



MELBOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY

Newsletter no 170

President: Lord Ralph Kerr DL

January 2016

Your Neighbourhood Plan

You can help to shape the Melbourne and Kings Newton Neighbourhood Development Plan by coming along to a "Drop In" session to be held on Saturday 20th February at Melbourne Assembly Rooms between 10am and 2pm. You will be able to see the work that has been done so far and join the conversations about the various aspects of the plan. *More on page 2.*

Councillor Jane Carroll



Social media litter stars

A small but enthusiastic and determined group set out to pick up litter on 5th December on the windiest day imaginable. Battling against the elements, we all managed to fill our rubbish sacks with litter left in the aftermath of summer and with stuff blown around by the wind. Thanks to Barry Thomas our photograph featured on Twitter and the Civic Voice Newsletter. The former led to an invitation to help clear up the litter in the Normanton area of Derby which we declined! The latter led to an invitation to join a Clean Up Day which will be the prime focus on Civic Day in June. This we do plan to take part in and we hope you will join us.

Midwinter Evening

There are still tickets available for the Midwinter Evening on Friday 22nd January at South Willow, Church Lane, Barrow on Trent which is the home of Malcolm Busfield one of our Committee members. Claire Sturges and Barbara Simpson will be laying on a delicious buffet for us and you will be greeted with mulled wine and canapés.

Tickets cost £13 and can be obtained from Claire by ringing her on 01332 863280.

Civic Award

We are seeking nominations for our Civic Award again . If you know of a worthwhile restoration, new building or landscaping project in Melbourne or Kings Newton which you think worthy of consideration please let us know by the end of February. The project must be completed by the end of March to qualify. You can put forward your suggestions to the Secretary or any committee member.

Pam Adams

Neighbourhood development plan consultation

I was pleased to be invited to the Civic Society committee meeting in November to talk about the Heritage and Conservation Section of the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Melbourne and Kings Newton.

The committee gave their advice which was much welcomed. Green Spaces were highlighted as an area which could be expanded and following this discussion and further advice a new section of the NDP has emerged. The Green Spaces section will be headed by Barry Thomas who has recently joined the NDP Working Party.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan is an official document that enables us to develop a shared vision of what we want our community to be in the future. Ideally the whole community is involved. That means all of the residents in the parish including the settlements of Melbourne and Kings Newton. The NDP Working Party aims to get as much input as possible from everyone living in Melbourne Parish.

The NDP is a statutory document which if formally adopted by an examination and referendum process has to be considered in the planning process for any new development. The key to getting approval for the NPD relies heavily on evidence collected by many means and consultation and conversations with members of the community.

You can help by coming along to a "Drop In" session to be held on Saturday February 20th at Melbourne Assembly Rooms between 10 and 2. You will be able to see the work that has been done so far and join the conversations about the various aspects of the plan.

I would like to thank Barry Thomas and Philip Heath for their work on producing the Heritage and Conservation document for the NPD.

Councillor Jane Carroll—Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Party



Look out for the daffodils

Keep an eye open for the daffodils we have planted along Ashby Road and Blackwell Lane. They will probably put in an early appearance this year, as the weather has been so unseasonably mild.

Committee nominations

We would love to see more new faces on our Committee! We have our committee meetings in the evening on the second Monday in the month. If you would like to have some influence on the decision making of your Civic Society or can give input from a new perspective why don't you put your name forward? Nomination forms will be available at the forthcoming meetings or speak to any Committee member.

Pam Adams

Planning Applications

The Society has considered the planning applications listed below and made representations to South Derbyshire District Council as indicated by the following symbols: **O** = No objection **X** = Objection
S = Support **D** = Detailed comments

