



T'Owd Man's Mutterings

April 2026



Photo: Sarah Smith

CAST OF BONSCALL PLAYERS PANTO February 2026

(more photos on pages 2, 15 & 16)



In folklore T'Owd Man is a spirit that inhabits mines and caves. T'Owd Man of Bonsall is a carved figure of a miner that was taken to Wirksworth when St James church was being refurbished in the 1860s. It was said that strange noises coming from the old Ball Eye mine at the end of Church St. were of T'Owd Man muttering

Bonsall Players Pantomime February 2026



St James

Church services & events for April are:

Friday 3 April 10.00 am
Good Friday Family Craft Session with Rev Janet, hot cross buns for children

Saturday 4 April 8:00 pm
Team Easter Vigil Service with Rev Neil and Rev Keith.

Sunday 5 April 9:30 am
Easter Day Eucharist with Rev Janet, and Blessing of the Easter Garden.

Sunday 26 April 9:30 am
Eucharist with Rev Janet.

For further details, please ring the Team Office on 01629 824707

Bonsall Church Cafe:

Refreshments are available in church from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.

We offer ham, cheese and hot sausage cobs, home-made soup and cakes all at reasonable prices

The Wirksworth Team Ministry

Village Life Church (High Street)

Sunday 10:30 am Worship Service
Tuesday 2:00 pm Craft Club
Wednesday 6:00 pm The Gathering.
A meal followed by a short Bible study.
All are welcome.
Friday 10:00 am Prayer Gathering

Special Services:

Sunday 5 April 10:30 am - Easter Sunday Celebration, followed by a meal. Everyone is welcome.
Sunday 26 April 10:30 am - 'Your Kingdom' Prayer Service. We will be praying for our community, our nation and our world. All are welcome.
For more information about the church, or if you need any practical help and support, please call on 07988 071682 or email us at villagelifechurchbonsall@gmail.com

Pastor Matthew Quinn

Bonsall Dale Chapel

Sunday Services are at 6:15 pm, with a special Easter Service on Sunday 5 April. All are welcome to join with us.

Judy Land

Church Article

What a privilege it is to live in Bonsall and be able to walk along ancient pathways, probably going back a thousand years! I recently had to get out my Bonsall Map and check the field names. As a family we have walked these paths since the 1950s, especially between services on a Sunday with my Dad and his brother Frank. They took the "kids" for a walk, while Nanna, Mum and Auntie Ann entertained the preacher and prepared tea. Sundays were special in those days in more ways than one. It still is so good to walk across those fields today and enjoy the unfolding seasons and the beauty of God's amazing creation - trees bursting into leaf, the blossom on the blackthorn, the first celandines, wild pansies, purple orchids and so much more. God is an amazing Creator and having the freedom and ability to walk and enjoy nature is a blessing.

In the Bible, the book of Genesis chapter 17, we read "When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said "I Am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless . . . your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob's descendants, "the children of Israel" have indeed multiplied. The children of Israel were later instructed to teach God's words to their children at all times, even when they were out walking. They were to walk in obedience to God and His words. David in Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd" and no doubt the most well know Psalm, speaks of walking with God in all situations. In John Chapter 8 v 12, Jesus says that whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness but have the light of life; to have God's word from the Bible is indeed a blessing, if at times a challenge too. We also live in challenging days but in Psalm 119 verse 105, we are reminded that God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. I so appreciate reading my Bible, along with Daily Reading notes, that really have brought a "word in season" over recent days with all that is taking place in Iran and Israel. Enjoy Spring as it unfolds for it is so appropriate as we celebrate Easter. What appears "dead" bursts into new life, just as Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins - Good Friday, and rose to life on the third day - Easter Sunday, offering us new life as we believe and trust in Him, the Saviour of the world. Do please join us at St James Church 9.30 am, the Village Life Church 10.30 am and The Dale Chapel 6.15 pm, for our special Easter Sunday Services.

Judy Land, Bonsall Dale Chapel

FLOODLIGHTING

On the 2nd April, Sharon, Andrew and Andrew have loving memories of their mum, Marjorie Loxley on her birthday.

The 5th of the month brings special memories of Kevin for Val, Steven and children, and also Kevin's parents, Ken and Celia Baker.

Loreen, Steve, Robert and Lorna fondly think of Jack and Dorothy Malone during April.

Dorinda remembers Colin Broad with love.

Stephen, Trisha and families fondly remember Joan Gregory.

April 21st is a special day for Janet, Hayley, Laura and their families when they remember David with much love.

David and Caroline Kirkham remember David's mum, Muriel especially on the 25th of the month; she is forever in their thoughts.

Di Moor - dimoor2014@yahoo.co.uk

(Donations can be made on-line to NatWest bank - sort code 60.14.15, acc. no 80567622. Account name: PCC of Bonsall. Suggested donation is £15. Thank you.)

LETTERS

Response to the letter to Mutterings issue 256 from Mick Moor

Firstly, I would like to say I cannot answer the questions posed by Mick in his letter, but I would like to offer some background information for clarity. Bonsall Village Hall is owned by the villagers of Bonsall themselves. The Trust Deed explaining this is published on the Village Hall website. The Village Hall has a Management Committee who are unpaid and work tirelessly to keep the village hall in use for the owners, i.e. the village residents. They ensure that it is a clean, safe and well-kept environment. They manage the day-to-day running of the premises and organise events to raise much needed funds to pay the bills and oncosts. These committee members are appointed every year at the AGM by the voting system. As well as the Management Committee, there are 4 Trustees. I do not know how these are appointed. The 4 Trustees ensure that the Management Committee are properly managing the facility and its finances for the owners. Again, the Trust Deed gives further details.

