



# DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL

## *Winter Newsletter*



### CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR

Now, over half way through the council year, we are into 2015!

Much of the Parish Council's work continues as before, but we are feeling the effects of tightening budgets at Government and Kirklees Council level. You will have heard, or read, references to devolving power to local level. There is much housing development in the parish, over which we have expressed our concerns. However, there seems little hope of seriously altering any of the proposals in view of the perceived national shortage of homes.

Two more big projects are in progress. The first one is to develop Churchfields in Denby Dale as a combined community facility and allotments. The land is owned by Kirklees Council (originally purchased in the 1970s with the idea of building a new school), but will soon be leased to your Parish Council for 25 years. There were lots of local issues to resolve with the Friends of Churchfields group, however a satisfactory solution was reached and we will provide a dual facility.

You will have read that Kirklees Council has had to reduce funding for local libraries across its area. Plans are going ahead to develop the Denby Dale Community Centre which will include the library. The Parish Council are well into negotiations with Kirklees Council Officers to take over the running of the Council Office building, which will give an assured future for the library and give our community a new facility. The building will have to be self-financing, so please bear us in mind if you or a group with which you are associated want meeting room facilities, either as a one-off or on a regular basis.

As we approach the end of this council year (at the end of April), we come to election time. The members of the Parish Council are elected for a period of four years. Any new prospective councillors are encouraged to look out for notices inviting applications. If there are more than 20 candidates, the election will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at the same time as Kirklees Council and Government elections.

### SKELMANTHORPE LIBRARY

A third public meeting was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November and was attended by about 30 residents. Cllr Graham Turner chaired the meeting supported by area manager Kathryn Harrison and local manager Liz Booth and other library staff.

An update on the current Kirklees budget proposals was given and how this may affect the library provision within the Parish and Kirklees as a whole. There was a lengthy discussion on how the possible asset transfer of the Skelmanthorpe Council office to the Parish Council would affect the future of the library. As mentioned before, the Parish Council are discussing with Kirklees officers the detail of an asset transfer.

It was agreed that there would be a meeting in early January, where a small group of about 8 people would meet to form a Friends group to start to look at how we could support the library and to look at ways of ensuring we have a library service in the future.

Cllr Graham Turner said after the meeting "We have now held three very well attended public meetings and we have reached a stage where we are able to form a group of residents who are committed to working with Kirklees to look at ways of helping sustain a vibrant library service in Skelmanthorpe. It's a real credit to all the residents of Skelmanthorpe that we have been able to get this far so quickly."

### CITY FIBRE

Kirklees Council has signed an agreement with a company called City Fibre to create a fibre network to Kirklees buildings to deliver up to one gigabit of data transfer. This will put Kirklees at the forefront of high speed digital technology. The work on the first stage of the infrastructure will start early next year and will concentrate on the urban areas in its first phase.

If there is enough demand from business in our area then the fibre network could be expanded. If business demand allows the expansion of the network, then it would be possible in the future for householders to be connected to the service and share in the fastest broadband it is possible to get.

The expansion of this network is dependent on enough demand being generated to justify the huge cost of creating a fibre network in our area. It is therefore very important that at this stage any business that is interested registers its interest on the City Fibre web site which is [kirkleescore.com](http://kirkleescore.com).

## SMALL GRANTS

The following groups have been recently awarded a small grant from the parish council.

Organisation	Project	Amount £
The Denby Dale Centre	Community Transport	£500.00
All Saints' Church	Stacking chairs	£500.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Upper Dearne Valley Navigators	Tents & Trangias (stoves)	£483.32
Cumberworth Community Association	Planting scheme at Millennium stone & rose garden	£500.00
Denby Dale Ladies Choir	Purchase of music	£500.00
St Aidens First School	Out of class room learning/landscaping	£500.00
Hobsons Chorus	Uniform and update of music library	£180.00
Churches Together in CW and Scissett Kidz Club and Holiday Club	Resources and games equipment	£300.00
Skelmanthorpe United Junior FC	Temporary fencing for grounds	£481.98

## STATION SUCCESS!

Passenger numbers at Denby Dale station further increased, by almost 5,000, in the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, with 181,880 journeys starting or ending at the station.

Denby Dale is by far the best used station between Huddersfield & Barnsley. Numbers for the other stations are: Lockwood 50,648; Berry Brow 25,360; Honley 55,852; Brockholes 59,260; Stocksmoor 23,648; Shepley 68,074; & Penistone 143,786. The Parish Council supports the railway line. We are registered with Metro to receive bus & train timetables, which we deliver to various local outlets. We part-funded the footpath improvement from the station interchange to Wood Nook behind the Dale Inn. And we supported the Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome group, whose walking trails have increased off-peak use of the line and benefitted local businesses. We continue to look for improved park-and-ride at the station.

Thanks are also due to Denby Dale Rotary Club for all their work at the station.

## VISITOR INFORMATION AT DENBY DALE LIBRARY

Our area is gaining an ever-increasing reputation for its beautiful countryside, with excellent possibilities for walking & cycling, local food, arts & crafts & a rich & fascinating heritage.

Acknowledging this, Denby Dale Library now has a "visitor attraction" section (of equal interest to local residents!), currently offering:

1. Walking in & around Denby Dale  
15 leaflets in a plastic wallet - 14 walking trails + an introductory leaflet.

2. Walking in & around Denby Dale  
Individual leaflets on 6 of the above trails which start/end in or near Denby Dale village, namely:  
Denby Dale Village Trail  
Denby Dale Round Walk  
Denby Dale to Shepley Trail  
The PenDen Trail  
Denby & Cumberworth Circular  
Plain Country Friends

3. The Dearne Way  
4 leaflets in a plastic wallet describing the 8 short way-marked walks which form a continuous footpath 30 miles in length.

4. Kirkburton to Penistone Link to the Trans Pennine Trail  
4 leaflets in a plastic wallet describing On & Off Road Cycle Routes.

5. Denby Dale Poetry Trail  
A postcard detailing all 10 sites on the village poetry trail.

6. Local Food Directory  
A short book detailing producers & suppliers throughout the East Peak area, including Denby Dale & Kirkburton.

7. Directory of Artists & Craft Makers  
A short book detailing artists & craftsmakers throughout the East Peak area, including Denby Dale & Kirkburton.

The library is open: Monday 2 – 7; Tuesday 9 -12 & 2- 5; Wed 2 – 7; Friday 2 -6; Saturday 9 – 12.

## ANDY'S UPDATE

### Report from the Countryside Officer

#### Great Crested Newt Link Project Phase II

A huge thanks must be given to all the volunteers that have worked on the project this year. Volunteer numbers have comprised of 58 volunteer days from Cummins Turbo technologies, 69 volunteer days from 10 villages Conservation Group, 14 volunteer days from Enviroyouth, giving **141 volunteer days in total**.

#### Enviroyouth

The last ever Enviroyouth task was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December. It has been a privilege to work with the young people that have taken part in the Enviroyouth group. Many of those that have taken part still keep in touch and it is rewarding that many of those young people have used their time with Enviroyouth as a part of their CV.

## DENBY DALE COMMUNITY PROJECT



The project to replace the Denby Dale Library with a new building that will house not only the library but an Internet Café, Charity Shop, Offices and Meeting rooms continues to progress. We have had a successful bid of £30,000 from Garfield Weston and were told in November that we had been successful with Phase One of the Big Lottery Bid. It is all hands to the pump as we compile and submit Phase Two for mid January 2015. We would welcome any new members to our working party, if you are interested please contact Cllr Jim Dodds on 07976 194141 or [jim.dodds@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:jim.dodds@kirklees.gov.uk).