

SOMERCOTES Local!

News, events and local interest.

Spring Edition 2012
www.somercotesparishcouncil.co.uk

A Somercotes Parish Council newsletter

IN Memory OF JAMES WALTER SPIBEY

Councillor Jim Spibey passed away on 26th December, 2011, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He had celebrated his 80th birthday in August 2011. Jim was a Parish Councillor for 25 years and always took a great interest in the parish. He represented the Parish Council at the unveiling of the Sherwood Foresters Western Front Memorial at Ypres in Belgium in October 2009, making the journey with his daughter, Elaine, at his own expense.

Jim was a keen and knowledgeable gardener, and his garden always looked beautiful. He also loved growing his own vegetables as he always said they taste so much better. He enjoyed visiting the Shrewsbury and Harrogate flower shows, and he visited Shrewsbury with family and friends last year.

Jim was born in Alfreton and became a milkman after leaving school aged 14, and then started working for British Railways and became an engine driver, driving steam trains at first, then diesel engines. He was called up to do his National Service in Cologne, Germany, serving in the Royal Medical Corps, and on completion of his service he returned to the railway until his retirement.

He married Hilda Burnham of Somercotes and they were married for 55 years until Hilda's death in February 2008. In later years, Jim and Hilda became keen ballroom dancers, and spent a great deal of time at dances, and also practising at home. Jim continued dancing after Hilda's death, right up until his illness.

Jim leaves a daughter, Elaine and her husband Steve, and their daughter, Leanne, who was married on 14th January to Dave. He also leaves a son, David, and his wife Sue.

Elaine told us that "Dad was always on the go, gardening, dancing, cooking, baking cakes, and his famous coconut tarts and beetroot chutney. He loved to spend time at Whitby with the family and especially walking on the beach with Maddie, our shared family dog.

He enjoyed watching sport, mainly football, cricket, darts and snooker. He was interested in wild life and history programmes, and could converse on most subjects. He was very well travelled, having spent holidays in Germany, Italy and Austria to name but a few. He supported charities, and donations of £867 have been sent to the Air Ambulance in lieu of flowers, as he had requested. He was thoughtful, kind, and a true gentleman, and I was proud to have him as my father."



Jim and Elaine at Tyne Cot Memorial Cemetery

Councillor Paul Smith, Chairman of Somercotes Parish Council, said "Since I joined the Council in 1996, I have always found Jim to be a very helpful and able member of the Parish Council, always willing to help. He will be greatly missed by fellow Councillors, Council staff and the community of Somercotes."

Baden Powell Challenge Award for Heather

1st Somercotes Guide Heather Beal was presented with her Baden Powell Challenge award by Councillor Paul Smith and veteran Guider Barbara Osbourne at the Somercotes Parish Council Carol Service held at St. Thomas' Church on Friday, 9th December, 2011. The award is the highest a Girl Guide can gain in the Guide section. Heather completed challenges



Heather receiving her award

relating to global awareness, celebrating diversity, healthy lifestyles, relationships, skills and discovery. She then attended an adventure weekend, together with Guides from around the county, where they made new friends, tried new activities and celebrated their achievement. Gaining the award is personally challenging and involves a sustained effort over a period of time. Heather has been joined in achieving the award by Emily Priest and Morgan Metheringham. Well done to you all!

Somercotes
PARISH HALL



Available for Weddings, Dances,
Parties etc. Hall or Lounge available

Use of kitchen (by arrangement) included in hire cost

Licensed Bar available • Ample car parking available

We cannot take bookings for 18th Birthday Parties
Somercotes Parish Hall, Nottingham Road, Somercotes DE55 4LY

Tel: 01773 609397



New Scout Leader for Somercotes

Paul Williams started in September 2011 as the new Scout Group Leader for the area. He has recently launched an additional cub pack (for ages 8 to 10.1/2) and there are still a few places available. He has also launched a new Scouts group (10-14) and a Young Leaders' programme.

He is planning lots of outside adventurous activities from archery and fencing to camping expeditions, environmental work, urban sports (skateboarding, freebasing). Two expeditions are being planned – to Europe and to Nepal.

Paul has lived in Amber Valley all his life except for a few years travelling. You can contact him on 07722 323129 when he will be happy to provide more details.

In the next newsletter we will be bringing you up to date with the activities of the Somercotes Cubs, Beavers and Scouts.

Somercotes Choral Society Celebrated their Diamond Anniversary in 2011

The original choir was formed in September 1951 by the late Wilfred Clarke, who had a distinguished career as a singer and voice coach. His son, Jeff, has been a member of the choir for many years. There were originally 20 members, and by 1974 the choir had grown to more than 60 singers. Their next production will be "A Musical Century" on Saturday, 28th April, 2012, at South Normanton Post Mill Centre.



