

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

Festive Thank you

The Parish Council would like to thank Mrs Gladys Wood for providing the electricity to light the Christmas Tree – upon which new brighter lights were installed this year. We also thank those who help every year in putting up the tree. Thank you.

Oxspring Titivators

We are a community group of eight Oxspring residents doing regular voluntary work around the village under the direction of and with the full approval of Oxspring Parish Council.

We do weekly litter picks on the Oxspring Section of the TPT and throughout the village, assist with the cultivation of the Parish owned public open areas, clear vegetation around seating areas, maintain flower beds, remove graffiti and do general repairs. Additionally we are involved in improvement and conservation works around the village such as in Bower Dell, the Pinfold and Willow Bridge and recently we have been clearing out the Rookery in the centre of the village. The next litter pick is scheduled for the 25th May, meeting at 10am outside the post office. Please come along and help if you are able.

Bower Dell is looking really nice. We have cleared out some major sections to give better access and are in the process of planting some traditional English wild flowers. A section of layered hedging has been completed and OPC have provided and installed two large picnic tables. Hopefully many people will take advantage of Bower Dell this summer.

The aim of the group is solely to maintain the quality of the public spaces, improve and enhance our village by doing any jobs the Parish Council may not be able to do because of the current cuts and financial restraints.

Anyone wishing to join the group would be made most welcome

Please contact Alan Walker on 01226 379895

Historical Photos of Oxspring

Do you have any old photographs or other material which records the historical past of the Parish of Oxspring?

If so, and you are willing to share the material, I would be very pleased hear from you. The intention is to put together an electronic Archive of material (for local use) such that the history of our neighbourhood may be retained.

All photographs would be collected, scanned and returned to their owners without undue delay.

I can be contacted by telephone on 01226 764350 or by Email at graham.sedgwick@talktalk.net

Many thanks in anticipation of your cooperation.

Graham Sedgwick, Mayfield Oxspring

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Join the Buzz!

Help protect your moorland bumblebees. Learn how to survey them.

Get out on the moors, meet new people and learn about your moor and the effects of climate change.

No previous experience required!

Come along to our free Bumblebee Survey training on Sunday 18th May at St John's Community Centre, Penistone, 10am start.

To book a place email moorcitizens@peakdistrict.gov.uk

For more information about the project and other training days visit

www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/bumblebee-surveys

Coast Hunting for a Cure for HD

Gala Festival Sunday 22nd June Waggon & Horses/Oxspring playingfield

On the 20th of May 2014 Kris King will be embarking on an epic challenge that will see him travel 2514 miles around the coastline of the UK in just 34 days.

It will consist of:

22x Centurion Bike Rides

12x Marathons

0x Rest Days

Kris will cross the finish line on Sunday June 22nd sometime in the afternoon. To welcome him home The Waggon & Horses are holding a Finish Line Party and Gala. This will start with a boundary walk at 10am with bacon butties. Then BBQ, Stalls, Games, Competitions, Fun Dog Show, Martial Arts Display, Dance Display etc etc. Music Festival in the evening.

To raise funds for Huntingtons Disease.

Donations for Tombola, Cake Stall, Raffle can be left at the Waggon and Horses.

For Further info telephone [Carol Dickinson on 07867 381623](tel:07867381623)

Parish Council News

*Oxspring Parish Council have been busy over the winter with various village improvements which have included finishing off the work in Bower Dell with two new picnic tables, bins and new fencing along the roadside. The Parish Council volunteer group, The Titivators, have been very busy assisting with the planting and tidying of the Bower Dell picnic site. Three new trees have also been planted here. The funding for these latest improvements and plantings was kindly donated by **Oxspring Heritage Group**.*

Much needed maintenance to various pieces of equipment and grass matting at the playarea have also been carried out over the winter.

