

We will be promoting all of the many opportunities out there – in sport, the arts, and so on. Watch out for a leaflet outlining these opportunities in the new year. Connected to this and something else we're hoping to get off the ground is a Good Neighbour Scheme. These are local voluntary groups which offer a service in their community for those in need of help and support, such as the elderly, disabled, young mothers, people temporarily in need through illness or anyone who may be isolated within the community. Schemes revolve around a team of volunteers who can help in various ways such as giving lifts to hospital or the doctors, collecting pensions and prescriptions, help with filling forms, befriending the lonely, the elderly and bereaved, help with shopping, pets and suchlike. Once again, please look out for local information to be published soon.

Citizen of the Year Awards

We're looking for nominations for our annual awards, one for under 18s and the other for over 18s, to be made to two people who have made an exceptional contribution to the village during 2006. The closing date for nominations is 31 December. Nominations should include the name, address and age of your nominee as well as up to 50 words with your reason for the nomination. Send your entry to the Parish Clerk, David Wright – see contact details below.

Another First?

Clerk to the Council, David Wright, has recently completed a longstanding ambition to visit every one of the 60 racecourses in Great Britain. He started at Market Rasen in 1971 and finished at Epsom this August Bank Holiday Monday. Could this be another first for a parish council in Bassetlaw – or England? David nominates Goodwood as the finest racecourse for all-round excellence, but says that for a day's jumps racing, it's hard to beat local track, Market Rasen.

Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the winter, but it's always easy to contact us. You can use the contact details below, and we have a 15-minute public discussion period at the end of Parish Council meetings. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Parish News. You can also read approved minutes of meetings, etc. at the Library and Post Office, pubs, club, various shops and cafes and on the web site: www.mistertonvillage.org.uk

Contact Details

Councillors:

Hazel Brand, Chairman	01427 891376
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Valerie Batty	01427 890392
Barbara Boulby	01427 891477
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Autumn 2006



Misterton
Parish Council
Newsletter

AUTUMN 2006



We're required to publish a synopsis of the annual report and a brief summary of the accounts in one of our newsletters, and so this is the one.

Synopsis of the Annual Report

The annual report included reference to the following:

- the voluntary contribution to the Parish Council's work made by parish councillors and other village helpers
- Quality Council accreditation
- Best Kept Village Competition
- Misterton Most Improved Property Competition
- housing needs survey and sale of land for affordable housing
- infrastructure concerns
- Misterton Community Trust (Village Hall and Victoria Institute)
- future of the former Jenkins Newell Dunford site
- skatepark completion
- proposed development of the former Packett Inn site
- Christmas charity distribution
- the proposed community contact point at the old Co-op shop to be called 'The Misterton Centre'
- village maintenance
- summer gala
- Christmas illuminations.

Summary of the Accounts

We began the year with a balance of £7,125 and ended it with a closing balance of £42,466. The closing balance included a capital reserve of £33,333 from the sale of a small piece of land at Church Drive to provide access to a scheme of affordable housing. Income during the year came to £86,168 and expenditure to £50,877. Two 2004/05 cheques totaling £50 were returned to bank unpaid. Total fixed assets amounted to £653,797.

CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition

Most people will be aware that Misterton is the winner in Category A – population over 2000. We've also been given the Best New Entrant award for the whole county. We now have a chance of winning the Wilko Best of Notts Award, to be announced on 15th November.

It's many years since the village entered this competition, and credit is due to everyone who did their bit - a stunning achievement for a new entrant! The winner's post and plaque has been brought to Misterton by Retford Young Farmers, and positioned on Windmill Garden for the next 12 months and hopefully longer.

Misterton Most Improved Property Competition

Judging the entries to Misterton's own competition was hard! We had planned one award, but, such was the quality of the entries that, in the end, parish councillors voted by a small majority to award the first prize to Sally Deakin and Simon Hartley, of 55 Station Street, and a second prize to Betty Wheewall, of 31 Newells Terrace. The awards were presented at the October Parish Council meeting. People like Sally, Simon and Betty made a real contribution to our successful bid to win Category A of the Best Kept Village Competition.

Building Community Life Competition

More good news is that Misterton was awarded the runner-up prize in the CPRE Nottinghamshire Building Community Life Competition.

Calor Village of the Year Competition 2006/07

The news recently got even better when Misterton was chosen to represent the whole of Nottinghamshire in the Calor English Village of the Year Competition. This is going to involve a lot of people in a lot of hard work. The judges are looking for well-balanced, pro-active, caring communities which, irrespective of their size, have made the best of local opportunities to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all the inhabitants. Categories covered are: Environment, Business, Young People, Older People, Community Life and Information Technology.

Misterton Community Trust

Unfortunately, the District Council has refused planning permission for demolition of the redundant Village Hall and replacement with residential development, although we're looking at having another go. However, the really bad news is that, behind our backs, the District Council has advised the Secretary of State to List the Village Hall, on the basis that (a) it used to be a temperance hall (prior to 1943) and (b) it is an important part of the street scene. Really?

The Village Hall has been passed over for Listing previously, and there are, after all, 21 Listed temperance halls in the country. How many do we need? And we also question just how interested the District Council really is in the street scene, as we've been unsuccessfully badgering it to do something about the derelict old bank for around five years.

We're actively fighting this proposal, because, if the Village Hall is listed, it will mean that we're stuck with a boarded-up (and possibly uninsured) building on High Street which will be an eyesore forever and a day. It would be a real financial burden on the village, and will also seriously affect our plans to use any capital receipt for the benefit of Misterton.

The Misterton Centre

Work on the Co-op's £100k refurbishment of the former Co-op building is almost complete and, with leases signed, occupancy by the three tenants is expected soon.

The Parish Council will have an office in The Misterton Centre and will initially hold a weekly surgery there. Something else we'll do from the start is to make planning applications available for people to inspect, to avoid the need to travel to Retford or Worksop. The District Council plans to install videoconferencing so that residents can contact the Council for certain services without travelling to Retford or Worksop. The Police will use it as a local contact point: it has come at the right time for them with the new Safer Neighbourhood initiative soon to begin. And, already, other organisations have shown an interest in using the facility, which will become a 'business centre' for Misterton and surrounding villages.

Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils has commented: "This sounds like an excellent opportunity to provide all-round facilities in your parish".

Policing

We continue to be concerned about the inadequate state of policing in Misterton. One thing we're planning to do is to get Neighbourhood Watch up and running throughout the village. If you're interested in getting involved, please come to a public meeting on 17 January at 7.00pm in the Methodist Hall.

Local Involvement

There are many opportunities to get involved in a whole range of village activities. ...continued overleaf