



LITTLE EATON NEWSLETTER

Winter 25/26

Published by Little Eaton Parish Council and distributed by volunteers



Little Eaton Local History Society

Greetings!

Our monthly meeting programme continues, usually on the second Monday evening from September through to June. Details are circulated to our email group and our Facebook page.

You can sign up for our notifications and membership details via the website Contact form on :

<https://www.lelhs.org.uk/contact> or just come along to a meeting.

We had some good meetings in the autumn with talks on the Quarries of Little Eaton, a brief history of gas and Sudbury

Gasworks, the John Smedley Mill, a themed selection of photos from our archive and most recently the North Midland Railway and Wingfield Station.

We continue with a talk on Water Power in Belper (and the Belper Mills 250th anniversary) by Ian Jackson, chair of Belper Historic Society and Waterpower Researcher, and then a presentation on notable women of Little Eaton taking us into Spring. Attendance has been steady and it has been great to see many new faces in the last few months. We've established an informal network with other History Groups in South Derbyshire to share ideas on projects and potential talks.

Thanks to the OAP hall team for support with the venue; we are now renting some storage space at the back of the hall and have moved old documents and artefacts from the community hall loft to a more hospitable map cupboard and filing cabinet. It's good to welcome Elizabeth Kiltie to our committee for her help and experience with the archiving.

We have applied for funding to enable a series of history boards for the new greenway, and the website is

updated, most recently with a description of Gregory's sweet shop.

Thanks to our team of committee members for their considerable time and effort and look forward to seeing you.

Next meetings starting in the OAP Hall Barley Close at 7:30 pm :

Monday February 9th, Water Power in Belper, Ian Jackson PhD, Ceng

Monday March 9th, Notable Women of Little Eaton , Clare Howard

Millennium Way & Litter Pick



The Parish Council have secured some grant money to be used for environmental initiatives. Millennium Way is the first area to benefit with volunteers planting seven trees in January. We have chosen native, low growing varieties so as not to become overbearing or a maintenance issue in the future. Hopefully these will mature and add interest to this stretch of the village whilst helping out our local wildlife.

We plan to plant more native trees in the future. You may have noticed that an area of Millennium Way was recently

dug up by Severn Trent after a drain leak. We are planning to sow some native wildflower seeds in this area whilst the soil is bare.

We are spending some of the grant money on additional litter picking equipment.

If you'd like to join in with our litter picks it would be great to see some new faces.

Sunday March 8th - Croft Corner

Sunday April 19th - The Park

Sunday May 10th - Windy Lane/Alfreton Rd junction board (Croft Corner)

All Welcome

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07572732099
energee.derby@gmail.com

BOOK NOW

Little Eaton Recycling Hub

The recycle hub in the old phone box (opposite Duffield Rd junction) has been running since October.

It's proving very popular and our small band of volunteers have been busy distributing your items. Over the four months we've collected the following...

- 23 carrier bags of blister packs
- 6 carrier bags of toothpaste tubes, tooth brushes and other toiletry items
- 8 carrier bags of spectacles and contact lens packaging
- 6 carrier bags of bras
- 6 carrier bags of electronics cables and ink cartridges

There are also containers for bubble wrap and wool (help yourself).

An additional box for blister packs is available in the Little Eaton Appletree Surgery (8-11.30 Mon-Fri) but please don't leave anything on their doorstep.

If anyone would like to get involved with the recycle hub (more distributors are always needed)



please contact:
clerk@litleeatonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The majority of our recycling is taken to Boots, Curry's, Specsavers, Superdrug (Cornmarket) and Gymphobics. Please note... Unfortunately we cannot recycle toner

cartridges, only standard domestic ink cartridges. Toiletries and cosmetic items must be empty. Please don't include other recycling items as volunteers have to remove these (we keep finding foil trays amongst blister packs, these can go in your blue bin)

There is more information on local recycling inside the phone box or scan the QR code below.



Published by Little Eaton Parish Council.

Please email articles for inclusion to: clerk@litleeatonparishcouncil.gov.uk

St Peter's Park was looking beautiful in the snow last month.

Unfortunately we have suffered some criminal damage over the winter. A quad bike caused damage to the grass in November.