In relation to the solar panels, the 4 Trustees made the decision to install these at the Village Hall. The Management Committee were given a presentation of the facts at the AGM and were informed that the decision to install the panels had been made by the Trustees and could not be changed. The funding was part grant and part use of the Village Hall reserve funds. I do not know any more information about the finance or any of the figures/facts in relation to projected monetary savings versus cost of the panels and sundry items such as fire doors etc. The battery, which is a large structure, is sited in the lower storeroom. It is understood that planning permission for the installation of the solar panels was not required. I am unsure as to whether the Bonsall Village Design Statement was considered and I do not know what other consultations/considerations took place. I would suggest that any further questions in relation to this matter be directed at the 4 Trustees for definitive answers.

Jackie Smith

Save our village - BIB

A response to the excellent letter from Mick Moor in last month's Mutterings. Following the short sighted, and foolhardy decision to plonk solar panels on the Village Hall roof, (value added; character, and beauty to the village?) I have decided that direct

action is needed to retain the historic nature of the village.

I have therefore set up a limited company called "Bonsall is Beautiful". I am now looking to raise money to fund the REVERSAL of poorly judged projects in the village. Having only spoken to a handful of local people, I can announce that I have already received pledges of over ten thousand pounds.

Our first mission will be to pay for the REMOVAL of the solar panels on the village hall roof, and then pay by direct debit the village hall whatever savings they would have made from the grid. This will be in operation for ten plus years, the average lifespan of a solar panel?

"Bonsall is Beautiful" (BIB) recognises our village is steeped in history and blessed with some amazing architectural delights: The Cross, the Fountain café, Barley Mow, Church etc. It's one of the reasons why people pay ridiculous amounts of money to live here, and why so many tourists are attracted to the village with many returners.

"BIB" will now be carefully monitoring Bonsall Energy Group's future projects, BIB has no confidence in the Planning Department and its decision making. The majority of Bonsall is supposedly a conservation area? So, if you want to help maintain, and retain the beautiful aspects of our wonderful village, please support "BIB" in any way you can. (BIB fund has now reached £12k)

Jon Barry
07866750636 WhatsApp or email
barryjonathan375@gmail.com

Bonsall School, Books and Reading

Felix, Arne and Zach were full of beans today, maybe caused by a brief glimpse of the sun! They wanted to talk about the set of lovely new books that the PTFA had bought for the school, called **The Boy at the Back of the Class** by Onjali Rauf. It's a story about a Syrian refugee. The children had been talking about refugees in class. The PTFA had ordered enough books for each child so they could follow as each child or Mr Goodridge read. Arne explained why he liked the book; he said it was exciting and cultural and made him feel happy. That sounds like a good book!

On World Book Day children across the school came dressed as their book characters and shared their favourite books in classes. The Year 6 took part in a read-a-round, preparing a reading of their favourite book for younger children in school. Felix dressed up as Barnabus from The Barnabus Project and Arne was a doughnut from 'The Doughnut Squad'. Unfortunately, Zach was ill and couldn't take part so Mr Goodridge took his place. Zach was able to participate when he came back to school, dressing up and reading 'Investigators' to children from Class 1. They all obviously take considerable pleasure from reading and books. Long may it last!

Karen Firth and Rebecca Smart



Photos by Karen Firth



Cromford Garage

MOT, Service and
Repairs to all makes
of vehicles

Now selling &
repairing tyres

Book in on 01629 823043
or 07885 879652

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Village Lunch Club

The lunch club met on 18 March after missing last month - so nice to see everyone. The meal was a delicious Forest Chicken with vegetables followed by a personal cheesecake either Bailey's (in honour of St Patrick Day) or lemon flavour.

The next meeting will be on 15 April at 12:30 pm. If you would like to join us and didn't sign-up during the last meal, please phone 01629826309 before 8 April to book a place. Mention any allergies you have. We do offer takeouts if getting to the village hall is not possible. See you in the Spring!

Jenny March

PTFA Events

A message from the PTFA saying that they have two planned events for the summer term where all money raised will be used for learning resources and then for equipment to complete the school outdoor playground. The first event is a Mock Auction. This, with thanks to those at the King's Head, and to Richard and Kath Taylor who have, over many years, given so much time and effort to the school, will be held at the King's Head on Friday 5 June, starting at 7:30 pm. For this, we will, of course, need donations and, more importantly, people to attend the event.

The second is a good fun Music Evening on Saturday 4 July, where past and present pupils and friends will provide the entertainment. Musicians and singers will be those who attended Bonsall School in the 1980s to those who left more recently and then to those who are currently at school. This will allow all to see the achievements of pupils at school; see how the pupils progress as they get older and then see how their interest in music and playing remains with them. In addition, we hope that there will be musical entertainment from others who live locally in the second half. The evening will be held at Bonsall School where there will be a bar and equipment to support the music playing and the singing.

So, it is making sure that we are lucky enough to have as many of you as possible volunteering to play, sing and entertain.

If you are willing, please contact Emma Wells at agsely@hotmail.com or speak to Jennie Pugh at school. Please put the dates in your diary. Thank you.

Rebecca Smart and all from the PTFA



Fundraising event for Bonsall Village Hall

PIE & QUIZ NIGHT

Bonsall Village Hall
Saturday 25th April

Doors open 6:45pm

Pies Served at 7:30pm

Quiz starts 8:30pm

Tickets £12.50 per person
including pie & pea supper

Bring your own team (max 6), or make one up on the night.

Pie and pea supper served prior to the quiz.

A fun evening for adults only.

Choose your Pie and Buy

www.ticketsource.co.uk/bonsall-village-hall

or scan QR code

Tickets available online only, until 14th April.



See www.bonsallvillagehall.org.uk for more details

Contact Hazel Baldwin 07414 845925 for any special dietary needs.

Pie & Pea Supper • Quiz • Raffle • Drinks

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Muttering's Mutt of the Month

Name: Josi
Breed: Maltese/Jack Russell cross
Age: Two years

About: Full of mischief and daft as a brush. Loves everything she shouldn't like and hates everything she should like. Loves playing with her soft toys. Loves climbing on plant pots and the garden table. Loves going to bed. Hates going out in the wind, snow or rain or if it's too hot. Sometimes likes to go for a walk with Maria but sometimes she refuses to walk. Quite a contrary little madam, but lovely with it.

