Welcome to the latest edition of Thorpe Matters, the Parish Council newsletter covering Thorpe Salvin, West Thorpe and Netherthorpe. We hope that the information provided is useful and we always welcome any feedback or new ideas. If there is anything you would like to see in future issues, please contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk.

Lesley Hayes, Chair

I am writing this piece after completing my first year as Chairman of Thorpe in Bloom. Firstly I would like to take the opportunity to thank publicly those who have been so supportive of the work we have done this year so far. I am speaking of that small band of villagers who are always first to pull on their wellies to help out, and the last to leave when the work is done. I will not name them individually but you know who you are. I will however name my predecessor, Lesley Hayes, who has been such a vital part of Thorpe in Bloom over the last few years. I know she has 'retired' but we all know she hasn't. In almost all matters of importance in planning the year I have deferred to her wisdom and experience. Thank you, Lesley.

The winter so far has been a mixed affair - I must confess, I have welcomed the fact that it has been reasonably dry but I have been less sanguine about the fact that the wind has been blowing so strongly. St Valentine’s Day went by with daffodils in bloom, which is a sure sign that the winter has been unusually mild. I rather suspect we will get a surprise in the weeks to come if the arctic wind continues to blow, but right now I am having to decide whether to pick my rhubarb!

With regard to the year ahead, I will be thinking of having our first planning meeting regarding the Garden Trail in early April. So far the most likely weekend for the Trail looks like the 23rd and 24th July, so unless we have failed to anticipate a major problem with this date I think it worthwhile you put that date in your diary already. I certainly hope that we can reproduce the success of last year's event when we had the opportunity to have at least one day when the sun shone and the people came out... in their droves.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about Thorpe In Bloom: I can be reached via email at jjcobb@btinternet.com or at home 01909 770131.

Happy Gardening

Johnathan Cobb
Chairman, Thorpe In Bloom

On the weekend of Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th March, the Parish Council is organising our contribution to the national litter picking weekend. Last year's event was a success; residents collected 60 bags of rubbish in the Parish. Let's see if we can beat that total this year.

A skip will be delivered at midday Thursday 3rd March and collected again on Tuesday 8th March. The skip is for volunteer litter pickers to deposit their full bags of collected rubbish. The manager of the Parish Oven, Mr. Brian Sanders, has kindly agreed to have the skip at the back of the car park of the pub.

We have some reflective tabards, litter picking instruments, plastic sacks and bag hoops. These can be obtained from Lesley Hayes, Whittle House, Common Road, Thorpe Salvin, tel. 773740.

Volunteers are welcome to litter pick any time but the main event will start at 10.00am Saturday 5th March at the Parish Oven. Lesley will be there with the equipment and to brief volunteers. Tea and coffee will be supplied (at no charge) by Parish Oven staff.

If you are unable to bring your full litter sacks to the skip at the Parish Oven, please tell Lesley. She will pass on the information to Rotherham Streetpride and they will collect the bags. The same applies to large items like discarded car tyres.

Let's clean up this Parish!

The Parish Council would also like to add its thanks to the resident who has spent a huge amount of time and effort in single-handedly clearing Southard's Lane (by the old nursery site). This is a truly amazing effort and deserves special recognition.

Ian Daines
Parish Councillors

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PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

Rotherham MBC

Our RMBC Ward Councillor Dominic Beck will be holding a surgery in Thorpe Salvin on Saturday 16th April, 10am to 11am. All are welcome and no appointment is needed.

Regular RMBC Councillors surgeries are held at:-

Harthill Methodist Chapel – 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of each month, 10am-11am

Kiveton Park Library – 1st and 4th Saturday of the month, 10am – 11am

Kiveton Park Library – 1st Thursday of each month, 5-6pm

Parish E-Bulletin

Thorpe Matters is only a twice-yearly publication and so much happens in Thorpe Salvin. The Parish Council would like to keep people as informed as possible in between issues and there is a fortnightly E-MAIL BULLETIN which highlights news, events and up to date information, including new planning applications, adverse weather reports and traffic delay reports, plus any local news.

Because of the Data Protection Act, you need to OPT IN to the e-bulletin to receive it. In order to do so, please send an e-mail to the Clerk – (clerk.thorpesalvinpc@gmail.com) with the subject line E-BULLETIN OPT IN. Or you can now just click on a button on the “Newsletter” page on the Parish Council website. That’s all there is to it.

