



# DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL *Newsletter*



Issue No. 39 Autumn 2014

[www.denbydale.com](http://www.denbydale.com)

## ELECTION SPECIAL!

Denby Dale Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government in the area comprising Emley, Skelmanthorpe, Denby Dale, Cumberworth, Scissett, Clayton West, Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts.

To some people their image of Parish Council might be forged from watching episodes of the Vicar of Dibley but the reality is somewhat different. Denby Dale Parish Council comprises 20 elected councillors including a Chairman and Vice Chairman who are elected by the other councillors each year at the Council's Annual Meeting. The Council employs a part time clerk operating from the council office in Skelmanthorpe and each year precepts a sum in the order of £160,000 which is then spent within the Council's area. The Council has very wide statutory powers and some of the projects it has undertaken in recent times include the restoration of paths, the installation of litter bins, the making of grants to schools, sports clubs, other community groups and support to the development of the new Denby Dale community facility on the site of the current library. The council supports the Denby Dale Countryside Officer by contributing half the employment costs along with the contribution from Kirklees council.

The councillors are unpaid local volunteers who have an interest in the matters that come before the council in relation to the areas they represent. The council has two standing committees the Finance and General Purpose Committee and the Plans Scrutiny Committee each made up of elected councillors.

Elections to the council take place every four years. The next elections will take place in 2015 and the purpose of this note is to raise awareness within the local community of this and to invite anyone who may be interested in seeking election to the council to make contact with the clerk for further information about the council and the process for seeking election.

If you may be interested in supporting the local community by seeking election then please do feel free to come along to one or more of the meetings, visit the web site at [www.Denbydale.com](http://www.Denbydale.com) or contact the clerk on Tel: 01484 222963 during office hours.

## LIBRARY NEWS

A public meeting was held by Cllr Graham Turner and members of Kirklees library staff in the Savoy Youth and Community Centre in Skelmanthorpe on the 21st of August to bring residents up to date on Kirklees Council's budget proposals for the next three years and how they could impact on the library in Skelmanthorpe. Around 80 people attended the meeting with a significant number expressing an interest in helping at looking at ways to secure the future of the library service in the village.

Cllr Turner said it was a very positive start to looking at how we can with the help of the residents of the village provide a library service in the village in the face of the cuts in the Councils budget.

A follow up meeting has been organised for the 24<sup>th</sup> of September and a report on this meeting will be in our next newsletter as this newsletter went to print before the meeting.

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL BUDGET NEWS

Kirklees Council released its spending proposals for the next 3 years in mid-August. The early release of these proposals is to enable residents to look at the proposals and to comment on them. These can be viewed on line at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015).

The first round of public consultations has come to an end but further opportunities to comment will become available later in the autumn.

The level of the cuts means that no one will be immune from their effects as we are seeing with the threats to our libraries etc. The Parish Council is working hard with Ward Councillors and Kirklees Council to find ways of protecting local services during these difficult times.

## PARISH COUNCILLOR

It was with much sadness that the Parish Council learnt of the sudden death of Cllr Rob Pickford in September. Rob was a parish councillor from 2011, when he was elected. He was a much respected member of the council and will be very much missed.

## FRIENDS OF EAST HILL WOODS GROUP by Scott Harvey ~ Chairman

"We first learned about the woods from a flyer pushed through our door earlier this year. The flyer gave some basic information and asked for volunteers to set up a conservation group to help maintain and improve the woods. A meeting was proposed which we could not attend due to work commitments.

We decided to attend a meeting as we had a few spare hours and learned that the woods had been adopted as part of a land deal done over 10 years earlier with Jones Homes and Kirklees Council. Andy Wickham (Countryside Officer for Denby Dale) gave us a quick tour of the woods and chaired the meeting about setting up a 'friends of East Hill Woods group'.