Owner: Sue Knowles



Bonsall Carnival Committee Donations

Bonsall Carnival Committee are delighted to share how funds raised from previous carnivals have been given back into our village community. We were especially pleased to donate £4,000 to Bonsall Primary School to help with some urgent repairs. The school is a very important part of village life and we are glad that the carnival is able to support it in this way. We have also made a £250 donation to the village OAPs group, helping them continue their wonderful work bringing people together. A further £250 has been donated towards the upkeep of the village defibrillators, which are maintained by Richard and Kath Taylor. Richard and Kath also kindly provide the carnival with health and safety support each year and we are very grateful for their continued help and dedication to the village.

None of this would be possible without the fantastic support we receive from the village each year. Whether you attend the carnival, volunteer your time, donate prize's or help in anyway, it all contributes to making the event such a success and allows us to give something back to the community. We can't wait for this year's carnival and hope to see lots of familiar faces there! But if you can't wait that long, our fantastic Easter Draw is just around the corner. Tickets will be on sale around the village and if it's Easter Saturday, head to the pub quickly to grab yours before the draw!

Prizes this year include:

- £50 cash prize
 - Tickets to Chatsworth House & Gardens
 - Tickets to Heights of Abraham
 - White Peak Distillery tour for 2
 - Voucher for Hollies Nursery
 - Tickets to Northern Light Cinema
 - Full car valet from Black Rocks (worth £120)
- ...and many more!

Every ticket helps support Bonsall Carnival and the events we all enjoy each year. Thanks for supporting the Carnival and good luck!

Sarah Smith
Treasurer, Bonsall Carnival

**ROBIN MAYCOCK FAMILY
BUTCHERS & BAKERS
FREE HOME DELIVERIES
TO BONSALL EVERY FRIDAY
MORNING.**

Beef, Lamb, Pork, Free range Chicken,
10 varieties of sausage, Meat pies,
Ready Meals, Puddings, Cheese, Eggs
Fruit & Veg
& much much more

OUTSIDE CATERING
OUR SPECIALITY

Call **01629 534333** for a brochure
& product list or view our website
at www.robinmaycockbutchers.co.uk
We also supply the Barley Mow Inn
with meat for their wonderful
bar meal menu.

Auto Engineering

18 Yeoman Street



Service and MOT Preparation
All Makes of Vehicle

We Now Repair and Sell Tyres

Tel: 824537/822708
denise.pountain@hotmail.co.uk



Chestnut Farm

HOLIDAY COTTAGES

Choose from any one of four unique self-catering holiday cottages, all situated within a rural farm setting.

The Dairy	1 bedroom cottage (sleeps 2)
The Barn	2 bedroom cottage (sleeps 4)
The Farrows	2 bedroom cottage (sleeps 4)
Barn End	3 bedroom cottage (sleeps 6)

Free WiFi Parking Self Catering Book Online

Enquiries / Bookings: 01629 820946
www.chestnutfarmcottages.co.uk
chestnutfarmholidaycottages

Abel Lane, Uppertown, Bonsall DE4 2AW

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Village Playground Feedback Requested

I hope that everyone has checked out the new playground and has found it to be an enjoyable asset. The grass is growing up nicely through the black plastic safety mats and the top soil and grass seed will soon be utilised on the bank in the toddler area of the playground. It is lovely to see the children thoroughly enjoying themselves and queuing up for their favourite piece of equipment. To complete the grant application's final documentation, I need to evidence that the playground equipment was needed, which is not a problem as I have photographs of the old equipment which was very tired, and that the replacement equipment has been positively received and the area is now being used more often as a result.

To be able to complete this I need your help with feedback. Please email, text, WhatsApp or otherwise get a message to me with your feedback to assist me to complete the documentation. Not completing it is not an option so your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated. The playground will be enjoyed by many generations to come, I am sure. Please get in touch so I can finalise the documentation. I would really appreciate your feedback.

Jackie Smith, Interim Parish Clerk
07771 764366
clerk@bonsall-pc.gov.uk



Photo: Jackie Smith

Village Hall Solar Energy Project Completed

The Village Hall Trustees are delighted to announce the successful installation of our new sustainable energy system. This project marks a significant investment in the hall's future, ensuring it remains a vibrant, affordable and environmentally friendly hub for our community.

Sustainable Energy for the Future: The hall is now equipped with high-efficiency in-roof solar panels, a 10kW inverter, and a 32kWh battery storage system. By generating and storing our own electricity, we are significantly reducing our carbon footprint and protecting the hall from rising energy costs. These savings allow us to keep hire charges affordable for all local residents and groups, both now and for years to come.

Safety and Innovation: The project included the installation of a state-of-the-art Fogstar lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO4) battery, designed and assembled in the UK. Unlike older lithium technologies, this unit is designed for indoor use and is intrinsically safe with a built-in fire suppressant system. We have installed the system in the hall's ground floor storeroom with the necessary ventilation space and a protective steel guard rail around the battery and inverter.

A fire safety assessment of the hall has been undertaken recently and to further enhance safety we will also be upgrading the storeroom with 30-minute fire doors and integrating a new fire and smoke detection system into the hall's main alarm, which is to be overhauled to meet the latest legislative standards. The hall's insurance is unaffected by the addition of the panels and battery with only a small increase in the annual premium to include for these.

Roof Repairs: We also undertook essential repair work to the roof parapets and put a breathable membrane and new laths on the south facing half of the roof, extending its life span. The roof slates were reused.

Funding and Sustainability: We are incredibly grateful for a grant of £8,620 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, administered by the Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services on behalf of Derbyshire Dales District Council.

This system is built for the long term, the solar panels have a design life of 30 years and all components – including the lithium iron phosphate battery – are fully recyclable. We are proud to be adopting technology that supports a circular economy and a greener Derbyshire. We look forward to welcoming you to a more "power-efficient" Village Hall!