If you would like to sing with them, the Choral Society rehearses at Swanwick School and Sports College (formerly the Delves) at 7.15 pm on Tuesday evenings. You can contact the choir Secretary, Jen Adams, for any additional information. Tel: 01773 789079 or email: jenadams24@yahoo.co.uk

Members of Somercotes Choral Society at their annual dinner in May 1985.

Back row l-r Harry Wall, Bill Bainbridge, Enid Curtis, Stuart Bradshaw, Jim Hyde, Vera Fisher, Lonnie

Somercotes Couple Celebrate 70 Years of Marriage

Walter and Evelyn Hassall of George Street, celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on St. Valentines Day. Mrs Hassall was born at Riddings and her parents moved to Alfreton when she was 7 months old. Mr Hassall was born in Stafford. Mrs Hassall worked at Flycatches, then for Granwoods and later for Evans Bakers, initially working in the house, before asking to work in the bakehouse. She and Mr Hassall moved to Riddings after their marriage. They have a son, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Former Residents of Somercotes

Eric Shepherd – Artist

Eric was born in Somercotes in 1935 and told us he has fond memories of the area. Eric's father, George, was a coal miner at Moorwoods coal mine, and was also a well-known billiard player who won the Amateur Billiard Championship. Eric was one of 9 children, the others being Richard, Jack, Kenneth, Clifford, Brian, Betty, Jean and Pat, who died when she was 9 months old. Eric also has a vivid memory of his sister Betty being killed by, to quote Eric "what must have been the only car on the road", when she was 3 years old while she was listening to the service at the Chapel opposite Annie Mason's fish and chip shop on Somercotes Hill. Eric saw it happen as he waited in the queue for his order. He tells us there were very few cars on the road in those days, just horses and carts delivering the milk and fresh vegetables to people's doors. One of Eric's favourite places was Pennytown, where he remembers fishing, swimming, bird watching, or playing on the disused army tanks and lorries. He said he and his friends even took a few apples from the allotments on their way down! He told us the Somercotes fair, which was held on the recreation ground, was always an exciting time, with the big steam engines generating the electricity.

Eric has a strange story to tell about walking through the churchyard with his friend, Roy Green, after a Saturday matinee at the Empire. Eric was always fascinated by the graves in those days, with glass domes encasing porcelain flowers. They came upon a newly dug grave. The flowers were almost dead, and they knelt alongside the grave to read the little tags on the wreaths, etc. Eric says that "out of this grave rose a thick mist of gold, a bit like thick fog, but very golden. It was about 12" high by the length of the grave. We watched as it rose higher and higher, passing through the branches of a nearby tree, until it went out of sight. Neither of us were frightened. We told our parents and teachers but no-one wanted to believe us, but we both knew what we had seen, and I will carry that memory to my grave".

Eric worked as the sole sign artist for Kimberley Ales in Eastwood, then later went to work for Midland Drapery. He spent his evenings painting portrait commissions of local dignitaries. 18 years later Eric went to work in Florida, USA, producing murals for the film industry, and it was during this time he decided to concentrate solely on wildlife painting and on arriving in Australia in 1980 he became a member of the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia, where he received many of the top awards in their annual wildlife shows. You can see Eric's work by visiting www.ericshpherdartist.com/biography.html Above right is a picture of Eric with his wife, Susan, who he married in 1964, and who died in 2007 after what Eric describes as "a very happy marriage". Eric has two sons, Austin and Matthew. Eric's brother, Clifford, lives at Heanor, and his sister, Jean, still lives in Somercotes.



Eric and Susan



Eric, Clifford and a friend of Clifford on Derby Railway Station.



DERBYSHIRE ANCESTRAL RESEARCH GROUP

Margaret Brooksbank of Derbyshire Ancestral Research Group asks:

DID YOU KNOW?