The Parish Council has also looked at solutions for the crumbling dry stone wall on Sheffield Road that runs through the village over the last year, with regards to making repairs or replacing it with an alternative. The Council has attempted to find a solution, but unfortunately the land owners were not willing to negotiate. As this wall is not the responsibility of either the Parish Council or the Borough of Barnsley Council, there is nothing further that the Parish Council can do to improve the wall.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: Mrs Stephanie Tolson

43 Nether Royd View, Silkstone Common, S75 4QQ. Telephone: 01226 792657

Email: OPC@tolson818.fsnet.co.uk Website: www.oxspring-parish.com

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Trunce Run Series 2014

2013's Trunce Run Series was yet another successful season with record numbers taking part. This years Trunce is well under way with the first 2 races setting the pace for the season. All races start at 18.45 from Oxspring Playing field and the course is approximately 4 miles long and 2 miles for juniors.

Entry costs are adults £1.50, juniors 50p.

For more information visit the Trunce run website at www.undeadmonkey.org.uk/trunce.

2014 Race dates:

Monday 12th May, Monday 2nd June, Monday 23rd June, Monday 14th July, Monday 4th August, Monday 18th August, Monday 8th September followed by end of year presentations in the Wagon and Horses pub.

Oxspring Best Planter of 2014 Competition.

For those of you that tend to the Parish's roadside planters, the Parish Council are once again holding a Best Planter competition. The Planters will be judged in July. The judges will be looking for attractive displays, roadside appeal and good plant condition. The prizes will be: 1st Prize £30, 2nd Prize £20 and 3rd Prize of £10. There is up to £20 available per planter if required to reimburse for any plants purchased for the planter. Please send your claim and receipts to the Clerk to the Council. We wish you all the best of luck and are sure that you will produce some magnificent planters as you have done in previous years.

Saint Aidan's Church Diary

Weekly activities include:

Pilates Fitness:	Monday 9.30 – 10.30am	Church Service: Sunday 9am – 10am
Computer Class:	Monday 10.30 – 12.30pm	
Pilates Fitness:	Monday 7.00 - 8.00pm	For more information on any of the above activities and events please call Father Matthew Joy on 762276
Busy Bees (preschool):	Tuesday 9.30 – 11.30am	
Brownies (girls 7-10):	Tuesday 6.15 – 7.45pm	
Kettlecise Fitness:	Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30pm	
Pilates Fitness:	Wednesday 9.30 – 10.30am	
Pop-in Club (for elderly):	Wednesday 2.00 – 4.00pm	
Rainbows (girls 5-7):	Wednesday 6.00 - 7.15pm	
Ranger Guides (monthly):	Thursday 7.00 – 9.00pm	
Zumba Fitness:	Friday 6.15 – 7.15pm	

Neighbourhood Plan Update

On 1st March, the Oxspring Neighbourhood Planning (ONP) group held it first consultative workshop with local residents. This was to launch the start of the Plan's preparation. We are grateful to all the residents who took time to attend and participate at this event, and of course, we look forward to meeting and talking to more residents at future events. The session included a number of activities designed to make residents aware of the Neighbourhood Plan programme and to encourage residents to engage with the process, as well as to start identifying and recording key issues, priorities and aspirations for the future of the Parish.

The event included a discussion panel with a wide range of participants including Angela Smith our local MP, Councillors Robert Barnard, J M Wilson and Paul Hand-Davis from BMBC, the Vice Chair of the Campaign for the protection of Rural England and a cooperative and eco housing expert. Other local groups such as Barnsley Biodiversity Group and Friends of the Earth were also present at this event and have offered further support for our Plan preparation. The full panel discussion and a summary transcript can be viewed as a download from www.oxspringplan.org.uk

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This was the start of a lengthy dialogue with residents of Oxspring and both the Parish Council and the Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan Group will continue to do their utmost to respond to any questions, concerns and issues raised by residents and other parties. Some questions and issues were highlighted at a recent meeting with a small group of concerned residents and it was felt that it would be helpful, at this stage, to dispel some of the rumours and misunderstandings that seem to have arisen.