Village Hall Trustees





Visit Bonsall's Award Winning
Fountain Tearooms
For: Breakfasts, Lunches, Snacks,
Cakes and Scones, Ice Creams,
Hot and Cold Drinks etc.
Or stay in our luxurious en suite Bed
and Breakfast rooms - ask for details!
www.thefountainbonsall.co.uk
The Fountain Tearooms, 1 Neoman Street
Bonsall DE4 2AA P: 01629 82484
enquiries@thefountainbonsall.co.uk

Panto 2026!

SOLD OUT....yes, all 4 performances of the Bonsall Players panto Snow White sold out quickly. Thanks for your support.

This year's panto was written by our very own Mike Richardson.

We welcomed new and young members who brought their own take to the panto tradition. Sam Land joined in mostly to keep his mum, Claire, under control as she took the evil stepmother character to new depths. He failed but he did a great job as Snow White's love interest. Rachael Richardson directed, acted and sang as the self-obsessed Prince (topical we thought). Jayne Allsop played the Queen's sidekick, Baddie, in a very nasty way and David "I've turned vegan" Allsop made a great assassin with a kind heart. Kelly, Bonsall school's infant teacher, was a wonderful Snow White and Sharon Rowlands played her friend, Rose, with great energy. The Dame, in case you didn't recognise him, was Mac of course, complete with outlandish teeth, a fully functioning bar and his own jokes!

The chorus make the panto: George Binns, Sandra Harris, Krystina Johnson, James Ratcliffe, Jacob Rifkin, Ellie Smith, Sarah Smith, Lorraine Taylor and Louise Ward - take a bow! They always bring their ideas and enthusiasm and will turn their hands to anything provided there's enough glitter.

Anne Young continued as Stage Manager and made props and scenery including the mirror. Claire Bradley and Rachael Richardson designed, built and painted the set. Darren Barker, amazingly professional, took photos and made the video. Members of the school PTFa ran the all-important bar. We must also thank all our volunteers who moved the set, manned the door and raffle. A real team effort.

Of course, we missed Peter Greaves this year and £1150 was donated to Ashgate Hospice in his memory. Peter was one of the founding members of the Bonsall Players from Baron Hardup to the Giant. We won't forget him.

£2000 was donated to Bonsall School. So, thanks for coming and joining in. If you fancy joining the cast or the crew, please do. It's A LOT of work, but also a laugh and a chance to work with a fantastic team of people.

See you next year. OH YES, WE WILL!

by Lesley Murhall

PS - We must of course mention the dazzling, straight talking, witty Mirror played by Lesley Murhall, who seems to have forgotten to mention herself!

Bonsall Players

Toads on the Road

600+ toad lives saved so far this season. As many of you already know, the Nailor Lane toad crossing is of national significance; another aspect to cherish in our lovely village. Volunteers have been out at dusk over the month of March, assisting toads in crossing the road safely to their breeding grounds. We are thankful to all of the volunteers who have helped, and to the motorists who have driven carefully. Any help is still welcome, so please text if you would like to help:

**Elaine on 07832383074 or
Karen on 07903092276**

Hollies Farm Plant Centre

Uppertown, Bonsall DE4 2AW
01629 822734

Specialist Growers of Perennials,
Hanging Baskets, Planted
Containers, Bedding & Basket
Plants & Compost

MON - SAT 9-5
CLOSED WEDS
SUN 10-4

www.holliesfarmplantcentre.co.uk

 [holliesfarmplantcentre](https://www.facebook.com/holliesfarmplantcentre)

 [holliesfarmplantcentre](https://www.instagram.com/holliesfarmplantcentre)

Poem - A Quiet Moment

A quiet moment all to myself, ah that's a rare treat.

No kids shouting 'mum what can I do', no husband too, he's gone to the match. Housework all done, washing on the line.

The house is so quiet, only the sound of the clock ticking.

Time for a cuppa, that'll be just fine.

Ahh put my feet up for a bit of me time.

What's that I hear, the key in the latch!

Oh well that's the end of my quiet moment all to myself.

Alison Higgins

Cal Robinson

Building Works

- Building
- Roofing
- Windows
- Doors
- Fascia-Guttering
- Kitchen Fitting
- Skirting-Architrave
- Internal Doors etc.

Tel: 01629 258107
07867 510551

Email: cal_robbo1@hotmail.co.uk

High quality local builders.

Architect approved.

Fully qualified.

30 years experience.

If it is a new build, extension, restoration or repair .

Contact RICHARD WEBSTER

on 01629 824724

Mob 07812 348283



PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Report for meeting on 17 March 2026

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES:

There is currently one vacancy for a Bonsall Parish Councillor. For further information, please contact the Interim Clerk.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: District Councillor Buckler explained that there had been a council tax increase of just under 3% and letters would be sent out soon which would also contain the parking permits. The re-organisation of Councils was still under government review and there is still time to comment on the proposals.

VILLAGE MATTERS

Flooding: The recent road works on Yeoman Street resulted in stop tap grates being covered and drains being blocked with tarmac and debris. This had been reported by residents and Cllr. S Smith. Currently the stop taps have been uncovered but the drains still need clearing. The leak outside the Queens Head has been repaired.

Park - Trees/Land update: Three quotes were obtained for the felling of the ash dieback trees situated at the rear of the playground area and the Council voted to employ A6 trees. There was no objection by the council to the planning application to fell the trees. Cllrs. J Smith and Binns are working together to consider the Diocese lease arrangements. The Park sub-committee will meet this month on a date to be arranged.

Playground: The grant documentation was being completed by the Clerk. Evidence of its usage and villagers' responses was needed to fulfil the grant application, and the Clerk will write an article for Mutterings in relation to this. There will be a celebration of the grant's success to be held in June, and the Clerk will prepare the documentation/photographs for this event.

Car Park Sign: The wording of this was agreed and Cllr. Grover will take this forward.

WC plumbing update: This has now been fixed and will be monitored and Cllr. S. Smith will fit the new soap dispenser.

