

# Deeping St. James

Parish Council Newsletter

Summer 2014

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www.dsjpc.co.uk



## Save our Signal Box!



**Your parish council has joined with local residents to fight shock plans by Network Rail to demolish our historic “St James Deeping” signal box to make way for a new post!**

Network Rail say the yellow-brick Victorian signal box is located where they want to sink a support post for modern electronic barriers at the station Road crossing.

But DSJ parish council is appealing to Network Rail to urgently consider less drastic engineering solutions to save the much-loved building.

Network Rail officials have been invited to meet councillors on Thursday, 4 September to explore all possible options to save the two-storey building which has stood for over a

century.

Clr Phil Dilks - who chaired a meeting with local residents and Network Rail - said: “I hope Network Rail will listen to their neighbours who live close to the railway. I’m convinced Network Rail could modernise without sweeping away our local heritage.”

The meeting – almost a week into the closure - had been called in response to Network Rail giving local residents and businesses only a few days notice of closure the Station Road crossing for most of July for engineering works on the line.

Despite written promises of 24/7 access to emergency vehicles throughout the closure, this was not possible until almost a week into the closure –

potentially putting public safety at risk.

Residents were also concerned that Lincolnshire police and fire services were not apparently aware of the closure – following an accident which shut the A16 Spalding Road, motorists were diverted to the closed DSJ crossing!

South Kesteven Council were also unaware of the closure – and made special arrangements for bin collections following an intervention by Cllr Judy Stevens.

DSJ parish council has made a formal complaint to Network Rail about the cavalier way local residents and businesses were treated.

To support the Save our Signal Box campaign, go to [www.chn.ge/1ygyb1s](http://www.chn.ge/1ygyb1s)

*Phil Dilks*

# TRANSPORT NEWS

**We have completed the refurbishment of the ten bus shelters in the village (picture shows shelter on Horsegate). Please help to keep them clean and smart by putting litter in the bins provided and reporting any damage.**

The buses serving the village - Delaine 102 to Peterborough and Bourne, Delaine 203 to Stamford and Shaws 100 to Spalding - are convenient for work or shopping, so why not leave the car at home and try the bus? Fares are good value, and the services are reliable and punctual.

There have recently been a number of road closures at the level crossings, for Network Rail to do works, at very short notice. At one stage, all three crossings (St



James Deeping, Littleworth and Peakirk) were closed at the same time. This has caused considerable inconvenience to residents and local businesses, and we are urging Lincolnshire

County Council Highways to ensure at least one of the three crossings is always kept open to road traffic, and to give us proper advance notice of any road closures.

St James Deeping signal box is under threat of demolition when the level crossing is modernised in early November. We are doing what we can to support local residents in saving this much-loved part of our heritage, either on its existing site or moved to a new site nearby.

*Tim Stevens*

# Allotments at Hall Meadow Road



**The parish council has managed the allotments on Hall Meadow Road since 2005 and currently there are ninety eight plots. Priority is given to residents of Deeping St James and presently there is no waiting list.**

For those who live outside of the parish there are about twenty people waiting but the council is keen to have as many Deeping St James residents being able to cultivate the allotments as possible. Having an allotment plot can be a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. Whether you are an experienced gardener who needs more space or a novice, there is always much to learn from your

neighbouring plot holders. The annual rent for an allotment plot is £17.50 and it has been estimated that a well-maintained plot can produce at least £500 worth of food per year. So why not get out in the fresh air and



grow your own food. Just think of the exercise you will get whilst digging it over. For further information please contact the Assistant Clerk on 01778 343266 or [asst.clerk.dsipc@btconnect.com](mailto:asst.clerk.dsipc@btconnect.com)

# WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

**I hope all of our parishioners have been using the recent good weather to enjoy many of the wonderful summer community events in our Village. I am writing this just before the Raft Race (which I have been heavily involved in organising) but recently there has also been the Carnival, the Rose and Sweet Pea show, the Dog show and the Rugby club beer festival to name a few and don't forget the Duck Race coming soon!**

At a recent event I attended with people new to the area they were very impressed about the way our community comes together to organise and attend such events so well, something we should all be proud of and

which helps make Deeping St. James a great place to live. More about those who make a difference to our community next issue - Ed

On a less positive note, we have had several instances of vandalism of council property and damage to trees. In the past we have tried to be tolerant and use a carrot rather than a stick approach but it was agreed at a recent meeting we will now be taking a firmer line on such actions. Where culprits can be identified and supporting evidence is available the Parish Council will seek prosecution for such damages in future. We know this is a small minority but if any of you are reading this YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

*Andy Pelling*




# The temperature's rising!



courtesy John Marsh



It started with the making a difference awards when David Holmes was rewarded for many years tending the grass at Deeping Rangers, it coasted through the carnival parade (the first for a while) and the Carnival itself more comfortable on a Sunday, it had fun at the dog show when

Tess a little staffie who had fended for herself in Middlesborough, found a home in DSJ, and won judge and local baker, Clive Hankers heart, it cleared up with help from McDonalds  and it culminated in a rip roaring success at the Raft Race, when amongst a line up

of impressive costumes, rafts and physical prowess, Caleb Pearson picked up the Award for the Under 18's Winning Raft on behalf of the Deepings Youth Centre (pictured centre left). Along the way there were well attended parish walks, the colourful strawberry fair and rose and sweet pea show

and notwithstanding work on the level crossing, the Exotic Pet Refuge continued to pull in high numbers all this accompanied by the sound of local homegrown bands, the tender voice of Emily Morgan and Pennyless who played for the library in July!

