



LITTLE EATON NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026

Published by Little Eaton Parish Council and distributed by volunteers

Little Eaton Bowls Club

The Crown Green Bowling season is now coming to an end, with only the floodlit league left to play, which ends in October. It has been a successful year for the club, with the Saturday afternoon and Wednesday night teams finishing top of their respective leagues. The Wednesday afternoon and Friday night teams will also be promoted, and the men's vets team finished an all-time high 3rd in Division 1.

We have 17 teams made up of members of various abilities and experience, and new members are very welcome.



Congratulations to new bowler Martin Walkerdine for finishing runner-up in the Derbyshire Beginners Merit (see photo above), and to John Pepper, Mick Kirkland, Dean Sherwin and Chris Corns, who have been selected to play for the Derby Vets against Burton Vets.

The green has been very challenging, running fast and bumpy due to the exceptionally dry and hot spring and summer. Unfortunately, we do not have an irrigation system, which meant the green was brown and in very poor condition this season. In the close season, we will be looking for sponsors and grants with the aim of installing an irrigation system next season.

This year, we received grants of £150 from the Little Eaton Carnival Committee and £1,000 from Foundation Derbyshire

Little Eaton Bowls Club is a friendly club, and we welcome anyone interested in taking up the great game of crown green bowls. We cater for the complete beginner through to the experienced bowler, and also junior bowlers with parental supervision. Crown green bowls is great for both physical and mental exercise and for socialising.

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, particularly for an irrigation system, and who would like to discuss the benefits we offer, please contact Phil Bonser (see below).

We would love to hear from you.

Contacts: P

hil Bonser (Chairman), tel. 07712 621923;

Sharon Hammond (Secretary), tel. 07722 439845

Little Eaton Parish Council Living Advent Calendar 2023

From 1st December to Christmas Eve, 24 windows across the village will be decorated and revealed each evening at 6:30pm.

Everyone is welcome to take part from local residents, businesses, families and groups of any age. Just make sure your window is visible from the road, illuminated from 6:30pm to 10pm each evening and kept on display until at least 24th December (ideally through to the New Year).

Your design can be religious, non-religious, funny or topical, just nothing rude or offensive.

Photos will be shared on the Parish Council website, Facebook and Instagram pages so the whole community can enjoy.

Lets make Little Eaton shine bright this Christmas!

Please contact Paula Rowlinson for more information paula.rowlinson@litleeatonparishcouncil.gov.uk

07904407488
by 31 October 2026



Welcome to Immerse

Join our Revolution where everyone belongs

WWW.IMMERSEGYMS.CO.UK

Claim your free class pass & 7 day free Fitillion membership trial via the website!



Immerse Owner:
Sophia Gaiqui
Mum of 2, and a tribe
of animals. Her
passion is to provide
access to health and
wellness to all no
matter what



Welcome to Immerse

A place to thrive, every journey here is unique, every member belongs.

Our on screen Fitillion coaching gives you full flexibility to train when you want, whilst following your personalised programme in the gym.

We are an official HYROX and DEKA Training Centre. From training functional movement to having the support to take part in our official qualifying in house competitions - there's something for everyone of all levels.

We have a great class offering on WodBoard which brings full wellness support. Pay as you go, class passes or memberships - take part in what way suits you.

We offer open gym only memberships too!



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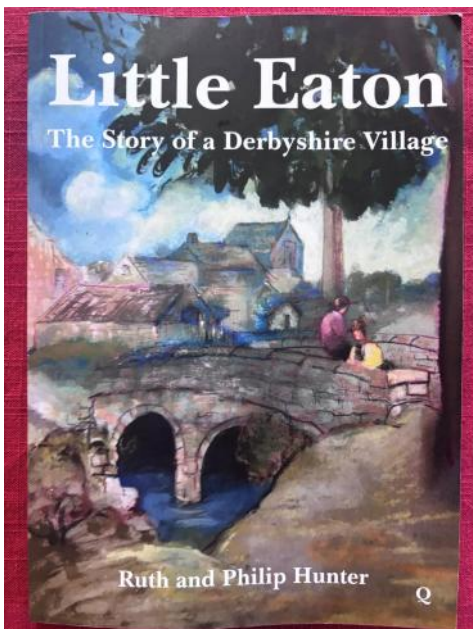
Little Eaton Local History Society

