PLEASLEY PARISH COUNCIL Winter 2026

NEWSLETTER

75th edition of the Newsletter for: Pleasley, Pleasley Vale, New Houghton and Stony Houghton.

The days are getting shorter, the hanging baskets have been taken down and, as we approach the end of the year, Pleasley Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



SCARECROW FESTIVAL RAISES £1006.78









Thanks to everyone who participated in the Scarecrow Festival with special congratulations to the three prize winners: Helen James, Andrea Barthorpe and Kerry Parsons.

A weekend of great weather with hundreds of visitors and residents as Pleasley Parish Council held the 2026 Scarecrow Festival on July 18th and 19th.

The event raised a massive £1006.38 for the John Eastwood Hospice. Parish and County Councillors presented a cheque to Harriet Owen from the hospice at the October meeting of the Parish Council.

The Verney was open on Saturday and Sunday for residents to pick up the scarecrow programmes with The Verney providing refreshments including free tea/coffee/cake/squash.

Thank you to all who supported the tombola and raffle stalls. St Michael's Church and Pleasley Nightingales Women's Institute also provided stalls including a "Build Our Church" activity to help raise funds for the roof repairs.

Read more about the scarecrow festival on page 8.

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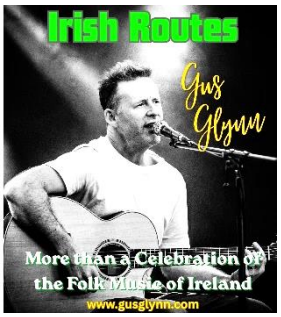
Unfortunately the event which was organized by The Village Community Hub to take place on Saturday 29th August had to be cancelled due to poor weather leading up to the event – however - the one organized by The Community Events Team dated 26th September took place with lots of stalls and several events taking place and was well supported – as a village we would like to thank the team for their efforts to ensure the village had a memorable time – I understand that a further event is being organised to take place on Saturday 21st November 2026 in the village including a Christmas Market and anyone who would like to get involved can simply make them aware on The Community Events Team Facebook page and leave their details.

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LIVE AND LOCAL



The Live and Local concerts recommenced on October 10th with the Mark Harrison Band. Another excellent evening with an outstanding guitarist, ably supported by double bass and drums. All Mark's songs were self-penned.



The second concert of the programme takes place on November 14th when we welcome the classically trained finger-style guitarist, Gus Glynn with his "Irish Routes" show.
From bawdy drinking songs to heartfelt ballads, this is more than just a celebration of the songs of Ireland – it's an exploration of the importance of folk music historically and its enduring popularity in the modern world. Tickets (£14) are available from mickgamble@aol.com ,016123 810035 or 01623 819786

The two shows in 2027 feature the trailblazing trio, at the vanguard of New-Folk, Tarren and the vibrant sound of the duo, Mishra. Who blend British folk heritage with global influences.

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Community Speed Watch

On Wednesday July 15th three CSW volunteers held a session in New Houghton as part of the "All Out Day" initiative.
Traffic entering the village from the north was monitored. Between 8.00 and 9.30am, of the 193 vehicles which entered the village, 28 were travelling above the threshold. 9 were travelling at 40mph or above. The highest was 46mph. 21 motorists received Letter 1, none was local. 7 vehicles could not be identified.

Debbie Turner, the county CSW administrator reported on All Out Day:
"The day was a huge success with many roadside sessions held throughout the county. Almost 60 sessions took place with 18739 vehicles driving through an active location with sadly 693 vehicles recorded speeding."

For the parish CSW group to have a real impact, more volunteers are needed. This would allow more roadside sessions and motorists would be aware of the need to drive carefully through our villages.

Could you be the volunteer that makes the difference? Contact Cllr Mick Gamble for more information.

Bolsover District Council News from Tom Kirkham

It has been confirmed that elections for district and parish councillors will take place in May 2027.

Unfortunately, due to staffing issues, the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre has removed the service from New Houghton so support is now via Shirebrook. The Hub is looking to get a Citizens Advice service to run instead.
Work at Pleasley Vale continues and Mill Pond 1 is now refilled and has had its silt and algae removed and is now a unique resource for the area as it is a spring fed lake for open water activities. I am trying to encourage the council to improve the leisure offering at the mills to take advantage of this.
The plans for the housing development in New Houghton are being revised at the request of planning officers. When this moves, I am going to set up a meeting with residents and planning officers. I am working with the New Houghton Community Group to resurrect the Millenium Green Trust and with it try to find some improvements for the surfaces and drainage along the back access roads for the terraces in New Houghton.