This was witnessed by several villagers and reported to the police.

In a separate incident on New Years Day evening the CCTV captured 7 individuals entering the men's toilets where they spent several hours and at about 11pm the sound of smashing is heard.

Subsequently we found what remained of one of the toilets. This mindless vandalism is



fortunately very rare but does mean that funds have to be redirected from other areas to finance the repairs. We have

images and video of those involved and this has been passed to the police. If anyone has any information please contact the clerk. It is vitally important that any antisocial behaviour or damage is reported to the police immediately as we can use this to ask for more patrols.

You might also have noticed our unwanted water feature that appeared in the park in January.

The water main to the village hall goes under the grass and it split causing a stream to run through the park.

We got it fixed quickly and hopefully the grass will recover in the spring.

Croft Corner

The Planters are on order and will be delivered very soon. The Parish Council are talking with the School and hope they will help plant and maintain the planters and use it as learning opportunities for the schoolchildren.

It is hoped it will eliminate the issue of pavement parking and allow walkers, cyclist, scooter users as well as parents with buggies to have a safe space in the centre of the village

Grit Bins

The Parish Council has over the last month had numerous comments and complaints re Grit Bins and the lack of grit available during the cold spells. We can only apologise as Derbyshire County Council have not delivered their usual load of Grit to our Snow Warden and they have also not filled the yellow grit bins in a timely fashion. We are completely in the hands of DCC and have made numerous calls and emails to both Highways and our DCC representatives to resolve the issue.

Please use the grit that is available for public footpaths only, it is not for personal driveways or residents pathways.

Parish Council Contact Form

The Parish Council has recently been made aware that the form on our website is still sending info to the old email address for the Clerk.

The old email address is not available for us to find messages sent through in this manner. All correspondence should go to:

clerk@littlkeeatonparishcouncil.gov.uk

We apologise for this oversight and the form is being redirected to the correct email address now.

Little Eaton Village Hall

As previously mentioned the Environmental Action Group has secured funding to install Solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall

The scaffolding will be erected on 5th February with the installation work starting on the 8th.

It is anticipated that it will take 3 days to complete the installation once the work starts.

Little Eaton Book Exchange

The village Book Exchange located at Mill Green continues to flourish with visitors expressing their thanks for a well run and welcoming community book hub. Over the last few months and over the festive period we were pleased to receive lots of new book donations.



Many thanks to a Little Eaton parishioner who donated over 60 new DVDs, which have been gradually made available to visitors amongst a selection of fabulous books, as space is at a premium we were able to donate 48 DVDs to the 'Mission to Seafarers' for distribution via their Welfare Managers to ports around the UK for crews of Merchant Ships who spend months at sea for their benefit and enjoyment.

Our village Book Exchange enjoys a stunning location in the village alongside Bottle Brook with one of many benches and a truly remarkable floral planter courtesy of 'Little Eaton in Bloom'. It is slightly prone to some

flooding during very wet weather and we continue to install some plastic storage boxes on the floor to help protect the books, children's books continue to have their own dedicated box – currently 'white' which is brimming and more to come ! Also, the Book Exchange was closed for one day recently to carry out general housekeeping and restocking, apologies if you visited and were disappointed, Thanks go to one of our Little Eaton Parish Councillors who kindly repaired the Book Exchange door panel after some damage.

It is now fully restocked and ready for everyone to continue to enjoy.

We welcome donations of Jigsaws for the Book Exchangeplease feel free to contact Di Mulvey if you can help Thank you

Please contact:

diane11@btinternet.com for any queries or help.

Annual Community Forum and Village Meeting
20th May 2026
7-9pm
Little Eaton Village Hall

Morley Hayes The Dovecote Restaurant



Champagne Breakfast
Served 10am-2pm
Wednesday to Saturday

Afternoon Tea
Served 2-4 pm
Thursday to Saturday



Gift vouchers are available from Morley Hayes online at morleyhayes.com

Main Road, Morley, DE7 6QA
enquiries@morleyhayes.com
01332 782005





Little Eaton Carnival Celebrates a Century to Remember

As we say farewell to 2025 and look ahead to this year's carnival events, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their incredible support during last year's 100th anniversary celebrations.