*Judy Stevens*

# Library Plan Ruled Unlawful

**The crazy plan by Lincolnshire County Council to close Deepings Library has been ruled unlawful by the High Court in a historic victory for our community.**

Phil Dilks, parish and county councillor for DSJ said: "This historic victory belongs to the people of the Deepings who - supported by DSJ Parish Council - mounted the biggest campaign in Lincolnshire against the daft plan to close 33 of the county's 44 libraries.

"The county council spent £100,000 of our money on a so-called consultation, then totally ignored the responses which showed clearly that almost everyone was against the ill-thought out plan.

"It has taken a Judicial Review to finally stop them in their tracks.

"They attempted to ride roughshod over the people they are supposed to represent, refusing to listen to anyone but themselves.



Stamford Mercury

Rejecting alternative solutions out of hand has cost the people of Lincolnshire tens of thousands more in legal fees and shows their decision was a political choice rather than about saving money as they claimed.

"I hope they will now do the decent thing and now reinstate funding to Deepings Library - and the other 32 libraries they tried to close - by using some of the £40 million surplus they collected from ratepayers last year yet failed to spend on vital services."

*Phil Dilks*

## DEEPING ST JAMES PARISH COUNCILLORS

### BARBER Brian

4 Brownlow Drive, Deeping St James  
PE6 8HL 344120 / 07902310917  
Brian.barber@lineone.net

### BAXTER Ashley

11 Kesteven Close, Deeping St James  
PE6 8JW 344070 / 07799077090  
ashleydsj@btinternet.com

### BLESSETT Jim

106 Church Street, Deeping St James  
PE6 8HB 343175 / 07891439609  
stpaulsbookshop@aol.com

### BOWELL Andrew

43 Burchnall Close, Deeping St James  
PE6 8QJ 345486 / 07720784973  
andrbw@aol.com

### DILKS Philip

24 Church Street, Deeping St James  
PE6 8HD 07786 862320  
fairdealphil@hotmail.com

### GAMBLE Colin

78 Church Street, Market Deeping  
PE6 8AL 343282  
colin992gamble@btinternet.com

### GILBERT Steven VICE-CHAIRMAN

39 Horsegate, Deeping St James  
PE6 8EW 380508  
steve@sgilbertbs.wanadoo.co.uk

### HUGHES Lisa-Marie

94 Swift Close, Deeping St James  
PE6 8QR 07725 978445  
Lisah1712@aol.com

### PELLING Andrew CHAIRMAN

2 Kesteven Close, Deeping St James  
PE6 8JW 342590 / 07803907782  
Mr.Andy.Pelling@gmail.com

### SHINKINS Kathleen

5 Marigolds, Deeping St James PE6 8SN  
kateshinkins@hotmail.com 07889 070980

### STEVENS Judy

41 Frognall, Deeping St James PE6 8RR  
348859 / 07852649464  
judy.stevens1@btinternet.com

### STEVENS Timothy

12 Waterton Close, Deeping St James  
PE6 8PN 349003 / 07907 246394  
tstevens@tjconsult.plus.com

### WALLIS Stuart

22 Ascendale, Deeping St James PE6 8NZ  
stuartw22@btinternet.com 344416

### WATERHOUSE Tom

9 Speedwell Court, Deeping St James  
PE6 8SY 07923 062782  
Tom\_w\_14@hotmail.com

## 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**

## Bins & benches



Over the last few years, the Parish Council in tandem with the Friends of Jubilee Park has taken several measures to improve facilities installing new play equipment, hedge planting and not least the Jubilee beacon. Most recently, two new benches have been installed and it is hoped that in the near future more will be placed in the Park.



The dog show proved that we have some attractive, talented and well-behaved dogs in Deeping St James, but sadly there remain a few mutts and a few owners that deserve to be in the naughty corner. The perennial problems of pooches in public places is a persistent pain for Parish Councils. Part of our solution this year has been to refurbish the dog bins around the village, including four new bins in Jubilee Park. It is almost impossible to leave the park in any direction without passing a litter or a dogwaste bin. There is therefore no excuse for leaving dog mess anywhere else than in the bin. The park really is a child-friendly, dog-friendly, wildlife friendly, community amenity.

So next time you go gamboling with the dogs or the children need frolicking, Jubilee Park is the place to be!

*Ashley Baxter*

# DEEPING SKATE PARK FUN DAY

**SAT 23RD AUG BEGINS AT 1PM**

## LIVE MUSIC

**Competitions and Games**  
Skate/scooter/BMX - no helmet = no ride

**BBQ & REFRESHMENTS**

**Open to everyone. Families welcome**  
For more info contact Kate 07889 070980