A Better Community

Despite lack of take up previously, the Parish Council will continue with this scheme in 2016/17. The Parish Council wants to continue to improve the infrastructure of the Parish and to help Parish-based community groups. The Council has earmarked £500 for the scheme - A Better Community (ABC) - to help with these aims.

Contact the Parish Council if you are a Community Group (or wish to form one) and have an idea for improving the Parish. Also if you have any suggestions for ways in which the Parish Council can improve the amenities of the Parish.

Parish Council Precept and Budget

The annual precept for 2016/17 (the amount a Parish Council raises from Council Tax) will remain unchanged from last year, at £8026. The amount given to the Parish Council as Council Tax Support Grant has been cut by one third for next year and we will receive £310. Our total income for the year is therefore £8336.

The draft budget for 2016/17 is below and shows proposed income and expenditure.

Parish Salvin Parish Council Website

All of the information on this page, and a whole lot more, can also be found on the Parish Council website: www.thorpesalvinpc.org.uk

It is also a great place to publicise forthcoming events or activities. Contact Les Wheatley on 01246 434908 (or e-mail: clerk.thorpesalvinpc@gmail.com) if you would like to publicise anything. Ideas for new things to feature on the site are always welcome.
**Planning Matters**

"Planning permission is about the building, the person is irrelevant".

In this brief piece, I will try to summarise the main issues and the decision making process behind that blunt statement.

Planning permission is needed for new buildings, major conversions and change of use of buildings or land. Applications have to be made to Rotherham MBC and they are published in a weekly list.

Thorpe Salvin Parish Council publishes applications that relate to the Parish in the e-bulletin (another good reason to subscribe to that bulletin).

Anyone can submit comments to Rotherham MBC about a planning application. The Parish Council considers every application in the Parish and decides whether to offer comments to RMBC. As a general rule, your Parish Council will support applications that enhance the Parish and oppose applications that would erode the Green Belt or damage the character of an area.

Rotherham MBC has to apply the rules laid down by central government in a vast tome called the National Planning Policy Framework.

If an application is approved, there is usually a condition that the work must start within three years. If an application is refused, the applicant can appeal to the Planning Inspectors.

Planning permission attaches to the land not the person. The land can be sold and the planning permission remains valid. That is why it does not matter whether the applicant is someone you approve of or someone you are less keen on; that person may cease to be the landowner at any time.

**Does the Parish Council achieve anything?**

Three years ago, Livos Energy put forward proposals to erect a fourth wind turbine in the Parish. The Parish Council commissioned a planning expert who reported on the harm such a turbine would cause. We have heard no more from Livos.

Last May, Lark Energy put forward proposals to build a vast diesel and solar powered electricity generating station in the Parish. Their representatives were challenged vigorously at a Parish Council meeting and we have heard no more from them.

If anyone wants to know more about planning matters, the RMBC website has a useful guide.

*Ian Daines, Parish Councillor*

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**The Parish Oven**

Mr Brian Sanders took over as manager of the Parish Oven public house a few weeks ago. Brian is keen to strengthen ties with the local community. For example, he has offered to allow a skip to be put in the pub car park for the litter picking weekend.

Brian is revamping the food menus and will be offering guest beers from local breweries. Work is in progress on redesigning the Parish Oven website to display the latest news.

The Parish Council welcomes Brian to the Parish and wishes him every success.

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**The Parish Oven; An Asset of Community Value**

All over the country, village pubs and shops are closing down. Often this leaves villages with nowhere for people to socialise.

We have no shops but we do have one pub; the Parish Oven. The Parish Council has taken steps to try to protect the Parish Oven as a contributor to the social life of the Parish.

With the agreement of the manager, Mr. Brian Sanders, the Parish Council has applied to Rotherham MBC to register the Parish Oven as an Asset of Community Value.

Legislation was passed recently which allows local councils, in our case Rotherham, to register pubs, shops, village halls etc. as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). For a location that is listed as an ACV, there are rules about how it can be sold.

If the owner of an ACV decides to sell the property, they must pause for six months. This time is to allow a community group to be formed who can seek to buy the ACV and run it for the benefit of the community.