The earliest mention of SUMCOT occurred in 1225.
 In 1549 the Crown sold "a message in SOMERCOTES in the tenure of THOMAS BLAND to THOMAS BABINGTON" Lord of the Manor.
 In 1801 the Parish Workhouse was built on Sleetmoor Lane and closed in 1840. It was converted into the Laburnam Inn and demolished in 1964.
 In 1847 JOHN COUPLAND of Lincolnshire bought land on Birchwood Lane and opened mines.
 Around 1870 THOMAS COUPLAND, his son, bought land at Upper Somercotes and erected houses in COUPLAND PLACE for his workers.
 In the 1881 census there were 79 houses in COUPLAND PLACE and 51 housed people from outside the Parish.
 In 1893 the Trustees of the MOREWOOD CHARITY sold the "DRUNKEN CLOSES" to Alfreton Urban District Council who laid out LEABROOKS CEMETERY.
 The first person to be buried there was JAMES KNOWLES of July 12 1895 aged 55 years
 In 1904 there were 7 Farmers, 8 Butchers, 4 Fried Fish dealers, 1 Pawnbroker and 1 Vocalist among the people living in Somercotes.
 In 1910 MR LLOYD GEORGE came to Somercotes. A huge tent was erected up in the Market Place for the 5000 expected, but only when a Showman who rented the area had moved all his machinery.
 MRS W MEADOWS lost her mother, two sisters, a brother-in-law and two nieces in the LUSITANIA DISASTER of 1915.
 In 1917 the PREMIER ELECTRIC THEATRE had five different acts every day plus Topical War news. Tuesday mornings at 10.30 were Men's special matinees.
 It was reported in 1918 that "Pupils from the Girls school have collected 9777 eggs over the last 3 years for the wounded soldiers".
 In 1969 the bypass on Nix's Hill was opened by Mr Brown MP. The cavalcade was led by Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.
 The "Department of the Environment building or suchlike of Historical Interest" - the only thing that qualified for the above was the Mile Post on Somercotes Hill! Date uncertain.

Thanks Margaret.
Anyone wishing to contact Margaret regarding DARG can do so on 01773 604916

Oh what a circus!



Mrs Dorothy Hawley of Swanwick has kindly provided this picture of a circus which was held at Somercotes, which she believes was held on the Market Place. A Somercotes resident told us he can remember the elephants being brought through the village, having been walked from the Railway Station. He thinks it was around 1958. Can anyone give us more details about this event? We would love to hear from you.

Thanks to Residents for Information on Somercotes Guisers

In the last issue of the newsletter we asked if anyone remembered the Somercotes Guisers. Our thanks to Mrs Waring, Mrs Jean Armstrong, Mr Ron Waller, and Parish Councillor Alan Stringer, who all contacted us with their memories.
 Mrs Jean Armstrong remembers her brother, Len Waller, being in the Guisers in the 1930's. Alan Stringer's brother, Des, was also one of the original members, and Alan told us that there were a few "incarnations" of the Guisers - they would disband, then others would start up later, and his brother, Charlie was one of the later Guisers. Alan was also able to recite from memory most of the words of the play they would perform, as found on the internet. The characters included William the Great, St. George, Bull Slasher/Jack, Doctor and Beelzebub.
 Mrs Waring told us her brothers, Norman and Alan Kerry, were both members of the Guisers in the 1940's, along with Eric Barker, Tony Hunt, Charlie Stringer and Alan Cockayne. She remembers that the Guisers would "black-up" using soot from the chimney, dress up and go around pubs performing, or into people's homes. She said they were very popular and people would put money into a cap.
 Ron Waller also remembers the Guisers going into the public houses, and said they would be invited into people's homes to perform. Though only a child at the time, he remembers people putting money into a tin. He remembers seeing a performance at The Seven Stars at Riddings.



The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II 1953

This photograph, provided by Mr Donald Miles, is of a celebration held at the Black Horse Inn, Lower Somercotes, to celebrate the Queen's Coronation. Among those present on the photograph, are:-
 June Peat, Ann Connolly, Jean Bettison, Jim Lane, Alan Marlow, Evelyn Durham, Michael Neal, Geoff Bradley, Hazel Taylor, Avis Berrisford, Michael Ashton, Michael Millward, Mervyn Wilding, John Holliday, John Parker, Peter Straw, John Bradley and Rita Lane. Does anyone recognise themselves or any of their relatives or friends? Please contact Glynis on 01773 603810 if you can give us any more information about the event or people in the photograph, or call into the office to see her.



Letter from your County Councillor

Firstly, I would like to let you know that after discussions held at Matlock regarding the at risk school bus service from Pyebridge to Swanwick Hall School, Freeway Coaches have agreed to continue the service from April 2012 without any subsidy. The timetable will remain the same but because of the subsidy removal the fares will have to be increased. I believe the school is aware of this and updated letters will be provided to the school shortly and in turn the information will be passed on to parents. I have asked Derbyshire County Council to seriously consider resurfacing Somercotes Hill through to Pyebridge and also High Street through to Leabrooks (Devonshire Drive). These roads are generating a lot of noise due to their poor condition through the amount of HGV traffic accessing the Industrial Estates via these roads. If you would like to contact Derbyshire County Council direct to raise your concerns, please do so by telephoning "Call Derbyshire" on 08456 058 058.

There is another consultation taking place regarding the Youth Service. The current County Council administration is proposing to dispose of or sell the youth club buildings and they will not be providing direct building based youth work. They believe the community and volunteers can provide this professional service by bidding for money from a reduced budget that is available. Please log on to the Consultation which can be found on this link

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/youthservice2012

Please also consider filling in the on-line petition which can be accessed by the link above. Already hundreds of young people have signed the petition against these changes as they see them as an attack on a highly valued service. Please don't just let it happen. There will be a paper petition available for signing in the Parish Council Office and at Somerlea Park Centre.

