



# NEWSLETTER

**66th edition of the Newsletter for: Pleasley, Pleasley Vale, New Houghton and Stony Houghton.**

## LOOKING FORWARD

2023 brings the coronation of King Charles III, the return of Pleasley Parish Council's Scarecrow Festival on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 as part of the celebrations and Pleasley Pit Trust is celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of Pleasley Pit.

Details of the Scarecrow Festival have yet to be finalised but parishioners can assume that arrangements will be much the same as in previous years. Let's hope for a bigger event in 2023. Exhibitors may choose to use a royal theme but it is not a requirement of participation.

The nominated charity has yet to be decided.

If you wish to enter the festival but don't have a suitable space at your home or, if you don't live in the parish but would like to be involved, just contact the council.



**IN THE PARISH** During the current year the Parish Council has installed new gates at the cemetery, provided extra Christmas lights in both areas of the parish and a CCTV system for both Pleasley and New Houghton, all of which have been quite costly.



As we are sure most parishioners are aware, the Parish Council, for several years, has used what reserve funds it had to not increase its annual precept (the annual amount it requests to support its services to the community) in our attempt to assist residents' finances both through the pandemic and with the cost of living increases that we have all had to go through in one way or another. However, this has depleted our finances and we now have no option, if we are to maintain the services and support we provide, other than to increase the Parish Precept for the current year. To make residents aware we have only increased the Parish element by the amount based on current year's expenditure in our attempt to continue in what we provide which in support for the whole Parish.

**FLY TIPPING** Common problems on the back access road in New Houghton are vehicles blocking the road for refuse vehicles and dumped rubbish. Recently a Bolsover District Council officer was allocated to the area to deal with these issues. Please get in touch with the council or BDC to report issues.

## VANDALISM

Repairs to the two bus shelters just north of the roundabout have had to be carried out due to acts of vandalism. The cost for both shelters was in the region of £1000. Money that could have been used in other projects.

## STATUS OF THE ACCESS ROADS

The backs around Portland and Devonshire Street have been a focus for much correspondence in the last few years. Ownership of the road is broken into patches belonging to a mix of properties on both streets. When the coal board sold its houses, many were bought by a trust which manages most of its affairs overseas. Most of these houses have been sold but the land associated with them on the backs has remained with the trust.

The neighbourhood regeneration of almost 20 years ago ran out of cash and only addressed Devonshire backs. So the problem remains that nobody will take responsibility and resurface the backs. Volunteers did some of the larger holes a couple of years ago but they are returning. No work was done to Verney or Crompton Street backs. The New Houghton Community Assoc hopes to get back to the task again this summer.

## New Houghton Community Association and Millennium Green Trust Report.

The Community Association is pleased to report that after several months of attempting to get things resolved the Parish Council have now installed CCTV in New Houghton with one camera now being in place near the shops scanning the area around the shops and Rotherham Road and a further camera being installed near the recreation ground covering part of the Millennium Green, the bus shelter ( which constantly gets damaged ) up the road towards Club 15, the recreation ground itself and the children's play area.

Also, - due to residents' concerns the parish council has now contracted Garden Force from the village to maintain the cemetery to make it more respectable for our departed family members.

From the Millennium Green perspective, the Parish Council now not only financially supports the cutting of the green but also finances the emptying of the litter bins and the dog poo bins on the side of the green which is a major task to supporters of the green so please help us by only using the bins at the side of the green where ever possible as it is a mundane task emptying the bins scattered around on the green itself.

The next meeting of the Community Association and Millennium Green Trust will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00 a.m. in the community centre.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON EXERCISE CLASS

Do you want to improve your physical health and meet others?

The Parish Council offers the opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to engage in regular physical activity, each Tuesday, for an hour, from 1.30 with Julie Bonsall as leader.

