

## **OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL**

# **WINTER 2021 PARISH NEWSLETTER**

## **OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL WISHES YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2022**

### **Letter from the Chair**

*Dear Oxspring Resident, we hope this newsletter finds you well.*

*For obvious reasons the Parish Council did not meet in person during the Covid shutdown period although we did manage to hold some of our meetings on zoom. We have therefore not published a Newsletter for quite some time, although we did issue one in the summer of 2020 via the Parish Council's website.*

*We realise that a lot of people do not visit the website and that some of you therefore will not have seen some of the really good work that we undertook during the whole of the shutdown period and consequently, we are re-printing the following extract so that we can make sure you are all up to date with the work that was undertaken on your behalf. Apologies to those of you who may already have read this.*

*Best Wishes, Ann Walker (Parish Council Chair)*

*SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER EXTRACT: (Issued via the website only)*

### **COVID-19 VOLUNTEERS**

*What a wonderful community we have in Oxspring. We have had so many people volunteering to help over the long period that we have been on shut down, and the Parish Council would like to extend a huge thank you to every single one of you for all your help and support over what has been a very difficult time for some of our residents. Below are a sample of some of the things we know you have been up to:*

- ***The Oxspring Buddies**, a group of volunteers (32 in total) got together to provide help to Oxspring residents in need during the unprecedented time of the pandemic. They started when lock-down was implemented to ensure that any residents requiring help had a named contact. In total they were given the names of 35 residents who might need help during lock-down, all of whom received a letter with their appointed contact's name and telephone number and details of what they could offer – help with shopping, posting mail, collecting prescriptions or other urgent supplies, or perhaps just keeping in touch with a friendly telephone call.*

*Whilst many of the residents managed to remain independent or had family help, about one third contacted their 'buddy' for help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and that friendly telephone call. Two of the volunteers also provided their buddies with culinary delights!*

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*Not every volunteer was 'buddied up' and not every volunteer buddied was called upon, but there was always the capacity to be able to provide the service, when called upon, even in an emergency!*

*With such a great group of volunteers, it would be lovely to think that as we move forward from this Coronavirus pandemic, that we will continue to support all our Oxspring neighbours.*

*A special thank you should go to Jane Harding who was responsible for the co-ordination of this project.*

- ***Helen Sparks and family** spent four weeks collecting litter across the Parish and filled 21 black bin bags with rubbish. They covered the whole of Oxspring and it gave purpose to some of their walks which they actually found quite addictive. They even waded in the river which we are sure both adults and kids found highly enjoyable.*
- *You may be aware that during the lock-down many of the jobs undertaken by BMBC (grass cutting etc.) were temporarily cancelled and some of the village residents took it upon themselves to help with keeping the village tidy and looking something like presentable. A really big thank you to **the residents on Sheffield Road and Roughbirchworth** who took it upon themselves to keep the grass verges at the front of their houses mown and presentable. It makes a huge difference when you drive through the village to see things looking tidy.*
- ***The Oxspring Titivators** have also kept things moving although this has not been easy whilst trying to maintain their social distancing requirement. Nevertheless, they have managed to weed Gordon's Garden, tidy the flower beds in the football field car park and try to keep on top of the grass cutting in Bower Dell (not an easy job when you don't have heavy duty grass cutting equipment). Litter picking has also been ongoing and many visitors to the village comment on the lack of litter when they drive through or visit the TPT in our area.*

*A special thank you needs to be extended to **Graham Sedgwick** for all his efforts to create another couple of garden areas in the football field car park. Work is ongoing in these areas and you will start to see new plants growing in this area sometime soon. Graham has also planted new trees that were donated by Barnsley Council, and also kept them watered during the very long dry spell that we had in May. Not an easy task when there is no water supply nearby. Again, a really big thank you to Graham for all his efforts and a big thank you to **Alan Walker and Roger Rose** for all their help in helping to keep the village tidy and welcoming (not bad for septuagenarians!)*

*Another resident, Shaun **Swallow**, has also been volunteering to help with the group and helped with the dismantling of a picnic bench in Bower Dell which was deliberately set on fire. He has also helped with some minor repairs to the dry-stone wall at the car park entrance near the children's play area and with some grass cutting and other jobs in the village.*

- *We also need to thank **Mr David Shirtliffe** who also took it upon himself to tidy up the weeds growing in and around Mayfield and also helped with the widening of the path around the*

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football field. He painstakingly started clearing the overgrown footpath around the football field at the back of his home and then also helped the contractor who undertook the scraping of the path to ensure that all the overgrown grass was removed from the path, thereby keeping access open and suitable for all users.