Regarding the pedestrian refuge at Hockley Way near MacDonalds, it is being pre-constructed then will be bolted to the road so if it is becoming overrun by heavy goods vehicles they can reposition it if needed.

£6,000 has been provided for improvement to the street lighting scheme on Spencer Drive, and there is an additional £38,000 for Windmill Rise, from Parkside to the junction of Spencer Drive



Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Several local groups and organisations will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012. The Parish Council has decided not to be involved in directly organising an event, but will consider assisting any groups or organisations with their events. A Big Band concert is planned for Saturday 9th June 2012, at the Parish Hall on the Queen's Birthday - entry will be free although

Somercotes Library



Bank Street, Somercotes DE55 4JE
Tel. 01773 550514

Email: Somercotes.library@derbyshire.gov.uk or look on the website - www.derbyshire.gov.uk
The library opening times have changed. We are now open at the following times:

Mondays	2 pm - 5pm
Thursdays	9am - 1pm and 2pm - 7pm
Fridays	9am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm
Saturdays	9.30am - 1pm

Reading groups are now 1st Thursday in the month 6 pm - 7 pm, and 1st Friday of the month 2 pm - 3 pm. Both readers will read the same book so members can swap between groups if necessary.

Anyone who is interested can contact us for details.

Telephone 01773 540514

Email: Somercotes.library@derbyshire.gov.uk or look on the website - www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Home Library Service

The Home Library Service now delivers to almost 50 people in the Somercotes area and the number is increasing. The service works from Alfreton Library and delivers once a month. For people who enjoy reading or listening to books, but who cannot get into a local library, or for those who are unable to carry the items they need, the service is free and could help. Books, large and normal print, books on tape and CD and also music CD's. All are available.

For further information, please contact Alfreton Library on 01773 833199

New Community Action Grants for Local Groups

Derbyshire County Council has launched a new small grants fund, Community Action Grants. Local community groups, clubs and social enterprises can apply for grants of up to £1,000 to help them set up and run projects that will improve life in their area. Groups can apply anytime until 14th December 2012, and grants will be awarded every three months.

Application forms and more information about the fund is available on www.derbyshire.gov.uk/cag or by phoning Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058. Your local library can also help groups print out application forms.

Sports Action Grants

The County Council has also launched a new £180,000 Sports Action Grant fund. Sports clubs and local community groups can apply for grants of up to £1,000 to help them provide activities that:

- Encourage more people to take part in sport and physical activities
- Promote healthy and active lifestyles
- Encourage volunteering within sport
- Improve performance in sport

Groups can find more information on how to apply on www.derbyshire.gov.uk/sportsactiongrant.

Somercotes History Day

History Day - 10.30am - 2.30pm, Saturday, 3rd March 2012 in the Parish Hall, Somercotes (Light refreshments will be available). The Clerk to the Parish Council is currently researching the history of Somercotes with a view to writing a full history of the village. The village includes Somercotes, Lower Somercotes, Pye Bridge, Leabrooks and even the old areas of Lower Birchwood, Pennytown & Muckram. Although we have had a lot of information and photographs there is still a lot of untapped material in the community so please help us to find it.

- **What do you know about Somercotes?**
- **Any photographs?**
- **Any stories or tales**
- **History of the schools, pubs, businesses, mines, greyhound track, buildings, houses, farms etc.**

Please come along and bring your photographs that will be scanned (returned to you), stories (try to have them written down), newspaper cuttings, books, drawings or anything else that can help fill in the gaps in our history.

Your Village, Your History, and Your opportunity to be part of the history.

