



NEWSLETTER

73rd edition of the Newsletter for: Pleasley, Pleasley Vale, New Houghton and Stony Houghton.



Looking ahead. The Parish Council will be holding its next Scarecrow Festival over the weekend of July 18th & 19th.

Monies raised will go towards The Sir John Eastwood Hospice. Entry details are on page 8.

Looking back

Free Pantomime



On Tuesday 25th November 2025, Pleasley Parish Council funded a free Pantomime. On a cold, wet November evening 70 plus locals enjoyed an action-packed panto held at Pleasley Miners' Welfare. With 6 actors on stage and 4 full scene changes in this 2-hour pantomime there was plenty to keep all ages entertained, complete with professional scenery, lighting, sound and theatre quality costumes and props. The show started with 6 puppets performing the opening song, followed by the lively Chester The Jester compering the show.

The cast also included a royal cast of Princess Aurora (The Sleeping Beauty), Prince Vincent, King Arthur The Clever, Queen Christina, Fairy Purity, Fairy Charity and the evil Maleficent The Evil (Boo!) and complete with pantomime dame who played the Chester The Jester's comic Mother Dame Dropalot. The performance also featured glow in the dark dragons and ghosts. Audience members were encouraged to join in the fun by hissing and booing with the necessary "it's behind you" and a good old-fashioned sing-along.

Everyone left after having a fun-filled evening with children receiving a gift of a selection box, thanks to Pleasley Parish Councillor Liz Smyth.

Chairman's report

To make parishioners aware, the Parish Council is undertaking a survey within the cemetery with regards to grave space and allocation as historical records need updating to ensure that the information agrees with the information on record.

During our initial survey it has come to our attention that several graves have surrounds that are larger than is allowed which restricts access for other persons to tend other graves - It was also noted that some graves have various items placed on them and although some of these items may be of sentimental value to persons visiting the grave they are not permitted and some are even outside the grave space and we would ask people to remove them prior to the council having to.

The survey is expected to take several months but we feel it is necessary to ensure that the information correlates to the records available.

There has been recent correspondence with regard to the poor condition of the access road to the rear of the recreation ground in New Houghton at the end of Occupation Road and it is felt that it needs to be pointed out that there is no right of way along that other than as a footpath or for access to the allotments at the end of it and although the Parish Council assists with repairs it does not actually have to be tarmacked at all as it is what it states merely for access not as a designated roadway although it is being used by owners / tenants of the houses adjacent to it to access the rear of their properties to park their cars etc.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ANTHONY BEK?



Mrs N Miles Deputy Headteacher writes:

Since the beginning of 2026, we have lots to celebrate at Anthony Bek Primary School and we have many things to look forward to.

If you have visited the site recently, you may have noticed our new garden room. This is being developed with our children to support our youngest pupils. They are helping to design it and make it their own. Children use the room for group work, nurture activities, play and so much more. The garden area outside it will be continued to be developed once the weather allows us to get outside!

Our Year 4 class take part in percussion lessons each week. These are led by Derbyshire Music Partnership who have been working with the school for many years. The children performed for their parents recently, showcasing their drumming talents. This will be continuing on a new instrument after half term.

Every term, our Early Years team (Nursery and Reception) invite parents to join us for a stay and read session. This is always a well attended event and our youngest children love sharing stories with their parents and carers. It will hopefully inspire a love of reading in the future.

Another new initiative we are developing is learning outdoors. We are so lucky that we have the Derbyshire Engagement Team, who are based at Whitehall outdoor education centre, coming in to work with some of our

KS2 children and train members of staff. This will facilitate learning in the outdoor environment, while developing vital skills, such as teamwork, problem solving and facing new challenges, which can they be transferred into the classroom. This is an amazing opportunity which many children will get to benefit from in the years to come.

Alongside this, our Reception class is also developing their outdoor learning with the introduction of 'Muddy Monday.' This is an extension of the 'Welly Wednesday' our Nursery children currently enjoy, where children can be found exploring and learning in the area they have developed themselves.

On Friday 30th January, our choir went to Sheffield Arena to take part in the Young Voices concert. This was a wonderful event where they got to sing with thousands of other children and well known musicians and singers. It culminated in a performance for parents who were very impressed with the show. We are already looking into the next opportunity for our choir.