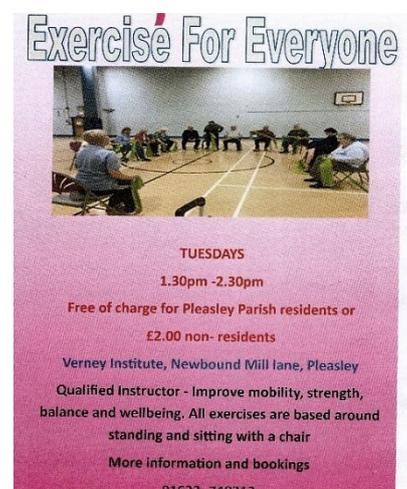
Exercises are essentially, but not exclusively, chair based where the body and chair are used as an exercise machine. The aim of the exercises is to improve flexibility and mobility. Exercises are low weight-bearing using arms and legs and there are some resistance exercises.

Sessions are very relaxed with participants free to do as much or as little as they like. No special equipment is required and there is no dress code.

The exercise class also offers the opportunity to meet others in a relaxed social atmosphere.

Why not drop in and give it a try?

There is no charge for Pleasley parish residents and just £2.00 for non-residents.



The poster features the title 'Exercise For Everyone' in a stylized font at the top. Below the title is a photograph of a group of people sitting in a circle on chairs in a gymnasium, participating in an exercise class. The background of the poster is pink. Text on the poster includes: 'TUESDAYS', '1.30pm - 2.30pm', 'Free of charge for Pleasley Parish residents or £2.00 non-residents', 'Verney Institute, Newbound Mill lane, Pleasley', 'Qualified Instructor - Improve mobility, strength, balance and wellbeing. All exercises are based around standing and sitting with a chair', 'More information and bookings', and the phone number '01623 -748313'.

## WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

**Every Tuesday** Keeping Fit – chair-based exercise at The Verney Institute 1.30pm. One hour, with a qualified instructor. No charge for Pleasley parish residents, a small charge of £2 per session for non-residents.

**Every Thursday** Open Door computer sessions in the Community Centre in New Houghton 9.30 to 12.30.

28<sup>th</sup> Feb at 1500-1600 🚔 Street Meet 🚔 Come and say hello to your Police team and have your say. Street Meet on Rotherham Rd, New Houghton Close to rec.

28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 28<sup>th</sup> March & 25<sup>th</sup> April Derbyshire Mobile Library

4<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Live and Local. Live at The Verney with Blair Dunlop.

4<sup>th</sup> May Local elections

6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May Parish Scarecrow Festival

March onwards Pleasley Pit Trust 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations

20<sup>th</sup> May Spring Fayre St Michael's Church

9<sup>th</sup> July 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Pleasley Pit

**Reminder** Collections of the green bins start again in March.

**Bolsover TV** Each Friday a new programme on Bolsover TV with news, information and details of events in the Bolsover district becomes available. You can find it at [www.bolsover.tv](http://www.bolsover.tv)



**Do you need help** and support but don't know where to find them?

**Treacle** is a website that can give you information you need. Log on to Treacle.me.

Don't know how to get on a website? Drop into Open Door on a Thursday morning at New Houghton Community Centre.

### **School Holiday Activities**

The Parish Council, in conjunction with Bolsover District Council, is continuing to provide activities for young people during school holidays. The next sessions in the school Easter holidays will be at Rotherham Road New Houghton and Terrace Lane Pleasley recreation grounds.

### **LOCAL ELECTIONS MAY 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. You can use a Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence), or a Blue Badge, or an Older Person's Bus Pass (Derbys Gold Card) or a Disabled Person's Bus Pass.

### **ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER?**

This newsletter is delivered to homes in the parish of Pleasley and is posted on the parish council's website. If you would like to advertise your business or activity, please contact the clerk for details.



## NEW HOUGHTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – THE STORY – from copies of The Standard Bearer, St Michael's Church's magazine

The story began in 1898 when Christ Church, New Houghton was dedicated as a daughter church in the Parish of St Michael's, Pleasley. At this time there was no church hall.

After the end of World War I, in about 1920, the Stanton Company which owned Pleasley Colliery, bought an old army corrugated hut and

erected it on a strip of land next to Christ Church as a church hall. In 1944 the land was sold to the ecclesiastical parish of Pleasley.

