



# DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL Newsletter



Issue No. 44 Summer 2016

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

## SKELMANTHORPE COUNCIL OFFICES



After many months of hard work by the Parish Council and Kirklees officers the ownership of the Skelmanthorpe Council offices has been passed from Kirklees to the Parish Council.

The transfer took longer than expected, but many lessons were learned by both parties.

This is the first asset transfer carried out by Kirklees to a Parish Council, and could be the first of several.

The Parish Council will now look at ways of making the building in to a real community asset, if anyone is interested in using the space now available, or ideas how to use the building then please contact the Clerk in the first instance. *Cllr G Turner*

### The Savoy

The Savoy Youth Club based in Skelmanthorpe, is looking for adult volunteers to help out on club evenings, as it has more people wishing to attend than the current staff can cope with. This is a really nice problem to have, but more young people could attend if more people could offer some support. If you are interested please contact the club direct at the Savoy or young people's services at Kirklees.

### NEW CHAIRMAN



Following the recent Annual Council Meeting, Denby Dale Parish councillors elected Clayton West resident Cllr Billy Jewitt as the new Chairman of the Council for the forthcoming year.

The new Vice Chair of the council is Cllr Janet Depledge, a resident of Denby Dale.

*Former Chairman Cllr John Cook  
congratulating new Chairman, Cllr Billy Jewitt*

### ANNIVERSARY OF DUNBLANE TRAGEDY

Twenty years ago, the residents of Dunblane asked people to remember their murdered children, and their teacher, by planting trees. Local residents and businesses donated trees, and volunteers, many of them parents of similar-aged children, planted them in the grounds of Gilthwaites First School. To mark the twentieth anniversary, governors at the school agreed to the erection of a plaque, recently unveiled in the presence of teachers, pupils and several of our parish councillors. Cllr Neil Denby is pictured below with a group of the children.



### CHARTER OF THE FOREST

In summer 2015 the Woodland Trust put out an invitation for organisations from across the conservation, environmental, business and social sectors to join a call for a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People. The ambition is to put trees back at the heart of our lives, communities and decision making - where they belong.

I took up the invitation to become a 'Charter Champion' and asked the Parish Council to approve the designation of Denby Dale Parish as a Charter Branch. This in no way affects the autonomy of any of the woodland and conservation groups in the area but, hopefully, provides a further source for project funding, to encourage volunteers and, via the Woodland Trust, a source of free trees and advice.

The Charter's website is at <https://treecharter.uk> and there are currently grants available to Charter Groups (application forms at <https://treecharter.uk/charter-champion-resources>).

There are many established woodland and environmental groups in our area, along with the Denby Dale Parish Environment Trust, who I hope, will want to support the Charter. *Cllr N Denby*

## INTRODUCING THE NEW COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

Many of you know that Andy Wickham has now left his post with Denby Dale Parish Council to pursue his new role at Kirklees Council as the Volunteer Co-ordinator for Rural Kirklees. We at the council will miss Andy and would like to extend our thanks for all his hard work which raised the profile of volunteer working in this Ward. We will still be liaising with him, however, through our newly appointed Countryside Officer, David Wilde. David has extensive experience of working with volunteer groups, schools and most recently with the RSPB.



*New Countryside Officer Dave Wilde*

The Cliff woods group in Clayton West are currently carrying out a large amount of work, in and around the woods, and would like a local builder or similar who has access to heavy machinery to help them out with some of the larger tasks, if you can help please contact the Parish Council countryside officer or pop along to the woods and have a chat with them when they are working on site.

## SKELMANTHORPE TEXTILE HERITAGE CENTRE WINS HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND SUPPORT



The Skelmanthorpe Textile Heritage Centre has received £92,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project to promote and preserve a weaver's cottage in Skelmanthorpe, near Huddersfield. The project, managed by volunteers from the local community, began as a personal passion of local historian, Leslie Robinson, and highlights the tradition of handloom weaving.

Thanks to National Lottery players, the centre and its historic collection will be preserved, and enhanced educational activities and resources will be created to tell this important part of Skelmanthorpe's history.

Downstairs in the 'one-up one-down' weaver's cottage are family living-quarters, which have been maintained and furnished as they would have been c1900. Upstairs is an authentic handloom, in working condition, along with fascinating displays and artefacts linked to the rich textile heritage of the area.

Skelmanthorpe was once a thriving textile village, which supported about 200 handloom weavers.

To contact the Parish Council, email [denbydaleparishcouncil@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:denbydaleparishcouncil@kirklees.gov.uk) or phone the Clerk on 01484 222963. Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Handloom weaving lasted into the 20th century, and the building remained a weaver's cottage until 1921. It now remains as the sole testimony to the handloom weaver's skill in this area. *Cllr R Brook*

## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016

Summary of accounts 2015-2016	
Precept (Parish Council portion of Council Tax)	£189,170.00
Refund of VAT	£3,052.35
Other items (grants received, refunds, bank interest)	£996.20
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£193,218.55</b>
General running costs	
Administration including authorised travel costs, employment, insurance, office equipment, postage, stationery, telephone/internet	£30,113.14
Civic Governance costs	
Audit fees, conferences, training, civic functions, subscriptions and election expenses	£5,207.44
Public Information	
Advertisements, annual report, newsletter, noticeboards and website	£2,507.50
Grants	
Small grants, school grants, Environment Trust and community grants	£44,495.72
Parish Projects	
Countryside Project	£25,000.00
Christmas trees, hanging baskets and poppy wreaths	£7,280.00
Restoration of phone boxes and purchase of litter bins & dog bags	£2,486.30
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£117,090.10</b>

The full Annual Report 2015–2016 is available from the Clerk and on our website: [www.denbydale.com](http://www.denbydale.com)

## Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacon Event

Outgoing Chairman Cllr John Cook happily accepted an invitation to light the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacon by the Emley Green Millennium Trust, an event supported by the parish council.



Volunteer PCSOs and their Senior were in attendance, and all commented what a lovely event it was to attend. They made a great impression on the public with one little boy wanting to sign up that night for the police force! The weather was very kind and made for some wonderful photographs against the setting sun, highlighting the Beacon with the Mast in the background. *Cllr P Kemp*