The History Society continues to meet regularly. It is usually the second Monday evening of the month except August. Meetings throughout the spring had a local theme including Women of Little Eaton, Peckwash Mill, The Poplars, and Bleach Mill.

We had our first away trip to the historic Wingfield Station to cap things off in July.

Attendance has been excellent with the hall pretty much full and thirty of us gathered at Wingfield. Thanks to Alan Cartwright for showing two large groups of us around the grounds and exterior of his house, the restored bleach mill. In September a talk from Clare Howard covered the history of Little Eaton school, attended by over 70 people.

We are very grateful to Ruth and Philip Hunter for producing our local history book, "Little Eaton, The Story of a Derbyshire Village".



Sales have been brisk, particularly at meetings and at our carnival stand, and so we arranged another print run. The book costs £10 and will remain available at meetings or by messaging our website. At the time of writing the new Greenway is almost completed and our four history board stands are positioned. The printed information

boards relevant to each location along the route between Duffield Rd and Towd Lane are now being put in place.

Upcoming meetings, all commencing at 7:30pm.

Oct 12th Duffield Light Railway. Peter Tulloch

Nov 9th My Derbyshire Journey Ashley Franklin, photographer.

Dec 12th. Local topics and archive selection

Jan 11th. Caring for the Poor in 19th Century Derby, Jonathan Grattidge

General meeting information, the historical archive, all enquiries and membership application available through the website:

<https://www.lelhs.org.uk>.

Failing that committee members will be happy to help and can be approached at the meetings.

Finally, with thanks to LELHS member Chris Stone, our History Corner: **THE POPLARS: WHAT IS A TOWN HOUSE DOING IN A VILLAGE?**

The Poplars in Station Road is something of a mystery. In the 1850s it was owned by the Tempest family and occupied by Sarah Tempest and her husband Robert Harvey who was a manager in the Tempest's businesses. The house overlooked the gangway, the new railway and the Tempest's Brook Mill. It must have been very handy for Robert to be able keep an eye on all local business activities. The mystery is that the house was most likely built in the 1780s, which was 10 years before the gangway, and 70 years before the railway and the mill.

Perhaps the Tempests required a display of wealth and business confidence and imagined that Little Eaton would become an industrial town like Wirksworth or Ripley?

Introducing

We're excited to share the next chapter for LECC (Little Eaton Community Cares) — and to introduce LE Events, a new village group dedicated to bringing people together across Little Eaton.

LECC began during the Covid pandemic, when local volunteers came together to offer practical support to senior and vulnerable residents. Since then, the need for direct support has reduced, but our commitment to the village remains as strong as ever.

We're now focusing our efforts on creating inclusive local activities, special events and moments of kindness that help make Little Eaton an even better place to live.



That's where LE Events comes in.

This newly formed Team within LECC will help raise funds, coordinate village events and work alongside existing local groups to deliver exciting events and activities for all ages throughout the year!

If you'd like to get involved, volunteer your time or help us put on events for the village, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at littleeatonevents@gmail.com to find out more

Our first event is a professional Fireworks display at Drum Hill on Saturday 17th October which will help us to raise funds for future community activities and events within the village. We hope you are able join us on Drum Hill for an amazing night under the stars.

Scan the QR code below for your tickets



Little Eaton Greenway Supporters

Your Greenway Needs You!