9/2015/0844	O	92 Victoria Street - Single storey rear extension and dormer window
9/2015/0874	O	79 Spinney Hill - 2 storey side extension
9/2015/0875	X	The Old Barn, Cockshut Lane - Conversion to dwelling
9/2015/0887	O	The Dower House, Church Square - Felling of tree
9/2015/0890	O	59 Jubilee Close - Felling of tree
9/2015/0898	D	51 Commerce Street - Front dormer and roof light
9/2015/0891	O	Plot 8, Kings Newton Lane development site - Pruning of oak tree
9/2015/0927	O	67 Castle Street- Felling of conifer and pruning of cherry tree
9/2015/0944	O	16 Woodlands Way - Garage conversion and extension
9/2015/0949	O	Brooklands, Station Road - Garage, loft conversion, canopy and external gables
9/2015/0953	O	Woodhouse Farm, Ashby Road - Erection of portal frame store
9/2015/0957	O	r/o plots 21-24, Kings Newton Lane - Footpath amendment to approved layout plan
9/2015/0970	O	STW Water Treatment Works, Ashby Road - Erection of solar panel arrays
9/2015/0978	O	39 Market Place - Replacement ATM
9/2015/0987	O	86 Ashby Road - Demolition of dwelling and erection of new dwelling
9/2015/0991	O	86 The Woodlands - Garage extension - amended plans
9/2015/1021	O	Ye Olde Pack Horse Inn, Pack Horse Road, KN - Alterations in connexion with conversion to dwelling -lbapp
9/2015/1031	O	43-45 Blanch Croft - Felling of two garden trees
9/2015/1035	O	Field Farm, Station Road - Retention of temporary caravan
9/2015/1036	X	Field Farm, Station Road - Erection of agricultural dwelling
9/2015/1064	O	Former PH car park, King's Newton Lane - Erection of 5 bedroomed house
9/2015/1057	O	22 Trent Lane - Extension and external rendering
9/2015/1071	O	39 Market Place - Illuminated bank signage
9/2015/1076	O	Ye Olde Pack Horse Inn, Pack Horse Road, KN - Conversion to dwelling - amended plans
9/2015/1077	O	85 Castle Street Pruning of ash tree
9/2015/1102	O	56 Derby Road - Demolition of existing shop
9/2015/1110	XX	Jawbone Lane, Kings Newton - Outline application, the erection of 40 dwellings
9/2015/1122	O	75 Penn Lane - New roof light
9/2015/1128	O	26 Church Street - Side and rear extensions and new garage
9/2015/1130	O	86 Ashby Road - Demolition of dwelling - lbapp
9/2015/1145	O	Garden Flat, former National School, Penn Lane - Removal of occupancy condition
9/2014/1013	X	Land north of Blackwell Lane - Outline application, the erection of 15 dwellings - amended plans
9/2015/0218	X	Land @ Main Street, Kings Newton - Outline application, the erection of 8 dwellings - amended
9/2015/0363	D	56 Derby Road - Demolition of shop and erection of three houses (revised plans)
9/2015/1162	D	The Old Coach House, Church Square - Refurbishment, alterations and new canopy
9/2015/1173	O	26-36 High Street - Replacement plastic windows and fascias
9/2015/1179	O	11 Potter Street - Pruning of trees in rear garden
9/2015/1188	O	18 Penn Lane - Two storey side extension
9/2015/1198	D	The Old Coach House, Church Square - Refurbishment, alterations and new canopy - lbapp

Willington Gravel Pit Nature Reserve

Our November talk was given by Richard Spowage the manager of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. The Trust has over 14000 members and manages 43 nature reserves. Derbyshire has an amazing range of habitats and is important for butterwort, water voles and yellow hammers. Climate change, he said, is causing many problems threatening several local species.

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is promoting projects in the Trent Valley based on the theme of "Living Landscapes". The aim is to link a chain of wetlands throughout the area. Willington was bought in 2006; it stands at the confluence of the rivers Trent and Dove and has fine beds of reeds which attract bitterns and reed warblers. Willows on the site have to be cut back annually especially on the islands. Patches of wet grassland are great for snipe and skylarks in the summer. Willington is very important for migrating birds such as greenshank who might only stay for a day or two. Other target species are little ringed plovers and lapwings.

Four viewing platforms have been installed with restricted access and there is deliberately only one route through the site, a policy which was not initially popular, but now accepted as being sensible. New bird hides are being built at this moment.

Bitterns are now established and there has been breeding successes with lapwings, redshanks, water rail and cetti's warbler. There has been increased duck numbers in winter with grazing wigeon and occasional sightings of otter. Harvest mice, dragonflies, grass snakes and fish fry are all healthily increasing in number.

Barry Thomas

The Moulded Beam

I am out of my time. I cannot pass a builder's skip on the roadside without wanting to rescue something out of it. This modern trend for recycling and 'up-cycling' is a pale reflection of our post-war lives. Then there was nothing new to be had, and hardly anything was allowed to go to waste.

Those years for me were spent growing up at Castle Farm, a house blessed with plenty of outbuildings. Here my father stored and reused everything that came to hand. Timber, bricks, tiles, doors, windows, cast iron gutters, they all found a home in the yards or buildings. We de-nailed lengths of timber which came our way, then straightened the nails on the blacksmith's anvil for reuse. I have spent countless hours sitting astride a scaffold plank chipping mortar off second hand bricks.

