

Go Walking- follow the Leaflet!

This year Covid-19 has put a stop to the usual annual **Autumn Footprints Amber Valley & Erewash Walking Festival** which normally would consist of a range of guided walks led by local knowledgeable volunteers over sixteen days in September. However, with Covid-19 restrictions this has had to be revised and there will be no led/guided walks. Instead there is a collection of previously produced walk leaflets on the website for you to enjoy in your own family/friends group – obviously observing strict social distancing guidance. We hope that you will be able to discover what wonderful walks there are in Amber Valley and Erewash in the heart of picturesque Derbyshire. Both boroughs are well known for their natural beauty, superb scenery, industrial heritage and attractive towns and villages and each have extensive ranges of countryside walks leaflets, created in partnership with Groundwork. Please note the leaflets have been produced over the last 20 years, therefore it may be that there are some public houses and cafes that are no longer in existence and some sections of the paths are narrow. To download the leaflets, log onto www.autumnfootprints.co.uk. Walking Festival Co-ordinator Marion Farrell from Groundwork, said: “Do download a leaflet from our website and get out and enjoy a local walk in beautiful Derbyshire. Walking is a great way to lighten your mood and get fitter”

The Parish Council

Following the recent letter written by a resident about a current planning application and delivered to all households, the Parish Council would like to emphasise that it is NOT at all political but is a group of volunteers who live in the village working together for the benefit of all parishioners. By working together we will ensure that Mapperley remains a good place to live. It is disappointing that hardly any members of the public attend the bi-monthly meetings in order to bring to the parish council's attention matters that require attention. It would be good to have some company at the next meeting which is to be held (hopefully) on **Monday, 2 November** commencing at 7.15pm. Alternatively, please get in touch with either the Clerk or any of the councillors: Mathew Slack, Alison Quinn, Andrew Quinn, Dave Morgan, Jeremy Williams and Jenna Michou.

Items on the radar

There are several items which still need addressing and which we are keeping a close eye on, the main ones being the undergrowth on Mapperley Lane footpaths, parking and the speeding vehicles.

Mapperley Parish News

Welcome to the latest edition of the Parish Council's newsletter. If you need to get in touch for any reason, please contact Sue, the Clerk on 07541 737496. If she is unable to answer, please leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as she can. Alternatively drop her a message on the new email address contact@mapperleyparishcouncil.org.uk

We are sure you will agree that the past six months have been very strange for all of us with the lockdown and the need for some residents to self-isolate or shield. It is times like this that communities come together and the Parish Council was delighted with the way that people went out of their way to help each other, often someone they have never met or spoken to before.

It has also been difficult for the Parish Council to meet as physical meetings were unable to be held. We were, however, able to discuss issues 'electronically' in order to deal with some of the issues that needed to be attended to. However, we were pleased to be able to meet last month with all guidelines being followed with social distancing, sanitising etc. We thank Holy Trinity Church for allowing the meeting to be held at the Church. Let's hope that we will soon be able to get back some kind of normality!

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At the last meeting...

The Chairman, Councillor Mathew Slack, reported on positive feedback he had received from residents in relation to the lockdown newsletter and thanks were recorded to the volunteers who had delivered to every household in the parish. It was pleasing to note that everyone had pulled together in the village and it was good to know that the members of the community were watching out for their neighbours. The Parish Council was happy to make a donation towards the West Hallam Foodbank organised at the Methodist Church. Although it appears that residents of Mapperley did not require this assistance, it was good to know that again the community can work together in times of hardship.

It was generally felt that the area had been more peaceful with the access route to the park closed, although there had been some difficulty over additional parking in the village. The police had been monitoring the parking but it was felt that it would have been more beneficial if their visits were later in the day rather than midday which is still happening. The Clerk will be collating reports from their website for the village and the surrounding area, as crime in the surrounding neighbourhoods should be noted.

Shipley Park

Following a Radio Derby interview with County Councillor Simon Spencer, the Parish Council contacted him to explain its concerns and the problems which have been experienced for almost two years with the anti-social behaviour and speeding cars. A response from the County Council has now been received confirming that they are working with the police on these issues with increased foot patrols in the spring and early summer. They agree that the car borne activity has increased with the two car parks being the focus of late night activity and officers have begun looking at what measures were able to be taken to address the problem. They are concerned that any major change to the Park's operation by restricting the use of car parks will curb anti-social behaviour but will undoubtedly impact on legitimate users (horse riders, dog walkers, fishing club members, tenants etc.). Any proposals need to be carefully considered and any decision to implement any restrictions would need consultation with a range of stakeholders including Parish Councils and the local community.

Dog Fouling and litter pick

It has been noticed over the past few weeks that dog fouling is occurring on Main Street leading to the Recreation Ground and on the Ground itself. This is not only unsightly but is a hazard to people's health, particularly children playing on the play area. Could we please ask dog owners to pick up after your pet and help to keep the village a pleasant, welcoming and safe area to be. The Borough Council has been notified and more patrols will be carried out and signage erected. Thank you. It is hoped to arrange a community litter pick once restrictions are lifted.

Play Area

The parish council is exploring the possibility of updating the play equipment on the recreation ground. Proposals and quotations are being sought and once these are received and consultation taken place, a bid will be submitted for a grant from the Big Lottery.



We will remember them

Although the Remembrance Day parades in neighbouring towns and villages have been cancelled, a wreath will be laid by the Chairman, Councillor Mathew Slack, on Sunday, 8 November on behalf of the Parish. Lamp post poppies will once again be attached to the lamp posts near to the Church.



Christmas Lights

It was originally hoped that the Christmas lights in the village would also be updated this year with a community switch on event being held at the end of November. Unfortunately, this will be impossible to arrange owing to the pandemic restrictions but the Parish Council is pleased to report that new lights will still be installed.

News from Holy Trinity Church, Mapperley

'Covid safe' worship is taking place at Holy Trinity Church, Mapperley on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 9.30am and you are invited. This is a service of Holy Communion- although you are not obliged to participate in this. Services are also continuing online and these will include a special Advent experience, which will be uploaded to the WSSM Benefice You Tube channel by the end of November. Links can be found on our website –wssm.org.uk, on our Facebook page and in the weekly church newsletters. Grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed to the cost of the care of the churchyard – which has been difficult for the community payback team this year as they have had to make their own way so numbers have been less, although they have been coming every week. The churchyard is looking good again. A further energy efficiency improvement is planned for the church building. This will be the installation of a warm air curtain over the inner entrance doors. This will greet everyone with warm air and also counteract the cold downward draught of air from the large window in the gable over the front doors.

Please be on your guard...

We have been informed that a caravan was stolen during the early hours of Saturday (17th). Please make sure that your belongings are secure such as sheds and garages especially now that the nights are getting darker.