It was truly a landmark year for Little Eaton Carnival. The committee and volunteers pulled together like never before to deliver a fun-packed programme of events for the whole village to enjoy. The centenary year culminated in a spectacular fireworks finale in October, and since then we have received wonderful feedback from across the community. It is heart-warming to know that so

many people enjoyed the celebrations and will carry fond memories of this very special milestone.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Carnival team is already busy discussing new and exciting ideas for the year to come.



Now is the perfect time to take that New Year's leap and get involved — everyone is welcome to join us at one of our upcoming informal meetings. (Please see our Facebook page for further details) As I stand down as Chair of the Carnival Committee, I would like to say what an honour and privilege it has been to work alongside such dedicated and generous people over the years. Their commitment to keeping the spirit of our traditional carnival alive continues to bring our community closer together.


On behalf of myself and the Carnival Committee, our heartfelt thanks go to Little Eaton Parish Council, Derbyshire County Council, Rhodes Wealth Management, the Co-op, and to the many volunteers and supporters who helped make this centenary year so memorable.

Best wishes and thank you to you all.

Steve Mann

Chair – Carnival Committee





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Village Hall
Bookings & Info
can be found by
scanning the QR
Code



Little Eaton WI

If it's not too late - Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed our Christmas cascade which was displayed on the tree at Croft Corner and the festive post box topper outside the Co-op.

As the nights draw out we look forward to our Spring programme which begins in March with our 104th birthday party - members provide a Bring and Share supper (and drinks!) and have a lovely social evening.

In April we present the money from our fundraising events, this year we are supporting Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy who support rural com-

munities and businesses and like a lot of charities do not receive funding.

this year. Any activity you wish to do, we'll do our best to organise it!

Here are a few dates coming up....

Wednesday 11th March - Bring and Share Supper for our 104th Birthday Party

Wednesday 18th March - Spring Crafts (members)

Wednesday 8th April - Charity Presentation to Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy

Wednesday 13th May - Annual Meeting



Members have continued to knit, making more blankets and also babies hats & scarves which will continue to be donated to those needing extra warmth and comfort in Ukraine. Since the last newsletter we have enjoyed a games evening playing Beetle Drive, a drumming circle feeling the power of drums with Andy Harris, and a Christmas Quiz night.

We have also had ladies from the Ukrainian Club visit us and heard from a retired female Superintendent about her policing adventure.

Our reading group continues to meet in the Queens Head once a month. We also have cinema/theatre trips, meals out, craft evenings to name a few of the activities we have got up to

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We usually meet at 7:30pm in the Village Hall and will be organising lots of events for members and non-members to join in.

To find out more keep an eye on the village noticeboards for events, also Little Eaton Women's Institute Facebook page which has all our information and latest news.

Visitors are made most welcome to join us and can become a member at any time through the year.

For information contact; President: Lynne Siddons - 01332 834834,

Vice President / Secretary: Barbara Adams - 01332 832267

Email - LittleEatonWI@dfwi.co.uk

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Parish Councillor Vacancy

As a Parish Council we get involved in quite a lot, some of which is within our control and some we can only sign post people to the relevant organisations.

The great thing about being a councillor is you can control how much or how little you want to be involved.

We are a group of volunteers ranging in age from 29 to 60+ and from all walks of life. We want to represent the village and seek to make it a better place to live and work.

If you think you could help us, talk to Gill, the Clerk either by email:

clerk@littleeatonparishcouncil.gov.uk or pop a note through the Village Hall letterbox at the main entrance. If you want an informal chat call Dave Howard on 07823 846537



Little Eaton Scout Group

Cubs (Age 8-10)

Heather Lodge, Drum Hill

Scout Camp, Tuesdays

Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Scouts (Age 10-14)

Heather Lodge, Drum Hill

Scout Camp, Mon-

days 6:30-8:30pm

Ages 10-14

Website:

www.littleeatonscoutgroup.com

Friends of Little Eaton Canal

This project has been running now for over 8 years. For a small band of volunteers – with some folks with us since the beginning – we have created a butterfly bank from old ugly road spoil, created wild flower areas, planted native trees and plants, put in a seat, a history information board, had some major tree work done, put up bird and bat boxes, monitored the butterfly population, added a bug hotel and finally after many years put in a nature interpretation panel.