After World War II the building became derelict and unusable and in 1956 Christ Church Committee launched an appeal to put it back in use. Volunteers worked for over months and in May 1957 the building was ready for internal decoration.

**Disaster struck** and at noon on May 15<sup>th</sup>, the day before the building was due to open, it caught fire and within an hour had been reduced to smouldering embers. Fire fighters from both Shirebrook and Mansfield attended the fire.



On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July, the Rector, Reg Doncaster, sat amongst the ruins to receive donations towards the rebuilding and over £300 was raised.

The project to replace the old hall was begun with plans for a new hall with a passage connecting it to the church.

In 1961 there was an appeal for twenty people to loan £50 to the project with the loan being repaid over ten years and also for volunteers offer their skills. Plumbers, bricklayers and electricians were invited to help as well as those to offer manual labour.

By June, two people had already offered to loan money, plumbers had come forward. and the planning application was successful so in July

the foundations were dug.

The church accounts of March 1962 showed there was £1548, fifteen shillings and seven pence in the fund.

In April 1962 the walls of the main building were standing and the window and door frames had been installed.

Two months later the main hall brickwork had been completed, the roof beams were in place and in a matter of weeks most of the roof was on.

In July 1963 it was reported that the new hall was nearing completion and would be opening in the autumn with the opportunity on July 27<sup>th</sup> to see how far work had got.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> Christ Church Hall was opened officially by Dr Wilson and was dedicated by the Bishop of Derby. (pictured page 5)



At that time, Christ Church was not licensed for weddings but by December 1963 the hall had become so popular as a venue for wedding receptions that the Rector asked couples who would like to marry in Christ Church to get in touch with him so that he could make a case for the premises to be licensed for marriages.

After the expiry of a ten-year lease which had given the management and upkeep over to a newly formed Community Centre Committee, an informal arrangement continued until 1994 when Pleasley Parish Council signed a twenty-five-year lease to take over the building.

The number of people attending Christ Church dwindled and on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 the church was officially closed. The building fell into disrepair and after being sold at auction it was demolished in April 2019. The Parish Council remains the leaseholder.

**Do you remember these events? Were you or a family member involved? Did you marry at Christ Church? Do you have photographs from the time? Let us have your story.**

## OPEN DOOR



Open Door is the name of the session that is held each Thursday morning in New Houghton Community Centre.

If you want to improve your skills in a friendly, supportive environment then this is the place for you.

What support can I expect?

You can expect to be advised how to get the best use of your device whether it be a netbook, tablet, laptop or mobile phone.

You can learn how to be safe online, how to access services and get information and guidance from agencies such as NHS, local government,

leisure activities.

You can learn how to use social media to communicate with family and friends safely.

**This is not a taught class.**

The door is open to drop in and get what help you might need.

Laptops are available for use during the sessions.

The sessions are run by a qualified tutor and are free to residents of Pleasley Parish.

## LIVE AND LOCAL

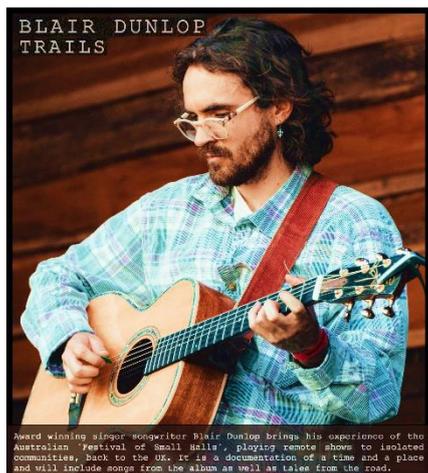
## LIVE AT THE VERNEY

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> Live and Local returned to The Verney with a great night with Leon Hunt and Jason Titley. An amazing showcase of banjo and guitar.