ANTHONY BEK PRIMARY SCHOOL



Our pupils, staff and families took part in a fantastic Sponsored Colour Run back in May to raise money for St Michael's Church. The event was filled with fun, energy and teamwork, with participants completing the course while being showered in bright colours. We are thrilled to announce that together we have raised over £8,000 for St Michael's Church. This incredible achievement demonstrates the generosity and community spirit of everyone involved.

Strong Ofsted Judgement

We are proud to share that Anthony Bek Primary School has achieved a "Strong" Ofsted standard. This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of our pupils, staff, governors and families. It highlights our commitment to providing high-quality education, fostering positive relationships and ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Mini Medics Course Begins

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 have recently started a Mini Medics Course delivered in by Qualitas. The programme introduces children to important first-aid and life-saving skills in an engaging and age-appropriate way. The pupils have shown great enthusiasm and are already developing valuable knowledge that will help them respond confidently and responsibly in emergency situations. Other year groups will also start this course over the next year.

After-School Clubs

Our after-school provision continues to be popular, with three exciting clubs currently running, again facilitated by Qualitas:

Multi-Sports Club Year 1/2, Dance Club Year 3/4, Netball Club Year 5/6. These clubs provide pupils with opportunities to stay active, develop new skills, build confidence and enjoy working with friends outside of the classroom.

Choir Preparing for Young Voices

Our talented school choir has been working hard in preparation for Young Voices in Sheffield. The children have been enthusiastically learning songs and practising their performances ready for what promises to be a memorable experience.

Bolsover Active School Sport Network.

We are working closely with the Bolsover Active Schools Network again this year where they provide us with a range of events over the year. Some of our year 3 and 4 children will be taking part in two sport sessions over the next couple of weeks. These sessions are designed to encourage our children to experience different sports and help to identify any barriers that may prevent children in being physically active.

Upcoming events

-Our EYFS classes will be walking to the country park next week as part of their Autumn learning.

-Halloween disco for all children.

- Harvest and Remembrance services.

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KEEPING FIT – CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE AT THE VERNEY INSTITUTE

Join us every Wednesday 1:30–2:30 pm for a fun and gentle exercise session, free for Pleasley residents! Improve your mobility, strength, flexibility and balance, boost your mood, and meet new friends in a friendly, welcoming environment. Come along, keep active, and enjoy the fun**!**

There is a small charge of £2 per session for those residing outside the parish.

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.

Assistance is on hand to sort out those problems encountered when using a computer, tablet or smart phone. Lap tops are available for use or people may bring along their own.

These drop-in sessions are free to residents of the parish with a charge (£2.00) to those residing outside the parish. All are welcome to drop in.

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WHY NOT TRY THIS?

Auntie Vi's Bonfire Toffee

½ lb - 226 gm Golden Syrup
½ lb – 226 gm Sugar
A few drops of white vinegar
A knob of butter



Melt Butter in a pan add vinegar, sugar & syrup. Heat slowly, bringing to the boil. Stirring all the time.
Test a small drop off toffee into a glass of cold water, if the toffee goes hard, it's ready. Pour the mixture into a well-greased baking tin and leave to set.
Enjoy traditional bonfire toffee.

Pleasley Nightingales WI – A Little Update

Pleasley Nightingales WI continues to thrive following the wonderful success of the Scarecrow Festival, where our Flower Fairy entry encompassed "The Nearer to Nature" WI theme.



Here's just a little glimpse of what we've been up to since then:

We enjoyed a fabulous visit to an Open Garden in Beeley, where we were treated to a beautiful garden, delicious tea and cake, and plenty of time to simply relax and while away the hours in wonderful company.

Afternoon Tea with the President was another huge success. A very special afternoon filled with friendship, laughter, delicious treats and, of course, some fabulous live music, kindly provided by Dylan Radford, our local musician. The afternoon was originally planned to take place in the President's garden, however, Mother Nature clearly had other ideas as the heavens opened, but thankfully The Verney came to our rescue, giving us the perfect place to continue our celebrations. Looking back at the photographs, I think they really capture something very special — the warmth, friendship and genuine bond that has grown between us all over the past 18 months. It's wonderful to see how our WI has grown into such a welcoming and supportive group.

In fact, I think one of our ladies sums it up perfectly:

"The minute I walked into my first meeting, I could feel the warmth in the room, like a big hug was waiting for me, which is just what I needed at the time. Since that day I have felt genuine love and support. I am so glad I took that first step — it's been amazing."