The Little Eaton Greenway is now really taking shape and a number of meetings and discussions have taken place, with Derbyshire County Council (DCC), in recent months. We are approaching the day when many day-to-day volunteer support activities will be undertaken by the Little Eaton Greenway Supporters (LEGS) group working in partnership with DCC. As a result, LEGS will need more volunteers who are willing and able to put in time to keep our Greenway in good condition.



More of that later!

The main contractor, Pugh-Lewis, is on track to finish the construction of the Greenway, apart from some seasonal work, by early September. By this time, the bonded-rubber surfacing should be completed. The seasonal work includes a few sections of fencing and preparation of the wild-flower meadows. The intersections, where the Greenway meets roadways, are under construction by DCC Highways and the first one, adjacent to the former railway station at Cox-bench, has been finished to a high standard.

The next one to be started will also be in Coxbench and be adjacent to Manx Engines. Completion of all the other intersections, namely those at Rawson Green, The Town and Duffield Road in Little Eaton, are scheduled for the first part of next year.

LEGS is in regular contact with both the DCC Project Team and the DCC Countryside Service.

The future management of the Greenway will sit with DCC's Countryside Service, with LEGS working alongside the Council as a "Friends of" group to support the site through volunteering, community engagement and practical conservation activities. LEGS will support DCC by undertaking a range of volunteer activities which include:

-Practical Conservation including litter

picking, removal of invasive species and maintenance of access routes.

-Monitoring and Reporting which covers damaged infrastructure, identifying maintenance issues, any fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

-Community Engagement by supporting events and guided walks, community clean-up days and responsible use of the Greenway.

-Fundraising and Advocacy by recommending signage and biodiversity projects and also assisting in securing funding for projects agreed in partnership with DCC.

LEGS successfully applied for a grant, from the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, under the "Love Your Network" initiative and received over £1,000 worth of equipment to be used for maintenance. In addition, the LE Local History Society has prepared four story boards for placement at key locations, along the



Greenway, to provide background on the rich history of Little Eaton.

Volunteer training and awareness is planned and, in addition, there is a conservation handbook available for basic practical conservation safety. The equipment to be used, on a regular basis by LEGS, does not include power tools but should these be required then LEGS has the option to request the involvement of Groundworks which is a charitable organization supporting local communities towards a number of goals including environmental initiatives.

The Little Eaton Greenway is a real asset to our village and, looking at the popularity of the Greenway amongst local walkers, dog walkers, people with push-chairs, cyclists, horse riders and users of mobility aids, it is clear that Little Eaton

residents intend to make the most of it! No date has yet been set for the Official Opening of the Greenway but LEGS will be arranging an Annual General Meeting, probably in November, this year and would welcome everybody who would consider making a practical contribution to maintaining our Greenway.

Details of the AGM will be published on village Notice Boards closer to the date of the meeting.

If you feel that you would consider joining LEGS, in a community activity, then please contact Clare Howard on 07775 665138 or email littleeatongreenway@gmail.com or come along to the AGM and listen to our plans.

Litter Picking Dates

11th Oct

St Peter's Park

15th Nov

**The Pinfold/ Barley
Close/Alfreton Rd junction**

17th Jan

The Town/Greenway

21st Feb

Outrams Wharf

21st March - St Peter's Park
All welcome, equipment provided

Book Exchange

The book exchange in the old phone box on Alfreton Road continues to be well used, with a variety of children and adult books to choose from. The book exchange is tidied regularly by volunteers with spare stock, jigsaws and DVDs donated to charity or kept for the community book stall at carnival. If depositing books in the book exchange please add to the shelves, if space, or put on the top of the plastic boxes and the volunteers will sort on their next visit. After the recent downpours had a throwaway some lovely books that had been left on the floor, just inside the door. The door allows water in (telephone box design to allow drainage) and the books ended up filthy and waterlogged.



Little Eaton Village Hall

Directory

Email: bookings@littleeatonvillagehall.com
or call 07805 053180 to arrange a viewing of the facilities.