- We know that there have also been other volunteers busy doing odd jobs in the village although we are not aware of their names, and once again, we would like to extend a huge thank you to them and to anyone else who has in any way shape or form contributed to making Oxspring, the village that we all want to live in.

**ONCE AGAIN, A REALLY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED IN ANY WAY DURING THE VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION WE FOUND OURSELVES IN. THE PARISH COUNCIL SENDS YOU A REALLY BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

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#### **Works undertaken in 2021**

To bring you right up to date we list below a number of jobs that we have undertaken since the first shutdown, so you can see that things still move on:

The **football field car park** has been tidied up and road planings have been spread across the surface to fill in some of the major pot holes. We have also managed to persuade BMBC to repair the footpath at the entrance to the car park, so they have now put down new tarmac which makes access to the car park much easier.

We also managed to get BMBC to undertake some repairs to the **culvert** at the side of the Pinfold as the footpath was crumbling away and they also did some minor fence repairs at the same time to ensure that this area is safe.

A **new handrail** has been fitted from the football field car park up the ramp that leads into the football field. This will make access/egress much easier, particularly in the icy weather.

We have had an issue with people staying overnight/**camping** in both the children's play area car park and at Castle Dam Car Park. New, 'No camping' signs have been erected so hopefully this will resolve this issue once and for all.

In Bower Dell picnic area we have planted a couple of Memorial Trees and are creating a small **memorial garden** space for quiet reflection. Much to our dismay one of the trees was stolen and the other uprooted soon after. We hope to finish re-instating the garden very soon and will be erecting a small fence and some memorial plaques.

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### **MUGA**

*A major new project for the village children and young people has also come to fruition this year. A MUGA (multi use games area) has been erected in the football field on the old netball pitch court.*

*We would like to encourage parents and their children to enjoy this wonderful new facility and hopefully the children from school will be able to undertake some of their outdoor sports activities in this area as well.*

*This project was funded from S106 monies kindly given to the Parish Council by BMBC. This is money paid to Barnsley Council from developers when new building developments are completed, not necessarily in our area, but it is money that can be allocated to improve facilities for a variety of purposes. A total grant of approximately £27K was granted to us from BMBC and we managed to top this up with another grant from the Ward Alliance team in Penistone. I hope everyone will agree that this is money well spent.*

*When the new surface was laid for the MUGA, there was some tarmac left over and the contractors very kindly laid it in the football field car park entrance for us, which has vastly improved the entrance.*

### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Community Event and Fun Day**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

*It will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration next year and we are arranging to hold a Community Event and Fun Day on Saturday 4th June 2022 in the football field between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. to celebrate this milestone in our Monarch's reign.*

*We are still at the very early planning stages, but shortly after Christmas, we will be issuing some publicity leaflets telling you exactly what we are planning.*

*Please make a note in your diaries to help us celebrate this momentous event.*

### **Bowling Club**

*Come and join the Oxspring Bowling Club. This indoor short mat bowling club starts up at the beginning of October through to the end of March. £2 entry with free tea and coffee.*

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### **Hanging Basket Sponsorship**

*Thank you to everyone who sponsored a hanging basket in Oxspring this Summer. We hope you all agree that the baskets and sponsor signs are a lovely addition to the village. We have many more lamp posts in the village, so if you would like to sponsor a hanging basket in 2022, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk for details.*

*Existing sponsors will be contacted in the spring to see if they would like to continue with their sponsorship.*

*You may have noticed that the village baskets were not as well established as they normally are when they first went up in the summer, and therefore as a goodwill gesture the supplier will be providing Oxspring with free Spring flower baskets at the end of February, in addition to our usual summer baskets. So, you can expect a very colourful 2022!*

*To sponsor a basket in 2022 email [clerk@oxspring-parish.com](mailto:clerk@oxspring-parish.com)*

