

SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3: MARCH 2024

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you, and your family, all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year.

Our November meeting saw us reflect on one of our most ambitious projects, the Millennium Wood on Drummersdale Lane. One of the volunteer tree wardens kindly provided a presentation to councillors and members of the public on the origins and development of the Wood since the project was conceived over twenty-five years ago. I am pleased to say that the Wood continues to go from strength to strength - we will be celebrating the King's coronation by planting of a commemorative Silver Birch within the Wood.

Last year also saw the deployment of our new Speed Indicating Devices (SPID's) on Southport Road. Unlike our mobile, solar powered devices which are circulated around the Parish at regular intervals, these devices are fixed permanently in place to grab the attention of drivers passing through the parish between Ormskirk and Southport. I am pleased to say that feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many observing noticeable changes to motorists' speeds as they approach them.

Here at Scarisbrick Parish Council we are really looking forward to the coming year, with plenty of plans and projects in the pipeline to benefit the community. Our annual garden and scarecrow competitions will be held in the summer and I for one cannot wait to see what Parishioners have in store for our judges.

We currently have vacancies for new councillors to join us on the Parish Council. If you would like to join us or have any ideas for projects or other ways to benefit the parish, we would love for you to get involved. If you are interested or just want to have an informal chat, please contact us at scarisbrickpc@outlook.com and we will be delighted to talk further.

Best Wishes

Alex Blundell

Chairman

KEY DATES FOR 2024

Jan/Feb/Mar:	Parish Council Newsletter
7 th May:	Parish Council Annual Assembly
May/June:	Entry forms available for Parish Council Gardening and Scarecrow Competitions
2 nd June:	Civic Service - to be held at St Marks Church
27 th /28 th July	Judging of Parish Council Gardening Competition
27 th /28 th July	Judging for Parish Council Scarecrow Competition
Jul/Aug/Sep	Parish Council Newsletter
10 th Nov	Remembrance Sunday Service

SCARECROW COMPETITION

The summer of 2023 saw the launch of the Scarecrow Competition. The judges visited a number of wonderful scarecrows to assess them. The winners attended the September 2023 Parish council meeting where they were awarded a trophy and certificates.

The dates for the 2024 Scarecrow competition are included in the list of key dates (see above) and the Parish Council is hoping for lots of entries from residents .

GARDENING COMPETITION

The 2023 Gardening Competition was judged in July and, as with previous years, the standard was very high. The judges were very impressed and recognised the hard work that the entrants had put into the gardens.

The winners and runners up of each category were presented with their trophies and certificates at the September 2023 Parish Council meeting.

The dates for the 2024 Gardening Competition are include in the list of key dates (see above) and the Parish Council are looking forward receiving lots of entries.

THE CATEGORIES FOR THE 2024 COMPETITION WILL BE:

Best Front Garden

Best Rear Garden

Best Hanging Baskets / Window Boxes / Containers and Planters

Best entry from a non-prize winner in previous years

Best Mobile Home Garden

Best Water feature / Garden Pond

Best Vegetable Plot

Best Non-Domestic premises

PARISH SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SpiD's)

The two additional SpiD's are now fixed in place on Southport Road, one at the junction to Bullens Lane with the second located opposite Red Lion Caravans site. Data from these is provided below.

The two mobile SpiDs are rotated around the road network in Scarisbrick. These have been temporarily out of action as an upgrade was needed. However, this has now been completed and they are back in place and working.

Data from them will be reported in the next newsletter.

Data from fixed Southport Rd SpiDs is shown in the table below:

Southport Road/Red Lion Caravans Proximity Oct - Dec 2023			Southport Road/Bullens Lane Proximity Oct - Dec 2023		
<u>Average</u>	<u>Max Speed</u>	<u>Traffic Volume</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Max Speed</u>	<u>Traffic Volume</u>
In - 27mph	In - 66mph	In - 185,182	In - 24mph	In - 73mph	In - 145,227
Out - 26mph	Out - 72mph	Out - 149,500	Out - 24mph	Out - 82mph	Out - 137,033
Fastest recorded speed: 87mph			Fastest recorded speed: 82mph		

MILLENNIUM WOOD

The installation of bird boxes in Millennium Wood has been completed and we will shortly be installing another two seating benches.