Netball post on the park: Consider removal to allow more room for the Carnival marquee. The Chair of the Carnival Committee has asked that this be considered and if there is a cost the committee will contribute. This was agreed and Cllr. Barry will take this matter forward.

Netball post on the park: Consider removal to allow more room for the Carnival marquee. The Chair of the Carnival Committee has asked that this be considered and if there is a cost the committee will contribute. This was agreed and Cllr Barry will take this matter forward.

Dog signs: Agreement to purchase new signs to be erected in the park

area because of non-compliance with dogs being off lead and also due to the fouling on the park and playground.

Parking request: Request for parking of camper van on car park for three weeks for someone to stay in – refused as per the car park policy and signs.

Website: No issues reported.

Quarrying: Cllr. Grover had met with the Ball Eye Quarry and will meet every two months to discuss any issues. He attended the Quarry Liaison Meeting on 18 February 26. Slinter quarry had received noise complaints, but they were within the limit allowed.

Roads/Verges/Footpaths: The pot holes on the Clatterway were still an issue and no feedback had been received from the County Council in relation to when the work was to be undertaken. Yeoman Street will be closed on 30 March 2026 due to the erection of new telegraph poles. No work was being carried out by them on 31 March 2026.

Lengthsmen update: The strimmers have been serviced/repared. Cllr. Grover has top soil for the playground mound and Gordon has the grass seed. A concrete block needs to be removed for the area before reseeded.

The Cross: A qualified heritage stone mason has been selected, and he will also give a quote for the full refurbishment of the Cross once the damage has been repaired.

Policies: These are needed for the audit, and the Clerk is working on them in readiness.

Churchyard: Planning permission is in place for two years in relation to the lime trees so this matter will be put on hold until the ash dieback situation has been resolved. Two requests for additional wording on headstones were approved.

Interim Clerk and RFO

Arrangements: Cllrs. Grover and J Smith continue to fulfil these responsibilities and are working together for the council audit. The Clerk will attend a finance training course via Zoom next week.

Assets: The Clerk will deliver letters/photographs to village residents in relation to ascertaining well ownership.

Training: The Clerk has audit training and Cllrs. Spowart and Binns will have a 'New Councillors' Course in July 2026, which the Clerk will arrange.

Council's position on Bonsall's Design Statement where it affects council decision making: Statement agreed as follows: 'The position of the parish council, when faced with a planning decision within Bonsall's conservation area, will be to refer to the Bonsall Village Design Statement when necessary. This does not hold the Council to adhere to the Village Design Statement.' Bonsall Village Design Statements parts one and two can be found on the Derbyshire Dales District website. The parish council acknowledged that Bonsall was not included in DDDC Article 4 Direction,

where more stringent controls are imposed within certain conservation areas. The Clerk was tasked with making background enquiries into this to report back to the council.

(cont'd on next page)

Parish Councillors

If you have any concerns or requests of the Parish Council, they should ideally be raised in Public Participation section of the monthly meeting. If however there is an urgent matter, while individual councillors will try to assist, a direct response is better achieved by contacting the Clerk to the Parish Council directly:

Chair: Cllr Mark Harris, Stepping Lodge, Bell Lane, T: 820285
cllr.m.harris@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Vice Chair: Cllr Richard Grover
Nethergreen House, Clatterway
T: 07305 075392
cllr.r.grover@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Councillors:

Cllr. Jon Barry, Ivy Cottage, Bell Lane, T: 07866 750636
cllr.j.barry@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Connor Binns, Puddle Hill Farmhouse, Puddle Hill,
T: 07718 953420

Cllr. Jackie Smith, 49 Church Street,
T: 07771 764366
cllr.j.smith@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Stephen Smith, 49 Church Street. T: 07545 062413
cllr.s.smith@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Andrew Spowart, Ruggs Hall, The Clatterway, T: 01629 826009

Interim Clerk and Finance Officer:
Jackie Smith, 49 Church Street
T: 07771 764366
clerk@bonsall-pc.gov.uk



Matthew Buckler
District Councillor,
Bonsall & Winster Ward
Tel: 01629 580926
Mobile: 07717 336186
Email: matthew.buckler@derbyshiredales.gov.uk



Adrian Hunter
County Councillor
Wirksworth Ward
Email: adrian.hunter@derbyshire.gov.uk



John Whitby MP
Derbyshire Dales
Email:
john.whitby.mp@parliament.uk
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Report for meeting on 17 March 2026 (cont'd.)

Finance: Cllr. Grover produced the latest finance report for the Cllrs. which was discussed and agreed. The end of year final account will be produced in April.

Planning Applications:

The Council had no objections to the following applications:

- Croft Farm, Pounder Lane – development of farm buildings to dwellings x 3
- Installation of solar panels Brumlea Farm Cottage, by a majority 6/1
- Revised design to the approved extension at Slaley Farm
- Proposed internal/external alterations and variation of conditions – 1 High Street

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 21 April at Bonsall Village Hall. If you have any issues to be raised at the meeting, please contact the Interim Clerk, Jackie Smith, with details by 14 April 2026.