We have so many wonderful events, activities and outings planned for the rest of the year, so why not come along and see what we're all about?
Have a chat, meet some lovely people and join in with as much or as little as you like — or simply enjoy the tea and cake… and I can promise you, the cake is always delicious!

We'd love to welcome you to The Pleasley Nightingales WI

We meet on the last Thursday of every month, 1.30pm – 3.30pm in The Verney Institute, Pleasley
Contact: Michaela Fradley 07736 888737

Whether you come along for the activities, the friendship, the laughter, the tea and cake — or all of the above — we look forward to seeing you.

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



The Card-Board Club meets on Tuesday mornings at The Verney Institute in Pleasley. We are a friendly group that meets to play games and chat.
Come along and play or learn to play card and board games or just pop in for a coffee (or tea) and a chat. Everyone welcome.





Christmas Events & Services in Pleasley Parish 2026

Friday 27th Nov 7:30 pm FREE Carol Concert with Pleasley Band at **New Houghton Social Club.** *Raffle & collection will be taken in aid of Band & Church Roof Funds*

Sunday 29th Nov 3:00pm Christingle Service at the **Verney Institute.** Build your own Christingle. All ages welcome.

Sunday 13th Dec 9:15 am 9 Readings & Carols in the **Verney Institute.**

Sunday 20th Dec from 1:30 pm onwards Meet at St Michael's for our **Travelling Nativity** as it moves around the parish!! (or catch up on the way). Come along for a lovely family occasion – (*more details to be published later)*

Thursday 24th Dec 7:00pm Carol Singing in Nag's Head Garden, followed by refreshments in the pub.
8:30pm Christmas Communion in **St Michael's Church**

Friday 25th Dec 10:00am Short service of Carols and Readings **in the chancel at St Michael's Church**

Sunday 6th December The Parish Council is holding a Christmas party for children of primary school age (Years 1 to 6) from 12 to 2pm at the Community Centre in New Houghton and perhaps party for senior citizens. Watch out for further details.

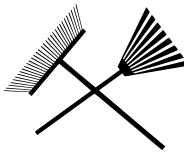
FROM ST MICHAEL'S

St Michael's Church has been closed since September 2024 after ceiling panels collapsed, making the building unsafe for weekly worship services. We are very grateful to Pleasley Parish Council, who have kindly allowed us to continue holding our weekly services at The Verney Institute.
Competition for grant funding is considerable and we are still waiting to hear the outcome of outstanding applications.
Thanks to the considerable fundraising efforts of our 'Raise our Ancient Roof' campaign, we are making good progress towards the £50,000 needed for the roof repairs. The work will also include upgrading the church lighting and checking whether any further ceiling panels require repairs.
We have consulted architects and received quotes from suitably skilled contractors. Once we have the necessary permissions from Derby Diocese, we hope to appoint contractors to carry out the internal repairs during 2027, subject to the availability of funding and contractors. We thank God for his provision and offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has given so generously. We are deeply grateful for the kindness and support of our community.

Pleasley in the Garden – October & November

As October arrives, our gardens begin to put on their beautiful autumn show. The bright greens of summer slowly give way to golden leaves, rich reds and warm russet colours. It's a lovely time of year to enjoy the garden, even if there is a little more sweeping and tidying to do!

October is a good month to plant spring bulbs such as daffodils, tulips, crocuses and alliums. Tucked into the soil now, they will spend the winter quietly getting ready to brighten our gardens when spring arrives. It's also a good time to plant trees, shrubs and hedging while the soil is still relatively warm.



Don't be too eager to tidy every last fallen leaf. A few piles of leaves can provide valuable shelter for insects and other garden wildlife over the colder months. Fallen leaves can also be collected and turned into leaf mould — nature's own wonderful soil conditioner.

As November arrives, the garden becomes quieter, but there is still plenty to do. Protect tender plants from frost, lift any remaining summer bulbs that need storing, and keep an eye on newly planted trees and shrubs during windy weather. If you have bird feeders, remember to keep them topped up and clean, giving our garden birds a helping hand as

natural food becomes harder to find.
And perhaps most importantly, take a moment to enjoy the changing season. A frosty morning, the sound of leaves underfoot, or the sight of berries bright against a winter sky can remind us that gardens don't stop being beautiful just because summer has gone.
So, whether you have a large garden, a tiny patch, a window box or simply enjoy walking through Pleasley's green spaces, October and November are a wonderful reminder that every season has something to offer.

