

It's a great pity that the criminal and anti-social behaviour of a few youths can ruin the quality of life for the whole village. We're afraid that this will continue until more people are prepared to give evidence to the Police. And yes, we know that Police resources are inadequate, and we protest about it, but that's all we can do.

#### Keeping you Informed

We try to keep you informed of matters affecting our village, and it's occurred to us that there's a way in which we can do this even better. What we propose is a village email circulation list. If you, or someone you know, would like to join the list, please provide your email details to Pauline at The Misterton Centre: [themistertoncentre@btconnect.com](mailto:themistertoncentre@btconnect.com).

#### You Asked. We acted

Here's a few more examples of the ways in which we've been able to help local people recently at The Misterton Centre:

- We're helping get people on to their correct tax code through our new partnership with TOP (Tax Help for Older People).
- We're processing more and more blue badge applications.
- We've recently helped individuals with their correspondence with official bodies, and it's occurred to us that other people might experience difficulty with such things. So, if you'd like assistance, call in. There's no charge. We're also happy to help with CVs.
- We successfully helped a resident to claim pension credit.
- We're helping residents complete driving licence application/renewal forms

Don't forget, that if you've any public service enquiry, we'll try to either deal with it, or put you on the right track. Just call in The Misterton Centre.

#### Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the spring, in which we'll give a full update of developments since this newsletter, but don't forget that it's now easy to pop into The Misterton Centre whenever it's open. You can also use the contact details below. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Parish News. You can also read agendas and approved minutes of meetings, etc. at The Misterton Centre, Library and Post Office, pubs, club, various shops and cafes and on the web site: [www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk](http://www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk).

## Contact Details

Hazel Brand, Chairman	01427 891376
Maurice Simmons, Vice-chairman	01427 890770
Jenny Adams	01427 890621
Valerie Batty	01427 890392
Clive Burton	01427 891581
Wayne Flower	01427 891319
Sarah Harwood-Gray	01427 891162
Ian Keat	01427 890271
Peter Marsden	01427 890122
Jane Moffett	07798 747234
Derrick Wheewall	01427 890153
Norman White	01427 890413

One current vacancy

David Wright  
Clerk to the Council  
The Misterton Centre, 31 High Street,  
Misterton, Doncaster DN10 4BU  
Tel: 01427 891659  
Reception Tel: 01427 891872  
Home Tel: 01709 813360

E-mail: [theclerk@misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk](mailto:theclerk@misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk)  
Parish Council Website: [www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk](http://www.misterton-notts-pc.gov.uk)  
Community Website: [www.mistertonvillage.org.uk](http://www.mistertonvillage.org.uk)



Winter 2008/09



Misterton  
Parish Council  
Newsletter

WINTER 2008/09



## People

We're very proud of Cllr. Sarah Harwood-Gray, who's qualified as a community first responder. She's now part of the Five Village First Responders team. If anyone's interested in joining the First Responders Team, please contact Martyn Johnson, Group Co-ordinator, on 01427 892649 or visit the website [www.fvfr.co.uk](http://www.fvfr.co.uk).

Alan Stead has resigned from the Parish Council, and we hope to co-opt a new councillor soon.

## Misterton Community Trust

For anyone who isn't aware, Misterton Community Trust is a registered charity, established in 2006, to administer the redundant Village Hall and Victoria Institute, with the Parish Council as sole trustee. From 2003 until the sale of the Village Hall this year, almost all costs of administering the two buildings were met by the Parish Council, using taxpayers' money.

A resident has asked us to publish the sale price of the Village Hall. It was £40,000, being the highest of three offers received after extensive advertising. We consider that £40,000 was an excellent price, given the tight nature of the site, on a busy road, with parking restrictions and logistical difficulties in demolition. This view is shared by our professional surveyor/valuer, whose advice we were legally required to take, and our Internal Auditor. Some, however, consider that we should have deferred sale until a better price materialised. It's fortunate that we sold when we did though – just before the credit crunch really hit home and the bottom fell out of the property market. Actually we might have sold at least a year earlier if obstacles hadn't been put in our way.

