasley Parish Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a very Happy New Year and health and happiness.



The Scarecrow Festival which was held in July attracted over twenty entrants and was well supported by the public. As a result of activity in The Verney and the sale of route maps, £633.00 was donated to St Michael's "Raise the Roof Fund".

The three most popular scarecrows were "Scarecrow Wedding," "Lilo and Stitch" and "Florence Nightingale". Many thanks to all contributors to the festival and to Maurice Hill Transport Ltd who sponsored the event.



The Parish Council joined in the nation's 80th anniversary celebrations of the end of World War II with events at both The Verney and New Houghton Community Centre in May for VE Day and in New Houghton in August for VJ Day.

Parishioners were able to enjoy music from the war years and refreshments which were provided by the council.

A NEW WEEKLY ACTIVITY IN THE VERNEY

The Card-Board Club met for the first time on Tuesday 9th September. It was a great start with 14 people attending and getting involved.

We had people enjoying games of chess, dominoes and scrabble.

Everyone enjoyed the two hours of fun and chat.

Since then we have had regular well attended sessions with people enjoying lots of different games and the friendly atmosphere.

We would love to see more people joining us. It's a great place to go on a cold wet Tuesday morning, if only for a coffee and a chat.

We meet every Tuesday morning 10 to 12 at the Verney. Come and join us.



David Kirkham

Winifred Bennett 23/07/1946 - 16/09/2025

Winnie was in the St John Ambulance for 68 yrs. She was one of 13 children and went to Pleasley School & Farmilo school. she started to go to St John whilst she was at school, making her way through the ranks.

She worked at Pleasley Co op and then at Pleasley Mills until they closed.

Her career went a different path, working at All Saints School as a dinner lady and then at Westfield Lane Day Centre. Both Winnie & Aylene qualified as 'After School Leaders' whilst bringing her family up. St John was her passion.

Winnie went to Buckingham Palace in 2012 to the late Queen's Garden Party. After shaking the Queen's hand she didn't wash her gloves, she was so proud to have met her in her career at St John. She was made a Serving Sister of St John in 2006.

As a leader, Winnie entered St John in many competitions at Sherwood, Matlock & Croydon.

One was a simulation traffic collision and she won the competition.

She always said she had three sons: Mark, Philip and St John. Her family always knew St John came first.

She will be missed tremendously in Pleasley and New Houghton.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ANTHONY BEK?

Mrs D_M Johnson, Headteacher, writes:

The Summer term at Anthony Bek Community school was a huge success! Our Y6 pupils achieved amazing SATs results-higher than the national average- a true testament to the hard work of staff and pupils throughout their Primary school Journey. Our Y4 pupils also achieved incredible results in the Multiplication Tables Check, setting a new school record and again achieving higher than national average scores- will our new Y4 children be able to beat it this year?

We also had some amazing fund-raising community events, including our Summer fair and outdoor disco, where we said goodbye to our Y6 pupils. It was wonderful to see the community all come together and enjoy these events and the profits raised helped to fund our very successful reward days, where children got to enjoy free trips to a play centre, bowling alley, Wheelgate and a fun day of inflatable fun and crazy golf on our school field.

It's been an exciting start to the new school year, too! Our whole Reception outdoor area has been redeveloped and looks fantastic and our sensory garden and garden room is almost finished- it will be wonderful to see children getting the benefits of these new areas.



Our current Y1 class won the best class for attendance in the last school year, when they were in Reception (no Reception class has ever won this, which made it even more special). They chose a free trip to Wheelgate as their reward and loved it!

Children have enjoyed celebrating Diwali through dance workshops, donated lots of food for our Harvest assembly, which will be donated to those in need locally and we've ended the term with some wonderful Halloween events, including our Early Years Stay and Play and our Halloween Disco.

We're now very much looking forward to the next term and all the events that take place, including our Remembrance service, Children In Need and Christmas events.



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 New Houghton in October.



Hello good people of Pleasley Parish

It has been almost five months since the County Council Elections, and I thought it would be nice to share some news about what has been happening in our area. There has been so much that I hardly know where to start!