Jackie Smith (Interim Clerk)

49 Church Street, Bonsall. DE42AE

T. 07771 764366

Email clerk@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

CELEBRATING OVER 150 YEARS OF OUR FAMILY BUSINESS

Family Business Awards 2013 Runner-Up, 2013 Family Commitment, 2013 Finalist

Which? Trusted Trader

Which? Trusted Trader Endorsed for over 10 years

Certificate of Distinction Oct 2019

Karndean Design Centre

APPROVED CODE

FG

NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

T. NUTT & SONS LTD

A FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1849

43/47 High Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield S45 9DX

Tel: 01246 863148

www.nutt.co.uk

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 9am to 5pm
Wed: 9am to 12pm & Sat: 9am to 4pm

VISIT OUR FOUR LARGE SHOWROOMS

CUSTOMERS OWN CAR PARK OR RING FOR FREE HOME SELECTION SERVICE

WE SPECIALISE IN

- Supply & Install of all Domestic & Contract Carpets
- Supply & Install of all Domestic & Contract Vinyls
- Supply & Install of RealWood & Laminate Floorings
- Supply & Install of Karndean Floorings
- Supply & Install of Sisal & Natural Floorings
- Supply & Install Coretec and Quick-Step Flooring

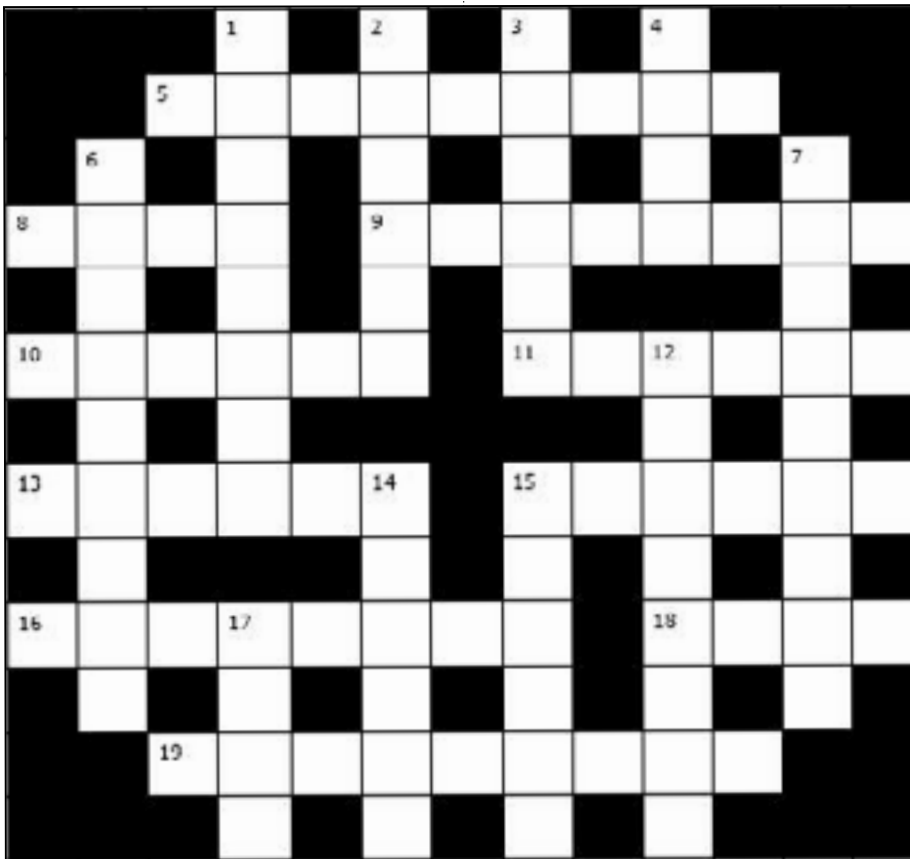
WE OFFER

- Guaranteed Workmanship (Following British Standard 5325 And TSI Approved Code of Practice)
- Free Estimating & Measuring
- Disposal of Old Carpet & Floorings, if required
- Moving & Replacement of Furniture
- Trimming of Doors
- Insurance Work Undertaken & Insurance Quotes

TRUSTED TRADER

CROSSWORD #181

by Pam McNally



Across:

5. 16ac. Laits? Yes! (9)
8. 15ac is real muddle! (4)
9. Fiddle with outsized dong of 15ac? Yes! (3,2,3)
10. How 16ac should be for decency's sake. (6)
11. Notwithstanding, live in a tipsy state. (6)
13. 15ac. What Randy Andy is no more! (6)
- 15 & 16. Holding nothing, elf is led forth around island story. (4,2,3,5)
18. We French have intelligence. (4)
19. Wilder, e.g., always carries a bit of tree - family tree? (9)

Down:

1. Camilla, losing energy, swallows pill. With head dropped, dashes off - with this? (8)
2. New undies, where you replace me, so to speak? Yes!
3. Initially, send to all New Zealand a verse. (6)
4. Petty squabble - over naked stiffy? (4)
6. Government by a bunch of 15ac? The German National Trust plays no part in hyacinth garden arrangement. (9)
7. Several of first part if 1 down mixed with every other ology resulting in speech. (9)
12. Every 15ac has this - except on a heartless groupie. (8)
14. Mixed pie on second part of 1 down - pr*ck used on those with allergies. (6)
15. Finally, the French saint lay disembowelled! (6)
17. Found in selfie film, granted by a 15ac. (4)

Answers to Crossword no. 180

Across: 5. Mass Media. 8 & 9. Nato Alphabet. 10. Hotels. 11. Yankee. 13. Sierra. 15. Victor. 16. November. 18. Golf. 19. Three-star.

Down: 1. Saboteur. 2. Oscars. 3. Deeply. 4. Lima. 6. Palominos. 7. Gene pools. 12. Neckgear. 14. Ambled. 15. Viorose. 17. Echo

STEVE'S ELECTRICAL

DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

Fully qualified Electrician & Contractor with over 20 years of experience in domestic, commercial & industrial installations.

SPECIALISING IN:

- Full & partial rewires
- Extra lights & sockets
- Fuse board upgrades
- Outside sockets
- Outside lighting projects
- Down light installations
- Inspection, testing & certification
- PAT testing
- LED lighting
- New builds
- Kitchen & bathroom installations
- Fault Finding

Local, friendly & reliable service. No job too big or too small. Please phone or email for a free quote.

