



Issue 258

May 2026

T'Owd Man's Mutterings

Photo by Karen Firth



MAGGIE'S MAY

MEET OUR MUTTERING'S MUTT OF THE MONTH MORE ON PAGE 7



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

CHURCH DIARY

St James

Church Services for May are as follows:

Sunday 10 May

Eucharist at 9.30am

Sunday 24 May

Eucharist at 9.30am

Bonsall Church Café

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

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

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

The Wirksworth Team Ministry

Bonsall Wesleyan Reform Chapel (The Dale)

Sunday Services are at 6.15pm

Sunday 10 May 6.15pm Visit of a member of London City Mission

All are welcome

Judy Land

Village Life Church (High Street)

Sunday

10:30am Worship Service

Tuesday

2:00pm Craft Club

Wednesday

6:00pm The Gathering. A meal followed by a short bible study. All are welcome.

Friday

10:00am Prayer & Coffee

Special Services

Sunday 31 May 10:30am '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 07988071682 or email us at villagelifechurchbonsall@gmail.com

Pastor Matthew Quinn

Bonsall Camp Site Manager

CHURCH NEWS

Easter Sunday in the Vatican City, Pope Leo stands to deliver his first Easter Sunday Mass as Pope. He says "On this day of celebration, let us abandon every desire for conflict, domination and power, and implore the Lord to grant his peace to a world ravaged by wars."

As you may or may not have seen in the media, these words caused a great deal of controversy. It particularly enraged and rather churlish American President, who interpreted these words as a personal attack on his decision to invade Iran.

Was Pope Leo out of place praying for peace in a world of conflict. I don't think so. I know it is too simple to say that war is always bad and unnecessary. But it is not too simple to say that peace is always good and always preferable.

I would go as far to say peace is a necessary, for all human beings. Whether it is the peace that ends warfare, the peace that ends worry & fear, the peace that comes when the kids are in bed and the wine bottle is opened.

I believe that peace is the natural and healthy state of the human race. Which is why most rational people try and find it. Humans thrive when they have everything they need, when their minds are quiet, and they find joy in what they have. The word Shalom, the Hebrew word for peace, speaks of 'a wholeness and completeness.' This is what we all long for.

But how do we attain such an elusive element in our lives? There are countless words written and practices designed for us to try and find peace. Mindfulness, meditation, spa retreats, yoga, exercise, sabbaticals from work, holidays, connecting with nature, tree bathing, star-gazing... there are so many suggestions, to help us end the conflict in our souls.

For me, I believe that the only way I have ever felt significant peace (and this is still often elusive to me) is as a result of my faith. The bible tells us that Jesus is the prince of peace. And there is a wonderful scripture that talks about a 'peace that transcends all understanding,' which comes from a life of trust in a God who is bigger than the conflicts of life.

And this is my encouragement today. Trust God. What does that mean? It means instead of carrying the burdens and anxieties of life, go and find a quiet place and a quiet moment, and pour out your heart of worry to a God of love. He is listening!!

And pray for the leaders of this world too. The bible encourages this as well. 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.'

As we face a world of war, let us pray for our leaders, to lead us in to times of peace.

Pastor Matthew Quinn

As we come into the month of May, Easter has come and gone, and the chocolate eggs are all eaten I expect! Yet the church year keeps moving on.

Pentecost is almost here... or should we call it Whitsunday? In truth, the name doesn't change the celebration — but each one invites us to reflect in a slightly different way.

Pentecost, taken from the Greek word for "fifty," arrives fifty days after Easter and began as a Jewish festival, not unlike our own Harvest Festival. In the book of Acts in the Bible, the disciples — women and men together — were gathered to celebrate Pentecost when everything changed. The Holy Spirit came upon them like tongues of fire, a mighty wind filled the room, Peter preached with new courage, and thousands chose to follow Christ that day.

A small, frightened group of Jesus' followers became a bold, joyful community, speaking openly about Jesus' death and resurrection.

So why was it once called Whitsunday? Some say it comes from "White Sunday," when people were baptised wearing white robes. Others suggest it means "Wisdom Sunday," and I like this idea as it draws us back to the heart of the story. The fact that the Holy Spirit, God's own wisdom, poured out on ordinary people so they could live and speak with courage.

Whatever name we use, Pentecost is the Church's birthday — a moment to remember the God who gives wisdom and empowers us to serve the world around us.

My prayer this Pentecost is that the church here in Bonsall continues that beautiful tradition: caring for those who need it most and becoming, increasingly, a place where everyone finds a warm welcome and acceptance.

Rev Janet Turville

Team Vicar Wirksworth Team Ministry

Tel: 01629 701334



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The Easter family craft session

The Easter family craft session was really successful.

Twenty eight adults and fourteen children enjoyed the various activities including, weaving, Lego and biscuit decorating. They also made a collage representing the Easter story which is still in church for you to see.

We are hoping that this will be the first of four family sessions to be held during the year; the next one being at the end of the spring term.

