

The Hart

Issue 27

Harthill with Woodall Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2011

WHAT AN ICE PLACE

December saw the heaviest snow-fall and lowest temperatures in the Parish that most people can remember.

Harthill and Woodall also got the worst of it within the RMBC area. Shops were closed, basic food items were in short supply, public transport didn't run, medical and postal services were affected, emergency vehicles and carers struggled to get in, people couldn't get to work and many elderly and disabled people were isolated. Normal road clearance services provided by RMBC were severely hampered by the emergency on the A57.

One thing to emerge from the bad weather was that the measures taken that worked best were ones we did ourselves within the Parish. John Wilks from Loscar Farm did an excellent job with his snow plough. Communications via the website www.harthillwithwoodallparishcouncil.gov.uk were quite effective and overall, we had a reasonable volunteer effort to do things such as bring in food supplies and deliver to the

elderly.

There were many very commendable individual contributions made. But it was all very last minute and could have been better organised.

Several ideas have been put forward to improve emergency planning and put in place measures that would help during a further weather crisis. These include: -

- An e-mail bank so as many people as possible can receive information during an emergency
- A register of volunteers who are willing to undertake tasks such as shopping / delivery and snow clearance
- A register of volunteer all-weather vehicle drivers willing to use their vehicles for community purposes
- Various things individuals can do – clear the area outside your own house; don't leave your car on the road if you can avoid it, check on elderly neighbours

The Parish Council has received



Doctor Lane. Photo: Douglas Darlington

some assurance from RMBC about future snow clearance work in the event of similar conditions. However there is an awful lot we can do to help ourselves.

Some people may say, "I pay my Council Tax, why should I bother?" Whether or not this is a valid point of view, it seems less and less likely in this day and age that it will ever achieve anything.

If you wish to volunteer yourself or your vehicle, would like to add your e-mail address to a Parish wide e-mail bank, or have any ideas of your own, please contact the Clerk or a Parish Councillor (contact details overleaf) You never know – it might all happen again next week or next month.

Community Projects

The Parish Council is currently working in partnership with two projects undertaking community work in Harthill.

The **Community Payback Scheme** is run by South Yorkshire Probation Service and provides work for low level offenders who have been given community sentences. Internal decoration of the Leisure Centre has been completed, to be followed by repairs to the bowling green surround, exterior bench and table refurbishment and fence painting.

Groundwork (Creswell) is an environmental regeneration organisation that seeks projects to provide work and training to unemployed

youth trainees. So far in Harthill they have completed refurbishment of the flower bed at the bus turning circle at Firvale and the large shrub bed on Woodall Lane as well as undertaking some clearance work at Doctor Lane allotments.

Between now and March the team will also take on further clearance work at Thorpe Road allotments and various tasks at the Woodall Lane playground including improving the drainage and re-planting the maze and trees which were originally vandalised.

Both projects have done an excellent job so far and the Council would like to thank the organisers and participants for their efforts.

Facebook page

A Harthill village Facebook page has been proposed.

This could be very useful for advertising events in the village and keeping people up to date with things going on generally. It would also be very handy in the kind of circumstances described above.

The proposal is for a village page, rather than just a Parish Council page, so would need additional administrators.

Apparently more than half of the people in Harthill already have their own page (so we are told).

Ring Les on 01246 434908 if interested.

Village Hall Update

The Village Hall is now officially a registered charity and limited company operating under the name of Harthill Village Hall Ltd.

This came into effect from 1 October. A new board of directors has replaced the old management committee. There are 6 directors who all live within the Parish.

One of the main tasks of the new company, in conjunction with the Parish Council, is to push forward with plans to refurbish the hall. This

is not proving to be easy as a significant sum of external grant funding is required. The first attempt, to the National Lottery Community Buildings fund, has come to nothing as Harthill does not meet the necessary "deprivation" criteria.

Two new applications are underway however and we are hopeful of success with these. It's a lengthy process though and we won't know how we've done until July. We'll keep you posted.

Notice: Village Hall Lease

An agreement has been reached between the Parish Council and Harthill Village Hall Ltd over a long term lease for the hall.

It has been agreed in principle that a 99 year lease will be offered at an annual rent of £1 per year. The reasoning behind this is that the Village Hall is our major community resource and is used by many people in the Parish. The hall would not be

able to function at a commercial rent even with substantial price rises.

Both the Parish Council and Harthill Village Hall Ltd. are committed to continuing to offer the hall to residents at very competitive rates.

Because the terms of the proposed lease are at much below the market rental value of the hall the Parish Council is advertising this information to residents so that com-

Who are your Parish Councillors?

Joy Pattison (Chairman)	772727
Ian Lloyd (Vice Chairman)	773942
Angela Adams	771610
Steve Green	773056
Barbara Gunby	771328
David Hall	771607
Carol Leigh	770114
Liz Simmonite	770921
Wendy Thompson	773271

Clerk to the Council:

Les Wheatley
3 Rotherham Road
Eckington
S21 4FH
Tel 01246 434 908
Mobile 07773 782 246
les.wheatley@btinternet.com

ments or objections may be made.

If you wish to object or comment on the proposed lease please write to or e-mail the Clerk before 8 February 2011. (Contact details above.)

Gym'll Fix It!

As of April 2011 we will have a new addition to the Woodall Lane Play Area.

The Parish Council has purchased four pieces of multi-purpose fitness equipment, which will be situated in the Teen Village section of the playground. The new equipment will give people of all ages access to the same kind of equipment and exercise programmes to be found in expensive gyms. It's safe, reliable, very hard wearing – and anyone can use it!



Graphic impression of the new fitness equipment. It's not just for kids!

2010 Grants and Donations

Harthill with Woodall In Bloom	£1200
Village Hall Management Committee	£2000
Harthill & District Garden Association	£100
Harthill Carnival Society	£800
Peregrin Centre	£300
Harthill Memories / Local History Society	£240
Harthill Cricket Club	£1550
Harthill Outdoor Bowls Club	£100

In addition, the Parish Council sponsored three weeks of holiday play schemes in Harthill at a cost of £1634 and the ongoing Active Always programme at a cost of £200.

Hire and support your local Village Hall

Available from £7.75 per hour
Suitable for most functions/meetings
Bar and catering facilities available

For enquiries and bookings contact:

Brian Shutt 773102
Or
Ian Lloyd 773942