

Deeping St. James

Parish Council Newsletter



Spring 2017

www.dsjpc.co.uk



Image: I'd rather be in Deeping magazine

Top names for Deepings Literary Festival

The racy thriller 'Apple Tree Yard' gripped the nation when it was recently serialised on BBC TV. So it is a huge honour that Louise Doughty who penned the now famous book has agreed to be one of the headline authors at the first Deepings Literary Festival at the end of April.



Attractions have been booked to suit varying tastes from a black-tie gala dinner with guest speaker Gyles Brandreth, to a conversation with top women's author Erica James, and talks by medieval thriller writer Karen Maitland, and crime author Alison Bruce (pictured above).

You can get more information book your tickets at Stamford Arts Centre either in person or online at www.stamfordartscentre.com Telephone 01780 763203.

The three-day festival from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th April is centred on 'The Library that Refused to Die' but takes place in a range of local venues. It was made possible thanks to a grant from South Kesteven District Council following lobbying by DSJ councillors and has been organised by a working party of volunteers led by Cllr Judy Stevens.

Acclaimed historian Alison Weir will speak about Fotheringhay and the fall of Mary Queen of Scots. Novelist Martin Davies will reveal how a book gets it cover while author Lynn Knight will talk about telling social history through family stories.

There's a concert by local folk band Pennyless, a family storytelling show with The Travelling Talesman, a special afternoon tea at The Bluebell in Helpston and a tour and tea with music at John Clare Cottage and Lincolnshire Letters Aloud! on the Sunday evening.

Now is the time to step up to the mark and join the heroes who will be out litter picking on Sunday April 9th (10.00 am Boundary Park) and also to give credit to those people in your life who you consider to have gone above and beyond in the last year! DSJ Parish Council relish the opportunity to say thank you on behalf of those people who oil the wheels of kindness and look forward to your nominations for the citizen, the young person, the group or organisation or the person in the course of their job to most make a difference. The stipulation is that they must live or work (or do their charitable work) within Deeping St James. See ad on page 4 for details.

KEEPING DSJ looking GREAT

We have regained the use of the Community Payback Team for this coming year. As from March, they will be back working in the Cemetery, Woody Heights and the Millennium Woods, removing weeds, overgrowth of trees/bushes, painting and generally carrying out a good old fashioned tidy up. When the areas of DSJ that the Parish Council are responsible for are under control they will be sent out to the "Grot Spots". Plus anything that needs manpower to make a difference.

This year, we were informed by Lincs County Council that verges will NOT be cut within the village boundaries, only the bypass will be kept under control. DSJ and Market Deeping have joined together to undertake the cutting with one contractor over the whole area. Hopefully, this will start in March and the verges will be cut every 4 weeks in the season.

Cllr Brian Barber

Help the NHS help you!

Hospital equipment amnesty! Having seen a One Show item on this matter, a director of the community centre thought the idea good enough to import to the Deepings! Storage space has been cleared for any items that you might have had from the hospital no longer use. A collection service is also being offered.



WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make".

- Jane Goodall



It will soon be time for our Annual Parish Meeting, on Tues 9th May we will set aside some time during the evening to celebrate the achievements of both individuals and organisations who make a difference in Deeping St James. We would like you to start thinking about who to nominate, application forms are available from the clerk – call 01778 343266. It would also be great to see you at the meeting, so please put the date in your diary now.

12 months ago, we circulated a survey about Woody Heights, we're really pleased to inform you that one of our applications for funding has recently been accepted. There's still some hard work ahead to complete the fund raising, but we're hoping that by this time next year we may have some new skate park equipment. Any additional offers to help would be appreciated.

Steve Gilbert, Chairman of DSJ Parish Council

Youth Services – Skate Park, Play Scheme and Youth Club updates

For the past three years the Parish Council has been raising funds from the Council Tax precept to replace the skate facility at 'Woody Heights' recreation ground in Linchfield Road. We are also really pleased to announce that we have been successful in securing grant funding and the use of section 106 monies for this project. As a result we will now be able to move the project forward and hope to complete the works this year.



We would like to thank Claire King and her team at Linchfield Community Primary School for presenting such a brilliant play scheme for the last two years. As building work is scheduled to take place at Linchfield School during the summer it will not be possible for the play scheme to take place there this year. Fortunately, the Jimmy D's Team at Deeping St James Community Primary School are able to provide the facilities and intend to offer a full week of activities starting on Monday 7th August. We will keep you advised of when application forms are available.

The Parish Council would also like to remind youngsters between the ages of 11 and 18 about the Deepings Youth Group (www.deepingyouthgroup.co.uk) which meets at The Cross School building on Eastgate. This group offers a great opportunity to spend time with your friends in a relaxed environment with great facilities and is open three nights per week - have you been yet?

Councillor Kate Shinkins

On the buses

From Saturday 4th March, bus service 100 (Deeping - Spalding) will be re-routed in Deeping St James. Instead of running via Millfield Road and Exeter Close, it will run via Manor Way, with a stop outside the Community Primary School.

This is because of problems with parked vehicles on Millfield Road which makes it difficult for the bus to get through. There will also be some minor changes to times. In particular, the first bus into Market Deeping will run seven minutes earlier (09:07 at Church Street). The new timetables will be placed on the parish council website and will be displayed at principal bus stops.