Weekly Events at Somercotes Parish Hall

Day	Times	Event	Contact	Contact Number
Mondays	11.00 am - 1.00 pm In the Lounge 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm In the Lounge 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm In the Hall	B & J Art Classes Pastels, acrylics, oils, etc. Beginners and improvers welcome Welfare Rights (Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre) 1st Somercotes Guides Group for girls aged 10-15 years	Betty Norton or Jean Fisher John Bradley Call into a meeting for more details	01773 607837 01773 607001 01773 832237
Tuesdays	10.00 am - 11.30 am In the Hall 10.00 am 12.00 noon and also at 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm In the Lounge 4.45 pm - 6.45 pm In the Hall 7.30 pm - 10 pm In the Hall	Hatha Yoga Calms your mind and strengthens your body. All ability class. Watercolour Classes Newcomers always welcome. Lovely atmosphere, friendly people. Somercotes Beavers Somercotes Ladies Every Tuesday except 1 st in each month	Rav Paul Norma Gent Paul Williams Eileen Wilkinson	07963 350868 01773 836907 07722 323129 01773 603177
Wednesdays	10.00 am - 12.00noon In the Hall 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm In the Hall 8.00 pm - 9.00 pm In the Hall	Cameo Coffee Club Pop in - have a coffee - make new friends Weight Watchers Zumba Fitness Latin inspired, calorie burning, dance fitness	Just call in Just call in Dey and Liz dlzumba@hotmail.co.uk	 07812 837969
Thursdays	9.00 am - 11.00 am 6.00 pm - 7.15 pm In the Hall 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm In the Lounge 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm In the Hall	Watercolour Classes All abilities welcome. Lovely atmosphere, friendly people. 1st Somercotes (St.Thomas) Brownies Group for girls aged 7-10 years 1st Somercotes (St.Thomas) Rainbows Group for girls aged 5-7 years Classical Yoga Philosophy & Posture, relaxation and breathwork. Newcomers welcome	Norma Gent Linda	01773 836907 Call into a meeting for more details. 01773 528264
Fridays	10.00 am - 11.30 am In the Hall 4.45 pm - 6.45 pm In the Hall 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm In the Hall 8.30 pm - 9.30 pm In the Hall	Hatha Yoga Calms your mind and strengthens your body. All ability class Somercotes Cubs Ju-Jitsu Classic martial art class for children ages 6 to 16 Zumba Fitness Latin inspired, calorie burning, dance fitness	Rav Paul Paul Williams Mrs S J Elliott Dey and Liz dlzumba@hotmail.co.uk	07963 350868 07722 323129 07885 400768 07812 837969
Saturdays		None at Present		
Sundays	9.30 am onwards In the Lounge In the Hall	Parish Church of St. Thomas Sunday School Coffee after Church Service	Rachel Watson (Churchwarden)	01773 607131

Hearing Clinic

Hearing Help (Amber Valley) will be holding clinics in the Lounge of the Somercotes Parish Hall on the following dates:-

Tuesday 13th March	2.00pm - 3.30pm
Wednesday 28th March	11.00 am - 12.30pm
Tuesday 10th April	2.00pm - 3.30pm
Wednesday 25th April	11.00am - 12.30pm
Tuesday 8th May	2.00pm - 3.30pm
Wednesday 23rd May	11.00am - 12.30pm
Tuesday 12th June	2.00pm - 3.30pm
Wednesday 27th June	11.00am - 12.30pm

Painting Class Workshop

Saturday, 10th March 2012, from 10.00 am until 4.00pm All Abilities Welcome. Cost £30
Lunch will be provided
Telephone Norma Gent on
01773 836907

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SOMERCOTES, DE55 4LY



New Vicar for St. Thomas Church



The institution and induction of the Reverend Father Peter Langdon Matthias Davis as incumbent of St Thomas' Church took place on Wednesday, 21st December, 2011.

Father Peter writes:-

"My Dear Friends,

It is with much joy that I begin my ministry as the new Vicar of the Benefice of Somercotes, St. Thomas. Joy, because I am presented with a wonderful opportunity to share God's passion for the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ in a new setting with new people!

I am 60, married to Susan. We have three grown children – Lisa, Laura and Andrew. In addition, Sue and I have three wonderful grandchildren, Owen, Ethan and Evalyn (there is a new one on the way!). We also have a Jack Russell called Jasper. My interests include travelling, listening to music, painting, fishing, coaching rugby and Early Christian and Byzantine Art. Susan enjoys travelling, gardening, dancing and reading. I have a BD (Hons), MA in Pastoral Theology, PGCE(Sec), PGCE (post-16) and a Cert.Th.

In working with the Churchwarden and PCC, I aim to further the development of ministry and mission at St. Thomas'. Part of this aim is to offer, in addition to the normal pattern and rhythm of worship, a more 'varied diet' of worship (perhaps on a monthly basis), comprising of the Jesus Prayer, Celtic Evening Prayer, Compline, Taize and more informal and 'open' worship for beginners - something that people wanting to come to church for the first time will find both comfortable and, hopefully, enjoyable. I aim, to "tap-in" to the local schools with regards to recruiting more servers, and members to the choir. I aim, too, to invite the MU to become pastoral visitors, thus allowing them to use their huge wealth of knowledge and experiences of life to help and support others. My overall aim is to raise the profile of the parish and to once again see the church at the very centre of the community.

I look forward, too, to forming stronger links with the Parish Council, Funeral Directors and the wider community. The church isn't here just for the worshipping community, but for everyone in the parish of Somercotes. We are planning many social events, including barbeques in the Vicarage garden. These events are open to ALL, so please, look out for the posters advertising upcoming events. I also envisage holding 'The Big Questions' evenings, for both existing church members and new, to come along and find out more about the Christian faith.