First and foremost, myself and two other County Councillors have been visiting junior schools in our areas. We are arranging school visits to County Hall in Matlock, where the children will meet Councillors and take part in a real debate in the Council Chamber. I spoke to the headteacher at our very own Anthony Bek Primary School, and she was very interested in our proposal. Invitations to the selected schools will be going out shortly.

These visits are educational and help children learn how to hold an ordered and constructive debate. Who knows — perhaps a future Prime Minister or Home Secretary will come from our very own young people!

Speaking of young people, I will be chairing my first scrutiny committee this September, with the discussion focusing on apprenticeships. We have a skills shortage in our country. Wouldn't it be wonderful if more of our young people were encouraged into the trades? University is not for everyone, and other options should be made readily available.

My husband Rob, the Deputy Leader of the County Council, recently visited the JCB factory in the Midlands to see a fantastic new machine called the *Pothole Pro*. This state-of-the-art machine repairs potholes quicker, better, and to a higher quality. The *Pothole Pro* will be coming to Derbyshire shortly for a trial. Let's hope it lives up to expectations and helps repair the many pot-

holes that seem to appear daily.

As a County Councillor, it is a privilege to be able to distribute grants to good causes. Thank you to the people of Pleasley for approaching me and applying. We have had applications from St John Ambulance, New Houghton Football Club, and the Food Hub, to name just a few. I only wish the grants were larger (they were halved by the previous administration). The good news is these grants are allocated annually, so there will be more available next year.

More good news: I recently met with the Police and Crime Commissioner, and it looks as though we may be getting a couple of extra police officers for our area. I would encourage anyone who is a victim of crime, or who witnesses criminal activity, to report it. I was dismayed to learn that there isn't enough data to support an increased police presence locally, as the official figures show low crime. From speaking to many of you, I know that doesn't reflect reality. That's why it is so important to report incidents - however trivial they may seem - so that we have accurate data showing what's actually happening in our communities.

I have also written to Bolsover District Council regarding a motion for Article 4 in relation to HMOs in our area, after hearing strong public concern. Unfortunately, it wasn't met with the response I and many others had hoped for. Nevertheless, I will continue to be a champion of the people on this and other issues.

On a final note, I am pleased that we have green-lighted the planting of hundreds of trees. I don't know about you, but I think trees look far better on our green spaces than solar farms!

I look forward to updating you again soon with more news that is relevant to us all in our beautiful county of Derbyshire.

Sarah Reaney

LIVE AT THE VERNEY

The first show of the Parish Council's new Live and Local season was in October with the trio "Bezique" gypsy jazz in the style of Django Reinhardt and this was followed in November by "Threaded" another trio, but more in the English folk tradition.

There are two more shows to come: "The Askew Sisters" on March 21st and "Mountain Song", with James Hickman and Will Greenway on January 17th.

Sisters Emily and Hazel Askew are two of the foremost performers and interpreters of traditional music from England.

Some parishioners might recall that James Hickman has been to The Verney previously, partnered then by Dan Cassidy. Tickets for "Mountain Song" are on sale now, £13.50



THE VERNEY INSTITUTE, PLEASLEY (NG19 7PL)
Saturday 17 January, 7:30pm

£13.50 (Standard)
BOOK NOW: Call Mick Gamble on 01623 810035 or Ian Weekes on 01623 819786 or email: mickgamble@aol.com
Complimentary light refreshments during the interval. No bar. BYOD. Street parking.
liveandlocal.org.uk

LIVE & LOCAL

Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch (CSW)

The Pleasley Parish CSW Group took part in the nationwide "All Out" initiative in July. Two sessions were planned but the afternoon session was cancelled due to the extreme heat. Between 8 and 9.30 am 237 vehicles entered New Houghton from the north. 18 were going faster than the CSW threshold and were reported to the police. 10 were actually travelling at 40mph or above with one doing 47mph. Only one transgressor was a local resident.

To become a CSW volunteer contact Mick Gamble. For just an hour you could save a life

NEARLY 40 YEARS AGO!



The Nag's Head Menaces Club

What started in 1988 with a copy of The Beano being left on the bar in The Nag's Head developed into a major fundraiser and supporter of local groups and individuals when customers formed their own Dennis the Menace Fan Club.