Question: *Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan and can we just say that we don't want any building in the village?*

Answer: *Creeping, and arguably poorly planned-for housing growth is evident in the village. Within the last 30 years, this has included developments such as Fieldsend and Brookfield, Milhouses, Longley Ings, Wood cottages (Sheffield Road) & older schemes such as Mayfield, Old Manor Drive and Fox Fields. Oxspring's population has consequently, increased dramatically since 1991 and unfortunately there has been limited, and in certain instances loss of, community services, facilities & amenities for the village to meet this growth.*

The Parish Council and residents have, in the past, repeatedly objected to further unsustainable development for the schemes mentioned above. (Please refer to the most recent objection made to BMBC with regards to proposed housing land allocation at West Wind and Vale View off Roughbitchworth Lane). Notwithstanding this, over the years, the Parish has had to absorb further housing growth. We will continue to object to unsustainable growth and development in our Parish through the planning process. However, we also need to take a pragmatic stand and ensure that any future development has a 'positive' and 'less harmful' effect for all Parish residents now and in years to come, and that it will enhance the Parish's much loved and unique rural environment.

There is a new process put in place by the Coalition government which allows local communities to prepare their own NP. This means that we collectively decide, plan for, and prepare proposals and policies which set out what type of development we want and where such development should go. This means that it is not decided by developers or the local authority independently from local residents. A NP by definition is not a tool against development but it certainly puts local people 'in control'. There are additional advantages to following this process. For example, it is a more democratic approach to local planning, as it is subject to a local referendum and it becomes a statutory document when accepted and adopted.

Furthermore, the Parish will benefit directly from developers' contributions (a charge for development). These are called Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL) and moneys raised (25% of CIL) can be used on priorities identified in the Plan. For example, we could fund a new sports hall in the football field if that is what residents decide is a priority for our NP. The idea is that we can aim to support all members of the community, and residents, with the priorities we 'collectively' identify as key and viable for the Parish.

Question: *Are the Steering Committee for the Neighbourhood Plan deciding what type and how many houses we want in the village?*

Answer: *The Parish Council has drawn upon the support of local volunteers to set up working groups to progress the NP preparation. These groups are answerable to the Parish Council through the Steering committee and therefore are taking no independent or single decisions. We welcome, and ask, as many residents as possible to join and support the various groups in order to complete this significant task. (If you are interested in helping please complete the NP Volunteers' Form which is available on www.oxspringplan.org.uk).*

The NP needs to meet a set of basic conditions and criteria. These involve providing evidence and proof that the local community (i.e. residents and stakeholders) have participated in developing all aspects of the plan and that they have been given the opportunity to set out its objectives and aims, including any allocation for housing sites and the type of homes required. However, a further basic condition of the plan is that it needs to be in general conformity with strategic policies set in the Local Authority's planning department. We can challenge, shape and set the allocation of housing numbers and housing tenure (affordable, executive, one bedroom etc.) and first and foremost we need to meet the needs of our Parish residents.

This could mean providing first time homes for our young residents, or homes suitable for our older population to downsize. It is therefore most important that all residents complete the various questionnaires and take part in all the

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surveys that we will be undertaking through the NP process in the coming months.

There are further basic conditions the Plan is required to meet. These include:

- Contributing to the achievement of 'sustainable development'
- Having regards to the National Policies
- Being compatible with the EU obligations and EU convention of Human Rights

Question: Can the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee complete a Neighbourhood Plan without appropriate consultation with village residents?

Answer: The consultation and engagement process for the Plan preparation is at the very early stages. A draft community consultation, and engagement documents for the NP can be downloaded from the NP site on www.oxspringplan.org.uk. The NP will be the subject of a local Referendum and an independent examination and, as already indicated, the external examiner reviewing the draft NP will have to be satisfied that the NP process has met the required and appropriate levels of consultation with residents and key stakeholders for the Parish. We would welcome all residents and local groups to contact the Parish Council and the Steering Committee with their suggestions and support to secure maximum community involvement and representation. The Referendum will take place at the end of the Plan preparation and will require 50% + 1 of the residents who turn up to vote, to be in favour of the NP. All residents who are registered on the Parish's electoral role will be eligible to vote.