All this, of course, is subject to listening to more voices and having more 'conversations' about the way forward – about our vision for the future. Sue and I would like to say to you all that a cup of coffee and a chat are always available at the Vicarage at any time (except for midnight or my day off). Please don't wait to be invited – you just have been!

Every Blessing

Fr. Peter & Susan

£144 raised for St. Thomas' Church



The Annual Civic Carol Service was held on Friday, 9th December, 2011 and yet again, we were greatly entertained by the Somercotes Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and their Leaders. Heage Brass Band performed to their usual high standard, and Father Theo Holmes led the service and prayers. Councillor Paul Smith, Chairman of the Parish Council, presented Father Theo with a gift to say thank you for taking services for the Parish Council since the retirement of Father Geoff Knox two years ago. Councillor Smith's chosen charity for the collection was the Parish Church of St. Thomas, and £144 was raised.

Parish Church of St. Thomas

Father Peter Davis

Any Enquiries 01773 602717 Churchwarden Rachel Watson 01773 607131

Services

Sunday:	9.30am	Sung Mass
	9.30 – 10.00am	Sunday School in the Parish Hall
	6.00pm	(Last Sunday in the Month) Evening Worship
Wednesday:	10.00am	Said Mass
Friday:	10.00am	Said Mass

See Notice Board in the Church porch for other times of services

Mother's Union meets in Church on the 1st Tuesday of each month

Lent Lunches – Fridays – 11.30 am to 1.30 pm 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March

Parish Lunches – Fridays – 11.30 am to 1.30 pm 27th April, 25th May, 29th June

Christian Aid Coffee Morning 10.00am to 12.00noon Wednesday, 16th May

Peniel Christian Centre

67 Main Road, Leabrooks. Telephone 01773 608737 www.leabrookspcc.com

email: penielchristiancentre@leabrooks.freeserve.co.uk

Leader: Mrs Elaine Whittingham

Sunday Services:	Morning Service at 10.30am Evening Prayer Meeting at 5.30pm Praise Time at 6pm
Tuesday:	Ladies' Coffee Morning 10am – 12noon Discussions, prayer and praise. Light lunch. Prayer & Praise 6pm – 7pm A visiting speaker when available from 7pm onwards.
Wednesday:	Prayer Meeting 8am – 10am
Friday:	Youth Club 7pm-9pm (RIOT) 11 yrs -16 yrs
Saturday:	Kids Club 10am – 12noon 3 yrs – 11 yrs Games, projects, bible story, lunch More than a Meal A meal provided for senior citizens once a month on a Monday. No charge but a donation appreciated.

The Salvation Army Hall

Sleetmoor Lane. Tel. Terence Carpenter on 01455 271752 or 07948 998507

Worship Meeting each Sunday at 3pm

Monday Over 50's Friends and Fellowship at 3pm

Tuesday Drop In from 9.30am – 11am. Refreshments and goods for sale.

Café Church at 7pm on Sundays once a month – 11th March, 1st April, 20th May and 10th June. Coffee, latte, cappuccino, etc. and cakes.

Messy Church from 5pm – 7pm on a Friday once a month – on 2nd March, 13th April, 11th May and 1st June. All ages welcome, from babes in arms to 16-17 year olds. Free session, and refreshments included.

Good Friday – Time of worship – 11.00am

Birchwood Methodist Church

Service each Sunday at 3.00pm and a morning service once a month at 10.30am.

On Mothering Sunday, 18th March, it will be a morning service at 10.30 am taken by Mrs G Stamp

On Good Friday, 6th April, there will be a morning service at 10.30 am

Anniversary, Sunday, 13th May at 3.00pm. Tea to follow.

Please see our Notice Board for further details of all events.

Minister Rev. Michael Redshaw 01773 819673

Pastoral & Preaching Enabler Mrs Alison Wood 07791 960228

Birchwood Methodist Church would like to thank

Councillor Paul Smith and Derbyshire County Council for the funding of new waste bins for their cemetery. The bins make the cemetery look much better than the previous old wire baskets that had seen better days.

County Matters



If you want to report a matter to **Derbyshire County Council** you can ring 'Call Derbyshire' on 08456 058 058. They are open Monday-Friday 8am-8pm and Saturday 9.30 am-4pm



Amber Valley Borough Council, Town Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire Tel: 01773 570222. Planning applications can be viewed and commented on using Amber Valley Borough Council website - www.ambervalley.gov.uk then click on the planning application register.



Police Contact Numbers

If you want to contact the Police or Police Community Special Officers to give information or report crime you can telephone:

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
Non-urgent Police matters 101 (calls charged at 15p)
www.derbyshire.police.uk

Please do report incidents. We are all aware that incidents such as vandalism, theft, etc. are occurring in Somercotes. However, unless the police have reports the assumption (based on reported statistics) is that there are no problems and the end result is that police resource will be redeployed.