Drinks and hot cross buns were enjoyed by everyone there.

Di Moor

Games Night

On Friday 22 May we're having a Games Night in Church at 7pm to include Scrabble, Monopoly, Cards,

Dominoes, Uno, Rummikub and whatever games you would like to bring. We will have tables of four and six.

Hot snacks will be served at the table and it will be £5 pp.

Kathryn Punchard

Floodlighting

There are no floodlighting memories now until September.

If anyone would like to be included in September, please let me know by the middle of August.

You might have noticed that the floodlighting has been changed to LED bulbs which give a different light but will be cheaper to run.

Thanks for your continued support.

Di Moor

dimoor2014@yahoo.co.uk

I read with interest the recent letters regarding the installation of solar panels on the Village Hall. It's clear people care deeply about Bonsall's character and future, and that's something we all share. But some of the discussion has included misunderstandings that are worth clarifying so we can debate the issue on solid ground.

Solar panels today are not the same technology they were 15–20 years ago. In 2007, panels typically lasted around 20 years. Modern panels have an expected lifespan of 30 years or more, with many continuing to generate well beyond that. Their efficiency and reliability have improved significantly, and maintenance requirements are minimal.

Electricity prices in the UK are closely tied to the price of gas, which is why bills have been so volatile. Solar generation helps insulate community buildings from this instability. Every unit of electricity generated locally is one we don't have to buy at gas linked prices.

It's also worth noting solar panels are already present on several buildings in the village, and have been for years. If the principle is that panels harm the village's character, then consistency would require calling for their removal too- and presumably compensating every household for the lost savings. I suspect most residents would not welcome that approach.

Bonsall's charm is undeniable, but we should also be honest about its environmental realities. Much of the village consists of Victorian stone houses, often with single glazed windows and limited insulation. These buildings are beautiful, but they are also energy inefficient and difficult to adapt to low carbon heating such as air source heat pumps. As a result, our collective carbon footprint is higher than many comparable communities.

The Village Hall itself is a good example of how we already balance heritage with social responsibility. The building includes a low mobility access lift by the front door. Some may feel it affects the appearance of the entrance, but we accept it because it serves an important social purpose: ensuring everyone in the community can use the Hall. The same principle applies to the solar panels. They are a practical, socially responsible measure that helps the Hall remain affordable, resilient, and fit for the future.

From what has been shared publicly, the solar project was grant supported, carefully considered, and approved by the Trustees in line with the Village Hall's governance structure. It is one of the few practical, affordable, and immediate steps we can take to reduce emissions locally.

We are living through a period of rapid climate change and biodiversity loss. Every community, especially one with Bonsall's history and landscape, has a role to play in responding to these challenges. Local renewable generation is part of that response. Far from damaging the village, it helps secure its future.

Personally, I would like to see more renewable energy generation in Bonsall, not less- done sensitively, thoughtfully, and in ways that respect the village's heritage while acknowledging the world we now live in. A shared heat network may be unrealistic for us, but solar is not. It is one of the few tools we have that is both effective and achievable.

We all want Bonsall to remain a beautiful, thriving place. Embracing practical, modern solutions to environmental challenges is one way to ensure the village we love continues to flourish for generations to come.

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LETTERS



"Is this Donald outside the Fountain café?"
Photo: John Barry

Bonsall is Beautiful – BiB

April fool or not, members of the latest village organisation – BiB, have been highly active this month.

I joined the back end of the "Toad Patrol" organised superbly by Elaine Pickersgill and Karen Firth in helping hundreds of toads to safely cross the road at Nailor Lane. Karen, though is a little worried about her husband Donald, who has spent so many hours in the presence of toads, that she feels he may have morphed into one !?

BiB has promised upgraded bibs for the next year's "Toad Patrol".



Photo: John Barry

Ensuring that the Village Park continues to blossom, I joined Spud and his chipper (cheers mate brilliant job), Pete Spencer and Gordon Hardy in clearing the park of all its rubbish following Ash dieback. Enclosed is a picture of the spritely Pete Spencer (allegedly) celebrating his NVQ level 1 chainsaw certificate in the park ?

BiB will also be supporting 'IAK' the brainchild of Jayne Allsop. This event will be held during Carnival week, with BiB involvement. Watch this space.

Finally, I have been asked by Hazel Baldwin, chairperson of the VHC, to host their quiz night. Following recent articles in The Mutterings (Mick Moor's article in March, 256 is well worth a revisit ?). I have been banned from uttering the words "Solar Panels"!

Question 1. How many solar panels are there on the VH roof ?

Only joking.

Jon Barry

Co-chairman of BiB
(Very Limited Company).

I would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for a comprehensive reply to my questions. We now eagerly await publication of the reply from the Energy Group.

Best wishes,

Mick Moor Installations

Are there any jazz fans in Bonsall interested in going to jazz gigs around the area?

A recent trip to Ronnie Scott's jazz club has left a yearning to see more live jazz.