Yoga

Mondays Upper Hall

11.15am - 12.15am

Fridays Upper Hall

9.30am – 12.30pm

Fiona Reynolds

07957 887280

The Village Pre-School

Mondays-Fridays Lower Hall

9.00am – 12.00pm

12.00pm – 12.30pm Lunch Club

12.30pm – 3.30pm

OFSTED No. 206836

All children welcome from age 2 years, free 15 hours

funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

For more information call

Sharon Self **07493 925900**

thevillagepre-school@hotmail.co.uk

Baby Sensory

Tuesdays Upper Hall

9.00am – 3.00pm

Baby development class specially designed for babies from birth – 13 months.

Claire: **07967 485855**

derbyeast@babysensory.co.uk

Tai Chi and Health Qigong

Tuesdays Upper Hall

Beginners/Improvers: 6.30-7.30pm

Improvers/Advanced: 7.45-8.45pm

Ben Fowler on **07745 399209**

benfowler742@gmail.com

Little Eaton Gardening Club

Wednesdays Upper Hall

Monthly meeting every 1st Wed

7.00pm – 9.00pm

(not during Summer)

Little Eaton Women's Institute

Wednesdays Lower Hall

Ladies meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm except August

LittleEatonWI@dfwi.co.uk

Little Eaton Parish Council

Wednesday Upper Hall

Monthly meeting normally every 4th

Wednesday 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Gill Turner **07925 597348**

clerk@littleeatonparishcouncil.co.uk

Pilates Class

Wednesday Lower Hall

6.45pm – 7.45pm

Suzanne Watson

Rotary Club of Derby Day Break

Thursdays Upper Hall

(exc 5th one)

7.30am – 8.30am

Everyone welcome

Contact: president@derbydaybreak.org.uk

membership@derbydaybreak.org.uk

Group Exercise Core Strength & Mobility Class

Thursdays Upper Hall 7– 8 pm

ChiroSports Fitness Ltd &

Highfield Chiropractic Clinic

Suitable for ALL looking for a pilates style workout to help lower back stiffness, improve posture and balance

6 week block for £55 - individual sessions £11 each PAYG

07835 936693

kev-

in.paxton@chiroportsfitness.co.uk

Tai Chi

Thursdays Upper Hall

12 noon -1pm

Ruth Porter **07896 163804**

The Kitchen Chorus Choir

Thursdays Upper Hall

8.15pm – 9.15pm

Contact: Dave **07388 338376**

Youth Café

Fridays Upper Hall

4.00pm – 6.00pm during term time

Get fed, play games, join in varied activities and have fun.

Volunteers always welcome

leyouthcafe@gmail.com

Little Eaton Dance School

Saturdays Upper Hall

9.00am – 2.00pm

Fun dance classes, ballet, tap, modern jazz and acrobatic dance. –

Children from 2 years old.

Julie Law (IDTA, ABt, AMJ)

01332 835392 or 0734 2973166

Taekwondo Martial Arts Lessons

Lower Hall Tuesdays 7-8pm

Saturdays

9am to 10am (4-7yr olds)

10am – 11am & 11am – 12pm

Check out www.mandm.acedemy

Tony Stevenson on **07818 559309**



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

Any alterations to this Directory to be made to the Village Hall Committee: bookings@littleeatonvillagehall.com



Little Eaton Carnival 2027 – Volunteers Wanted!

We had a fantastic Carnival in 2026, and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported and attended the events throughout Carnival Week. Your enthusiasm, participation and support are what make the Carnival such a special part of our community.

As we now start looking ahead to planning **Carnival 2027**, we would love to welcome some new members to join the Carnival Committee.

There are a number of specific roles where we would particularly appreciate some additional help – from **securing sponsorship for our Carnival Brochure to**

organising the Race events on Carnival Day.

However, you don't need to take on a particular role to get involved. We would also love to hear **new ideas for events and activities** and explore how we can develop the Carnival for the future.