Other useful numbers:

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue	01332 771221
Central Networks (Electricity) (loss of supply helpline)	0800 056 8090
Gas Emergency line	0800 111 999
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Severn Trent Water (water leaks and bursts)	0800 783 4444
Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch	01773 572938
Victim Support Line	0845 3030900
NHS Direct	0845 46 47
UK Flu Information Line	0800 1 513 513
Amber Valley Housing	01773 573 100
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111

CRIMESTOPPERS - Call anonymously with information about crime

Somercotes & Swanwick Police Surgeries

We do not have dates for these meetings at present, but you can visit www.derbyshirepolice.uk to obtain this information.

Amber Valley Borough Council WARMSTREETS INSULATION SCHEME

for Private Households in partnership with Apex Carbon Solutions

Take advantage now at these fantastic low prices before the subsidised prices come to an end in December 2012.

Loft from £49 & Cavity Wall £99.

If you are aged Over 70 or in receipt of qualifying benefits you could have your home insulated for FREE (subject to survey).

Call Apex Solutions on 0800 043 9569 or 0333 577 9569 if calling from a mobile - lines open 8.00am - 8.00pm, or

Joanne Walker, the Council's Energy Officer, on 01773 841332

WE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD HAPPEN TO US

Question YOUR Perception...
Is the risk of **FIRE** something you ever consider?

Question YOUR Perception...
Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service strongly advises that you consider the risk of fire to your home and family. By taking a few simple steps, you can prevent a fire occurring in your home, keeping yourself and your family safe from the devastating consequences.

Make sure you have a working smoke alarm on each level of your home. Test your smoke alarm weekly.

Plan your escape. Ensure your family is aware of what to do and how to get out if a fire occurs in your home.

Plan a night time routine. Switch off appliances, close internal doors and remember to take a spare key and telephone to bed with you.

Never leave cooking unattended. And try to replace your chip pan with an electronic deep fat fryer.

Always ensure smoking materials are extinguished properly, use a deep ashtray when smoking, and never smoke when you are tired or in bed.

Never tackle a fire Get Out, Stay Out, Dial 999.

For further information and advice please visit our website www.derbys-fire.gov.uk

www.derbys-fire.gov.uk

TRUSTED TRADER

DERBYSHIRE County Council
Improving life for local people

Did you know
that Derbyshire County Council has a **TRUSTED TRADER SCHEME**?

Derbyshire Trusted Trader can help you find honest and reliable traders who commit to doing a good job for a fair price. You'll find plumbers, builders, roofers, decorators, joiners, electricians, gardeners, retailers and many more.

How to search for your Derbyshire Trusted Trader visit the website: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/trusted_trader and follow the instructions.

Businesses can also use the website to find out more about the benefit of being a Derbyshire Trusted Trader and learn how to sign up.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HANDY VAN SERVICE?

The service is available to those who are aged 60 and over or if you are referred by Derbyshire County Council - Adult Care, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, the District or Borough Council, Derbyshire Police, or Derbyshire Primary Care Trust. Each eligible household can access this free service twice a year. Please note, some materials may need to be purchased by the occupier. You can phone and ask for a free visit to your home by your local Handy Van for the following:

- Home fire safety checks
- Smoke alarms provided and installed
- Home security checks
- Security equipment provided & installed
- Energy efficiency advice
- Practical tasks - for example: Changing light bulbs
- Securing carpets and Rugs
- Removing and handing curtains
- Checking stair rails are secure and appropriate
- Path and door access clearance
- Securing tap washers to reduce dripping taps,
- and other tasks as appropriate.

For more information or to arrange a visit, please call your Handy Van Provider by calling **Amber Valley - 01773 604426**

You can Call Derbyshire to help you access this service.



Council Matters

Your Parish Councillors

Councillor Paul Smith
Councillor Bryan Lyttle
Councillor Martin Barron
Councillor Paul Curran-Bilbie
Councillor John Gardiner
Councillor Mrs Beryl Hannant
Councillor Cyril Langton
Councillor John McCabe
Councillor Terry Marriott
Councillor Paul Price
Councillor Alan Stringer
Councillor Scott Walker

Parish Council meetings

In the Lounge of the Parish Hall

Ordinary Meeting Friday, 16th March 2012 at 7pm

Annual Parish Meeting Friday, 11th May 2012 at 7pm (this is not a Parish Council meeting).

The public may request items for the agenda for discussions. Please inform the Parish Clerk of any Parish issue you wish to raise.

Next issue

If you have any forthcoming local events you would like to advertise in the the Parish Newsletter, or if you have any interesting stories to tell about the Parish, or pictures you would like to share with other readers, you can contact Glynis on 01773 603810 or call into the Parish Council Office between 10.30 am and 2.30 pm, Tuesday to Friday.

