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

As we write, the 2016 Garden Trail started just a week and five minutes ago. Or should have done. We have to assume it was the threat of another scorcher that ensured that Ron had taken £75 on the gate before we had even ‘opened for business’. But that doesn’t matter, as the event was in full swing so early, the weather was faultless and the atmosphere so perfect that no-one could possibly complain.

This year, we had 18 gardens open, which is the highest total we have had for many years and as ever, the comments from the visitors were complimentary from beginning to end. For once, we hadn’t been stressing about the threat of torrential rain for the week beforehand, and if anything, our concerns were about the high temperatures rather than rain – what a brilliant problem to have.

Kelsey and Mark Pearson had generously volunteered to host the Castle Café, serving afternoon teas and cakes – and boy did the cakes look good. (I didn’t get one sadly!) The Parish Oven was open for business and included afternoon tea in their offering and Manfredi’s did a roaring trade in ice cream. No-one went hungry or thirsty.

This article is primarily a ‘thank you’ to all those who helped make the weekend such a success, and the list below will hopefully include all those concerned:

To:
The garden openers
The organisers
The café organisers
The car parkers
The field owners and cutters
The sign and flier distributors
The sweepers
The money takers
The plant and bric-a-brac sellers
The church flower arrangers

As ever, we are grateful to Parkgate Mobility for not only loaning us the scooters, but for delivering them to us, and our thanks again go to RMBC for a timely and comprehensive street sweep that made such a difference to the village. It is always a turning point when the village has been swept, and people start to comment on how nice everything looks.

So the reason for everyone’s hard work… the weekend is a fund raiser, ensuring that we have sufficient funds to keep the village looking beautiful and well maintained, and this year, we have raised a bumper £3,500. This will be used to maintain the churchyard and the village and to pay for labour where it is required.

The week before the Garden Trail, the bank balance was down to a few hundred pounds, so this is a much welcome top-up to keep us going for another year.

As well as raising money for the village, there were a number of people working for various charities - selling plants, bric-a-brac or raffling a chocolate explosion. We’ve no idea how much was raised but well done to all those hard working and generous volunteers.

There will be a meeting to review the weekend, and see if anything needs to be changed for next year – this will be advertised in our e-bulletin and on the notice boards. Everyone is welcome… there is always a lot to do, and many hands do make light work.

And by the way – if we have missed anyone off, we apologise.

Johnathan Cobb
Chair, Thorpe in Bloom
Lesley Hayes
Secretary, Thorpe in Bloom

Thanks to Barbara Foster for the photos
Life on a Parish Council is far from dull; whilst not quite reaching the giddy heights of the events in J K Rowling’s book, The Casual Vacancy, even in our tiny Parish, we certainly see some interesting challenges. In the year 2015 – 2016, many of these challenges should probably be re-named frustrations, as we have spent much of our time dealing with local authorities and organisations that are increasingly impoverished.

Lesley Hayes, Chair, Thorpe Salvin Parish Council

**FINANCES**

Financially, we have had, what I would call, ‘a good year’. We achieved our budget, did everything we said we were going to do, and have set a precept for 2016 that has not been increased over the previous year. (It may not always be so!)

For the last few years, we have had to pay for Sorby Field to be mown, and the hedge to be cut. This contract has been with RMBC for the last three years, but a new contractor has undercut the price by £500, a price we couldn’t ignore. A shame to end the contract with RMBC, as we have developed an excellent working relationship with them, but £500 is a major saving.

**AMENITIES**

Again, we have spent a considerable percentage of our precept on Sorby Field, our biggest amenity, and similarly, the biggest drain on our finances. Some of the play equipment is getting old, and thanks to some clever negotiation, was updated at no cost when we purchased a new climbing frame. Other pieces may be reaching the end of their lives – we will maintain these as long as it is financially viable, but some tough decisions may need to be made in the future.

**SUCCESSES**

**Signage.** We have done well here: ice warnings; bus stops; and Stop / Give way signs – all have been dealt with as requested.

**Footpaths.** The long awaited footpath at the end of the driveway to Thorpe Hall was completed, and surfaced with non-slip material.

We also had a piece of pavement constructed the the junction of Common Road and Worksop Road, joining up two ‘loose ends’ and giving us a much safer footpath. Our thanks to RMBC for this work.

Thanks to the local landowner and again to RMBC, we have had a gate installed at the end of Footpath 2, allowing wheelchair access to the canal.

Each of these works was the suggestion of local residents – we really do welcome ideas like these – they make a difference to our environment for one or many. Please keep your ideas coming.

**Roads.** At last, Harthill Road has been resurfaced. We are now in the very fortunate position that Worksop Road; Ladyfield Road and Harthill Road have been resurfaced – an amazing achievement for a small rural community. Dog Kennel Hill is to be tackled next in the local road improvement schedule – fingers crossed that the appalling surface problems at the station will be included in this schedule.

**PLANNING**

The Parish Council is not opposed to development in the area. We oppose plans that will impact on the green belt or are inappropriate to our village setting, and we support those that will be an asset. All planning matters are taken very seriously, and discussed at length.

One of the major impacting issues this year was an approach from Lark Energy, a company proposing to build a very large solar farm on the southern edge of our Parish. A number of residents attended the meeting where Lark presented their proposals; and were extremely vociferous in presenting their opposition to the plan. To date, there has been no further communication from Lark Energy.

We were less successful in opposing a plan to extend the life of the wind turbines at Loscar, and RMBC granted permission for an extra three years electricity production at the site. It is always disappointing when the views of those impacted are seemingly ignored.