And in these years, before buildings were 'listed' and their history valued, Dad was busy improving his home. The original dog-leg staircase had started close to the inglenook fireplace as does the one across the road at the White Swan pub. It had been replaced by a straight flight in the next room, but part of old flight remained, the job uncompleted by the previous owners. Dad needed a beam to go across the ceiling.

When the bomb fell on Melbourne in 1940 it damaged several houses, including some timbered cottages in Castle Street on the roadside facing the old burial ground. Ten years later a heap of timber still lay amongst the undergrowth, salvaged from the demolition. We set out one Sunday morning on a mission to 'liberate' a piece. We selected a heavily moulded oak beam, about seven feet long, which had probably done service in a grander house, maybe even the castle. Hoisting it on our shoulders we bore it home. Sixty five years on that weathered beam looks very much of a piece with the beamed ceiling and inglenook beside it.

John Blunt

Melbourne

O Melbourne, fairest of the fair,
With whom but Eden can compare,
What memories thou hast for me,
Of happy hours within thy lea.

Thy lush green glades, thy shady bowers,
Thy silvery pool and old church towers;
There life's troubles always cease,
And once more all is peace.

Gone are these days of sweat and toil,
For perfect peace reign on thy soil,
Tranquillity I always find,
To ease the troubles of my mind.

Thus dear Melbourne thou dost see,
How dearly I dost treasure thee,
And pray that soon may come the time,
When once again thy church bells chime.

Signalman Eric Walden— July 1941

This poem was found recently on a printed card tucked inside a book given to the Treetops Hospice Care shop. It was printed by Sydney Brace who was given the poem by his friend Eric Walden when they were both held prisoner in a Japanese POW camp in 1941.

If anyone has any more information about Eric Walden or Sydney Brace the editor would be pleased to hear about them, and if anyone knows of other poems about Melbourne he would be pleased to publish them in future newsletters.

Ian Turner

FOOTPATHS REPORT

It's hard to believe that come January 2016 the Melbourne Footpaths Group has been in existence for four years. Originally a spin off from the Civic Society, we are proud of the work we have carried out over that period to improve footpaths in the locality. If we go back ten years or so some footpaths had been totally lost such as the path from Station Road to Wilson Lane; even though it does not connect to the Hall's Park Ride, which at one time was the aim of the Parish Council, it is now a well walked path. Many paths were not properly marked from the highway, posts had fallen down, stiles had gone out of repair, gates were falling off their hinges and sleeper bridges were dangerous. Cross-field paths were ploughed up and never returned to a good surface.



In four years, from Melbourne to Repton and from Swarkestone down to Smisby, we have installed scores of waymarker posts, built and repaired stiles and bridges, built flights of steps, hung dozens of gates for farmers (free of charge), cleared 100s of metres of overgrowth, waymarked 22 kilometres of the National Forest Way, restored over 20 old metal footpath signs in Melbourne and for Ticknall Parish Council, ran dozens of walks, and encouraged more walkers to visit the town, hopefully by using public transport. We have recently surveyed nearly 140 kilometres of local paths for the Ramblers' Big Pathwatch initiative in order to audit the state of the Rights of Way network. We have done all of this work without payment, without contributions to fuel costs and in our own time. And loved every minute of it!

We are a small band so could always do with more members; the work can be practical or take the form of recording problems when out walking. Both are vital to ensure that we can enjoy the lovely countryside around us.

Barry Thomas – Secretary, Melbourne Footpaths Group

More to do

You would think that we could sit back now and “rest on our laurels”; unfortunately that is not the case. The footpath system mainly crosses farmland and our paths depend on local landowners and tenant farmers co-operating with the users of the Rights of Way. Farmers, in return, receive subsidy payments in the form of the Basic Payment Scheme for looking after their paths and much of the furniture on them. We are happy to help repair stiles and gates (landowner responsibilities) but can't restore paths that have been ploughed up and not put back properly and this is now becoming a problem in Melbourne. Several paths are causing concern such as the cross-field path from behind the Hall to the bottom of Chestnut Park (by the cattle grid) which has not been properly prepared after ploughing for some seasons. Nearby the path from Green Lane Wilson up to Park Farm has not been cared for effectively. Last year the way through a rape crop was not cleared and the path became impassable. Similarly the path from near Melbourne Common Farm to the Lount Road is not always restored to what we consider a walkable condition. With the new owners of Springwood Fisheries wishing to encourage walks around their area the state of this path is very disappointing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

October 2015

**Applications for 44 homes by Fisher German and 58 by Linden Homes at Jawbone Lane had been rejected after being vociferously contested on heritage and conservation grounds. The joint efforts of the Civic Society, Jessica Long with Kings Newton Residents Association, Councillors Harrison and Hewlett and Margaret Gildea through Facebook had proved very effective. *Ian and Barry's Display at the Arts Festival had been popular. A change of location was favoured for next year. *It was decided to plant daffodils on the verges at Ashby Road and Blackwell Lane. Two 25kg bags would be ordered from Gee-Tee Bulb Company. *Councillor Jane Carroll would be invited to the next Committee Meeting as part of her consultation on the heritage, conservation and environmental aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan. *Malcolm Busfield agreed to host another Midwinter Evening at his home.