INTERPRETATION PANEL

This sits at the southern end just within the woodland. It took longer to complete than anticipated for many reasons but we got there.

There are many people to thank – Derbyshire Wildlife Trust who provided a grant to us under a government scheme and especially one member of staff, relatively new, who got to grips with finally completing this when others hadn't.

Also, Little Eaton Carnival for some funding, Little Eaton Parish Council for gaining an objects License and underwriting the public liability insurance, Derbyshire County Council who granted permission and of course our volunteers who installed the sign.

We were pleased to support the Parish Council to plant seven trees in Millenium

Way to enhance the landscape in general around the canal area.

We have monitored the area for butterfly populations now for 8 years. This is part of a national programme that follows strict criteria to ensure all data are collected consistently. Numbers were great across Derbyshire and the country, and in Little Eaton we broke records. Overall numbers were 3-times those seen in 2024, and a higher proportion of butterflies were seen in the uncut area of Millenium Way.

We have engaged with Cadent recently again about the spraying around the gas box which has been affecting our attempts to keep the area wildlife friendly. A meeting took place in October and they agreed to stop spraying and to deal with weeding by manual methods. But more than this, as part of their staff volunteer days, Cadent are offering to help us by putting up bird boxes and providing some wild flower seed. We cannot say fairer than that. The lesson in this is not to just get frustrated at companies who – after all – have an important job to do, but to engage with them.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

It would be great to engage a few more volunteers to help on our work parties. It doesn't have to be hard work and it is also social, gets you out in the fresh air and is wonderful for mental and physical wellbeing. You can come and go when you please, and work parties are rarely more than once a month - and you'll make a positive impact for nature and for the village. We are supported by Marion Farrell of Groundwork who provides insurance cover and all tools and guidance.

For more information, contact:

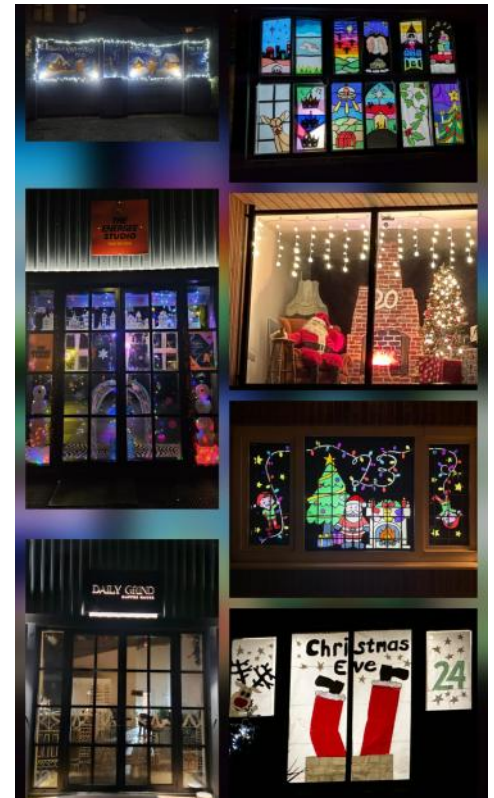
Secretary: Sue Stone
stonesd271@gmail.com

Chair: Brenda Shore
brendashore@talktalk.net



Advent Windows 2025

For the sixth year running, the Little Eaton Live Advent Window event once again lit up the village throughout the dreary month of December.



Twenty-four windows, dotted around the village, showcased incredible creativity and talent. It was particularly lovely to see some of our younger residents getting involved, helping with themes, ideas and imaginative designs.



Thank you to everyone who participated, hosted a window or attended the nightly reveals. Events like this truly highlight the strength of our community spirit. A special thank you goes to the Parish Council team for organising and facilitating this popular annual event. Finally, a huge thank you to parishioner Kath Hallford, who thoughtfully wrote the accompanying words for each window reveal, bringing the displays to life and adding warmth and character to our daily Facebook posts.