There are many venues not too far away. Belper Jazz Company, Derby Jazz, Chesterfield Jazz Club, Peggy's Skylight Nottingham and many more.

If you are interested I can just about squeeze 4 extra people in my car, contact Anna on: 07565 617510.

Anna Dawber

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD



Photo: Rebecca Smart

Bonsall Primary School

Felix, Zach and Arne were keen to discuss their Easter celebrations as we sat in the comfortable School Library. All of the Juniors, that's Classes 2 and 3, went to Church to take part in an Easter workshop led by Reverend Janet. Class 1 went the day before. Zach said it was very cold with even a bit of snow, or was it hail? It was white and cold anyway!

They washed each other's hands as a way of doing what Jesus did! They realized that Jesus washing feet had a special significance. They all had a piece of bread and grapes which represented Jesus's body and a way of showing that Jesus gave his disciples wine to represent his blood.

Then, they screwed up pieces of paper and threw them at the Cross to see how that felt. Of course, for Jesus, it wouldn't have been paper, it would have been stones.

At School, they had an Easter Egg Hunt. It wasn't a competition, it was just for fun! There were lots of clues to solve, such as anagrams and they also tried to find how many words could be made out of six letters. They searched all over the field and everyone got an egg so it was fun!

The three boys created an Easter Egg Hunt of their own and Zach printed off images of eggs from 'Microsoft Publisher'. Well done, boys!

The story of Easter and an Easter Egg Hunt are always an excellent way to end the Spring Term and begin the holidays.

Rebecca Smart

It's a Knockout - Carnival 2026

Wednesday 29th July

6.15pm for a 6.30pm start

Teams of 4 – 6 competitors of any age
Fancy dress is optional however you will need a joker. This can be a poster, banner, or a person dressed up. You can play your joker on one event to double your points.

Game 1 - Dumpy bag race – 4 competitors

Think sack race x 4 but in a dumpy bag!

Start with two people in the dumpy bag and then once you're at the other end add the other 2 people and race back. Fastest team wins.

Game 2 - Wheelbarrow race – 2 competitors

1 person is in the wheelbarrow directing their blindfolded pusher through obstacles from one goalpost to the other. When you reach the end goalpost the rider needs to pop 3 balloons filled with water hanging from the frame- make sure to pop the right coloured balloon - points deducted for popping a balloon that isn't your team colour! Repeat until all 3 balloons have been popped. Fastest team wins.

Game 3 – 4 legged race – 3 competitors

So just like a 3 legged race but with 3 people. The person in the centre will be wearing a lovely hat filled to the brim with ping pong balls.

Extra points for each ball still in the hat!

Fastest team wins.

Game 4 – Bucket and balloon race – 4 competitors

One person wears a beautiful head bucket accessory (you will probably get wet!)

The other competitors will try to fill it with water balloons (5 each) from varying distances

5 metre – 3 points

4 metre – 2 points

3 metre – 1 point

Game 5 - To be confirmed! An exciting new game coming your way for 2026.

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Game 6 – Relay race – 4 competitors

1st person retrieves objects from the lovely goo concoction!

2nd person scrambles under the cargo net

3rd person jumps the tyres whilst wearing the lovely water hat filled with water bombs – points deducted for any bombs lost

4th person races to the finishing line wearing the flippers!!

Please contact Jayne Allsop on 07415 607016

or email jayneallsop18@gmail.com to enter your team. Remember to think of an interesting team name! Thanks to those teams already registered!

The Carnival Committee would really appreciate your participation, whether as a competitor or spectator at this event.

Spectators please bring your chairs, blankets and supportive cheers.

Jayne Allsop

Bonsall Roadside Clearing

Bonsall Roadside Clearing has restarted its weekly clearing sessions. These take place on Thursday mornings, weather permitting. If there is an area of the village which you feel needs attention, please contact Loreen (07467 234269) or Jacqueline (07482 831945).

If you would like to help at any of these sessions please feel free to join us. All help is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to do some roadside clearing of your own, we do have some equipment you are welcome to borrow (secateurs, shears, rake, broom, wheelbarrow, hi-vis, cones).

Our aim is to keep the public roadways and pathways clear of encroaching vegetation. Manual

clearing means that these areas do not have to be treated with weedkiller containing glyphosate which is harmful to insects, pets, aquatic life and potentially human health.

The Arts Trail will take place in June and it would be great to have our village looking its best for the event. With this in mind we are planning a Big Village Clean Up on Sunday 7 June. More details to follow next month.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to Open Gardens for funding 20 hours of help from the lengthsmen, Gordon Hardy, who makes light work of clearing heavy overgrowth by strimming it for us.

Jacqueline Beardsley

on behalf of Bonsall Roadside Clearing

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Photo: Samantha Hill

Bonsall Framework Knitting Workshop Update

Work is now underway to restore the old framework knitting shop on The Dale and we are hoping to open it to visitors by the summer. After several years of planning, fundraising and research, the building is finally being brought back into use with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Historic Homes Foundation.

