



NEWSLETTER

71st edition of the Newsletter for: Pleasley, Pleasley Vale, New Houghton and Stony Houghton.



PLEASLEY PARISH COUNCIL 2025 SCARECROW FESTIVAL

It's that time of year again!

Pleasley's Scarecrow Festival returns on Saturday 26th & Sunday

27th July. This much-loved festival has been part of the culture of our parish for many years now. It's a great day out for residents of all ages and visitors to our parish.

The success and longevity of The Scarecrow Festival is thanks to our fantastic residents who put their time aside to create and build scarecrows on varying themes.

There's no specific theme for 2025 - so be creative and do your best to be awarded 1st, 2nd & 3rd places.

Previously our residents have created varied & diverse scarecrows including cartoon/film characters, royalty, historical figures, animals and all manner of creations. If you would like to enter but don't have a suitable space the council will be able to help.

Funds raised from this year's Scarecrow festival will be donated to St Michael's 'Raise

The Roof' Campaign.

A Scarecrow Festival programme will be available from The Verney on the day for £1. In the programme there's a map with the location of the scarecrows. Follow the scarecrow trail with the route map. Take care on the roads and remember to vote for your favourite scarecrow.

There are three cash prizes for the most popular scarecrows.

The Verney will be open on Saturday, from 9.00am to 5pm and on Sunday 27th July from 9.00am to 4pm. We usually have refreshments and home baked cakes with some stalls and activities based in The Verney on the day for all to enjoy.

Voting slips are to be returned to The Verney by 5pm on Saturday or no later than 4pm on Sunday or post your vote in the Verney letterbox. Prize winners will be announced on the Verney Noticeboard and on the Parish Facebook page. Winners will be contacted by phone/email.

There's an application slip to enter your Scarecrow later in this newsletter – please consider taking part.

Good luck to everyone entering and here's to a great event for all residents to enjoy.



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

Events will be held at both Rotherham Road and Terrace Lane's recreation grounds during the summer.



Karen Seymour 1965 - 2025

Karen Seymour a polite, softly spoken well known Welfare Rights Advisor from Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre has sadly passed away. She was based in New Houghton Community Hub and helped with benefit claims for the most vulnerable in society, pensioners, the disabled, homeless and those on poverty level benefits. Born and bred in Mansfield she attended Sherwood Hall Upper School in Forest Town. She completed a degree at Sheffield Hallam University in her 40's and became politically

active in campaigning against cuts to local Council and Health Services. She stepped up to fight injustice by volunteering with Derbyshire Unemployed Workers. In her spare time she helped at the Beacon Homeless Centre in Mansfield. Classical music was her other great passion and she sang for many years with the Mansfield Choral Society. She cared deeply for her community and loved the job she did. She was highly valued by all she had helped. Her presence and selfless commitment into helping others less fortunate shall be greatly missed.

Christine Dale

St Michael's Church, Pleasley

Dear Friends,

it has been some time now since the decision to close St Michael's church building due to concerns over the safety of the internal plaster work on the ceiling. Since then, we have been welcomed into The Verney Institute and we are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for allowing us to use this space.

Following conversations with and visits from our architect to make assessments on the work that needs to take place, we have been advised that a two-stage approach to the repairs is required.

Firstly, the external work to the roof, which will ensure that any work on the inside will be well protected is likely to cost in the region of £15,000. We are looking at the feasibility of obtaining some grant funding from the Diocese of Derby to put alongside some of the funds we already hold at St Michael's.

Next, internally, our architect has advised that rather than remove all the internal plaster, we can repair the damaged sections and affix batons to the remaining plasterwork to ensure it is safe and not likely to fall. This will need extensive scaffolding and while we have that in place to also do a survey of the ceiling and repaint it. This work is likely to cost in the region of £35,000 and while we can apply to funding sources for some of the money, it is likely that we will need to raise 50% of the funds ourselves. As a church, we do not get any funding from Government or Council departments, nor do we get anything centrally from the Church of England. Our only regular income is from donations on a Sunday morning. Usually, we would also gain income from weddings and funerals, but as our building is out of action we are currently unable to host those services.

How can you help?