The same resident also asked us to publish the amount that Misterton Community Trust will benefit after repayment of the costs of administering the two buildings to the Parish Council. The amount is £13,652.52, and this money will initially be used to maintain the Victoria Institute until its future is resolved – see more later. The taxpayer will not, therefore, have to support the Victoria Institute any longer, or at least whilst Misterton Community Trust has any money. The next anticipated outgoing will be the insurance premium due in July - in the region of £2,000 – a huge amount – but the best price we can find in view of the reluctance of insurance companies to take on the risk of an empty, boarded-up building.

We had the foresight in 2005 to press the Charity Commission to allow reimbursement of costs of administering these two buildings. The practical effect is that almost £26,500 has been recouped to the benefit of the Misterton taxpayer.

We took a calculated risk when we offered to take over responsibility for these two redundant buildings, but it's paid off, and all taxpayers' money has been recouped. If we hadn't acted as we did, these two buildings would have festered in the centre of the village until they eventually fell down. If the Victoria Institute is eventually sold – see autumn newsletter - the whole of the capital receipt will be paid over to Misterton Community Trust. We should caution, however, that some residents are lobbying the District Council in an effort to keep the Victoria Institute, and their views are finding favour. It's early days but, if the building can't be included in a rationalisation programme, we could be faced with a difficult and costly situation with possible implications for the Council Tax in future years.

## Rumour Buster

We're aware that it's easy for residents to get hold of the wrong end of the stick about village matters. So this new section of our newsletter aims to give you the facts behind some of the stories that surface periodically. Rumour Buster will appear whenever there's something to debunk!

Local government administration and charity law are complicated but we hope that this way of explaining some of the issues affecting our village will help clarify things. If you've any 'rumours' you want debunked, please contact the Clerk, using the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

A current claim: Taxpayers' money could be saved by moving The Misterton Centre into the Victoria Institute when the lease on the old Co-op building is up in 2016.

We say: The Parish Council wears two hats when administering the Victoria Institute: as trustee and as local authority. As trustee, we've no legal power to redevelop the Victoria Institute as offices. As local authority, we could bid to purchase the Victoria Institute on the open market, individually or with our partners, at best value, using taxpayers' money. The purchase money would become Misterton Community Trust money, to be used for charitable purposes. The purchaser(s) would then need to spend over £100,000 taxpayers' money refurbishing the building into offices.

Leasing would be another option, but refurbishing costs would still have to be borne. There's also the problem of no car park.

If the Co-op building were still available on an extended lease in 2016 (and there's no reason to think it won't be), to do any of this would be a reckless waste of taxpayers' money. We'd find ourselves in serious trouble with our auditors.

Incidentally, in response to our request in the autumn newsletter for suggestions as to the future of the Victoria Institute, we received one suggestion, which was that it becomes a new home to Misterton Sports Social Club. Unfortunately, it simply isn't big enough and lacks parking.

## Council Tax

We've reduced our precept for 2009/10 by 25%, from £65,580 to £48,800, which is the lowest it will have been for three years. We've been able to do this mainly because of the money recouped from the sale of the Village Hall, coupled with the fact that the Village Hall and Victoria Institute are no longer a burden on the Council Tax.

Incidentally, we keep hearing whispers that we waste taxpayers' money. We'd like to know what that waste is – and if anyone's any suggestions on how we might save money, please tell us.

## Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Although we're assured that crime in our area is decreasing, the behaviour of a few youths has led to the Police setting up a dispersal zone in Misterton. Details have been distributed to every household, and are also available at The Misterton Centre. Residents have been intimidated, harassed, alarmed and distressed by crime and anti-social behaviour, which has been a significant and persistent problem.

Unfortunately, crime and anti-social behaviour has affected the services we provide for you. Criminal damage to our facilities, particularly play equipment, remains an ongoing, expensive problem, but a major recent disappointment was the criminal damage to (including theft of) our Christmas illuminations at the doctors' surgery, followed by criminal damage and attempted theft of those at the Methodist Church.

...continued overleaf