Our website is now live at www.bonsallframeworks.uk.

Of particular interest is an interactive village map, which shows other former framework knitting workshops in Bonsall as well as related points of historical interest. The site also includes a historical timeline exploring the story of the building and its place in the village's wider framework knitting heritage.

A big thank you to Jeanette Moss, who has carried out a huge amount of research into the history of the shop and helped bring much of this information together.

We look forward to sharing further updates as the restoration progresses and to welcoming visitors later in the summer.

Thank you

Samantha and Adam Hill

Bonsall Carnival Easter Raffle Draw Results

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Easter Raffle Draw, held on Saturday 4 April. We are very grateful to all those who donated prizes, sold tickets and of course purchased them.

This year proved to be one of our best. Ticket sales reached a record breaking £1,231.00 and we were delighted to offer an incredible total of 47 prizes (the highest number we have ever had) with 46 generously donated by individuals and local businesses.

The Carnival Committee provided the £50 cash first prize from the takings, covered

the costs of £72.60 for ticket printing, £40 for the gambling licence and a nice small charge for use of online payments of 91p. After expenses this left a very useful profit of £1,067.49 which will go towards funding this year's carnival

We drew 24 prizes at each pub and the winners and ticket numbers appear on the back page of this issue. Thank you again for all the support and we all hope you enjoy your prizes.

Sarah Smith

Bonsall Carnival Treasurer

Free Dog Walking

Free dog walking available - with a donation to the Stroke Association. www.stroke.org.uk

I am raising money for the Stroke Association after the devastating loss of my twin brother to a stroke.

I am available weekday afternoons and evenings for dog walking.

A donation however big or small will help people and families whose lives have been changed forever by stroke. I intend this to be long term.

I have lived in and walked the magical hills around Bonsall for 12 years, 6 of those with my gorgeous labrador Biggie.

If you are in need of a dog walker please contact Anna on: 07565617510

In loving memory of John.

Anna Dawber

A Journey to 'The Throne Room of the Mountain Gods' - Follow up

Jane and Alan David would like to thank all those people who attended our illustrated talk in the Village Hall on the 21 March, about our trip to the Karakoram mountains in Pakistan last year. 40 people attended and we raised an impressive total of £663.67, which will go towards the running costs of the Village Hall.

Some of the people who attended live outside of Bonsall and had not visited our Village Hall before. A number of these people commented on how impressed they were by the Hall and the facilities we have to offer.

Special thanks must go to Leslie Murhall, Ann Hambly, Hazel Baldwin and Jackie Daisley who helped prepare, cook and serve a delicious 2 course homemade Indian meal, which I think everyone enjoyed.

Thanks must also go to Ian Daisley and Richard Webster for helping and serving at the bar.

Alan David

Bonsall Allotments Orchard

When we started Bonsall Allotments, 20 years ago, we got a Countryside Agency grant to plant a Community Orchard. As a result, we planted about 60 fruit trees...a mixture of Apples, Pears, Plums and Damsons. The site isn't ideal for tree fruit..... it's very windy and in some areas there's not a great depth of soil and it's fairly rocky.

However, after a slow start, most of the trees got established and began to crop....and last year, like everywhere else around here, we had an exceptionally good harvest. We were picking plums from the beginning of August until the end of October. There were so many apples some of us were making apple juice and cider from the end of August until well into November. On one Community Juicing Day in September we made more than 30 litres of juice!

And even the pears, which are notoriously difficult to crop well, produced heavily, some of them for the first time.

However, the orchard isn't working as a community resource as well as it could. Anyone of the 30 or so allotment plot holders can have as much fruit from the orchard, as they want. And we do sell some here and there....but even so a lot still doesn't get picked or used.

Ideally, we would like to form a group, not necessarily Allotment members, to come together and make more of the orchard as a community resource. There's always lots to do, keeping it maintained.....regular mowing and the minimal amount of pruning....and then picking and processing the fruit..... juicing, jamming, chutney-ing..... then trying to sell what doesn't get used. It is a lot of work, but if you don't know it, it's a wonderful place to spend time and although none of us are exactly experts, there are lots of opportunities to share skills and learn about a really interesting range of trees and what can be done with the fruit.

So, if you're interested in getting involved, please contact me on 07960626680.

Penny Collier

Bonsall Allotment Chair

Allotment Association

The Allotment Association would like to say thanks to Open Gardens for the donation of £320. We have had quite a lot of expense this year and the money has been used to pay for the materials for the new communal shed roof.

Donations made by Open Gardens to various Village groups over the years has made a big difference to them.

Thanks very much to all concerned, your support is appreciated.

Mike Lynch

Encouraging Biodiversity Recovery

Now that spring is truly sprung it is time to get outside and enjoy the wild and cultivated spaces around the village. Indeed, you may have already spotted birds nesting, butterflies afluttering and bees buzzing. All animals including insects depend ultimately on plants (or smaller animals) for their sustenance – the food-chain balance. When a plant or animal species declines or becomes extinct this balance becomes upset and the biodiversity around us declines. This is what has happened as a result of excessive use of fertilisers, insecticides and atmospheric pollution from, for example diesel and petrol fumes. So, what simple things can we do to give a little help to aid recovery of plant and animal species which have declined or been absent from our village surroundings.