Being part of the Committee can simply mean **coming along to meetings, sharing your ideas and helping us shape the Carnival programme.** We want to continue delivering a vibrant, varied and enjoyable Carnival Day that residents of Little Eaton and our surrounding local communities can enjoy.

So, if you have some time to spare, a particular skill you'd like to contribute, or simply have an idea you'd love to see become part of Carnival, **we'd be delighted to hear from you!**

If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, please visit

www.littleeatoncarnival.com and leave your details. One of the Carnival Committee will then get in touch with you.

We look forward to hearing from you – and to making Carnival 2027 another great community celebration!

Julie Stone Chair, LE Carnival Committee

St Peter's Park & Playground -

For the first time in many years our much loved playground has a new piece of equipment.



A result of grants from The Bates Trust, Erewash BC and savings made by the Parish Council a new basket swing was installed in September and proved an instant success. The swing was made by Wicksteed, the same company that built our roundabout in 1933 so hopefully it will provide many years of enjoyment.

The Bates Trust was set up after the death of Thomas Bates, who donated



the land that became St Peter's Park. So once again the village is benefiting from Bates legacy, over a century after his death.

Our contractor, local firm Playbuild, kindly improved the tunnel drainage so hopefully there will be less muddy and soggy children this winter.

Thanks to a donation from Little Eaton's very own Kitchen Chorus we have fitted new buffers to the seesaw to replace the perished tyres.

Now we can concentrate our efforts on repairing the corroded slide and rotting steps.

The Parish Council has also used utilised grant money to replace the three existing, open topped, litter bins within St Peter's Park and add an additional two.



To save installation costs these have been fitted by the council.

The new bins are larger and enclosed to keep out rain. The bins are emptied twice a week by Councillor Bush, a particularly difficult task when rain water mixes with dog poo bags!



Hopefully the upgraded bins will make this task less unpleasant.

The two new bins can be found below the village hall balcony and on the playground beside the lower bench.

The three bins by each park entrance (Duffield Rd, Vicarage Ln & the gate) are owned and emptied by Erewash Borough Council, usually twice a week.

Events and Services at the United Reformed Church



THIS YEAR IS THE 180th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHAPEL

Social Events :

Sat. 26th Sept

Harvest Lunches served 11.00 - 1.00pm.

Sat. 31st Oct

Old fashioned School Dinners 11.00 - 1.00pm.

Sunday 8th Nov

10.30 am Service of Remembrance

Sat. 28th Nov

Christmas Market 11.00 - 2.00pm
wonderful gifts on sale

Sunday 20th Dec

Carol Service 10.30 am - Come in good voice.

Sunday 25th Dec

Christmas Day celebration of the birth of Christ 10.00am

Sunday 27th Dec

Elders Service - giving thanks for the year.

The service at Chapel is 10.30am each Sunday with Holy Communion celebrated the last Sunday in each month.

All proceeds from events this year are for UMBRELLA & MANSFIELD CAT SANCTUARY.

Watch village notice boards or help yourself to our bi-monthly magazine from our own Notice Board.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Unfortunately, we missed out on the last newsletter – but here's some of the things we've been up to over the summer months. The TV programme Traitor's was our carnival theme. We are now planning next year's float!

I hope you have also seen the post-box toppers which have been changing with the seasons.

We celebrated our 104th birthday in March, and in April we presented Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy with a cheque for £1500. Thank you to our WI members who have raised this amount over the last year, fundraising at events we organise in the village which many of you attended, including our annual Quiz and Chips evening in November.

We were also able to present £1000 to Little Eaton Primary School Fundraising Group before the summer holidays to help build their new outside play equipment.

In May we hold our Annual Meeting and elect a new committee,.

June brought The Potty Plotters to visit and you'll know how hilarious they are if you listen to their programme on Radio Derby.

We've also discussed serious matters of Frauds and Scams, and promoted health through Erewash Walks.

