

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

Parish Council News

Maintenance work has continued this past year at the village playarea with new arms for the Waltz, repairs to the swings, modifications to the perimeter fencing and new grass matting being laid in parts. Parts to replace the majority of the wooden train and the Multi-unit Swing Bridge have been purchased, and these will be installed shortly. Three new bench seats have also been ordered and will shortly be placed in the play area, providing much needed seating for parents etc when the park gets busy during the summer months.

Drainage problems were dealt with on the playingfield last autumn, with new underground piping being installed to solve issues that had appeared the previous winter after heavy rains. The Parish Council is now confident that the new piping links into the Culvert and that a blocked drain has been repaired.

Oxspring Titivators

The Titivators 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. They have made a large contribution towards keeping Oxspring in good shape this last year.

They 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. Specific areas that they have worked on and done planting are the Pinfold, Bower Dell and Gordon's Garden. They have also taken on the maintenance of the Rose Garden on the corner of Sheffield Road/Roughbirchworth Lane, and helped the Parish Council put up the village Christmas tree.

The group also now have access to some excellent gardening equipment purchased via a Penistone Ward Alliance Grant.

The group would also like to thank Les & Shirley Ilsley, Bill Coles, and Alison Barron for their donations of plants, which have been planted around the village.

*Anyone wishing to join the group would be made most welcome.
Please contact Alan Walker on 01226 379895 or Freda Shaw on 01226 767070*

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Oxspring Best Planter of 2015 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 or August. 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.

Report from New Years Eve Ceilidh 2014

We're nearly half way through 2015 already, but the organisers of last years Ceilidh would like to express their thanks, so here is an account of how well the New Year was seen in!

What a wonderful way to see in 2015! Dancing to 'Pinch 'O Snuff' Ceilidh band with Graham the caller rousing us to swirl around the floor, and dos a dos-ing mostly in time to the music. 100 local folk including 30 children spent a splendid (frantic, some may say!) evening in a whirl of bon homie that lasted right from the word 'Go' at 8pm until the sonorous tones of Big Ben at midnight.

Outside the night was crisp and cold but inside St Aidan's we generated our own heat from the non-stop ceilidh - we should all be truly proud of our stamina.

We hope that the format of the evening was like baby bear's porridge - just right. However, any positive comments would be gratefully received.

Many thanks to all who helped us achieve a memorable occasion in particular Ben at Oxspring P.O. for ticket sales, and to Father Matthew for his invaluable support.

This was a not-for-profit event. Any monies generated are retained to sponsor future events so - watch this space.

Thanks again to all who attended.

Happy 2015

Val and Steve

Oxspring Hunshelf Amble

The Oxspring Hunshelf Amble is a run taking place on Saturday 13th June at 10.30am. It starts at Oxspring Playingfield. It is a 7 mile hilly course that takes in great views of Hunshelf Bank, and goes up to Green Moor and back. Entry is £5.

All welcome.

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Oxspring Primary School

PTA Coffee Morning

The PTA will be holding a coffee morning on Wednesday 3rd June from 9.30am or earlier; in aid of Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity.

New starters are welcome as there will be a story telling session with their new teacher.

Duck Race

The annual Duck Race will once again be held at Bower Dell (weather permitting) on Friday 3rd July.

Bee Friendly!!

We are all familiar with the buzzing of bees in our gardens, but every year it's the sound that has been diminishing as they fall further into a dangerous decline.

One of the biggest threats to bees is loss of habitat, principally the loss of wild flowers that bees depend on for flowers and nectar. We have lost 97% of our flower rich grassland since the 1930's due to increasingly intensive agriculture, housing and tarmacing over green space. Through pollination of commercial crops such as tomatoes, peas, apples and strawberries, insects are estimated to contribute over £400 million a year to the UK economy. They are vital to our food supply so it makes sense that we do everything in our power to save them.

We can fill our gardens with bee-friendly plants. Look for bee friendly signs on plants at your garden centre. We need to avoid using pesticides altogether and to cut long grass only after the wild flowers in it have flowered and seeded. These practices bear well for other wildlife too. The hedgehog rescue centre in Louth regularly has hedgehogs brought in with feet that have been cut off by strimmers. The weedkiller spray "Roundup" is lethal to hedgehogs as are slug pellets containing Metaldehyde which disrupts gastric organs, destroys the nervous system and is known to kill domestic pets.

If you think you can't grow anything without chemicals then take a visit to Wortley Hall walled garden (open Tuesday to Thursday), it is a perfect example of an organic garden. Ask Darrel how he does it without chemicals.