One thing might be to create a wild space within your garden (if you have one) putting aside a few square metres at the edge of your garden. This is where wild plants (sometimes considered weeds) can thrive, where grass is longer, and where you might make a pile of twigs encouraging insects and other wildlife. This does not need to be unattractive as climbing plants can screen the area. If you are a little more committed to encouraging wildlife, why not try only mowing paths through your grass during the spring, and then strimming the grass later in the year enabling the spring seeds to propagate. This is often called 'No Mow May' which has been a Plantlife initiative over the past few years – but it doesn't mean you have to stick to May, it all depends which flower seeds you wish to encourage. You could also make a small pond to widen the plant types and encourage frogs, toads and newts; these animals all love slugs and snails helping your garden to stay free of slug poison.. The added advantage of allowing wild plants to thrive in the spring is that butterflies and other insects make good use of these food resources across the spring, summer and autumn and even into winter. Birds and small mammals also benefit. For those villagers who have always wanted a neat lawn in their garden it may take a little time to get used to a slightly 'messier' garden, but during present times we can all do our little bit to help biodiversity recovery. If you don't have a garden you can still put flowering plants or herbs outside on your windowsill – every little helps.

More information can be seen on the following websites:

www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden

www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2023/04/increase-garden-biodiversity/

butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/why-butterflies-matter

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife-pond

Susan Quick

Thank you

The Mutterings Editorial Team would like to thank Open Gardens for the generous donation of £350. This will go along way to help with the ongoing printing costs of the Mutterings. It is kind donations like this, plus the generous advertisers which keep the Mutterings funded and viable.

The Mutterings Editorial Team

Muttering's Mutt of the Month

Maggie is a Fox Red Labrador. She's nearly 4 but we adopted her at 18 months from a difficult situation.

We were looking for a small, old dog!

Like most labradors she'll do anything for food (except give up her stick).

She's a joyful, intelligent dog who loves people and other dogs, playing in the sea and any amount of muddy water.

Unfortunately, she makes our whole house smell of dog!

The photo is of Maggie practising for the labradorlympic games.

Karen Firth (owner)

Donation for Bonsall Village Hall

Village Hall gratefully received a £250 donation from Open Gardens. As always, we are thrilled to receive the money and it will go towards the running costs and maintenance of the hall.

Thank you for your support.

Hazel Baldwin

on behalf of the Village Hall Committee

Bonsall Village Lunch

We had a delicious Derbyshire themed meal for our April meeting - Beef and local beer casserole with honey glazed carrots and Stilton mash!! Followed by Lemon drizzle cake, raspberries and custard and then a cup of tea and the quiz results

If you would like to join our May meal on Wednesday 20th and didn't use the sign-in sheet please ring Phil on 01629 826309 before May 13th when we work out the numbers for the cooks to start their preparations. Please mention any food requirements you have and remember we do offer a take-out if you are unable to get to the village hall. Hoping to see you in the Spring

Jenny March

Report for 21 April 2026 Meeting

Councillor Vacancies

There is currently one vacancy for a Bonsall Parish Councillor. For further information please contact the interim clerk.

Public Speaking

A member of the public requested that the council consider installing compost bins on the village car park for use by the road clearance team for non-weeds. To be placed on next month's agenda.

Matters Outstanding:

Lease arrangements with the Diocese:

Cllr. Binns will contact the land agents. The invoices have been received in relation to the rent which will be paid immediately.

Notice Board Repairs: Cllr. Spowart has removed the noticeboard from the Cross to refurbish it. Cllr. Binns has inspected the noticeboard in Saley and is in the process of restoring this with new backing timber.

Car Park Sign: The wording of this was agreed and Cllr. Grover will take this forward. It was agreed that a 'Welcome to Bonsall Village' message will be included at the head of the sign.

WC – fit soap dispenser: Cllr. S Smith will fit the new soap dispenser. A further one will be ordered by the RFO for the other WC.

Netball post on the park: A Bonsall resident has kindly agreed to remove this for the Parish Council.

Repair steps between playgrounds: Cllr. Spowart will repair these and fit non-slip matting on the top to be assisted by Cllr. Barry and Cllr. Grover if needed.

Village Matters

Flooding

Awaiting a response from Cllr. Hunter

Park

Trees update

Two clusters of ash die-back trees adjacent to the path on the park have been felled. A felling licence will be sought to fell more ash die-back trees highlighted in the tree survey.