Our reviewer Chris wrote:

*Effortlessly, Jason and Leon demonstrated a mastery of light and shade. Varying tone, volume and emotion, constantly, allowing mysterious notes to spiral and vaporise like magical wisps of smoke, never to be seen again, between the many, deliberately cultivated, spaces in each brilliantly rendered composition.*

## BLAIR DUNLOP March 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 7.30pm



The Parish Council is delighted to welcome Blair Dunlop back to The Verney. Blair was in the very first show that the council put on with Live and Local way back in November 2012 alongside his father, Ashley Hutchings, and then he was a special guest with Ashley in October 2021. **After touring in the USA**, Blair returns to The Verney on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Award-winning singer-songwriter Blair Dunlop's programme offers an insight into both traditional and contemporary folk music. Off the back of his new live album 'Trails - Queensland' documenting his 2019/20 Australian tour where he played for isolated communities before moving on to major festival appearances, Blair continues the theme and brings it back to the UK.

The concert starts at 7.30pm.

There is no bar but patrons are invited to bring their own drinks.

Complimentary light refreshments will be served during the interval.

Tickets, which are on sale now, are available from Mick Gamble, 01623 810035, 07720 766290 or Ian Weekes, 01623 819786

We hope to see you there.

### PARISH COUNCILLORS

Howard Wright (Chair)  
01623 810486

Christopher Davern  
07366 464640

Wendy Kirkham  
07749 500025

Pauline Bowmer 01623  
811492

Mick Gamble  
01623 810035

Hayley Smith  
07708 724594

Ian Allen (Vice-Chair)  
01623 810346

Thomas Kirkham  
07734 274848

Liz Smyth  
See below

**Parish Clerk**

Ian Weekes 01623 819786

ian.pleasleypc@gmail.com

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Thomas Kirkham  
tom.kirkham@bolsover.gov.uk

Liz Smyth  
liz.smyth@bolsover.gov.uk

Patricia Clough

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR** Christine Dale [christine.dale@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:christine.dale@derbyshire.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.pleasleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.pleasleyparishcouncil.org.uk)



Pleasley Parish

# COMPETITION TIME

## WORDSEARCH

Find the 17 cathedrals/minsters listed in the table below and return your entry to The Verney Institute, 13 Newboundmill Lane Pleasley NG19 7PL or to any councillor before March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Name

Address

There will be a £10 gardening voucher for the winning entry.

The winner of the Winter Wordsearch was Mrs C Goddard of Pleasley

WAKEFIELD	YORK	WINCHESTER
RIPON	BATH	EXETER
LINCOLN	ELY	PETERBOROUGH
BEVERLEY	NORWICH	DURHAM
DERBY	SOUTHWELL	WELLS
COVENTRY	WESTMINSTER	

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

### Did You See This?

Parishioners must have been surprised (and amused) at the sight of the road sign which appeared on November 17<sup>th</sup> on Newboundmill Lane. A bus stop sign remains outside The Verney so when some work was being done outside this sign was put up.

The Stagecoach 53 bus service ceased going to Terrace Lane in 2009.



### FREEDOM PROJECT FOODBANKS

Shirebrook Methodist Church, 4 Church Dr, Shirebrook, Mansfield NG20 8DE - Centre Open:

Tuesday: 10am – 1pm

Bolsover Methodist Church, Hill Top, Bolsover S44 6NN Centre Open: Tuesdays: 9am – 12noon & Fridays: 9am – 12noon

### ROOM HIRE

**Remember.** The parish council has two venues which can be hired. The Verney Institute 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 Lauretta Brudenell 01623 811390



### DERBYSHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY

Derbyshire's mobile library will be in Pleasley and New Houghton on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 28<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> April.

2.00 – 2.15 Newboundmill Lane.

2.20 – 2.35 Booth Avenue

2.40 – 3.00 Recreation Road



## DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL



MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> SCARECROW ENTRY FORM - PLEASE RETURN BY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Name .....

Address .....

Contact Information: Phone ..... Email .....

Please return to "Scarecrow", The Verney Institute, 13 Newboundmill Lane, Pleasley NG19 7PL or email the parish clerk, [ian.pleasleyppc@gmail.com](mailto:ian.pleasleyppc@gmail.com)