

Deeping St. James

Parish Council Newsletter



Spring 2015

www.dsjpc.co.uk



Pictured above 2014 nominees: Dave Holmes Volunteer groundsman Deeping Rangers, Sandy Fox Exotic Pet Refuge, Jill Thomas, Rotary, Peter Hubbard Age Concern, Trisha Smith Young at Heart club, Andrew Bowell Treasurer Deepings Rangers with Inspector Mike Burnett and Parish Council Chairman, Andy Pelling

Making a difference in 2015

Black Wednesday. An HGV driver demolished a quarter of the centuries old bridge in Deeping St James. Having been bought to task by a Judicial Review, Lincs County Council were told to rerun their consultation, they did and announced the same results maintaining the Deepings Library as a Tier Three volunteer run library or to be substituted with a twice monthly mobile. The treasured signal box in spite of impassioned protestations had been demolished.

Things were definitely not looking good for this beleaguered community. And then Sammy the Seal swam 27 miles up from the Wash and made his home on the banks of the Welland and

made all our days! He is my nomination for the Making a Difference Award this year! In fact see inside for much better news on all 'Black Wednesday' fronts.

Those who go for a walk and do not drop litter or inexplicably tie those annoying bags of dog poo to tree branches are doing their bit to make a difference, but those who pop a piece of litter in a bin, not necessarily theirs, are doing so much more. There are those who care for neighbours, produce beautiful arrangements of flowers in our Churches, those whose ringing of the church bells lift all our spirits. There are those who don't just do a kind act every now and again but consistently make a difference to people in our community over many years.

Deeping St James Parish Council

like to honour those who make a difference at an Award ceremony held at the same time as the Annual Parish Meeting on 19th May (see back cover). But they cannot do this without your help. There are four categories; the citizen (who has lived or worked in the Parish for the last year), the group or Organisation (operating in DSJ) the young person (under 18) and the person in the course of carrying out their job (in DSJ), most to have made a difference. Please email or write to the Parish Clerk with your nomination telling us in no more than 100 words why and giving your name and contact details. by 30th April. Thank you.

Judy Stevens

Deeping Library: The latest chapter

In the face of total opposition, the Executive at Lincolnshire County Council have decided to press ahead with their draconian plans to close Deepings Library and hope local volunteers will agree to take it on.

Deepings' two county councillors are split on the issue. Phil Dilks (Deeping St James) led the campaign at county hall AGAINST the plan and won support from our MP John Hayes who has called for 'an urgent rethink'.

But Deepings' only voice on the council's Executive - Peter Robinson (Market and West Deeping) - voted FOR the plan despite more than half the population of the Deepings joining the campaign to 'Save Deeping Library'.

Cllr Robinson - who last year voted to cut opening hours at Deeping Library from 30 a week to 17 - said he thought volunteers were ready to replace the four staff and keep our library open at least six hours a week.



In fact, volunteer group 'Friends of Deeping Library' have declined to take over the library under the present unsustainable plans.

Meanwhile, 680 people visited the library in just five hours earlier this month - a record for one day - scotching the myth that libraries are no longer supported by the community!

The 'Save Deeping Library' campaign has also featured on BBC TV, local radio as well as in local newspapers.

In a rare move, the Secretary of State has agreed to formally investigate a complaint from retired head of Libraries in Lincolnshire Maurice Nauta who alleges the council is failing its obligation to provide a 'comprehensive and efficient' library service.

Once the position is clearer, Friends of Deepings Library will call a public meeting to seek your views on whether or not to take over the library.

Phil Dilks

Lincolnshire Credit Union (LincUp) now has a local access point in the Deepings at the Institute, 38, Church Street, Deeping St James, PE6 8HD on a Monday morning between 10.00 and 12.00. This will enable residents of the Deepings to benefit from the many services on offer.

LincUp is a financial cooperative owned and controlled by its members. It aims to provide access to reasonably priced financial services to people living or working within the boundaries of Lincolnshire by accepting savings from members and then lending them out to generate income to pay running costs and make a profit, most of which is given back to savers as a dividend.

Please come and support LincUp and help us to provide the people of Lincolnshire with safe community owned financial co-operative, offering an easy way to save and access to affordable loans and budgeting support. Full details see the Lincup Website: www.lincscreditunion.org.uk Deepingscu@gmail.com 07518776950

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

Deeping St James Parish Council has deliberated long and hard trying to calculate the 2015/16 precept (the proportion of your Council tax which goes to the Parish) that will allow us to deliver the services expected by local residents, obtain, repair or replace several capital expenditure items and provide support for local community and heritage resources which in some cases have lost funding from District & County Councils. This coming at a time when salary, pension and overhead costs are rising.

We agreed that a 5% increase was the maximum additional burden we were



prepared to request of our parishioners and thus cut our cloth accordingly. As part of this discussion we took into account that our precept is still low compared to some neighbouring communities.

This precept equates to

just over £4 per band D equivalent property per month and is an increase of 20p per month over last year. We hope you will understand the need for this modest increase.

Although we have fought

very hard on your behalf, news is not good regarding the Library but we will continue the battle. Some slightly better news potentially on the Signal box, see Stuart Hall's article on page 3

This may be the last newsletter before the elections in May and some of the current Councillors may not stand or be re-elected so I would just like to thank them all for their hard unpaid work on behalf of the community. If an election is called for the Parish, please do use your vote and show support for people willing to give up their time to improve our community.

Andy Pelling, Chairman

ON THE ROADS ...



