

Christmas Lights switch on – Saturday 3rd December

As advertised on the front of this month's newsletter, The Parish Council, along with the Village Hall management committee, will once again be organising the annual Christmas Lights switch on. The cost of installing the lights in the trees and on lamp posts has increased dramatically this year, by over £1500, but we are determined to carry on. The evening will begin at 4.30pm with the children's lantern parade, leaving from the Sherwood Ranger PH and following Santa in his sleigh along Church Drive, ready for the lights to be switched on at 5.00pm. The event will follow the normal pattern with the opportunity to visit Santa in his grotto, a children's disco, a grand raffle with some fantastic prizes kindly donated by local businesses. The bar inside will be open and mulled wine and a hog roast will be outside. Please bring **cash** for the raffle and the mulled wine. Ravenshead Swing band will accompany the singing of carols. We look forward to seeing you there.

Armistice Day event

Thank you to all those who attend the event on 11th November at the Village Hall. Well over 300 residents were in attendance, along with over 100 children from the two village primary schools, who sang to us afterwards. The money collected from the sale of teas and coffees, raised £171.50 for the Royal British legion. Another fantastic event which brought so many residents together.

Road repairs

You will no doubt have been impressed with the both the amount of work and also the quality of the work during the recent road repair programme in the village. Thanks must go to County Councillor Chris Barnfather for pushing the County Highways team to have so much work done. Ravenshead secured far more repairs than other communities within the county, 12 in total. I am assured by Chris, that a full resurfacing of Chapel Lane is scheduled for the next financial year. The initial work will be heavy patching repairs followed by micro asphalt resurfacing.

Piper Homes development- Longdale Lane

You will no doubt be aware that work has begun building new properties on Longdale Lane. As mentioned previously, around 15 of these will be bungalows for the over 55s. The Parish Council has recently been in conversation with the same builder who will be putting in a planning application for the remainder of the site, that is the top part of the field. Again, the design of the properties looks excellent, and importantly there will be more bungalows built.

Comments have been made recently about lack of school places due to the recent building taking place. This is not totally accurate. Whilst the schools may be full, a number of pupils travel from outside of the village. Priority will be given to Ravenshead residents. Comments have also been made about funding from these properties to support public open spaces. Again, the Parish Council is working hard with Gedling Borough Council to secure any funds that are due to us. Recently, funds have been used to enhance play facilities at the Leisure Centre and will in the future help pay towards the Leisure Centre refurbishment programme which we hope to begin next April.

Warm Spaces

There has been a great deal of discussion in the news about local authorities and other bodies providing designated warm spaces where residents can attend if they are struggling to afford their heating bills. My first comment is not to panic. Help for all residents is on its way with the government contributing towards heating bills for the next six months. The elderly and those in receipt of certain benefits will receive an extra payment.

Within Ravenshead, The Church has a regular drop-in session on Monday morning and Friday afternoon, along with a breakfast club on the third Saturday of the month. The Village Hall has a similar session, the Community Hub which meets once a month. This is mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter. Whilst the Library is not a designated warm space, it is still open for residents to use and it does have a coffee machine. Rose's Pantry and Ravenshead Farm Shop café are always warm and welcoming places to use and to meet with friends, along with our local public houses. A further update will be issued in the next newsletter.

Pride of Gedling Awards

I was delighted to attend the Pride of Gedling awards, held at the Civic Centre in Arnold. There was local success in the Business in the Community category for Rose's Pantry, who received the runners up award. Very well done to Lisa and her team.

Merry Christmas

I would like to end this year's final newsletter article by wishing all residents and readers of the Newsletter, on behalf of myself and fellow Parish Councillors and our fantastic staff, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Martin Smith – Chairman Ravenshead Parish Council