The Council has been successful with an application for 30 free trees from the Woodland Trust. These will be planted in the Wood with some being used to replace trees that have been affected by ash dieback.

A silver birch tree has been planted to recognise the coronation of King Charles III.

Volunteers work hard to keep the Wood beautiful and open for public access. You can help by taking away all rubbish and dog waste with you. It is not fair or acceptable to leave bags of waste lying around or hanging on trees for somebody else to clear away and it is also very harmful for wildlife.

CONDITION OF SCARISBRICK ROADS

Residents are reporting issues with the current condition of our local roads.

Lancashire County Council (LCC) are responsible for the maintenance of highways across Lancashire and we would urge all concerned residents to report issues directly to LCC using their online system.

Further details are available at: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/>

SCARISBRICK FOOTPATHS

Scarisbrick is a large area with numerous public footpaths, unfortunately many of them have been neglected or have poor access. The Parish Council is not responsible for the upkeep of footpaths but can raise any issues with the local Council or the relevant landowners.

Some members of the council have volunteered their free time to walk and survey these footpaths. They will report the general state and overall accessibility of each to the Parish Council. This is a significant task which will take time to complete but it will enable required maintenance works to be reported to the local Council and landowners so that remedial action can be taken.

FLOODING

The Council has stocked the flood cupboards, located at St Elizabeth's presbytery and at St Marks Parish Hall. These contain modern (lightweight) sandbags in varying sizes.

In the event that there is a Met Office flood warning covering Scarisbrick the cupboards will be unlocked so that affected residents can collect sandbags from them.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks for the continued support of the newsletter volunteers who deliver the newsletter across the Parish.

If you have some spare time and would be interested in helping to deliver the newsletter to homes in your local area please email the Parish Clerk.

SCARISBRICK LITTER GROUP

Many thanks to the dedicated Scarisbrick Litter Group who can often be seen, sometimes in very bad weather, keeping the footpaths and roads free of rubbish.

If you would like to join the Group, please contact Mike on 07702564654

WEST LANCASHIRE DIAL-A-RIDE

West Lancashire Dial-a-Ride provides a valuable community car scheme which is staffed by volunteers and has been very successful in providing journeys for individual local residents, including transport to essential hospital appointments etc.

Unfortunately, some requests for car bookings are currently having to be turned down due to a lack of volunteers. The motoring costs of volunteers are fully refunded.

If you would like to volunteer to take part in the community car scheme, please contact West Lancashire Dial-a-Ride on 01704 893373.

SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Council has vacancies for 2 Parish Councillors. If you have a passion for Scarisbrick and would like to get involved with community projects, please contact the Parish Council Clerk for further information.

Your current Parish Councillors are:

Alex Blundell - (Chairman)

Chris Berks - (Vice-Chairman)

Nichola Makin

Jane Marshall

Charles Marshall

Allan Pickersgill

Stephen Roberts

George Pratt

Judith Smith - (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

If you have any comments on this newsletter or anything else about Scarisbrick,

please email us on: scarisbrickpc@outlook.com

or take a look at our website at: www.scarisbrick.today

and our Facebook page: Scarisbrick Parish Council

The Council website will be undergoing maintenance and updating during March and may be unavailable for short periods. We expect it to be fully functional by early April.

From 1st April 2024 the Council email address will be changing and details of this will be made available on the Home Page of the website as soon as possible.

SCARISBRICK SNIPPET

DID YOU KNOW?

In years gone by there were four smithies in Scarisbrick.

The ornate building on the corner of Smithy Lane and Southport Road was one of them. Horses were shod in the porch under the statues. The blacksmiths used to place clay pipes in the mouths of the statues. The field behind the Smithy had a sandstone wall and people used to take the sandstone to clean their stone floors with.