On Thursday 5th March, the children came to school dressed as a word of their choice, for example "adventurous", "sleepy" etc. They will also take part in various events throughout the day to celebrate their love of reading. We will also be holding a book fair from the 5th - 17th March each day from 3:15pm - 3:45pm. This is an opportunity to come and purchase books from Scholastic. Please come along and support this as school receive up to 50% of the overall profits to spend on reading resources across the school.

The Card-Board Club Tuesday mornings 10 am to 12 noon

Tuesday mornings at the Verney in Pleasley, we are a friendly group that meet to chat and play games.

Come and play or learn to play card and board games. Or just pop in for a coffee and a chat. Everyone welcome.

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.

Community Speed Watch (CSW)

The Pleasley Parish CSW Group will resume its activities as the weather improves (hopefully) and the hours of daylight increase.

As always, new volunteers are most welcome and the time commitment is not demanding - perhaps one and a half hours every two weeks. By highlighting the issue of speeding you could save a life.

More from The Chairman

Access roads & Lighting in New Houghton

After years of trying, we as a village have a chance to finish what was started with regard to the access roads and lighting being sorted - but I cannot do it on my own I need your help - parish council - district councillors - county councillor and even our MP have suggested they will support an application to obtain the funding under the next round of Levelling Up Funding that will be coming out.

We can apply, with their support, to resurface the access roads and the gennels - we need to door knock and get the residents of Crompton street - Verney street - Portland Street and Devonshire street to sign a petition of support, and as I said I need others to help me. There was an informal meeting of residents at the Community Centre on Sunday 1st March at 11.00 am and petitions will be circulated. Please get others on your street or one of the other streets to sign up to support the application- it's up to you - I cannot agree that it will get us anywhere - all I will say is we have a chance and I feel we would be silly to not even try.



Change of Parish Council contact details

You will note on page 7 that contact details for the council and councillors have changed. The benefits for parish councils using .gov.uk domain include:

- ◇ having the trusted and professional .gov.uk brand that people will recognise
- ◇ increased transparency and security compared to personal email accounts
- ◇ the ability to manage email accounts by removing staff when they leave
- ◇ easy access to staff email accounts to fulfil FOI obligations
- ◇ continuous central government monitoring for potential security vulnerabilities
- ◇ better legal protection because it's based in a UK jurisdiction

LIVE AT THE VERNEY

The final show of the Parish Council's Live and Local season at The Verney is The Askew Sisters on March 21st at 7.30pm.

Both sisters are talented multi-instrumentalists, using their exceptional skill at the fiddle, melodeon, concertina, and cello to revive old dance music and ensure you'll be smiling and tapping your feet all night long.

Praised by music critics, The Askew Sisters are leading the folk music resurgence, which is currently enjoying widespread popularity. Their shows have enchanted audiences nationwide, showcasing their incredible talent and love for folk music.

Enjoy an evening filled with engaging story songs and spirited dance tunes. The Askew Sisters' dynamic performances and strong musical bond promise an unforgettable experience.

"Gifted multi-instrumentalists, singers and writers" - Mark Radcliffe, BBC Radio 2 "Beautiful, uncanny and subtly political songs" - The Guardian "A powerful new album" - The Independent

Tickets are available, £13.50 from cllr.mick.gamble@pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk or 01623 810035 or clerk@pleasleyparishcouncil.org



Raven Defensive Arts - based in Pleasley Vale

Six members of Raven Defensive Arts represent Team GB and bring home medals.

In October 3 members of our team represented team GB in Swansea for in the international ICO world championships with 860 competitors from around the world.

Ben Ingleby and Mike Nussey, both high level blackbelts competed in a pairs Kata against 9 other countries including Team South Africa and Team America winning a silver medal for Team GB which is incredible in the scale of the tournament, and the skill and precision that performing Kata in pairs requires. They have trained incredibly hard and we are very proud of their achievement.

Ben's son, Dexter, just 16, competing on his own in an individual Kata, which was above his current belt grade, missed out on a medal by just .3 of a mark.

Nussey, who is 4th Dan black belt, also won a bronze in fighting and a bronze in a weapons category - a new venture for Nussey, meaning he brought home 3 medals in this incredibly tough competition



Then, in mid November, 3 other team members competed in Oslo for the World Martial Arts Games Committee for our country.

