



DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

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www.denbydale.com



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR



First of all I'd like to wish everyone a Happy and prosperous New Year! The year so far has been busy and eventful as far as the Parish Council is concerned with much work with volunteers going on in all villages in the parish. We have held an open day at the new Parish Council

Community Building in Skelmanthorpe to encourage more community groups to use this unique facility. I have personally seen a lot of changes on the ground at Churchfields, where we are working closely with the Friends of Churchfields on an open space for all, as well as with future allotment holders on the development of the allotment site. I'd like to thank all volunteers in other villages for their hard work and contribution to the area, and to our parish councillors for facilitating these activities.

Cllr Billy Jewitt

UNIVERSITY OF THIRD AGE, (U3A), TO LAUNCH IN SKELMANTHORPE

The University of the Third Age (U3A), is a nationwide organisation based on local groups providing opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to come together and develop their interests.

It is not a University in the traditional sense, but enables participation in activities which provide an opportunity to develop interests with like-minded individuals. There are no entrance qualifications and there are no examinations and certificates. It is all voluntary, members share their knowledge and experience with others in interest groups, running informal sessions covering a wide range of subjects and activities.

(A typical U3A offers learning opportunities, outdoor pursuits, social events and outings).

There are nearly 1,000 U3As throughout the UK and The Friends of Skelmanthorpe Library are hoping to launch our own branch based on the library in February next year. We hope that there will be sufficient interest coming from residents of Skelmanthorpe and the surrounding villages to make the project viable.

Details of the **OFFICIAL LAUNCH** will be posted in libraries, village notice boards and retail outlets during January.

DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL BUILDING AND SKELMANTHORPE COMMUNITY LIBRARY OPEN DAY

Denby Dale's Parish Council Building is a hub for community activities and this was clearly demonstrated at the Open Day on November 12th (mainly organised by the Friends of Skelmanthorpe Community Library). The event was supported by displays by numerous organisations and groups, many of which hold meetings in the newly refurbished Parish Council Building (a grant from Kirklees' Rural District Committee paid for our new windows). The library was open, and many visitors who were not regular borrowers took advantage of the opportunity to look around.

Organisations who took part, in addition to the Library Friends and the Parish Council, included Dave Wilde, the full-time Countryside Officer who liaises with and advises community and special interest groups in the Denby Dale ward, U3A (the University of the Third Age, who hope to set up a group in the area), and representatives of the Skelmanthorpe Textile Heritage Centre. Friends of Churchfield were also present, as were the Denby Dale Walkers and Welcome Group. The Craft Group who meet regularly in the building, and the Popular Science Reading Group were also 'on parade'. The Skelmanthorpe Local History Group also had a fascinating display which attracted great interest.

Cllr P Flinders

Room Booking Charges

Now that the building is managed and run by the Parish Council, the rooms can be hired for regular and occasional meetings for a reasonable fee.

£28.50 per session (a session is a 4 hour period)

£16.00 concession (charities)

£32.00 Full day rate 9am -5pm

Part session i.e. 1 hour pay for 1 full session of £16

For the office spaces, 50% is chargeable (i.e. £14 per session, £8 concession, £16 full day).

Long term use i.e. for small business start-up, is negotiable.

For more information, or to make bookings contact the Clerk as below.



RECOGNITION

It is not often that one of our community schools gains recognition from central government, but Denby Dale First and Nursery School's achievement of coming in the top 8% of schools nationally, brought a congratulatory letter from the Minister of State for Schools.

In the 2016 phonics screening check 95% of pupils in Year One reached or exceeded the pass mark. This is a major achievement for a small rural school, and a credit to its quality of teaching and learning. *Cllr Neil Denby*

GRANT AWARDS

Small grants and community grants are awarded by the Council on a regular basis to various volunteer groups, clubs and community groups who go a long way to ensuring that our parish is a thriving community. At the last finance meeting we approved grants for a village information sign, for the scouts; for a village publication which contributes to local groups; for library volunteers; the Darby and Joan club and various music groups – to name but a few! It would be good to celebrate these groups, who often go unsung, and to that end I would ask for any group to let the parish council have a small summation of the work that they do – what charities or groups do they support; what facilities have they provided or improved; what has the effect been... to go into the Parish Council's newsletter. *Cllr Neil Denby*

DENBY DALE WALKERS ARE WELCOME GROUP – NEW BLOOD WELCOME!

Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome Group is a group of volunteers who try to promote walking in our beautiful area. Many of you will be familiar with their 14 trails. They have brought in external funding to waymark these trails, replace stiles, install seats etc.

In view of the severe cuts to Kirklees Council's budget, an increasingly important part of the group's work is to help maintain Public Rights of Way & keep them clear of overhanging vegetation etc. Our area has a very extensive PRoW network and the group would very much welcome new help! If you are a regular walker & could commit to keeping an eye on one or more footpaths, please contact the group secretary Parish Councillor Richard Brook at richardwbrook@gmail.com. For more information see www.denbydale-walkersarewelcome.org.uk

COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER DAVE'S UPDATE

Several dog waste bag dispensers fitted and the last of the Walkers Are Welcome benches, for example at Emley, Cliffe and East Hill Woods. Also at Cliffe Woods, stone walls have been repaired and paths laid, as they have at East Hill. Gates and a picnic bench have been installed at Churchfield and work continues with Cllr Billy Jewitt on the disabled access ramp and development of the allotments. Cummins and 10 villages volunteers have also worked on all these sites and will be involved in winter newt pond maintenance and clearing along the embankment of the Kirklees Light Railway. Involvement in 'Made in Clayton West' was a particular highlight this autumn, where Dave led a bug hunt on Millennium Green and later helped with a litter pick.

We look forward to increased work with local schools in the new year, along with hosting of a student from Kirklees College. We have also resolved to increase membership of Denby Dale Parish Environmental Trust next year and help with the development of a 'Men's Shed' Project. Attendance at a Control of Invasive Species workshop after a Don Network meeting has also inspired us to continue the work done by volunteers on the river, with further 'Balsam Bashes' in the headwaters of the Dearne being on the agenda for next year.

Dave Wilde

To contact the Parish Council, email clerk@denbydale.com or phone the Clerk on 01484 861239. Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For visitor information see www.denbydale-kirkburton.org.uk For local history see www.denbydalekirkburtonarchives.co.uk.