JEAN DAWS' MEMOIRS PLEASLEY 1942



We had to leave our lovely cottage on Skegby lane, as American soldiers knew my lovely mum was living there on her own with 2 little girls, as my dad was away fighting in Dunkirk during World War 2 and out of the way.
One morning I found myself living in one of a row of three cottages on Chapel Yard. We only had a cold tap no hot water at all. To fill the tin bath we used to boil water on the open fire. I asked mummy "What are we doing here and where are my chickens?" Her reply was not to worry we would go to the local cattle market the following Monday and buy some more chickens. She kept her promise and we did get some chickens. My mum made a pen to keep them safe.
In the local meadows there was a very cold open air swimming pool. My sister was older than me, she was a good swimmer, I had to have a life belt on, then off we went. My mum didn't come in. Afterwards we paid a few pennies to use the slipper baths to have a hot bath inside.
Lovely memories.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 8TH



The parish holds two services of remembrance on November 8th.
10.15 Service of Remembrance in Pleasley Miners' Welfare followed by the Act of Remembrance and laying of wreaths at the memorial outside.
11.15 Act of Remembrance and laying of wreaths at the memorial at Rotherham Road, New Houghton

The order of precedence for laying wreaths at Remembrance services is as follows:

- Civic VIPs: Pleasley PC representative: Chair or Vice-Chair of Council, Pleasley Ward, Mansfield District Councillor
- British Legion and Women's Section Standards: If present.
- Regular forces: RN, Army, RAF: If present.
- Territorial and reserve forces: If present.
- Churchwarden or representative, St Michael's
- Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance services, St John Ambulance, Red Cross.
- Youth organisations: Led by Service cadets
- Uniformed organisations eg Scouts, followed by non-uniformed bodies eg Friends of Pleasley Pit, Women's Institute, New Houghton Hub
- Members of the public.

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40+ to 14



You may be wondering what the title of this piece represents. Sadly, it reflects the number of scarecrow entries we used to receive compared with the number entered this year.
We are always delighted with every scarecrow that is created, and we sincerely thank everyone who gives their time, creativity and effort to support our villages. However, we're sure many of you, like us, would love to see the number of entries grow once again.

A great deal of hard work goes into organising the Scarecrow Festival each year, and we would hate to see this wonderful community tradition disappear. It brings people together, puts smiles on faces, and showcases the fantastic creativity within our villages.
So, we're asking you to start thinking now about next year's festival.
Gather your family, friends, neighbours, schools, clubs and community groups, and let's make it the biggest and best festival yet.
Come on, villagers - let's keep this much-loved tradition alive and ensure our creative Scarecrow Festival continues for many years to come. We can't wait to see what wonderful ideas you come up with!

COMPETITION TIME WORDSEARCH

Find the 20 towns by the sea listed in the table below and return your entry to the Verney, any councillor or by screenshot,email to the Parish Clerk by November 30th together with your name, address and contact number.

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

The winner of the June competition was Amy Baines of New Houghton

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BLACKPOOL HORNSEA DEAL OBAN FILEY BRIXHAM CROMER PADSTOW WHITBY

SKEGNESS CLACTON PENZANCE BOURNEMOUTH BRIDLINGTON BUDE

MABLETHORPE LLANDUDNO TORQUAY SCARBOROUGH LYME REGIS

DERBYSHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY



Derbyshire County Council has introduced 2 new mobile library vans. The new vans have replaced 2 old HGVs. These vans will be more reliable, economical and efficient to run, and as they are smaller they are more agile allowing them to access smaller rural roads more easily and reach more readers and communities. Another benefit of the new vans is that it is now easier to recruit drivers as they do not need an HGV licence.

The mobile service will deliver to 179 stops in 139 towns, villages and communities across the county – from Tintwistle to Netherseal and Earl Sterndale to Pleasley, with the minimum stop time at each location being increased to at least 30 minutes.

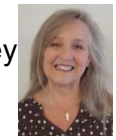
Customers have been moved onto the Library Management System, meaning they can now use their card in any Derbyshire Library, at any mobile library stop and for online services such as eLending (downloading eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers for free onto a phone, tablet or computer). They can also reserve books online. As in all Derbyshire libraries, readers can request books from across the county.

Derbyshire's mobile library will be in Pleasley and New Houghton on the following days:

Tuesday 3rd November 2026
Tuesday 1st December 2026

Note the new times:
1.05 – 1.35 Newboundmill Lane.
1.40 – 2.10 Recreation Road

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ian Allen (Chair) 07872 376598 	Mick Gamble 01623 810035 	Wendy Kirkham (Vice-Chair) 07749 500025 	Howard Wright 01623 810486 
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