Park Sub-Committee Group:

Held their annual meeting –

- The twigs piled on the park awaiting disposal had been shredded by a village resident Cllr. Barry
- The purchased dog signs would be affixed in the park to prevent dog fouling and dogs being let off leads. Cllr J Smith

PARISH COUNCIL

- 2 'No Camping' signs have been purchased and will replace the broken ones in the car park Cllr Grover
- Consideration to be given to painting the container which was developing rust spots Cllr J Smith
- The bench to be re-sited in the toddler playground Cllr Barry
- Rocks from the old slide to be removed and the area seeded Cllr Spowart
- Small section of the fence surrounding the toddler playground to be replaced
- Tree bark on the junior playground to be raked. Cllr Barry
- Lower branch of tree in toddler playground to be trimmed Cllr Barry
- Roof of the electric box needs slight repair Cllr Grover
- Sign in toddler playground to be updated Cllr J Smith
- Church yard trees – Cllr J Smith to check survey report in relation to the felling of the dead trees
- WC's checked – new soap dispenser purchased and to be fitted Cllr S Smith

The full council agreed the minutes and actions above

Website: No issues reported

Quarrying: No issues reported.

Roads/Verges/Footpaths: The potholes 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. The Roadside clearing team has started up again after the inclement weather.

Lengthsmen Update: All equipment had now been serviced. The lengthsmen have commenced the strimming of the footpaths. The council had received their annual contribution for the upkeep of the footpaths. Cllr Grover will discuss the payment with the payee's department as the contribution was a low figure compared to the oncosts of the upkeep. The Council expressed its thanks to Open Gardens for their contribution of £250 for the lengthsmen's work on the park.

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. The repair should have commenced on 20/4/26 but a family situation has delayed this.

Policies: Volunteer Policy – This was adopted unanimously. Future Strategy Document – it was agreed that the clerk would complete this policy for Council approval.

Churchyard: Planning permission is in place for 2 years in relation to the lime trees so this matter will be put on hold until the ash dieback situation has been resolved. Cllrs Barry and J Smith will work together in relation to the trees in the churchyard identified on the tree survey.

Interim Clerk and RFO Arrangements: Cllrs. Grover and J Smith continue to fulfil these responsibilities and are working together for the council audit. The personnel committee will meet prior to the next Council meeting to discuss recruitment of a new Clerk/RFO

Assets: The clerk has contacted DDDC in relation to the Wells on the Council Asset Register for clarification of Wells' ownership and we are awaiting their response.

Drop Kerb – Clatterway: Due to a request by a member of the public, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Derbyshire County Council to request a dropped kerb on the pavement on the Clatterway at its junction with Study Drive 'Please Do not Park Here' signs – requests had been made to the Council in relation to the placing of these signs. It was unanimously agreed that a sign would be purchased for Ember Lane following a request supported by photographs, provided the householder agreed to the siting of it on their wall. Clerk to write to the householder. Councillors to check the areas where further signs had been requested or were missing from their original positioning to report back at the next meeting and the Clerk would make the enquiries with any householder where necessary. Cllr. Grover will obtain a quote for 6 signs.

Finance: Cllr Grover produced the draft end of year accounts which are to be forwarded to the internal auditor. Cllr. S Smith will check the accounts before forwarding to the auditor. The savings to the Council on wages were significant and had placed the Council on a sound financial footing.

Planning Applications: The Council had no objections to the following applications

- a) Kings Head Public House – Variation of Condition to allow for a revised design of the external stair handle

- b) 1 Yeoman Street – Change of use from bed and breakfast and tea rooms to a dwelling house
- c) Millbrook Cottage, Clatterway – Erection of a detached garage and rebuild of a retaining wall.

The next Parish Council meeting – Please note that this is one week earlier 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th May 2026 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 5th May 2026

Jackie Smith (Interim Clerk)

49 Church Street DE42AE

T. 07306311451

Email clerk@bonsall-pc.gov.uk

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: 07306311451
bonsallclerk@gmail.com