Members paid a weekly subscription of 20p and there was a wide range of activities: quiz nights, raffles, sponsored walks, a duck race, car treasure hunts, a 24 hour games marathon, sponsored slim, haircuts and beard trims and even a competition to guess the time and date of the birth of the landlady's baby!

A dominoes competition was organised in 1989 which became an annual event (The Jackie Reynolds Trophy) in memory of a local young

disabled woman who had played dominoes at lunchtimes when her mother went shopping.

A huge amount of money was raised to be spent in the community – the proviso being that no cash donations were made. Money was spent in many ways.

Items were purchased for Pepperday Lodge, kneeler kits were purchased (and worked) for St Michael's and Christ Church New Houghton, smoke alarms were donated to local retired people in New Houghton and Pleasley, transport was funded for day visits for local retired members' groups and a children's summer school, equipment was provided for Pleasley Surgery, Farmilo U5s and the Carabineers Jazz Band.

Daffodil bulbs were planted at the top of the bank at the junction of Church Lane and Chesterfield Road North and on the verges approaching the roundabout.

Then, after nine years, the club was dissolved.

Pleasley Nightingales WI

Are you looking for friendship, laughter, creativity, and a chance to get involved in your local community? Come and join the **Pleasley Nightingales WI!**



Where: The Verney Institute, Pleasley

When: The last Thursday of every month

Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

We've had a fabulous start to our WI journey, and we're growing stronger every month. Our events and activities have included:

Entering the **Scarecrow Festival** (2nd place winners!), **VE & VJ Day celebrations**, Fun and relaxing **crafting afternoons**, **Macmillan Cancer Research fundraising events**, the colourful **Flower Pot Festival**, an inspiring **bee talk**, a hands-on **watercolour painting class**

... and so much more!

We're also proud to have raised funds for important causes along the way.

Whether you'd like to learn new skills, enjoy a cuppa and a chat, or simply get more involved locally, you'll receive a warm welcome at Pleasley Nightingales WI.

☐ **Come along and see what we're all about – new members are always welcome!** ☐

Update on the situation with the roof at St Michael's Church. October 2025

Friends, I would like to begin this by saying a huge thank you!! Thank you to all of you who have given money towards the repairs needed at St Michael's, it is really appreciated. And thank you also to Pleasley Parish Council who continue to allow us to use The Verney Institute for our regular Sunday Services and for our events.

So, where are we, and how long is it likely to be before we can re-open St Michael's??

As with roofing issues, it is advisable to ensure the work on the outside of the structure is done before starting on internal work. We are pleased to report that the external work needed to ensure the roof is sound has been completed. The cost of that work was circa £16K, which was raised through donations and by grant funding. We were also able to reclaim VAT paid on the work as we are a charity organisation.

We are now focussing on the funds needed to complete the internal work, likely to be somewhere in the region of £35K. We are hopeful of match grant funding towards this which lowers the target to around £17K – still a large sum, but achievable.

It would be wonderful to be able to reach this target by spring next year so that the work can

be carried out over the drier months. This will depend on our fund-raising efforts though so I would encourage you to look out for ways you can support us in this – every penny donated goes directly to the repairs.

If you are a resident of the parish, you will shortly be receiving a Christmas card from us with details of our Advent and Christmas services. If you are not a resident keep an eye on our Facebook page for details. It would be wonderful to see you at those as we journey through this very special time of year together. We are having two services in St Michael's, (at the front where the roof is sound). Those will be very special times I am sure as we gather in the building once again.

Please do be in touch if you would like to know more, or chat to one of us at our events or services coming up. If you'd like to get involved in helping to fund raise or can offer any other practical help then do let us know also.

With every blessing for you and your families and friends at this time.

Karen

Rev Karen Bradley

Team Rector, East Scarsdale Team Ministry



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. Lap tops 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.



Derbyshire's mobile library will be in the parish on 2nd December and January 27th

2.00 – 2.15 Newboundmill Lane.

2.20 – 2.35 Booth Avenue

2.40 – 3.00 Recreation Road

KEEPING FIT – AT THE VERNEY

The Exercise class takes place downstairs at The Verney Institute for one hour on Wednesdays from 1.30 – 2.30.