Over the next month a few tasks were carried out in the woods which were well attended by volunteers from the village and also from another local group, 10 villages. The tasks involved improving access to the woods by clearing the paths and removing some young trees which had sprang up around the entrance. Holly and thorns were cut back and the place given a general tidy. We also tackled the very overgrown path running down from the station into the village past the woods.

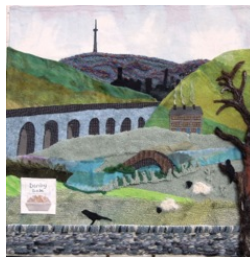


East Hill Woods Volunteers

As a group we had to open a bank account and I decided to get a website up and running to help promote the group and get more volunteers. The website is at [www.easthillwoods.org.uk](http://www.easthillwoods.org.uk) and we also have a facebook page. The website gives details of future tasks and also has all the information that people need to become a volunteer. We welcome everyone to help and no regular commitment is needed. We plan to improve the paths in the wood, put some seating in and also develop a family area just above the woods that is currently overgrown with nettles and brambles.

Andy has been a great help and while it has been quite time consuming this summer – it has also been very rewarding. We are all keen to get on improving the woods over the coming years for the benefit of the village and the more people that we can enlist – the better the end result will be. So, no matter what experience you have, please come along and lend a hand. It's a great chance to meet some local people. We had some great help from local kids on the last task collecting all the litter that commuters had dropped on their way into the village. If you want more info please email me – [scott@easthillwoods.org.uk](mailto:scott@easthillwoods.org.uk) and hopefully see you at the next task!"

## WALKERS ARE WELCOME



This beautiful fabric collage panel illustrating our area was produced by local crafty ladies as the Denby Dale square of the national Walkers are Welcome quilt.

## DENBY DALE COMMUNITY PROJECT



The Denby Dale Project continues to progress across many strands, the Library Volunteers are continuing to do a terrific job and we have received back many positive comments from them. We now have two large funding applications in the pipeline together with a further nine applications for smaller amounts. We have produced a comprehensive and robust business plan which will be submitted to Kirklees Council in October. We have reached an agreement with Kirklees Council regarding the Asset Transfer of the building together with a Heads of Terms Agreement. We went out to tender to five developers in July and now have a nominated local developer ready to commence work in the new year. Although we have a strong dedicated team with a variety of skills, we still need volunteers to help us bring this ambitious project to fruition. Please contact us either via our website [www.DDCP.Org](http://www.DDCP.Org) or Tel: 07976 194141.

## SKELMANTHORPE LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTRE

**\*\*FAMILY LEARNING FESTIVAL\*\*** "Out Of This World" space themed activities for all the family, October half term 27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> October, drop in sessions.

**\*\*COMPUTER CLASSES\*\*** courses include - intro to IT, creative IT, digital photography and camera techniques. Call 01924 453502 for further information.

**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU** – Wednesdays 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> October 10-1pm BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, please ring the appointment line on 01484 451381. Telephone advice can be obtained from the CAB by calling: 0844 848 7970

**RHYMETIME FOR THE UNDER 5'S** – Every Thursday in term time, 2.15 – 2.45 with refreshments available afterwards.

**JOB CENTRE PLUS ADVICE SESSIONS** – drop in sessions on Thursdays 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> October between 9.30 – 12.00 for advice on benefit entitlement, pensions and looking for work.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM SURGERY** – drop in session Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 10-11am.

**KNH HOUSING SURGERY** –every Thursday 9.30-12noon, drop in session.

**CRAFT GROUP**- meets every Wednesday 2-3pm, all welcome, come and share your skills over a cuppa and a chat. Refreshments are provided.

**\*\*NEW\*\*COFFEE MORNINGS – NOW TWICE WEEKLY** – MONDAY & THURSDAY 9.30-12.00  
Library opening times; **Monday & Wednesday 9.30 – 7.00, Thursday & Friday 9.30 – 5.00 Saturday 9.30 – 12.30. CLOSED Tuesday**