STEVEN BAKER

Tel No: **07746 436 878**

Email: steveelectrical2@gmail.com

34 Morrell Wood Drive, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0JD
4 Rose Cottages, Uppertown, Bonsall, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2AW

H. Strange & Son

Electrical Engineers est. 1959

The Fountain, The Dale, Bonsall

- Domestic lighting and power systems
- Night Storage Heating
- Fire Alarm Systems
- Emergency Lighting Systems
- Telephone Extensions
- Inspection Testing & Certification
- Portable Appliance Testing
- Emergency Callouts
- Fault Finding & Rectification
- Electric Underfloor Heating Systems
- Minor Works & Repairs
- Boiler & Central Heating Controls

DCC Trusted Trader
Free competitive quotations on all our services

Tel: 01629 823241

Email: hstrangeandson@hotmail.co.uk

Web: www.hstrangeandson.co.uk

Townhead Farmhouse + B&B

We are not generally doing Bed and Breakfast but if you have friends or family visiting we might still be able to help - please call.

Self catering is available in our comfortable 6 berth cottage all with ensuite rooms. Discounts available for longer stays.

Telephone: 07708 488642

townheadfarmhouse@gmail.com

EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome news, views and letters on any topic provided they are attributed to an author. We review all items for obvious libellous or offensive material, but we cannot check for factual content.

Please do not send letters which are "not for publication". If you have strong feelings about what is or is not said in Mutterings, please either write to us or join the group of volunteers who enable the production of this village newsletter.

Back issues of T'Owd Man's Mutterings can be found on the Bonsall Village website - <https://bonsall-pc.gov.uk>. Please note that your articles will appear on the website and can be picked up by search engines.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Picture Framing

Market Place, Wirksworth. Complete bespoke service - you name it, we frame it. Hundreds of mouldings in stock, very competitively priced.

Open Mon, Tues and Thurs 10am to 5pm; closed on Wednesdays; Fri and Sat 10am to 4pm.

Tel 824994.

Window Cleaning

Pure water reach and wash pole service for residential or commercial properties. Ladder cleaning, gutter clearing, fascias, conservatory roofs, house cleaning and car washing.

Tel: Andrew on 07598 170311 or 07746 320175,

E-mail: andrewhallcleaning@gmail.com.

Childminder

Registered childminder based in Slaley.

Opening hours 08.00-17.30

Funded sessions and holiday care available.

Please feel free to call for a chat or to arrange a visit.

Tel: Emma on 07464 966035.

Physics Tutoring - Local

Increase confidence in Physics GCSE and A Level, improve grades or help get a pass.

Professional, friendly, approachable, local tuition. 20 years experience as a teacher of Physics and Head of Science. DBS certified.

Contact Gordon Day for details on 07979 912477

EDITORIAL GROUP

Hazel Baldwin 07414 845925

Brett Biedscheid 07977 200354

Candice Dosman 07584 179750

Maggie Duggins 825228

Karen Firth 259483

Julie Hamilton 07890 610929

Ruth Headon 07769 725022

Dave Hicklin 07421 700888

Pam McInally 07776 351054

Ricky & Jeanette Moss 826557

Ricky & Jeanette Moss 826555

Graham Partridge 07710 077949

Krisi Smith 07557 868538

T'Owd Man's Mutterings

Advertise your business in Mutterings

The newsletter is delivered to every household in Bonsall Parish 11 times per year and read by over 1000 people. In addition, the full-colour website version is searchable for company names and types of business. For a very reasonable £72 p.a., you can expand your business, as Steven Baker has found: "Since I started my advert in Mutterings I've had several jobs where customers have used it to find my number."

Please contact Julie Hamilton on 824819 for more information.

Please send us your news, views, stories and diary events by **Noon on 22nd April** to: Editorial Group, 91 Yeoman Street, or by e-mail to mutterings@hotmail.com

Boxed and classified adverts are regarded as commercial advertising and attract a fee.

Please call Ruth Headon on 07769 725022 for information about rates and lineage. Copy for commercial advertising should be with us by the tenth of the month before you wish the advert to be placed.

Items for sale and wanted are free to villagers and can be submitted to mutterings@hotmail.com or hand-written to 91 Yeoman Street.



250Mbps broadband speeds for just £25 per month!

Why choose Connect Fibre?

- Free expert install & set up
- No in-contract price rises
- Symmetrical upload & download speeds
- Friendly, helpful UK based team



or scan me!

Discover more at connectfibre.co.uk
or call **01223 080 790**

VILLAGE GROUPS

Allotment Group	Penny Collier	825591
Art Club	Fiona Drake Alan David	07776 256314 07517 449074
Bonsall Barn Project	Liz Stoppard / Mike Susko	823712
Bonsall Camp	Matthew Quinn	07988 071682
Bonsall Energy Group	Chris Broome	07900 332209
Church Bell Ringers	Melissa Wellbourne Hesp	826303
Church Flood Lighting	Di Moor	07432 131808
Carnival Committee	Rob Stevenson	07448 875076
History Group	Dave Headon	07738 425374
Open Gardens	Ollie Gerrish	824498
Pigeon Club	Gordon Hardy	823549
PTFA	Claire Duma	07880 851083
Roadside Clearing	Loreen Elliott	07467 234269
School Head	Rebecca Smart	822573
School Toddler Club	Di Moor	07432 131808
School Foundation	Norma Rickards (Clerk)	822257
St James	Rev Janet Turville	824707
Village Hall Committee	Jackie Smith	823544
Village Life Church	Pastor Matthew Quinn	07988 071682
Village Lunch Club	Ron Addis	826309
Wesleyan Reform Chapel (The Dale)	Judy Land	824223
Wilder Bonsall Group	Deb Smith	825228

Bonsall History Publications

Bonsall - A Village & Its History	£15
Bonsall Within Living Memory	£10
History Walking Guides	Set of five £5
'A Farm in Wartime' (Potter Diaries)	£5
<i>The 4 items above are available at the Fountain Tearooms or online with the addition of the items below, more information & contact details use QR code</i>	
80 Years of Bonsall Carnival Book	
The Bonsall History Map -Rolled/Folded	
Bonsall - A Village & Its History	£15 Paperback £25 Hardback
History Booklets	
www.BonsallHistory.org.uk	



RESOURCES

Village Hall

Cost per session (a session is a morning, afternoon or evening):

- Village organisations:

£15 - one floor; £20 - both floors

- Non-village organisations:

£25 - one floor; £35 - both floors

- Village people private hire:

£30 - one floor; £40 - both floors

- Non-village people private hire:

£45 - one floor; £55 - both floors

For information on sale of alcohol/private bar, use of the Village Hall audio equipment, screening a film, or any other matters, please contact Jackie Smith, 07771 764366. Jaqsm@aol.com

TRAVEL SERVICES

Assisted Travel

Derbyshire Connect transport for shopping, weekdays 9am - 4pm, booked in advance. Tel: 01335 300670 between two and seven days before travel or email: info@ashbournect.org.uk.