Finally, wildlife will never find a home in a manicured garden. Piles of leaves, sticks and decaying wood all provide shelter and food. Hedgehogs need a small gap in your fence so that they can come in and forage in your garden at night. They might even make it their home!

*For more information look up www.pan-uk.org and www.ourhogwatch.org.uk.
I'm really looking forward to seeing Oxspring blooming and buzzing with life this summer!*

Julia Tomson (resident).

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Neighbourhood Plan Update May 2015

Community Consultation Results

In January 2015 the Neighbourhood Plan produced a document entitled Consultation Draft - Indicative Policy Areas and Proposals which was circulated to residents and businesses in Oxspring. The document included a questionnaire and asked for the community's comments on the proposals. Two public consultation meetings were also held. Copies were distributed to 500 households and businesses and 105 responses were received back – a response rate of 20%. The responses on the questionnaires were collated and analysed by Planning Aid England, the results of which reveal overwhelming support for the Plan's proposals.

The Next Stage

One of the key elements of any Neighbourhood Plan is that it has to align with the Local Authority's Local Plan. BMBC's Local Plan has not yet been finalised, and probably won't be until the end of 2015, adding some difficulties in producing a definitive NP.

However, following the support from the community and the advice of Planning Aid England, we will now draft policies for the Neighbourhood Plan ensuring that they are consistent with BMBC's emerging Local Plan and the views of local residents and businesses.

From the beginning of the new tax year more funding has been made available from Locality and an application for a further grant is being prepared, which is expected to be approved. Specialist consultants will be appointed to take the NP forward, paid for by the additional grant. The consultants will redraft the policies grouped under the headings of Development; Environment; Community Services and Facilities and Movement and although this is still a work in progress will be along the following lines.

Development

*The major concern of residents is the number, style and type of any future development in the village, particularly housing. In BMBC's emerging Local Plan (which will remain in force until 2033) there are **no sites** allocated in Oxspring (or the immediate surrounding area) for housing development, but small scale development may take place on appropriate sites (i.e not Green Belt) that may become available. These are known as "Windfall Sites". It is, therefore, necessary that the NP has policies to cover future development on such sites, including appropriate design, housing mix and numbers of new dwellings.*

Environment

An audit of the village's natural resources will be undertaken and policies will be written to provide protection and to enhance the Local Green Infrastructure (woodland, hedgerows, rivers etc), Local Green Spaces (eg Bower Dell, the Anthills, Gordon's Garden etc) and Local Wildlife Sites, Habitats and Features.

Community Services and Facilities

An audit of the village's existing services and facilities will be undertaken and policies will be written to protect and enhance those services and facilities for the future.

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For example, it has long been an ambition of the village to provide up-to-date changing facilities etc for anyone using the playing fields for sport and recreation. If it is practicable to do so, in line with Barnsley's emerging Local Plan, a policy will be formed along the lines of the previously approved but now lapsed plans for improved facilities on the playing fields' site. This would include improvements to the fields as well as the construction of a suitable building. With improved facilities both the school and community sports groups could be encouraged to make more use of the site.

Movement

An audit of the village's current footpath and cycleway networks will be undertaken and policies will be written to improve and enhance those networks, including improving access to the Trans Pennine Trail wherever possible. Improving access to the riverside will also be considered. There are issues around land ownership but this will not preclude the Plan from improving access at sites under the ownership of the Parish Council.

Village Aspirations

In addition to firm policies, which will inform future planning decisions, a Neighbourhood Plan can list aspirations which, although not policies in themselves nevertheless reflect the communities' hopes and aspirations for the future shape of the community. The following aspirations may form part of the NP.

Enhanced Broadband Connectivity. *This may resolve itself in time but any efforts to improve the current situation should be sought. If any new dwellings are built in the village developers should seek to obtain the best possible broadband connection for those dwellings.*

A New School. *There was a lot of support for a new school in the village. However, there are currently no plans in Barnsley's emerging Local Plan to build a new school in Oxspring or the local Penistone sub-district. However, if that situation changes in the future a new school on a larger site with adequate drop off/pick up facilities and with either its own or safe and easy access to playing fields and sports facilities would be desirable. If the improvements to the playing fields take place and a new school becomes a realistic possibility, using the playing fields' site may no longer be an option for the new school. Careful consideration would then need to be given to a possible alternative site.*

Green Energy. *The feasibility of a green energy scheme for the village is being researched and may well form part of the future aspirations of the village.*

Fully improved access to the TPT *for bicycles, pushchairs, wheelchair users etc from Roughbitchworth Lane and/or the playing fields would be a costly project, but if funding becomes available through a Community Infrastructure Levy or grant aid, for example, improved access to the TPT at either or both of those sites would be highly desirable.*

Keeping the Community Informed

The Parish Council will continue to update the community as the details of the NP policies emerge and there will be further opportunities to comment on those policies during a six week statutory consultation period later in the year.