Parish Council Staff

Clerk to the Council **Gordon Blackmore**
Assistant Clerk **Glynis Kenney**
Tel: 01773 603810

Caretaker **Judith Mosley**
Tel: 01773 609397

Parish Wardens **Colin Rick**
Les Briddon

Somercotes Parish Council, Somercotes Parish Hall, Nottingham Road, Somercotes, DE55 4LY

www.somercotesparishcouncil.co.uk
e-mail: somercotespc@btconnect.com

Booking forms for the hall or lounge can be obtained by calling in or telephoning 01773 609397



Your Amber Valley Borough Councillors

Councillor Brian Lyttle and Councillor John McCabe will be holding surgeries in the lounge of Somercotes Parish Hall on

Saturday, 3rd March, 2012, from 11am – 12 noon,
Saturday, 7th April, 2012, from 11am – 12 noon,
Saturday, 5th May, 2012, from 11am – 12noon,
Saturday, 2nd June, 2012, from 11am – 12noon

County Councillor Paul Smith will also be present

ALLOTMENTS

Bridle Lane Allotments, Leabrooks

To register an interest in an allotment, please contact Mrs J Smith, Secretary/Treasurer
Tel: 01773 605438

Birchwood Lane Allotments

To register an interest in an allotment, please contact Maureen Robinson, Secretary
Tel: 07795 063505

Sleetmoor Allotments

To register an interest in an allotment, please contact Georgie Butt Secretary
07950 537210

POOP SCOOP BAGS

It is now a year since the Parish Council started providing Poop Scoop Bags, completely free of charge, after the Borough Council stopped providing them. In that time we have provided approximately 90,000 bags (to end of January 2012). There is, however, still a problem with dog fouling and it is hoped that those people who have not bothered in the past to clear up after their dogs will now do so using the free poop scoop bags.

These are available from your Parish Wardens, Colin and Les, or you can call into the Parish Hall Office between 10.30 am and 2.30 pm Tuesday to Friday, and ask Glynis for a supply. Ruby on Nottingham Road also has a supply of bags.

DISPOSE OF NEEDLES SAFELY

Modern Living involves many hazards. One problem can be needles and syringes that have been discarded without care. If you find a needle, **DO NOT PICK IT UP**. Please call Amber Valley Borough Council's needle hotline 0800 92 51 31 free anytime day or night. Their aim is to collect a needle within two hours of any reported incident.

Motor Cyclist using Footpaths & Bridleways - 'Don't break the Law'

The Council has received complaints that motorcycles are being ridden along footpaths, bridleways and around Pennytown Ponds. S34, Road Traffic Act 1988, prohibits the driving of mechanically propelled vehicles elsewhere than on roads.

1) Subject to the provisions of this section, if without lawful authority a person drives a mechanically propelled vehicle -
(a) on to or upon any common land, moorland or land of any other description, not being land forming part of a road, or
(b) on any road being a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway, he is guilty of an offence.

Please respect the law and the safety of those using footpaths and bridleways or other places of leisure.

Police

At the Parish Council Meeting, 20th January 2012, the Police reported that there had been a reduction in the number of burglaries in Somercotes. Persistent offenders were being recalled on license, after re-offending; there has been a problem with diesel thefts from vehicle depots; Operation Rocky, based on crime detection, reducing ASB and executing warrants had been a success. Your local SNT can be contacted by dialling '100'. A suspected arson attack at Cockshut Lane (Xmas Eve) had seen a stable block destroyed - a substantial reward has been offered, subject to a successful prosecution in court.

You can report crimes, incidents or pass information to the Police by dialling '100' (all calls charged at 15p) or anonymously to

'Crime stoppers' on 0800 555111

Somercotes Parish Council waste disposal facility

on somercotes market place between 8am and 10am the first Saturday in every month

No waste accepted after 10am
this facility is for the residents of the parish of Somercotes only. Please bring some form of identity

**NO TRADE WASTE
NO TOXIC WASTE
NO ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
NO ASBESTOS**

NO WASTE TO BE LEFT BEFORE SKIP ARRIVES

Designed and printed by



on behalf of Somercotes Parish Council

Feel free to call us on 01773 608071
or e-mail sales@printscene.com

Rear Workshop of 18 Victoria Street,
Somercotes, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 4HA.



Reduce Reuse Recycle



Your Parish Council Online

Don't forget the Parish Council can be found online at

www.somercotesparishcouncil.co.uk for details of local services, forthcoming events and up to date news. The website can be used to send us information you would like included on the website.

We are also on Facebook; just click the like button on our website to be taken to our Facebook Page.

Minutes of Parish Council Meetings are now available for perusal on our website.



Find us on facebook.