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.

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.

Both buildings have facilities for light refreshments.

To book The Verney Institute contact Phillip Briggs 01623 810732

To book New Houghton Community Centre contact Laretta Brudenell 01623 811390



COMPETITION TIME

WORDSEARCH

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

Name

Address

Contact number

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

The winner of the Wordsearch in Newsletter 71 was Mr S Wright of Leas Avenue

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

FENNEL	SORREL
RAGWORT	MUSK
COWSLIP	WELD
WILD CARROT	IVY
KIDNEY VETCH	
COW PARSLEY	
DOG VIOLET	
KNAPWEED	
FOXGLOVE	
SAINFOIN	
FLEABANE	
BEE ORCHID	
PLANTAIN	
EYEBRIGHT	
HAWKBIT	
ST JOHNS WORT	

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ian Allen (Chair) 07872 376598 	Hayley Smith 07708 724594 	Wendy Kirkham (Vice-Chair) 07749 500025 
Liz Smyth 07842 531451 	Mick Gamble 01623 810035 	Louise Stokeley 
Howard Wright 01623 810486 	Christine Dale 07811 995612 	Liz McCormack 01623 810017 
Lynda Radford lyndaradford1@gmail.com 	Parish Clerk Ian Weekes 	Sarah Reaney County Councillor 

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Thomas Kirkham tom.kirkham@bolsover.gov.uk	John Ritchie john.ritchie@bolsover.gov.uk	Catherine Tite catherine.tite@bolsover.gov.uk
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR Sarah Reaney sarah.reaney@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





SAYING HELLO

Friday 26th September saw new mine hosts Emma and Nial welcome customers old and new to the Nag's Head after considerable refurbishment.

The pub opened its doors after the building closed on July 20th, with customers using the garden and marquee whilst waiting eagerly to see the makeover.

From three rooms, the customer area is largely three zones to accommodate customers' preferences.

Emma and Nial saw an opportunity for a career change and to change the business and they aim to offer something for everyone. There is Sky tv, a games area with dart boards and pool table and an area where customers can enjoy sitting by an open fire. There is a large range of drinks, including cask ale, available and at the time of writing there are plans to have a coffee machine.

Visiting food vans have been introduced at weekends, card bingo on Sunday afternoons and the darts, dominoes and pool teams have been resurrected. There are also plans for DJ and live music nights.

There is easy access for those with mobility problems and dog owners and their pets are welcome.

A friendly welcome is guaranteed.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS

You can advertise in the parish newsletter which goes to all parishioners and is published on the council's website. Contact the clerk for more information.

TOURING

FREE PANTO PRESENTS

Sleeping Beauty

TUESDAY

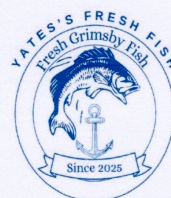
25TH NOVEMBER 25

6PM – 8PM

DOORS OPEN AT 5.30PM

AT PLEASLEY MINERS WELFARE, CHESTERFIELD RD, PLEASLEY NG19 7PD

EMAIL IAN.PLEASLEYPC@GMAIL.COM TO BOOK



At **Yates's Fish**, we pride ourselves on offering the finest, freshest selection of seafood for your table. Whether you're a home cook, a restaurant owner, or just a lover of great fish, we have something for everyone!

Our Products

- Fresh Salmon, Cod, Haddock, Sea Bass, Halibut, Tuna and much more
 - Shellfish: Mussels, Prawns, Crab, Scallops
- Specialty seafood: Smoked fish, Anchovies, Roll Mop Herrings
 - Seasonal catches

Find Me at

DD & E Bates & Son Farm Shop, Penniment Lane, Mansfield,
every other Saturday, 9am – 12pm.

Delivery in Your Area

We now deliver locally! Orders are always welcome, and **no order is too small**. Enjoy top-quality seafood brought right to your doorstep—freshness guaranteed

Contact: Ollie 07720626436

Follow Us

Stay up to date with our latest catches, recipes, and promotions!



Facebook: Yates's Fish

Instagram: YatesFish



Yates's Fish – Bringing the Freshest Catch to You!