Come along to one of the fundraising events we are planning – Autumn Ball, fashion show etc. Have an enjoyable time out and support St Michael's. Details will be on our Facebook page.

Donate directly via the QR Code (right), which is also on our Facebook page.

Sign up to shop via Easyfundraising. Details for this are at the top of our Facebook page. If you shop online, many of the companies you buy from will donate towards St Michael's, if you choose us as your charity. It won't cost you a thing and will help us enormously.

Look out for our collection boxes at various places across Pleasley.

Send donations by cheque to Rev Karen Bradley, Langwith Bassett Rectory, Upper Langwith, Derbyshire NG20 9RE.

It would be lovely to see St Michael's restored and in use again for our community. Thank you for your time in reading this and thank you in advance for your support and donations.

Every blessing, **Karen**





Community Speed Watch (CSW)

After a break during the winter months, speed watch volunteers have been at locations in both Pleasley and New Houghton. Each session has been in the morning between 8.15 and 9.30. It is pleasing that very few motorists have been travelling above too fast and only a small number has been reported to the police. These people have received the stage 1 advisory letter and if subsequently found speeding anywhere in Derbyshire will have further contact from the police. None of them is a parish resident.

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.

As stated in a previous newsletter, the commitment from volunteers is not too demanding and with more people involved more sessions could be held, making our villages safer.

You can register an interest in being a CSW volunteer in Pleasley Parish by contacting Mick Gamble: mickgamble@aol.com.

Wheelie Bin Stickers

Residents living along the routes through our villages were invited to take part in a scheme to improve safety by putting stickers, which were provided by the parish council, on their wheelie bins.

It was acknowledged by the council that the scheme had limitations: the bins only go out once a week and then might be at the roadside for a short time and the stickers have to be seen by approaching drivers. Nevertheless, “nothing ventured gained”.

The council is not allowed to put up more 30mph signs which is what some residents requested. There was a feeling that having bin stickers would make no difference so why bother? Equally, if nothing is tried there will be no change.

It is fair to say that the response was somewhat underwhelming but the council would like to thank those who agreed to participate.

It is still possible to receive bin stickers: just contact the Clerk to the Council.



**LIVE
& LOCAL**

LIVE AT THE VERNEY

The Parish Council is continuing to take part in Live and Local's programme and has submitted its requests for four shows in the next season - September to May. The 2024-25 season ended with the excellent Blair Dunlop which is how the Parish Council's journey with Live and Local began in 2012 when Blair appeared with his father, Ashley Hutchings. Blair has since travelled worldwide and at The Verney we have brought musicians in from not only the UK but France, Germany, North Africa, Spain, Canada and the USA. In all, there have been thirty eight shows since 2012. The great thing about Live and Local is that the council is able to bring highly gifted musicians into our parish at highly subsidised prices.

Derbyshire's mobile library will be in the parish on Tuesday 17th June

2.00 – 2.15 Newboundmill Lane.

2.20 – 2.35 Booth Avenue

2.40 – 3.00 Recreation Road





The Parish Council recently held an event to celebrate the recent 80th V E day both at The Verney Institute on Monday the 5th May and at the New Houghton Community Centre on the 8th May. At The Verney there was live music by Dylan, Ian and Sarah singing songs from the Second World War.

Both activities were considered a success and were well attended by parishioners with both centres being well decorated with light food and drinks provided for all.

To make parishioners aware, the council has also agreed to hold an event at New Houghton Community Centre on August 16th from 11am to commemorate the victory over Japan.



The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Len Kirkby for his efforts in maintaining the War Memorial at New Houghton. It is pleasing that due to him the area always looks neat and tidy. It is disgraceful that there have been two occasions of vandalism and damage to the flowers recently.

Anyone with information about the culprits is asked to contact the council.

The Parish Council recently agreed to set aside an area of allotment land for the Community Association to grow food for the community and the Association is now looking for volunteers to work together to do this.