Question: Have the Steering Committee already identified pieces of land that could be used for development?

Answer: We are at the very early stage of the Plan preparation which requires us to gather baseline information. A starting point therefore has been to identify, i.e. to mark on a plan, the land available (not developed) in the village and the Parish. The second task will involve the evaluation of the potential of all sites and their viability against set criteria. This criteria is drawn from BMBC's planning department and best planning guidance on land assessment. Running alongside this, our first objective is to identify the type of housing and or other amenities and developments which will be required for the Parish for the next 15 to 20 years and then to set those needs against the best, and more viable land for development. So for example, it would not be best practice or sustainable to allocate land that is within a flood zone or land that might have, or create, problems with access for future development.

The plans showing land availability were used to support two training sessions. The first was led by Planning Aid England and attended by the Parish Council, the Steering Group and volunteer members from the 'specialist groups'. The second workshop was held at the community event on March 1st and members of the community were asked to comment on, and to consider, the various sites and also to identify any other sites that might be available. No decisions have been made, nor can they be made about any preferred sites, prior to classifying and establishing future needs for the Parish.

A NP cannot set an agenda against development and change. There is a housing crisis across the Country, let's not turn it into a crisis for our village or for our Parish. We will not turn the tide against housing growth set by Central and Local Governments, but if we work together we can find a solution that could improve all of our lives young and old, now and in years to come. The challenge is for us all to create our NP.

We need your support and we need you to talk to us. You can contact us with questions as follows:

Parish Council meetings - there is a session at the beginning of each Parish Council meeting where you can ask questions that hopefully the Parish Council members will be able to answer. If they can't they will make a note of your question and get back to you.

Twitter: Oxspring Village

Facebook: Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan

Web page: www.oxspringplan.co.uk - There is a question and answer facility

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Something to Report?

Here are some Useful Council Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	772468	Pest Control	772468
Dog Fouling	772468	Planning Applications	772000
Illegal dumping/fly tipping	772468	Public Rights of ways	772142
Fly Posting	775656	Road repairs/potholes	773555
Flooded Road	773555	Street lighting faults	774200
Footpaths roadside	773555	Traffic Light faults	773555
Graffiti	775656	Refuse collection/recycling	772045
Gritting/snow clearing	773555	Noise complaints	772468
Grass cutting/weed killing	775656	Litter Bins/street sweeping	775656
Household Waste recycling	774215	BMBC Switchboard	770770

Police Golden Line 736387 (Penistone Safer Neighbourhood Team – non emergencies)

Public Sewers 08451 242429 (Yorkshire Water) South Yorkshire Police (Non urgent calls) 101

Your Parish Councillors

<u>Chair</u> - Ian Goldthorpe:	Malydon, Bower Hill, Oxspring.	Tel 766362.
<u>Vice Chair</u> – Ann Walker:	9 Brookfield, Oxspring.	Tel 379895.
Freda Shaw:	2 East Road, Oxspring.	Tel 767070.
Ian Stanley:	12 East Road, Oxspring.	Tel 764220.
Alison Mills:	12 Brookfield, Oxspring.	Tel 379910.
Bill Taylor:	The Bungalow, Sheffield Road, Oxspring.	Tel 07999 383283.
Arthur Wood:	42 Bar Lane, Mapplewell.	Tel 07796 906369.

Oxspring Friends

Seniors' Tea – Saturday 17th May, 5pm till 8pm at St Aidans

Oxspring Friends invite all Oxspring resident over 60's to an Evening of hot pie and peas followed by a great sweet with sherry to drink, the great band Freewheelin, and much much more.

If you would like to attend, please complete the slip below and return to Ben at the Post Office or hand in at the Pop In, by 10th May 2014.

Oxspring Friends seniors' Tea, Saturday 17th May, 5pm till 8pm at St Aidans.

I accept your invitation and request _____ place(s).

Name(s): _____

If any of our seniors are housebound, we could deliver. In this event please contact Freda Shaw on 01226 767070.

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