Derbyshire Connect Active Travel to healthcare appointments, weekdays 9am - 5pm, booked in advance. Charges vary. Tel: 03333 444125 at least 48 hours in advance or email: office@sdcvs.org.uk

Bus services

216 Bus service - Matlock to Bonsall via Starkholmes Monday to Saturday. No service on Sunday or Bank Holiday.

Bonsall Uppertown 11.01, 13.01, 16.01, 18.01

The Fountain 11.06, 13.06, 16.06, 18.06
Matlock (by M&S) 10.36, 12.36, 15.36, 17.36.

(see www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables)

Taxis 07866 661188, 01629 650025, 07598 161151, 07815 689241, 01629 690091, 08457 484950, 0870 6082608

Train services 0845 7484950

Travel line 0870 6082608

Volunteer Drivers

Loreen 822067

Bonsall Village

Defibrillator Trained Volunteers

Richard Taylor 823704, 07860 214503

Brett Taylor 824407, 07950 036657

Anne Young 07876 506595

Phil Addis 826309, 07951 189727

John Ratcliffe 07896 924824

Maxine Ellis 07742 749854

Julia Milverton 07584 895644

Jackie Smith 07771 764366

Melissa Wellbourn Hesp 07557 902500

Jill & David Rickards 824038, 07586 721963

Jason Pugh 07756 668205

Jennie Pugh 07841 758488

Alan Walker 07711 733509

Elaine Pickersgill 07832 383074

Adrian Rollinson 07768 346302

USEFUL NUMBERS

Health

NHS Direct 0300 311 22 33

Chemists: Wirksworth Market Place
822607; 12 Bank Road, Matlock, 57924

Dentists Matlock: 584746, 55645, 582218, 56558. Steeple Grange: 822172

Doctors: Wirksworth Hannage Brook

822434; Matlock Imperial Road 583465

Hospitals: Chesterfield, Calow 01246

277271; Derby City 01332 340131; Derby

Royal 01332 347141; Matlock Whitworth 580211.

Non-urgent advice 111

Derbyshire County Council

www.derbyshire.gov.uk

All enquiries 533190. Out of hours numbers: 532600 or 'Call Derbyshire' 533190 or text 86555

Derbys Dales District Council

www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk

All enquiries 761100

Environmental health 761212

Tourist information

Matlock 583388

Matlock Bath 583834

Trading Standards 585858

Electricity emergencies 0800 0568090

Fire station, Matlock 582849

Gas leaks 0800 111999

Waste Recycling Centre

Harrison Way, Darley Dale

Opening times

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 5 pm

Saturdays & Sundays 10 am to 5pm

Mobile Library 01629 533444

Next open Friday, 1 May 10.50 -11.20 am at The Fountain.

Police/Safer Neighbourhoods 101

PCSO: Kirsty.Hunt (Kirsty.Hunt@derbyshire.police.uk) covering Cromford, Matlock Bath & Bonsall
matlock.neighbourhoods@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Victim support 825544

Community safety 761101

Swimming & gymnasiums

Matlock (Arc Leisure) 581322

Wirksworth 825704

Vets Matlock 582844, 581234

Wirksworth 823034

DIARY FOR APRIL 2026

Date		Event	Venue
Fri	3	10:00 am Good Friday Family Easter Crafts	St James Church
Sat	4	8:00 pm Team Easter Vigil Service	St James Church
		8:00 pm Carnival Easter Raffle Draw	King's Head & Barley Mow pubs
Sun	5	9:30 am Easter Day Eucharist, Blessing of the Easter Garden	St James Church
		10:30 am Easter Sunday Celebration	Village Life Church
		6:15 pm Special Easter Service	Bonsall Dale Chapel
Thurs	9	7:00 pm Wilder Bonsall meeting	King's Head
Fri	17	12:30 pm Village Lunch Club	Village Hall
Tues	21	7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Weds	22	12:00 pm Deadline for submissions for May 2026 Mutterings	
Sat	25	6:45 pm Pie & Quiz Night / Fundraiser	Village Hall
Sun	26	9:30 am Eucharist	St James Church
		10:30 am 'Your Kingdom' Prayer Service	Village Life Church

Bin collection dates

Fri 3 April

Grey bins and food waste caddy

Fri 10 April

Blue bins, green bins and food waste caddy

Fri 17 April

Grey bins and food waste caddy

Fri 24 April

Blue bins, green bins and food waste caddy

Future dates

Friday 5 June

PTFA Mock Auction

Sat/Sun 20-21 June

Bonsall Arts Trail 2026

Sat 4 July

PTFA Music Evening

Barley Mow
FREE HOUSE

18th century freehouse with it's own brewery - **Chickenfoot**.
Award winning kitchen and chef, preparing delicious food, with all our meat
supplied by award winning local master butcher - **R. Maycocks of Holloway**.

Regular live music events | Film Nights | Beer & Music Festivals

Bonsall Strongman and Strongwoman
Next one on Sunday 3rd may 2026
Annual World Hen Racing Championship
(Next One Saturday 1st August!)

barleymowbonsall.co.uk

 The-Barley-Mow-at-Bonsall

 bestpubintheworld

The Dale, Bonsall, Matlock DE42AY

 01629 356494

Bonsall Players Pantomime February 2026



Photos: Sarah Smith

Bonsall Players Pantomime February 2026



Photos: Sarah Smith