Our Charity events this year are to raise money for Derbyshire Freewheelers (Blood Bikes) and they will be presented in April 2027.

The next event we hope you will support is a Fashion Show and Sale on Friday 23rd October – see social media and village noticeboards for more details. We also continue our friendship with Derby Ukrainian Ladies donating more blankets to transport over to Ukraine this Autumn.

If you would like to join a local ladies' group for friendship, interesting speakers and other activities, please get in touch. You can just turn up to one of our evenings and pay a guest

Little Eaton WI

fee of £4 before deciding whether you would like to join.

Our reading group continues to meet in the Queens Head, also an informal knit and natter group, cinema & theatre trips, meals out, craft evenings to name a few of our usual activities.

Here are some of the things organised for the next few months...

Wednesday 14th October – Last English Peer Hanged for Murder

Friday 23rd October – Charity Fashion Show and Sale – open to all – £6 including free drink

Wednesday 11th November – The History Of Stained Glass

Saturday 21st November – Annual Charity Quiz and Chips – open to all.

Wednesday 9th December – Christmas Quiz

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 .

For information contact President:

Barbara Adams – 01332 832267

Vice President: Lynne Siddons – 01332 834834

Email - LittleEatonWI@dfwi.co.uk



Fundraising FASHION SHOW & SHOPPING EVENT

YOUR FAVOURITE BRANDS AT UP TO 75% OFF

DOROTHY PERKINS WHITE STUFF RIVER ISLAND NEXT EVANS NEW LOOK MISS SELFRIIDGE TOPSHOP WALLIS URBAN OUTFITTERS WAREHOUSE MONSOON & MORE!

PLUS FRENCH + ITALIAN DESIGNER WEAR

SIZES 6 TO 30

Friday 23rd October 2026

7pm

Little Eaton Village Hall

Tickets £6

Includes a glass of wine or soft drink

Fundraising for Derbyshire Freewheelers (Blood Bikes)

For information & tickets, call Barbara: 01332 832267 / 07763 215523

DEBIT & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

CHARITYFASHIONSHOWS.CO.UK

Published by Little Eaton

Parish Council.

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

Little Eaton Gardening Club & Little Eaton in Bloom

TIME FOR CHANGE.

About 2011 the Chairman of East Midlands in Bloom passed by Croft Corner as a group of volunteers were helping to plant up a summer display sponsored by the Parish Council.

He asked if we had ever thought about entering the competition. Blank looks all round!

Fast forward to 2012, I started up a Gardening Club which was the right place to discuss the possibility of entering the competition.

Brenda Shore and I took on the task of organising a committee starting with a Chair Person, a Treasurer and a Secretary plus finding willing volunteers. Money had to be found and we did this with the help of Parish Council, the Produce Show, Carnival, Little Eaton Community Association, Fund raising and private donations. In early 2014 we held our first committee meeting and started planning. We entered the competition that summer which earned us a Silver Medal.

The years 2015 and 2016 took us up to the level of Silver Gilt medals. This took a lot of hard work by everyone, but so satisfying.

We then decided to concentrate our efforts in continuing to improve the look of our village. A restructure of the long bed at Croft Corner took place, more containers purchased or donated, more bulbs planted into verges and fresh displays organised for Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter.

As a committee, we feel it's time to hand over to a new team and this will be led by Esther Jennison-Boyle who will be Chair Person.

Many of our volunteers are still willing to help and it's been a pleasure to have been part of the whole process.

Huge thanks to all who help in the village and a big thank you to Brenda Jennison who has been so helpful to our success.

I wish the new organisation all the best and look forward to seeing their fresh ideas come to fruition.

Moira Hutchison

A note from Esther Jennison-Boyle:

I feel a little daunted to be taking over as Chair of Little Eaton in Bloom and following in Moira's remarkable footsteps.

