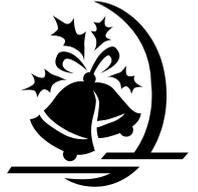


Wishing You A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Remembrance Sunday 9 November 2014

A Service attended by about 300 people led by Revd. Neil Redeyoff to remember the fallen was held at Blaxton War Memorial. Wreaths were laid by representatives from the Guides, Scouts, Cubs, Police, Lions, the Armed Forces and the Parish Council.

After the Remembrance a procession made its way to Finningley Parish Church where a Service was held.

War Memorial

Last year our Chair and Clerk were walking past the Memorial and Philip said "Wouldn't it look nice illuminated at night". It was a throw away remark that snowballed. The Parish Council agreed and two spotlights were installed. The Parish Council thinks it looks very nice and we hope that you do too!

Doncaster Council - Neighbourhood Services

A few years ago DMBC set up a Neighbourhood Services Department. Amongst other things its function was to support the work of Parish Councils to keep the villages nice. Over time this has lapsed due mainly to budget cuts and government priority changes. The Parish Council feels that the Neighbourhood Service has gone in the wrong direction.

It is now concentrating on things like getting Doncaster walking, cycling, armchair exercises, luncheon clubs, cancer buddies and spotting dementia which are all worthy activities. However, the Parish Council feels that they should be performed by the Police, Social Services and Health Services and not at the cost of a neighbourhood service for the community.

Local issues raised by residents with the Parish Council are often not progressed without much chasing up. Little or no feedback on issues raised is received from DMBC. Feedback from residents who have raised issues directly with DMBC is that they experience these difficulties too.

The Parish Council has been involved in meetings with DMBC Managers but there has been little improvement in dealing with issues raised.

The Parish Council will not let this drop. Our Chair, Norma McCarron, is a member of the DMBC Parish Councils' Joint Consultative Committee which includes representatives from DMBC and other Parish Councils who will not allow this matter to be dropped.

Road Works - Blaxton Roundabout, Bank End Road and Thorne Road

The road works during August and September caused quite an upheaval. Parish Councillors raised issues about the works at a site meeting with DMBC representatives including the management of the works, their impact on the community and the suitability of some of the work. However, overall the end result is a good job and the roundabout is a lot tidier. We hope that the surface wears better than the last one.

Proud of Our Village? Yes We Are!

But, over the last few years a number of hedgerows have become overgrown. Robin Hood Airport has been reminded for many years about the need to regularly cut back the hedge on Station

Road from opposite the Post Office towards the level crossing. As the Council's Representative on the Airport Consultative Committee the Chair has battled with the Airport on this issue. A few weeks ago we thought we had won but, only half of the hedge has been cut back! And so, the battle will continue. If you are responsible for a large hedge would you consider cutting it back please? They are mainly down Station Road and Mosham Road. Thank you.

Street Furniture

Over the past two years a number of seats have been installed around the village for the benefit of our residents and passers-by, bringing the total number of seats to eleven. These are also well used by cyclists passing through the village. Litter and dog bins have also been installed to keep our footpaths clean and we hope they will be well used.

The three planters on the verges around the roundabout were full of flowers in the summer months. They have now been filled with winter flowers and shrubs. We had to move the one which was outside the Blue Bell because it kept getting turned over which was a shame.

New Convenience Shop and Post Office

We were sorry that Bridget Clark decided to retire from Finningley Post Office after many years of service to the local community by Bridget and Alan, her late husband, and Bridget's parents before them. However, we are pleased that the Post Office, taken on by Mr Sukhvinder Bahra, has been developed into a Convenience Store which has been well used by the Blaxton and Finningley communities since opening in September 2014.

Blaxton and Finningley Playing Field

The Joint Playing Field Association has embarked upon a major project to build a Pavilion on the Joint Playing Field. The Pavilion will be paid for by Section 106 Funds received from developers to offset the impact of developments in the area. This money is received and held by DMBC and can only be used within the terms of the 'Section 106 Agreement'. The project has the support of both Parish Councils although there are no plans for the Parish Councils to contribute any funding.

Blaxton Playing Field - New Equipment

A new large piece of climbing equipment was installed on the field in March 2014 and the Council is hoping to install four pieces of small equipment for very young children in the near future. In addition to replacing and maintaining the equipment on the field the Council maintains the grassed areas, fencing, trees and hedges.

Village Hall

Blaxton has had a Village Hall since the early 1950's. The villagers raised money through numerous fundraising events and bought a garage from George Auckland (Snr.), which was then transformed into the Village Hall. It has been a focal point of the village ever since. Numerous villagers have served on the committee over the years and the Village Hall has undergone several renovations.

The present committee are continuing the good work and ensuring that the Village Hall is a welcoming environment for many clubs and activities, which cater for all ages. A list of activities is shown on the notice board outside the Village Hall.

During the past few months the Village Hall Committee has approved a number of improvement projects; new lighting, new fire alarm system, improvements to the road surface on Back Lane,

re-decoration of the main hall and new curtains. Currently the roof at the rear of the hall is undergoing essential repairs. Lettings are good. The Parish Council wishes to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and prudent management of the hall.

The Village Hall is available for hire at a very reasonable £7.50 per hour. Enquiries about bookings can be made via Sue Mason; 01302 770400

Parish Council Website

We have a very new Website. The address is www.blaxtonpc.org.uk and the site is still being developed. Have a look and let us know what you think - it will help us to develop the site into a useful information source for the community. Please email the Clerk if you would like to be kept up to date as the site is developed.

Useful Numbers

DMBC Customer Services (all enquiries and complaints) 01302 736000

DMBC Noise Nuisance Team 01302 737573

Environment Agency (smells/other environmental concerns) 0800 807060

Police (non-urgent matters) 101

Airport Noise Complaints 01302 623499

Parish Council Contacts

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The Parish Council meets every third Thursday of the month, except in August and December.

Anyone can attend meetings and members of the public can raise issues with the Council during the first 15 minutes of the meeting.