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



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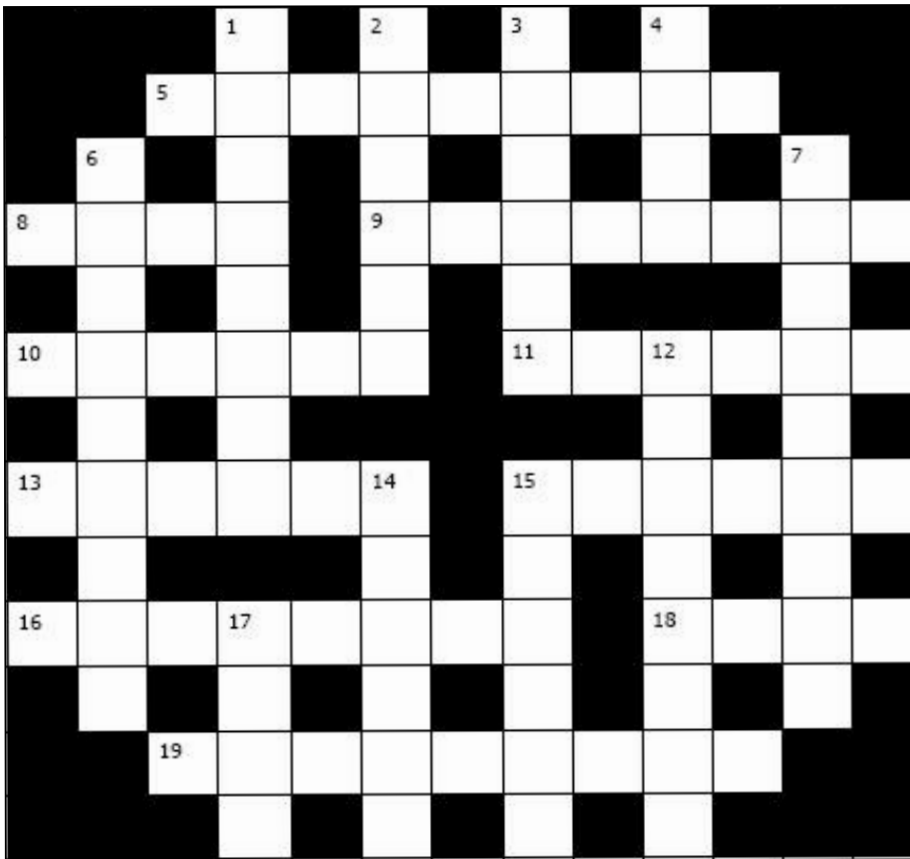
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Bonsall DE4 2AA P: 01629 824814
enquiries@thefountainbonsall.co.uk

CROSSWORD #182

by Pam McNally



Across:

5. Simple. P.S: Film. (4,5)
 8. 5, sweet or sour. (4)
 9. 5 (second word). Sounds like 15D's bloke. (8)
 10. Get to ban Iolanthe at first, unfortunately. (6)
 11. Laurel and Hardy initially cavort with disheartened people. (6)
 13. 5 (second word). Scot with the old perversion. (6)
 15. 5. Forward. (6)
 16. Grander form I joined with hesitation. (8)
 18. Dubious lone friend of The Donald. (4)
 19. (Honestly, it was the only word that would fit!) Shock! Rule out Australian toady. (4-5)

Down:

1. TSAF? Yes – a kind of car. (8)
 2. Mark seen in filthy phenomenon. (6)
 3. Biblical hunter seen getting up in a second or minute. (6)
 4. Recurring image of Pam. (4)
 6. Trick the Spanish zoo into climbing up to support fawn with docked tail. (9)
 7. Aunt played cello badly round table-guest. (Alternative spelling). (9)
 12. Short 15D get back drugs for new girl. (8)
 14. Ski with coy Dicky. Tally-ho! (6)
 15. Discontented Hanna, Rachel and Osbert make 5. (6)
 17. 5 seen going up in Tulse Hill. (4)

Sudoku

by Sarah Smith

Answers to Crossword no. 181

- Across:** 5. Turns tail. 8. Earl.
 9. Son of God. 10. Zipped.
 11. Albeit. 13. Prince 15 & 16. Lord of the Flies. 18. Nous.
 19. Genealogy.
Down: 1. Quill Pen. 2. Unused.
 3. Stanza. 4. Tiff. 6. Hagiarchy.
 7. Soliloquy. 12. Baronage.
 14. Epipen (asterisk not my idea!) 15. Lastly. 17. Fief.

1		7			6	4	5	
	2	5	3	4				8
	6				1		7	
	5	3					2	9
6	1				9	8		
			6		2			7
		1		9	3	2		
		8						
	4			7	8	5	9	1

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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

In search of our forever home in Bonsall

We love living in the village and are in search of purchasing a home with three bedrooms and two loos, please reach out if you have one coming up!
Candice & Gary 07584 179751

Picture Framing

Market Place, Wirksworth. Complete bespoke service – you name it, we frame it. Hundreds of mouldings in stock, very competitively priced. Open Mon to Thurs 10 am to 5pm; Fri and Sat 10 to 4pm; closed on Wednesdays. Tel: 824994.

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Childminder

I am an OFSTED registered childminder based in Slaley, and will have a vacancy on Thursdays from the beginning of November. Funded sessions are available.

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

Tel: Emma on 07464 966035.

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EDITORIAL GROUP

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Dave Hicklin 07421 700888

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Ricky & Jeanette Moss 826557

Graham Partridge 07710 077949

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 07890 610929 for more information.

Please send us your news, views, stories and diary events
by **Noon on 20 MAY** 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.