Speeding is an issue that is often raised by residents. So we have installed some 30mph “reminder” notices in Eastgate, and these will be regularly moved around to different sites in the village over the coming months. Remember, it’s 30mph in Deeping St James for a good reason. So drivers, please watch your speed and help keep the village roads safe for everyone.

Recently a large lorry demolished the parapet of the river bridge. It seems the driver was lost and hadn't seen any weight limit signs. We will be reviewing the signage to make sure it is visible and in the right places, to minimise the possibility of future incidents like this.



Lincolnshire County Council is upgrading several bus stops in the village, with improved signage and raised kerbs, and parking restrictions to prevent vehicles blocking the stops. These improvements will make it easier to get on and off the buses. In winter, when driving can be hazardous, the bus is a sensible and comfortable alternative to the car. Our website has a bus map and timetables of the bus services through the village.

If you have a transport issue or problem you think the parish council should look into, please let us know.

Tim Stevens

New footbridge over the river welland

Those of you who have been seal spotting will have come across the many changes Network Rail have made at the railway crossing, including new steps on both sides and a walkway under the bridge.

What is not there yet, but hopefully will be by this time next year, is a footbridge across the river a short distance from the new steps. This will link up with the new footpath opened last year by the Northern Footpath Forum which starts at the road bridge just outside Peakirk and comes up to the river via two footbridges.

For the first time then, people will be able to walk from the Deeping St James side towards the Nature Reserve, and then cross the river and walk back either to Peakirk or walk the other side of the river back towards Deeping Gate. Those on the Peakirk/Northborough side will be able to walk to the Nature Reserve rather than have a 5 mile drive to get there.

Funding will come from several sources, Wren, Gateway To The Fens, Leader and Network Rail.

The new footbridge will, then, open up the possibility of many new walks in attractive countryside settings, something which the village has been lacking for many years.

Jim Blessett

Saving our Signal Box

For nearly 150 years, St. James Deeping signal box has stood in our village. The nameplate, originally a mistake, has given the village of Deeping St James its nickname of “ Jimmy Deeping “.

With Network Rail's plans for automatization, the company deemed it an obstacle in their scheme of things and planned to demolish it.



When villagers heard about the planned demolition they set about saving it with the help and support of John Hayes MP, the Parish Council and local media. Network Rail were adamant that the box needed to be removed and plans were put in place to demolish it.

However, after pressure from the politicians and the public, it was agreed that the box could be sympathetically deconstructed and stored, with the possibility of it being rebuilt at a later date. After the last train passed by the box on October 22, 2014, with a farewell toot, Network Rail began the deconstruction.

With continued mixed agency negotiations, Phase 2 began with Network Rail offering us a site for the rebuild, close to the box's original position. On the 16th February, an open meeting was held to discuss the plans for the rebuild. Commitment from the community was shown by nearly 50 people attending and a committee was formed to progress the rebuild to the next phase. When complete, this historic building will again serve the community, this time as a heritage and information centre for future generations.

Stuart Hall



Clash of the Clubs this year won by The Ringers, proceeds to the Library, Signal Box & Credit Union

DIARY DATES

Rotary Fun Run 24th May.

Footpath Walk Deeping Lakes Car Park 7pm - 4 June

Footpath Walk Rose @ Frognall Car Park 7pm - 8 July

Carnival 12th July

Bark in the Park Dog Show 19th July

Rugby Club Beerfest 24 & 25 July

Footpath Walk Woody Heights 7pm 28th July

Raft Race 2 August

check out www.deepings.co.uk

Situations Vacant

JOB DESCRIPTION

Deeping St James is recruiting 15 Parish Councillors. The successful applicants must work be able to word as part of a team, and as individuals, to defend and promote the best interests of our village and the surrounding areas. The workload includes advocacy, staff management, budget setting and monitoring, marketing, project management and dealing with a growing population with diverse needs. This is an outward facing role which will involve talking to members of the public about all kinds of topics including allotments, grass cutting, skateboards, litter and dog muck.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

Essential Criteria:

- Must live in Deeping St James (or within 4 miles)
- Must care passionately about the village, the people who live here and the Deepings in general
- Must have an open mind, good listening skills and be able to speak on behalf of others.

Desirable Criteria:

- Involvement in other community activities or business in the village
- Able to participate in meetings without fighting, going mad or dozing off (The meetings can sometimes be exciting, but not all the time).
- Experience of working with any of the following would be very useful: money, people, organisations, events, business, marketing, media, skateboards or litter-picking

Training:

Some training will be made available especially with regard to the role of the Councillor and legal requirements.

Hours of Work:

Usually about 1.5 evenings per month plus whatever additional time and enthusiasm you can spare.

Salary:

The role of Parish Councillor is unpaid but very rewarding.

Selection procedure:

Application forms are available from the Parish Office at the Institute, DSJ or from SKDC electoral services in Grantham. Applications must be supported by the signatures of two DSJ residents. All applications will be considered by a selection panel of 6,000 local residents.

Closing date

Applications must be received by SKDC electoral services by xx April, 2015. A decision will be made no later than May 8th, 2015.

DEEPING ST JAMES PARISH COUNCILLORS

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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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On Tuesday May 19th at 7.30 p.m, new Conference Centre, The Deepings School, Park Road, Deeping St James

3 CATEGORIES

Young Person (aged 11-19) to most make a difference

Citizen to most make a difference

DSJ organisation to most make a difference

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 April 14th

Call 343266