### **Speeding issues in the village**

*For quite a long time we have been discussing various aspects of speeding in and through the village. We have noted comments on social media from residents and have taken a number of steps in the past to try to resolve some of the issues. This has all obviously come to nothing and consequently, we have finally decided on a very specific course of action.*

*We have initiated having the speed camera van come into the village, unannounced, on a couple of occasions, not just to catch people speeding, but so that we have clear evidence of exactly how much speeding is taking place and although we are not given detailed information, we are provided with the number of people caught speeding during any specific time frame.*

*We are currently looking at the purchase of two speed indicator signs (SIDs) and will be making a decision on whether or not to go down this route at a future meeting.*

*We have written a comprehensive letter to BMBC Highways Department, listing all the speed related areas in the village, together with a plan of action to remedy some of the issues. The letter was sent in October and to date, we have not had a reply. However, rest assured if we do not get a response within what we consider to be an appropriate time frame, we will be escalating the letter to the appropriate powers that be.*

*We are aware that some of our actions are very contentious and if you wish to have your say regarding any of these actions, then please come to one of our Parish Council Meetings to let us hear your opinions.*

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### **Printed Newsletter**

*As you are aware, we have historically printed, published and delivered newsletters to almost every house in the parish. This obviously incurs a cost and involves the members of the Parish Council hand delivering the Newsletter through your letter box. With the amount of social media now available, the Council have taken the decision to send the Newsletter out electronically to as many people as possible and to print a few copies that we can make available, either through the post office, or at St Aidans.*

*Consequently, if we don't already have your email address it would be very helpful if you could send your details to our Clerk at [clerk@oxspring-parish.com](mailto:clerk@oxspring-parish.com). We promise to only use your information for the purpose of getting parish information to you.*

*Alternatively, you will be able to pick up a hard copy at either the Post Office or at St Aidans, and the Newsletter will also be available on the Parish Council's web site. However, if you really still want to receive a hard copy, if you let us know your details, we will make sure that we hand deliver one to your address.*

### **The Titivators**

*The **Titivators** are a small group of Oxspring residents doing regular voluntary work around the village, under the direction of and with the full approval of the Oxspring Parish Council. The main aim of the group is to improve the environment of the parish and the village.*

*The work involves such tasks as litter picks, maintaining flower beds, general pruning, clearing of vegetation etc. along with creating new areas for example a parish community orchard.*

*Two projects presently ongoing are the creation of community allotment at the Clays Green site and the planting of saplings on the eastern boundary of the Sports field.*

*The expected delivery and erection of the Christmas tree is the 4<sup>th</sup> of December and will be decorated with the lights on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Also, on the 4<sup>th</sup> the Willows planter troughs will be removed in to winter storage.*

*More volunteers are always needed. Should you be interested in joining this small group of local residents in keeping our village looking special, please contact:*

*Emily Gratton-Rayson Tel 01226 766322 email [collinandemily@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:collinandemily@tiscali.co.uk)  
or Alan Walker Tel 01226379895 email [walker761@talktalk.net](mailto:walker761@talktalk.net)*

*You will be made most welcome.*

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### **Community Allotment**

*Work is continuing on the **Community/family allotment**. It is situated in the allotments site at the top of Bower Hill near the cross roads.*

*If any individual/couple or family wish to be involved in the project's evolution however small or great please get in touch, either through Emily Gratton-Rayson, [craftygardener3@gmail.com](mailto:craftygardener3@gmail.com), 01226 766322) or directly to Oxspring Parish Council.*

*Emily will put up regular updates around the village and if you want to send her your email, she will let you know directly about all developments and dates.*

### **Possible Roman Camp at Roughbirchworth**

*A local archaeology group is continuing to investigate a possible Iron-Age or Romano-British site at Roughbirchworth, Oxspring.*

*They obtained funding for a geophysical survey in late 2020 and this has shown the outlines of ancient circular defensive ditches and other features which may have been Iron-Age houses. Previously, there has been little evidence of Iron-Age or Romano-British people in this area and it had been thought that any remaining features or structures in these fields would have been ploughed out over the years, but this is not the case.*

*They would now like to carry out a small further excavation of some of these features to discover what remains, involving as many in the community as possible, especially schools and local children. This fits in with the National Curriculum (Key Stage 2) which covers aspects of the Iron Age. Hopefully this will take place in the spring of 2022, once the pandemic is over.*