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VILLAGE GROUPS

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Art Club	Fiona Drake	07776 256314
	Alan David	07517 449074
Bonsall Barn Project		
	Liz Stoppard / Mike Susko	823712
Bonsall Camp		
	Matthew Quinn	07988 071682
Bonsall Energy Group		
	Chris Broome	07900 330209
Bonsall Toad Patrollers		
	Elaine Pickersgill	07832 383074
Church Bell Ringers		
	Melissa Wellbourn Hesp	826303
Church Flood Lighting		
	Di Moor	824376
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	824376
School Foundation		
	Norma Rickards (Clerk)	822257
St James	Rev Rod Prince	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

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@sdcs.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)

Local Taxi Firms

Al's Taxis	07866661188
Cross Dales Taxis	01629 650025
Maz Taxis	07598161151
Mr T Taxi	07815689241
Yaz Taxi	01629 690091
Train services	0845 7484950
Travel line	0870 6082608

Volunteer Drivers

Loreen	822067
Richard Shipley	259809

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

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

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



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

Bakewell Banking Hub Post Office

6 Royal Oak Place

Matlock Street
Bakewell DE45 1HD

Monday	9:00 – 5:00	Barclays
Tuesday	9:00 – 5:00	HSBC
Wednesday	9:00 – 5:00	Lloyds
Thursday	9:30 – 4:30	Nat West
Friday	9:00 – 5:00	Halifax

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 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays 10:00 a.m. to
5:00pm

Mobile Library

Friday 1 May at The Fountain

10:50am-11:20am Ring: 01629 533444

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 May 2026

Date	Event	Venue
Fri 01	Mobile Library, 10:50-11:20am	The Fountain
Mon 4	Bank holiday	
Sun 10	Eucharist at 9.30am	St James Church
Tue 12	Parish Council Meeting, 7:30pm	Village Hall
Wed 20	Village Lunch, 12:30pm Deadline for submissions for June Mutterings	Village Hall
Fri 22	Games Night, 7pm	St James Church
Sun 24	Eucharist at 9.30am	St James Church
Mon 25	Bank holiday	

Future events

June

Fri 5 PTFA Mock Auction, 7:30pm, Kings Head
 Sun 7 Big Village Clean Up
 Sat/Sun 20/21 Bonsal Arts Trail

July

Sat 4 PTFA Music Evening
 Sat 25 Bonsall Carnival
 Wed 29 It's a Knockout

Bin collection dates

Fri 1 Grey Bins and food caddy
 Sat 8 Blue and Green Bins and food caddy
 Fri 15 Grey Bins and food caddy
 Fri 22 Blue and Green Bins and food caddy
 Sat 30 Grey Bins and food caddy

Bonsall Carnival Easter Raffle Draw Results

• 1st Prize £50 Cash	Rita	00832
• 2 Course Meal for 2 at The Barley Mow	James McCabe	00306
• Easter Egg Hamper	Beth	00982
• Voucher for The Fountain Tea Rooms	Sue	00658
• White Peak Distillery Tour	Paul & Sue	00238
• 3 Tickets to Chatsworth House & Gardens	D.Dennis	00759
• 2 Tickets to Chatsworth House & Gardens	Holly	01072
• Family tickets to Matlock Farm Park	Wells Family	00385
• 2 Tickets to The Northern Light Cinema	Louise	00438
• £25 voucher for Twiggs	Mollie	01024
• £20 voucher for Robert's Wine Bar	Steve	00551
• Family ticket to Heights of Abraham	Nichola	01285
• £20 voucher for Hollies Farm Plant Centre	Ken & Hazel	00041
• 2 Night Midweek Stay at Wolley Piggie	Carol Moore	01391
• £120 voucher Black Rocks Valet	Izaak	01109
• Bike Helmet	Adam	00675
• Set of Books	Richard	00091
• Set of mini candles	Megan	00450
• Felt D.I.Y Robin	Karen	00992
• Spin The Shot	Alan C	00103
• 4 Collective Plates	Richard Taylor	00481
• Soap & Glory Tin	Sue	00586
• Kitchen Caddies	Kirsty	00816
• Handmade Chopping Board	Paul	00159
• Handmade Duck Sink Caddy	Jenny	00179
• Sanctuary Spa Gift Box	Ron & Phil	00555
• Sanctuary Spa Body Butter	Wendy	01304
• Nivea Toiletries Bag	Val	01395
• Torch	Phil Bond	00790
• Torch	Brown	00879
• Torch	Mick Ible	00926
• Light Up Candle Houses	Kim	00250
• Baylis & Harding Trio	M Duggins	00549
• Trio Laura Ashley Hand Cream	Janet Brown	00035
• Trio Bath Bombs	Pete & Daphne	00037
• Bamboo Candle	Izzie	01104
• Lily O Brains Chocolates	Cath Rawas	00377
• Prosecco & A Bonsall Hat	Cath & Damien	00011
• Prosecco & A Bonsall Hat	Hilary	00519
• Bottle of Gin & A Bonsall Hat	Richard	00255
• Bottle of Rum & A Bonsall Hat	Paul Salt	00347
• Bottle of Rum & A Bonsall Hat	Kev Beacham	00784
• Cointreau & A Bonsall Hat	Louise W	01093
• Brandy & A Bonsall Hat	Tony	00524
• Bottle of Gin	Claire Land	00365
• Sticky Toffee Liquor	Andrew & Judith	00074
• M&S After Dinner Mints	Olive Bond	00126

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