Pricey, aged 35 with 15years experience, competed in two categories: light continuous kick boxing where he faced team USA in round 1, and Mexico in round 2, winning a silver medal. In his second category, Kick

Light. Again, he came up against Team Mexico, and again, brought back a silver medal!

Rosie, fought Mexico and the USA and won a Silver medal demonstrating her skill and determination.



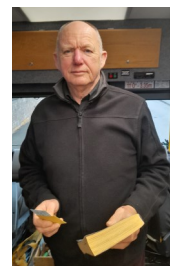
Fletcher, 15, with only 5years experience, also competed in Light continuous, where he fought 2 other Team GB athletes coming away with a Gold medal meaning. **We have a world champion on our hands!**

All together, the 6 of them from the small but mighty club of Raven Defensive Arts have brought back 8 medals for Team GB. An incredible achievement which is testament to the hard work put in by the athletes, their comprehensive training and hours of time, blood, sweat and tears, the coaching, the determination and the incredible skill and sportsmanship shown.

Derbyshire's mobile library visits the parish once a month on a Tuesday.

.2.00 – 2.15 at Newboundmill Lane (between Old School Lane and The Verney),
at Booth Avenue 2.20 – 2.35 and at Recreation Road 2.40 – 3.00 . The next visit is March 24th.

The library offers a wide range of types of book together with audio books.



JOBS FOR THE GARDEN

- ◆ Dead head flowering bulbs, but don't remove the leaves.
- ◆ Spring prune roses, cut out dead growth and take main stem to a healthy bud.
- ◆ Lift and divide snowdrops into smaller clumps and relocate.
- ◆ Houseplants will be growing better with increased daylight hours. Keep compost moist and feed fortnightly with house plant fertiliser.
- ◆ Plant out hanging baskets/containers.

Update from St Michael's Church. March 2026

Dear friends of St Michael's,

I have been asked to update everyone on the situation regarding the roof and how things are going.

The outside work was completed some time ago and our efforts have been focussed on raising funding for the internal repairs. We have recently been gifted a legacy from a kind donor which means that we are now able to begin looking at detailed plans to have repairs done.

The next steps will be to apply for funding to match the amount we have raised, to obtain at least three quotes to undertake the work, and to apply for a faculty to carry out the work. The faculty process involves a submission of the plans to the Diocese of Derby who will consider the work and whether it is in-keeping with the style of the building. St Michael's is a listed building held in trust for future generations, so all works need to be approved. It may be that as part of the faculty process, we will have to approach Historic England or the Churches Trust to also gain their opinion.

Once we have approval, and an agreed quote, and secured match funding, the work can begin. We are hopeful that this preparatory work will not be a lengthy process and would very much value your

prayers during this time.

Whilst we are still displaced from St Michael's, we continue to hold services and events. These are mostly at The Verney Institute for which we are ever grateful.

Our Easter services are as follows:

Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday service with flowers for everyone – 9.15am @ The Verney

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday – 10am @ St Michael's. This will be an outdoor service so please come appropriately dressed for the weather.

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday Celebration – 10am @ The Verney with breakfast cobs following the service.

Everyone is welcome to come and join in with any/all of the above.

Please do be in touch if you would like any further information about this or anything I can help with.

Every blessing,

Karen

Rev Karen Bradley

Team Rector

rev.karen@yahoo.co.uk



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.



You can find this newsletter and other information about the council on the council's website:

Scan the QR code to go to the



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 May 1st.

Name

Address

Contact number

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

Apologies for the error in Newsletter 72, the winner of the Wordsearch was Ellie Bedford of Stony Houghton.