*The details of work done so far can be viewed on the Oxspring Parish Council Website at <https://www.oxspring-parish.com/possible-roman-camp-roughbirchworth>*

*Other information can be obtained from the Roughbirchworth Community Excavation Group's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/347336656362318>*

### **Thurgoland Bank Closure**

*We have been informed by Barnsley Council that Thurgoland Bank will remain closed until February 2022. The road was closed in January this year due to a landslip, cracks and void under the road. These have been the subject of ground investigations. Please rest assured that the project is ongoing, and although the project has faced a number of challenges, the specialist team will be completing the works in the next couple of months.*

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### **Public participation at Council Meetings**

*We very rarely have the pleasure of meeting many of our parishioners at our Council Meetings, despite the fact that provision is made for you to come along and raise any concerns with us in person. The meetings start at 7.15 p.m. and time is made at the beginning of the meeting, for members of the public to have their say. We would be delighted to see more of you involved in the public participation section of the meetings. Please come along and join us, even if you only want to listen to what we are discussing on the night!*

### **Your Council Contacts**

#### **Parish Councillors**

<i>Chair - Ann Walker:</i>	<i>Tel 379895, Email: walker761@talktalk.net</i>
<i>Vice Chair - Graham Sedgwick:</i>	<i>Tel 764350, Email: graham.sedgwick@talktalk.net</i>
<i>Lisa Chambers :</i>	<i>Tel 07900384633, Email: fretwell75@aol.com</i>
<i>Ian Goldthorpe:</i>	<i>Tel 766362, Email: ri.goldthorpe@pobroadband.co.uk</i>
<i>Emily Gratton-Rayson:</i>	<i>Tel 766322, Email: craftygardener3@gmail.com</i>
<i>Norma McKay:</i>	<i>Tel 766152, Email: norma.mckay51@btinternet.com</i>
<i>Ian Stanley:</i>	<i>Tel 764220, Email: jacquelinestanley12@yahoo.com</i>

#### **Parish Clerk**

*Stephanie Tolson: Tel: 792657, Email: clerk@oxspring-parish.com*

#### **BMBC Penistone East Ward Councillors**

<i>Robert Barnard:</i>	<i>Tel 382861, Email: CllrRobertBarnard@barnsley.gov.uk</i>
<i>John Wilson:</i>	<i>Tel 243497, Email: CllrJohnWilson@barnsley.gov.uk</i>
<i>Paul Hand-Davis:</i>	<i>Tel 773148, Email: CllrPaulHand-Davis@barnsley.gov.uk</i>

### **NOTICES**

#### **Dog Fouling**

*It has been noticed that there has been an increase in dog fouling across the Parish in particular on the Trans Pennine Trail and Thorpes Lane. Please please pick up after your dog. Please also take the bags home with you or deposit in one of the various bins around the village. Please do not leaving them hanging in trees or at the side of footpaths!*

#### **Fly Tipping**

*It has been noted that a lot of garden and builders waste/rubble is being dumped on the Trans Pennine trail in particular where gardens back onto the trail. Please take your excess waste to your local recycling centre.*



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### **Oxspring Parish Council meeting dates 2022**

#### ***At Saint Aidan's Church***

<i>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>	<i>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>
<i>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>	<i>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>
<i>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>	<i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>
<i>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>	<i>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>
<i>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>6.45pm</i>	<i>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>
<i>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>		

*The public may attend for 10 minutes at the beginning of each meeting*

### **Parish Council Website**

*The Parish Council website is [www.Oxspring-parish.com](http://www.Oxspring-parish.com)*

*On the website you can find all publicly available documents, plus a wealth of other information about Oxspring. If you have a news item for the website please contact the clerk at [clerk@oxspring-parish.com](mailto:clerk@oxspring-parish.com)*

*As mentioned above, this will be the last Newsletter that we print and hand deliver in the village. If you have any comments or wish to discuss this matter with us please either contact the Clerk or come along to chat with us at one of our Parish Council meetings.*

### **Something to Report to Barnsley Council?**

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

*Or via the reporting portal on the BMBC website: [www.barnsley.gov.uk/tell-us-about-it/](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/tell-us-about-it/)*