Little Eaton Bowls Club

It is now the bowling close season and we have been working hard on the green. The green has been hollow tined, top dressed, reseeded and winter fertilized and is already showing signs of recovery.

The highlight of last season was our two nonagenarians, with a combined age of 187 years, playing a competitive match against Rykneld and winning! This made national news after Radio Derby came down to the green and interviewed Alan and Carl (see photo). This is a great advert and testament to bowls, enhancing physical, mental and social benefits.

Also congratulations to Jo Smith representing Derbyshire ladies, the team reaching the national semifinals of the Ladies championship (see photo below).

Little Eaton Bowls Club is a friendly club and we welcome anyone interested in taking up the great game of crown green bowls and cater for the complete beginner to the experienced bowler and also



junior bowlers with parental supervision. The game is suitable for all ages so why not come down and give it a try.

There are some contacts given below and you can arrange free taster sessions. Free equipment hire is also available for these sessions.

If there are any local businesses interested in sponsorship and would like to discuss the benefits we offer please contact Phil Bonser (see below). We would love to hear from you

Contacts: Phil Bonser (Chairman) tel 07712621923; Sharon Hammond (Secretary) tel 07722439845



Little Eaton

Parish Council

www.littleeatonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Richard Brown

John Bush

Stuart Caines

Andy Done-Johnson

David Howard (Chair)

Esther Jennison-Boyle

James Reid

Paula Rowlinson (Vice Chair)

Kate Shankland

1 Vacancy

Clerk to Parish Council

Gill Turner

07925 597348

clerk@littleeatonparishcouncil.gov.uk



MICROBREWERY & TAP ROOM

OPENING TIMES:
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2-11pm Friday-Saturday
12-8pm Sunday



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- FESTIVALS & MARKET STALLS

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options available

10, Old Hall Mill Business Park Alfreton Rd, Little Eaton, Derby, DE21 5EJ



Winter 25/26

LITTLE EATON NEWSLETTER

Little Eaton Gardening Club & Little Eaton in Bloom

Our club has been going for several years now and we have a membership of over 50 people. We meet at the Village Hall generally on the first Wednesday of the month except in summer when we usually have a trip out in June and July and a break during August.

Starting time is 7pm.

Subscriptions are due in January, but visitors are always welcome for a charge of £3.00 per visit.

This gives the opportunity to come and see if what we do is of interest to you.

Subjects for this year are;

4th March - AGM followed by

Rare Flowers of the Peak.

1st April - Gardening in a

Changing Climate.

6th May - Plant Swap and Social.

3rd June - Visit to Winterbourne

Gardens (Birmingham)

1st July - Visit to Dunham Massey (Cheshire)

2nd September - A Talk by Justin Harrison plus a plant Sale.

7th October - Garden Pests,

Diseases and Disorders.

4th November - The Plant

Hunters.

2nd December - A Christmas Event.

For Further information, please

contact Moira Hutchison on 01332 831966 or

moirajhutchison@hotmail.com

Little Eaton Greenway: public consultation event in March

The work to convert the old railway line into a multi-use greenway has continued over the winter months, occasionally being delayed or stopped due to weather conditions. The work has included completing the strengthening of bridges over the brook, river bank stabilisation, further surfacing on stretches between the Bell and Harp



and Fox and Hounds, and tree management work.

The Little Eaton Local History Society (LELHS) and the Little Eaton Greenway Supporters Group (LEGS) are in discussion with the council regarding the proposed programme of signage on the greenway when it opens. These history information boards will go alongside the other signs the council are putting up, which include directional signage, rights of way connections and DCC Countryside estate ownership signs.

LELHS has prepared several information boards highlighting the history of the railway and various landmarks

along it. Volunteers from LEGS have been involved in litter picking and checking on the access from adjoining footpaths, reporting to the council areas where footpaths need to be



cleared.

The next stage will be a public consultation event, giving everyone the chance to view the plans and talk to people from the council who are involved in the project. You will also be able to speak to volunteers from LEGS about getting involved if you'd like to.

The date for the event is to be confirmed, likely to be early March in the afternoon and early evening, allowing people to drop in whenever is convenient.

The Meeting date will be confirmed using the Facebook page and via Community Whatsapp groups