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Saint Aidan's Church Diary

Weekly activities include:

Pilates Fitness: Monday 9.30 – 10.30am
Busy Bees (preschool): Tuesday 9.30 – 11.30am
Brownies (girls 7-10): Tuesday 6.15 – 7.45pm
Kettlecise Fitness: Tuesday 8.15 – 9.15pm
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): Wednesday 7.30 – 9.00pm
Zumba Fitness: Friday 6.00 – 7.00pm

Church Service: Sunday 9am – 10am

For more information on any of the above activities and events please call Father Matthew Joy on 762276

The hall is also available for hire at other times. Ring 764333 or 762276 for details.

Every Flower Counts – Volunteers needed for Annual Stock Take of UK's Wildflowers!

National Plant Monitoring Scheme – www.npms.org.uk

The National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS) is organised and funded by BSBI, CEH, JNCC and Plantlife. The aim is to collect data to provide an annual indication of changes in plant abundance and diversity.

Thanks to volunteers, we have a very good understanding of changes in the populations of birds, butterflies and bats. Plants are the foundations of ecosystems, but currently we do not have a good measure of changes in plant populations.

This is a scientific survey, so you will be randomly allocated a convenient 1km square to visit. The visit involves recording plant 'indicator species' in plots. Within your 1km square you will record around 5 plots.

Anyone interested in nature who can identify plants, or who is keen to learn can take part. Different levels of participation ensure that all who are keen can participate: you do not have to be an experienced botanist. There will be training materials provided and the opportunity to attend workshops throughout the year.

See www.npms.org.uk

Horse Riding EGB Event on TPT

Jeni Gilbert is running the Wharncliffe Chase Endurance GB event on the 6th June. The event starts at Finkle Street Lane, Wortley and comes down the Trans Pennine Trail through Oxspring. The route will be clearly marked. For more information or to enter please contact Jeni on 07845 975612.

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Oxspring Open Gardens

For ten years Oxspring Open Gardens was held in the Brookfield/Fields End part of the village and was last held in 2013. Over the years several thousand pounds was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support. It is hoped that an Oxspring Open Gardens Event could take place in the summer of 2016. The idea would be that it is a true Oxspring event, with gardens all over the village taking part.

The Parish Council would like to set up a group of people to organise the event. If you are interested in helping please send your contact details to the Clerk to the Council. (See bottom of page for contact details)

Trunce Run Series 2015

2014's Trunce Run Series was yet another successful season with record numbers in some races, and 1040 individual competitors throughout the season.

This years Trunce is well under way with the first 3 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.

2015 Race dates:

Monday 1st June, Monday 22nd June, Monday 13th July, Monday 3rd August, Monday 24th August, Monday 14th September followed by end of year presentations in the Wagon and Horses pub.

Polite Notices

The Parish Council receive many reports of issues that bother residents over the course of a year. There are some recurring issues which the Council would ask politely that people refrain from doing. These are:

Dog Fouling – please clear up after your dog and use the dog bins available around the village, alternatively take the bag home to your own bin. Leaving bags hanging in trees is unacceptable.

Fly tipping – Please do not dump rubbish at the sides of roads/footpaths. There has been a lot of fly tipping in Oxspring in the last year and it makes the village unsightly.

Inconsiderate parking – Please take care when parking on kerbs and ensure that space is left on pavements for wheelchair/pushchair users. There has been a specific complaint about parking on Mayfield.

To report dog fouling or flytipping please contact Barnsley Council on 772468.

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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

Councillor Vacancy

Oxspring Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested please send your details to the Clerk to the Council. (Please include a bit about yourself and why you would like to be a Councillor). For more information on what's involved please contact any of the current

Councillors or the Clerk.

Contact details are below.

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
Alison Mills:	12 Brookfield, Oxspring.	Tel 379910
Graham Sedgwick:	10 Mayfield, Oxspring.	Tel 764350
Ian Stanley:	12 East Road, Oxspring.	Tel 764220

Clerk to the Council – Stephanie Tolson, 43 Nether Royd View, Silkstone Common. Tel: 792657

Oxspring Parish Council email: OPC@tolson818.fsnet.co.uk