Some years ago, the barn on Common Road, near the livery stables, was converted to a house without planning permission. After numerous planning applications, appeals and court cases, this came to a head in late 2015 with a Supreme Court ruling. The Court upheld a Planning Inspector's decision that the building should be returned to its use as a barn and that the household fittings should be removed. The Parish Council has supported Rotherham MBC in resisting this attempt to diminish the Green Belt. As I update this piece for Thorpe Matters, however, a fresh planning application to convert the barn to a dwelling is under consideration. Once again, the Parish Council opposes it.

**JURY IS OUT...**

Parking at Kiveton Park Station. A number of residents have complained about the cars parked on Manor Road, and the potential dangers this brings. Earlier meetings have shown little interest from either RMBC or the South Yorkshire police, however, we had a joint meeting a few weeks ago, with a much more helpful attitude from both parties – it was just really unlucky that on the day we met, there were only three cars parked on Manor Road, and no real obstructions. We have taken an action to provide evidence of problems, and undertake a survey to find out whether the parkers are commuters, walkers or fishermen. Watch this space...
As ever in Thorpe Salvin, the role of Chair is made much easier by the others who take part in the life of the Parish Council. In no particular order, I would like to thank:

John O’Halloran, who has stood down this year, having been on the council for many years. Our thanks go to John for his efforts over the years.

Marilyn Johnson, who has taken over from John, and whose energy and enthusiasm are a great asset to our small group of volunteers.

Ian Daines, who has now taken over the role of Vice-Chair, and who looks after planning matters so diligently, understanding the minutiae of planning laws and guidelines that would possibly pass the rest of us by.

John Cox, who, like John O’H, has been on the council for many years. This is John’s last year on the Parish Council, and his knowledge has been a valuable asset, and will be missed when he does eventually retire.

Les Hutchinson, who has been on the Parish Council for over forty years, and who really does deserve a long service medal. But there are no such things, so I will just commend him for his local knowledge and thank him for his work over the years.

And last but not least... Les Wheatley, the Clerk to the Council, whose support and unceasing work on behalf of us all is very much appreciated.

Lesley Hayes, Chair

Use of re-cycling depots. The subject that has caused most angst among our residents is the decision by Nottinghamshire to stop non-Notts residents from using the re-cycling depot at Worksop. We tried to negotiate a solution, but unfortunately, Notts were unable to help, so we must use other facilities.

Fly tipping. This is getting worse, and at the time of writing, we are experiencing perhaps the most horrible form of littering, as someone is dropping bags of personal waste on the roadside. These bags are being hit by cars, and the contents (including some pretty revolting things) are being spread over our roads and into the grass verges. This has been happening on Back Lane for a number of weeks, but is now also happening in Shireoaks and Harthill. All I can ask is that if anyone can help us with identifying this really disgusting individual, please contact either the Clerk or any of the councillors.

RMBC Local Plan. We were asked to comment; repeat previous comments; include objections – all of which appears to have fallen on deaf ears. This is particularly irritating around Kiveton Park Station, where there are two controversial sites. We will be represented at the official hearings later this year.

One of our local councillors, Dominic Beck, holds quarterly surgeries in St Peter’s church, where anyone living in the Parish can discuss any matter confidentially. Our thanks go to Dominic for his continued support.

We held another litter pick – again, a number of volunteers walked the roads and verges, shifting tyres, bottles and at one spot, items of substance and drug abuse. Many thanks to all concerned, and to Brian Sanders at the Parish Oven, for having the skip on his car park, and for providing tea and coffee.

Talking of the Parish Oven… with the support of the manager, Brian Sanders, the Parish Council successfully applied to Rotherham MBC to have the Parish Oven listed as an ‘Asset of Community Value’. If Punch Taverns, the current owners, decide to sell the pub, they must pause for six months. In that time, a community group could be formed to buy the pub and keep it open.
The Luncheon Club has been running for several years now and recent gatherings have been very well attended. We meet regularly on the first Wednesday of the month at the Parish Oven, at 12 noon for a drink and then eat at around 12.45pm, ordering food on arrival. 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, or if you let me have your contact details, I can notify you of any changes in times or dates or extra events.

One new development is that we are currently considering forming a “proper” club with a constitution and bank account. This would allow us to raise funds from various grant schemes, enabling us to organise trips further afield and pay for transport and other help and support for members.

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

Community Speedwatch – This is soon to be active in the Parish. It is a locally driven initiative where members of the community join together with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. There are 4 volunteers in Thorpe Salvin and we await instruction from South Yorkshire Police.

Defibrillator - Purchase of a defibrillator for Thorpe Salvin is under consideration and this will be discussed at the September Parish Council meeting. Yorkshire Ambulance Service will also attend this meeting. We would appreciate any views on this.

Manor Road – We hope to have 4 verge planters installed near the noticeboard on Manor Road by this autumn. This follows discussions with RMBC and South Yorkshire Police and is intended as an anti-parking measure, in addition to bringing a bit of colour to the road. Discussions with RMBC over licensing are underway.

Mega Active Holiday Play Scheme – A Mega Active holiday play scheme will be held in Harthill this summer during the week Monday 15th August to Thursday 18th August.

For more details or to book, please ring 01709 536335 or visit the website. http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/act/megaactive?homepageID=9&page=event&event_id=1088

Sorby Field – the see-saw is currently being repaired.

Back Lane - Public Footpath No 2 - The access gate to this footpath which was recently upgraded to allow wheelchair access is now fully accessible.

Parish Council Meeting – The September meeting has been put back by one week to Monday September 19th due to holidays. 7pm at St. Peters. All welcome.

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, crime reports, 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.