This reduces the risk that the ACV is sold and closed down before local people have had time to get organised.

The application has been sent to Rotherham MBC and we are hopeful that they will agree to register the Parish Oven as an Asset of Community Value. Rotherham’s decision will be published in the Parish E-bulletin.
**St. Peter’s News**

**Forthcoming Services**
- Tuesday 8th March 7-8.30pm Fellowship Group at Lesley’s (Whittle House)
- Sunday 20th March, 9am Holy Communion
- Sunday 20th March, 10.15am Messy Church
- Thursday 24th March, 7.30pm Agape meal at Todwick Church Hall
- Good Friday 25th March, 1.30pm ‘Way of the Cross’ at Harthill Methodist Church
- Easter Sunday 27th March, 10am ‘All Age Easter Celebration’ followed by ‘hot cross buns’ and Easter egg hunt.

**Re-ordering update**

Interviews have taken place and we are in the process of appointing an architect.

**Burials and cremations**

As there are only a few new burial plots available in our churchyard, as a community we need to investigate an alternative burial site within the parish. If you have any ideas please contact the PCC or Parish Council.

The PCC are looking at creating a ‘scattered cremated remains’ area within the churchyard.

**Water Aid**

Once again we are collecting jars of loose change to send to Water Aid. A coffee morning to collect the jars and count the change will be held at Church Farm on 11 April at 10am. Everyone is welcome.

**Thank you**

A big “Thank You” to everyone who went Carol singing around the village and those people who gave donations. We raised £126.00 for the Alzheimer’s Society. We also sent a cheque for £98.59 to the Children’s Society from our Nativity and Christingle service.

Jo Collingwood, Thorpe Salvin PCC

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**Thorpe Salvin Luncheon Club**

Two Thorpe Salvin ladies, Jenny Howe (who has now moved away) and myself were sitting, just the two of us, having lunch at the Parish Oven, surrounded by groups of lunchers. We had the idea of starting a luncheon club at the Parish Oven – so that one can go there on a certain day and expect to be able join people one knows for lunch. This was the beginning of the Thorpe Salvin Luncheon Club. We held our first meeting on 3rd November 2010 and we have met every month since then.

We now meet regularly on the first Wednesday of the month – except under exceptional circumstances – generally just for the Christmas gathering.

We meet at 12 noon for a drink and generally sit in the right hand corner facing the road. We like to eat at 12.45pm. We used to pre-order one or two days in advance so that it was easy for the pub to serve us all together on time, but the new management wants us to try a new way of ordering, which started at our meeting on Wednesday 2nd March. We are asked to order at the bar on arrival, from a limited menu.

Everyone is welcome and it is a good way to learn about village history and keep up with village gossip! We try and sit in a quiet corner as several of us are hard of hearing – but we make an awful lot of noise!

Just turn up.

However, if you let me have your contact details, I can notify you of any changes in times or dates or extra events.

Bridget Dixon - Tel: 01909 772336
Email: bridgetdixon569@gmail.com

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**Latest News**

**Parish Street Sweep** - The street sweep undertaken by Blaggs Plant Hire in February seems to have been a great success and it is likely that we will be repeating it later in the year.

**Fracking** - A letter was received earlier in the year from INEOS Shale which has been issued with a licence to look for oil and gas below the ground, in a process sometimes called "fracking". Those licences cover large parts of South Yorkshire and the East Midlands and include this Parish. There is no suggestion at this stage that any exploration is planned in or near to Thorpe Salvin but the Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

**Mega Active Holiday Play Scheme**

- Mega Active holiday play schemes will be held in Harthill this year during the 2nd Easter week (Tuesday 29th March to Friday 1st April) and 2 weeks of the summer holidays (Monday 25th July to Thursday 28th July and Monday 15th August to Thursday 18th August)

For more details or to book, please ring 01709 536335 or visit the website.


**Sorby Field** - Further work will be done on Sorby Field during early spring. There is currently a large depression in the goalmouth of the football field which will be restored and re-turfed. Some upgrading of fencing will be completed and small repairs to play equipment.

**Back Lane Public Footpath** - The access gate to this footpath was recently upgraded to allow wheelchair access but has been closed for a period due to technical issues and the need for land owner permission. The RMBC Rights of Way team is confident that matters can be resolved soon and the gate will be open for spring.

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