



TRINITY HALL BESTHORPE

Besthorpe Parish Meeting Newsletter 2020

Hello to everyone in the village! When I prepared the first draft of this newsletter its main purpose was to invite you to our Annual General Meeting in May. Events have so overtaken this that it is no longer possible to set a date and the AGM is more likely to be held after the summer. So, what follows is partly NEWS and, more importantly, an APPEAL FOR HELP.

At present we all clearly face a most serious set of circumstances. A group of us have agreed to do our best to co-ordinate Besthorpe's response to the coronavirus emergency. The situation changes daily and it is therefore problematic to state precisely how any support will be arranged but, rest assured, we will try our hardest. I realise from contacts and the Besthorpe (Notts) Village Community Group Facebook Page that there are already people offering to help, for example collection/delivery of prescriptions from Collingham pharmacy.

We need both potential helpers and those in need of support to contact one of the following:

Sam Gorin	besthorpechair@gmail.com
Mandy Smith	besthorpeclerk@gmail.com
Karen Grundy	trinityhallbesthorpe@yahoo.co.uk
Sue Butler	suebutler@gmx.co.uk 892068
Ali Wyatt	wyatt.ali@yahoo.co.uk 07941805596 893055 Ali can collect newspapers from Co-op and run other errands

Quick review of the highlights of our activity in Besthorpe 2018-2020:

- Playing field – excellent new play equipment enjoyed by lots of children and their families
- MUGA – professionally cleaned, moss killed, new nets. Renovation to be completed this spring
- Trent Vale Trail to Collingham – opening soon. 'A family friendly route for walkers, cyclists, wheelchairs and pushchairs through the amazing wetland area between Collingham and Besthorpe'
- Playing field – 30 new trees planted (donated by Newark and Sherwood District Council), grass cut, wild-flower meadow maintained, hedges trimmed, Waddington Lane ditch cleared – a big responsibility for a little village but it all looks good!
- New noticeboard outside Trinity Hall for all village business – commissioned from Men in Sheds at Collingham
- Local Improvement Scheme – new A1133 sign to Nature Reserve
- Village land assets (playing field and large meadow on A1133) registered at Land Registry; next phase – small field off Church Lane towards S. Scarle and Millennium Wood

You can see that a lot has gone on to enhance our village and make it a pleasant place to live. Notts County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council expect that we will organise ourselves and take responsibility for the upkeep and well-being of the village. To that end we set a precept to provide us with sufficient funds – you'll have seen it in your recent Council Tax statement. At the AGM we elect a Chair, Clerk and Treasurer as the committee to work on your behalf. Others contribute their time and energy for specific elements of village life. All these people work on a purely voluntary basis.

When I took over as Chair from Steve Jones in 2017 I agreed to do so as a temporary measure and I was persuaded to continue last year particularly to follow through on our land registration agenda. I had decided that 3 years was enough of a temporary fill-in role and as a result I will be giving up the Chair at the AGM. I think it is time for a younger and more energetic person to hold this position but I will of course be willing to offer whatever support the new Chair requires to enable continuity.

Much of what goes on is the well-established and regular business of a Parish Meeting. As such Besthorpe has run its affairs efficiently and effectively with a variety of officers during the 45 years Sally and I have lived here. Many of you have moved here more recently and I sincerely believe you should have the opportunity to take the reins and move our community into the 21st century.

Two aspects of village life currently in need of development:--

Firstly, Cllr Maureen Dobson, who works extremely hard behind the scenes for Besthorpe and her other villages, has determined to establish a network of flood wardens who can be available if we suffer climatic events such as we saw last month. These volunteers will be able to offer support and assurance to our community but they do need to be young and fit as the work could involve sandbags!

Secondly, it's really important that the work put into the re-development of Trinity Hall a few years ago is finally rewarded by it being brought into use as the hub of our community. Some of you may not realise that what we created were two community rooms, one large and one small, along with a kitchen and fully accessible facilities. Either or both rooms can be hired out by individuals or families for functions and there is genuinely untapped potential on your doorstep for get-togethers or parties. Equally the village has hosted meals, films and concerts but for these to succeed it requires some people willing to take responsibility for their organisation.

Finally I wish to thank Mandy Smith and Karen Grundy for their support as clerk and treasurer respectively. They have both gone about their tasks quietly and efficiently and we have hopefully done what people called upon us to do. Others have helped with the Trinity Hall Committee.

Sam Gorin Chair of Besthorpe Parish Meeting