We have installed a new bus shelter at the Linchfield Road stop - see picture. We try to keep all our shelters clean and tidy for the benefit of passengers, so if you notice any damage, such as graffiti or fly-posting, please let us know.



Tim Stevens

The Deepings Raft Race - A date for your diaries, Sunday 6th August 2017

This year's theme is "The Great British Raft Off" which gives you cunning raft designers out there plenty of scope, anything British from a Spitfire to a Bulldog and if you want to dress up for the occasion you should have plenty of choice too!



Over £12,000 raised for good causes in the last 2 years. Several new volunteers have recently joined the committee bringing fresh ideas and helping to spread the load.



A big thank you to other members who due to personal circumstances have had to drop out or scale back their involvement.

We hope to trial live streaming video coverage this year with 1 or more large screens, if you have any expertise in this area please get in touch.

Finally a big thank you to all sponsors, helpers and stallholders and don't forget to build your raft (it's never too early) – See: www.deepingsrafttrace.co.uk for more details.

Andy Pelling

An extra penny a day...

After weighing up the financial challenges facing us, your parish council is asking you to pay a little more for local services in the coming year.



In previous years, your parish council stepped up to help keep our library and youth centre going after massive cuts to services by Lincolnshire County Council. Despite these extra pressures, last year we managed a 'freeze' on the amount you pay towards services provided by DSJ parish council.

But from April, the county council is saving even more money by stopping regular cuts to grass verges. We held a local referendum and asked if you would support paying contractors to continue this service and the answer was Yes. We are now working jointly with Market Deeping Town Council to achieve the most efficient grass cutting service possible. In addition, we feel we must make progress in the coming year on renewing the Woody Heights skate park which is well-used by young people, but worn-out and well past its sell-by date. So, average Band D charges for the parish council part of the council tax bill will increase by £3.48 in the coming financial year – that's less than a penny a day extra, making the average Band D household contribution in DSJ £47.22 for the year.

By comparison, Band D households in Market Deeping will pay £93 for town council services. And while the county council plan to charge you more but provide even less, DSJ parish council is providing even more – and still asking most households for less than £1 a week!

Phil Dilks

Campaign targets hare-coursing gangs



Gangs of illegal and violent hare-courers are regularly travelling hundreds of miles to fields around Deeping St James and threatening local residents who try to stop them.

A campaign against hare coursing has been launched after local residents from the Stowgate and Deeping Fen area told a recent Neighbourhood Policing Forum how their daily lives are being made a misery by threats of violence. And a young mother living in an isolated farmhouse revealed that she is too frightened to let her children out to play for fear of what the hare courers or their dogs will do.

Local police recently made arrests on Hall Meadow Road and have been involved in operations on Deeping High Bank and Froggnall. Coursers from Durham and Wales have been prosecuted.

The local National Farmers Union (NFU) recently complained that hare coursing is 'out of control' with regular threats of violence and damage to crops, property and fields.

DSJ parish council is backing a local campaign calling for more police resources, tougher laws, harsher penalties against the hare courers to help protect local residents by driving this vile activity out of our community.

Hare coursing involves gangs of up to 30 men driving out hares and releasing lurcher-type dogs to give chase until they rip the hare apart. Bets of up to £20,000 in cash on which dog 'turns' or catches the hare first are not unknown.

Please sign the online petition which will be presented to Lincolnshire's Police and Crime Commissioner urging him to ensure local police have the resources they need to beat the courers.

The petition can be found at:
www.change.org/p/lincolnshire-pol-stop-hare-coursing-in-south-lincolnshire-before-someone-gets-hurt

If you see suspicious 4x4s full of men and lurcher type dogs or other related activity, do not attempt to tackle them alone, but take registration numbers if safe to do so and telephone Lincolnshire Police on 101 quoting 'Operation Galileo'.

Phil Dilks and Andrew Bowell



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PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings take place on the last Thursday of the month 7.30pm at the Institute, 38 Church St., members of the public are very welcome to attend and an open forum takes place in the first 30 mins of the meeting.



Find us on Facebook - search: **Deeping St James Parish Council**

Making a Difference

Everyday in Deeping St James someone goes above and beyond the call of duty with a kind word, a gesture that suddenly makes the world a better place to be in. Some people devote their lives to making a difference to others and Deeping St James Parish Council celebrate those individuals and groups with their Annual Making a Difference Awards ceremony to be held during the



Prizes to be presented by *Ellie Sandall*

DSJ Annual Parish Meeting & Making a Difference Awards

Tuesday 9 May - 7.30pm

Conference Centre, The Deepings School, Park Rd DSJ



Young Person (aged 11-19) to most make a difference	Citizen to most make a difference	DSJ organisation to most make a difference	Difference in the course of doing their job
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Whether working for the community at large or making a difference in a more personal way, provided that the nominees live or lived in Deeping St James in the last year and the organisation is based or operates here, then we want to hear from you!



Nominations by Friday 22nd April 2016

Call 343266

Heroes Wanted.

It's time to clean up our village!

**SUNDAY 9TH APRIL, 10AM.
MEET AT THE BOUNDARY PARK.**



Register now and get involved at
www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk
#litterheroes

The Great British Spring Clean is a campaign led by Keep Britain Tidy.



Thoughtless dog owners
We're watching you!

9 out of 10 dog owners clean up after their dog, are you the one who doesn't?

Bag that poo, any rubbish bin will do