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

SILVER BIRCH

OAK

ASH

HAZEL

WALNUT

ELM

CHESTNUT

ALDER

WHITEBEAM

HORNBEAM

DOG ROSE

WILLOW

ASPEN

HAWTHORN

GUelder ROSE

MAPLE

COPPER BEECH

BEECH

BLACKTHORN

LARCH

HOLLY

LIME

POPLAR

ROWAN

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ian Allen (Chair) 07872 376598 	Mick Gamble 01623 810035 	Wendy Kirkham (Vice-Chair) 07749 500025 	Howard Wright 01623 810486 
cllr.ian.allen @pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.mick.gamble @pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.wendy.kirkham @pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.howard.wright @pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Liz Smyth 07842 531451 	Christine Dale 07811 995612 	Liz McCormack 01623 81001 	Vacancy
cllr.liz.smyth @pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.christine.dale @pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	cllr.liz.mccormack @pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	@pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Lynda Radford 	Vacancy	Parish Clerk Ian Weekes 01623 819786 	Sarah Reaney County Councillor 
cllr.lynda.radford @pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	@pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	clerk@pleasleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	sarah.reaney@derbyshire.gov.uk

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

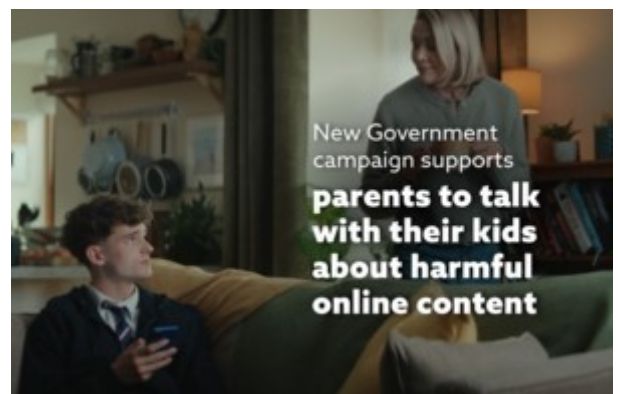
HELP for Parents to Help their Children

Not many days go past without us being made aware of scams, either on-line or via telephone calls and several high profile incidents have highlighted the vulnerability of children and their digital well-being.

A new campaign, launched by the Dept for Science, Innovation & Technology, "You Won't Know Until You Ask" aims to help parents and other adults have conversations with young people about harmful online content.

Research by YouGov questioning 1105 parents of 8 - 14 year olds revealed:

- ◆ 90% of 11 year olds now have a smartphone
- ◆ Nearly half of parents admit they've never spoken to their child about harmful content
- ◆ Around 25% of parents of children aged 8 - 14 said they did not know what their child was seeing online.



This campaign is designed to give parents practical tools and confidence to start conversations. For more information, go to kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk

Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres are offering a service out of New Houghton Community Hub, Rotherham Rd thanks to a grant from the Pleasley Parish Council We will be present for a weekly welfare rights advice session in the heart of your community. DUWCs will have an adviser present at the Hub, every Thursday from 9.00am until 11.30am.

We can offer free, independent and confidential advice on all aspects of your benefit and credit entitlements. We can carry out benefit checks, help to fill in claim forms and help challenge decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions right through to Social Security Appeals Tribunal if necessary. No appointment is needed, just drop in during the allocated times.

If you are a disabled person who is unable to leave the house, we can also offer a home visit service. Call us on 01246 231441 between 8.00am and 4.00pm for more details on this or any other aspect of our work.

For people in work we can help with Universal Credit. For those unable to work through ill health or disability we can help with Personal Independence Claims and advice, as well as Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and Carers Allowance. For the elderly we can help with queries regarding Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance.

Remember, Attendance Allowance is not means tested.



In 2024 we had 126 service requests at our Community Hub venue and dealt with 4 court tribunals bringing in a total of £67,274.50 for the Appellants

In 2025 we had 66 service requests at our Community Hub venue and 2 court tribunals bringing in £27,476.10 for the appellants. Our service was halted for a period during the year because of the death of our adviser and some problems with the venue that have now been resolved.

www.duwc.org.uk

Email: info@duwc.org.uk

SlimmingWorld

New Houghton Community Centre

Every **Saturday 7:30am & 9:00am**

Contact Marissa 07935741141

or pop along!

Facebook: New Houghton Slimming World with Marissa



JULY 18TH & 19TH SCARECROW ENTRY FORM - PLEASE RETURN BY 30TH MAY

Name

Address

Contact Information: Phone Email

Please return to "Scarecrow", The Verney Institute, 13 Newboundmill Lane, Pleasley NG19 7PL or email clerk@pleasleyparishcouncil.org.uk