It has also been agreed for the Association to use the community centre and so is also looking to open a food bank – a drop in centre for the elderly and an advice session which will be open to people that need help replying to or understanding mail they have received – and is also looking to form a working group to deal with incidental repairs throughout the community whether they be elderly peoples gate latches or wall pointing and minor roadway repairs on the private roads – we understand that the main problem that youngsters have when applying for work is that employers ask them what experience they have and it is felt that work they do in the community will give them that practical experience and they can then use their experiences on their job applications to enhance their chances and to know they have helped in their local community.



If you feel you would like to become involved in one or more of the groups please message Ian Allen on Facebook or by email to ianedwinallen@gmail.com letting him know how you would like to be involved and in what areas.

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.

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 12th, Councillor Ian Allen was re-elected as Chair of the council and Councillor Wendy Kirkham was re-elected as Vice-Chair.



The Parish Council would like to thank all those dog owners who clean up after their pets. It is expected that owners have their own dog gloves or “poo bags”. The council does have several dog glove dispensers as a thank you and for rare occasions when owners are without their own bags.

Unfortunately, some people are abusing the dog glove dispensers by using them as litter bins. The photograph shows the dispenser at the path to the welfare. This bin sometimes has bags containing faeces and always has wrapped tissues which contain cigarette ends and, often, an empty cigarette packet. Is this the activity of a secret smoker?

Imagine the dismay of the person filling the glove dispenser at Terrace Lane Recreation Group finding a full dog bag less than twenty paces from the red dog waste bin.

AT THE NEW HOUGHTON HUB

MONDAY	St John Ambulance 6pm till 7:45pm
TUESDAY	Closed
WEDNESDAY	Cafe and Lidl baked goods 12pm till 4pm
THURSDAY	Derbys Unemployed Workers' Centre 10am till 2pm
THURSDAY	Youth Club 5pm till 7pm
FRIDAY	Senior Squad 12pm till 3pm
SATURDAY	Adult Craft Club 4pm till 7pm (once a month)



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 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 July 1st.

Name

Address

Contact number

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

The winner of the Wordsearch in Newsletter 70 was Dawn Sweetmore of Newboundmill Lane.

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

LAWNMOWER

BRUSHCUTTER

WEEDKILLER

WATERINGCAN

GREENHOUSE

COLDFRAME

FLOWERPOT

FERTILISER HOE

SEEDTRAY RAKE

SCARIFIER TRUG

STRIMMER FORK

TRELLIS HOSE

TROWEL SEED

SHEARS SPADE

LOPPERS TUB

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 01623 810017</p> 
<p>Lynda Radford lyndaradford1@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Parish Clerk Ian Weekes</p> 	<p>Sarah Reaney County Councillor</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 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 FAREWELL

After twelve years as “mine hosts” at The Nag’s Head, Annette and Garry King are retiring. They are both looking forward to spending more time with their grandchildren as well as pursuing their other interests. Annette is to continue her work as a trustee of the Licensed Trade Charity and Garry will look to more time on the golf course.

When asked what have been the highlights of their time at the Nag, Annette struggled at first as there were so many things going through her mind but finally plumped for her daughter’s wedding and the growth of connections as she has seen young people meet, marry and go on to have children who now go to the pub with their parents.

Annette pointed out that having come through the pandemic life has been different as people’s drinking habits have changed but she saw some strengths in how members of the community offered support to each other,

Annette and Garry have always been strong supporters of different groups in the community hosting such events as quiz nights, pie and pea suppers and providing a venue for St Michael’s Christmas Eve carolling. The council is pleased to accept the gift of The Nag’s Head Menaces’ Jackie Reynolds trophy board - more of which at another time.

With new challenges ahead, we offer them our very best wishes for the future.



Slimming World

New Houghton

New Houghton Community Centre

13 Rotherham Road NG19 8TE

Saturdays 7:30am & 9:00am

Call / Message Marissa 07935741141

slimmingworld.co.uk



PLEASLEY PARISH SCARECROW FESTIVAL

JULY 26th & 27th SCARECROW ENTRY FORM - PLEASE RETURN BY 10th JULY

Name

Address

Contact Information: **Phone** **Email**

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Please return to “Scarecrow”, The Verney Institute, 13 Newboundmill Lane,
Pleasley NG19 7PL or email the Parish Clerk, ian.pleasleypc@gmail.com