November 2015

*Councillor Jane Carroll addressed the Committee on the progress made on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and in particular her responsibility for Environment, Conservation and Heritage aspects. She thanked Barry for his input in producing a comprehensive document on the subject. The committee supported plans for a public consultation on all aspects of the Plan early in the New Year. *Outline permission was given for 5 houses on Ashby Road. Ian had insisted on the need for a pavement frontage in the interests of pedestrian safety. *A formal amendment for incorporation into the Local Plan Part 1 for 1,650 houses to the West of Mickleover would now hopefully enable the Local Plan to be passed. *Ian notified the Committee of his intention to withdraw from his role as chair of the planning sub-committee and from next March would mentor a replacement. *Paul had received limited feedback on planned new noise preferred routes. Martin observed that tighter defined routes could mean a higher level of noise nuisance. *Claire handed out Midwinter Evening invitations to be delivered or posted. *Final arrangements were made for the November Social Evening and talk. A new tea urn had been purchased for the sole use of the Civic Society.

December 2015

*The December meeting is held traditionally at the house of the Chairman who provides refreshments. *Congratulations on behalf of members would be sent to Revd. Dr Mark Powell on his appointment as Canon at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. *A large house as replacement for the small bungalow on The Common had gone ahead despite objection. An application for an agricultural dwelling in a prominent position at Field Farm, Station Road was not thought satisfactory when the business had not yet been established and proved viable. *Another revised application for 40 houses on the wedge at Jawbone Lane by Linden Homes would still destroy its rural character with the need for pavements and driveway access. Objection would be sustained. *A revised plan had been submitted for 8 large houses at Smith Avenue on the old Gayborder Nursery site. They were thought to be intrusive in their surroundings and also not the types of houses needed. *An amended outline plan for 15 houses on Blackwell Lane was more satisfactory on heritage grounds but the access from houses and the road access was not thought through. *Ian emphasised that all these applications for more housing were pre-empting the results of the Neighbourhood Plan and ideally should be deferred until this was concluded. *A decision on the Local Plan Part 1 was imminent and Part 2 was now going to consultation. Smaller site allocations for 600 houses across South Derbyshire were to be identified. A consultation meeting would be held on January 27th at Melbourne Assembly Rooms from 2.30 to 7.30 pm. *The November Social Evening had been a success and would be repeated next year. *Kings Newton Bowls Club were pursuing funding for a new Clubhouse to be made available for use by community groups. The Civic Society would express its support.

Pam Adams

DIARY

January 2016

Saturday 16 January—*T G Green—Dr Iain Hambling*—10am to 12 noon Sharpes Pottery Swadlincote

Monday 25 January - Civic Society Talk- *St.Pancras Station - Mike Higgingbottom*, - 7.30pm Melbourne Assembly Rooms

Friday 22 January—*Midwinter Evening* - 7.30pm South Willow, Church Lane, Barrow on Trent

Friday 29 January— *Animal Associations with Calke Abbey—Alison Thornhill*—7.30 pm Ticknall Village Hall

February 2016

Saturday 20 February— Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation "Drop "In" session - Melbourne Assembly Rooms - 10am-2pm

Friday 26 February—*The Story of Rolls Royce —Eric Neal*—7.30 pm Ticknall Village Hall

Monday 29 February—Civic Society Talk -*The History of the Lute— James Marriage*, with a demonstration of the finished article — 7.30pm Melbourne Assembly Rooms

March 2016

Thursday 3 March — *John Smedley 1803 1874 - more than a mill owner" - Jane Middleton Smith* - 7.30pm Repton Village Hall

Monday 23 March— Civic Society Talk - *Devil's Darning Needle an introduction to dragonflies*, - *Kevin Reynolds* — 7.30pm Melbourne Assembly Rooms

April 2016

Monday 25 April— Civic Society Talk - *Frame knitters of the East Midlands* - *Jane Whitaker* — 7.30pm Melbourne Assembly Rooms

Editorial

The next newsletter is due in the second week of April 2016, so if you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail or contribute to the newsletter please send any comments or articles to the editor:

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