She has devoted so much time, passion and dedication to making our village blooming marvellous!

We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of volunteers who continue to get involved and take on a variety of roles.

This might include watering a planter, planting summer bedding or bulbs, deadheading and weeding, or helping to plan projects.

We would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the committee, sharing ideas or volunteering—however much or little time you can offer.

Our next meeting will be in September, so please look out for further details or contact me by call or text on 07886 705339, leaving your details.

Parish Councillor Vacancies

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 32 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@litleeatonparishcouncil.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**



The Dovecote Restaurant





Champagne Breakfast
Wednesday to Saturday
Served 10am-12.30pm

Afternoon Tea
Thursday to Saturday
Served 2-4 pm

Dinner
Friday to Sunday
served 6.30-9pm

Sunday Lunch
Served 12 noon-4pm



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

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



Autumn 2026

LITTLE EATON NEWSLETTER

Rotary Club of Derby Daybreak



It's been a busy few months here and we have a few more days tidying the church yard' which has been entered into the RHS / East Midlands in Bloom " It's your neighbourhood "awards and there is a presentation event on the 9th October. Fingers crossed we do well.

We have had a busy time distributing some of the funds we have raised through our various activities including "cake & prosecco "which many of you helped by baking and turning upon on the day.

We have helped so many worthy local causes and the money is being well spent.

These include:

Canine partners

Hannah's hope

Derbyshire Children's Holiday Home in Skegness

Friends of the Baby unit

Air Ambulance

and EMICs .

We will again in December taking a float around Mackworth bringing Santa to all the young folk. If anyone would like to join us, then contact

secretary@derbydaybreak.org

You will be very welcome.

We are continuing to enjoy meeting in Little Eaton. It has now well and truly become home.

As you know we meet on a Thursday morning in the village hall at 7.15 for 7.30. All done by 8.30..... yes, that is in the morning so for all you early risers why not pop along without obligation. We have some interesting speakers.

We are always up for visitors in the morning so if you are an early riser we meet at 7.15 for 7.30 and aim to be finished by 8.30 on Thursday you can just pop along or contact us on

secretary@derbydaybreak.org

Friends of Little Eaton Canal

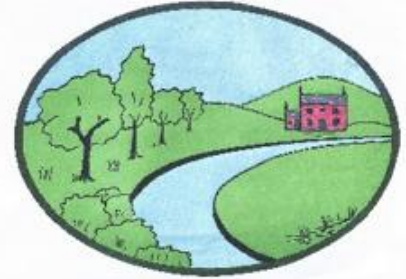
FLEC has continued with work parties to maintain and improve the area for nature. This year, we have again continued to remove alien species, especially Himalayan balsam from the canal basin and Spanish bluebells from the woodland. The snowdrops and native bluebells we planted in prior years have thrived, so we have continued to split these in order to increase their range.



We also planted many native flowers in the butterfly bank although this has been a difficult year to do this due to the prolonged hot, dry summer. Some of our bird boxes needed an overhaul and have been re-installed.

Cadent, who maintain a gas junction box on the site, also came good with a delivery of boxes of wild flower seeds to scatter about the site.

We commissioned Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to conduct a survey of the North end of the canal, to help guide our work in future years. We have been



concerned for some time about the condition of the water in this area, and we needed expert advice on how to deal with this.

We are currently turning their report into an actionable plan. In the meantime, it is reassuring to note that the Trust reported the woodland area is in reasonable ecological condition, with 109 species of flora and fauna. We have continued to monitor wildlife – in particular butterflies as part of a nationwide programme of citizen science run by the charity Butterfly Conservation.

Last year was a record year for butterflies, and analysis of the locations in which they were observed show that many more were recorded along Millenium Way (B6179) since it has been left uncut.

This trend has continued in 2026, with scabious (see right) in particular providing a source of nectar late into the season, despite the searing heat and lack of rainfall.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated volunteers. But we really could do with some more.

If you are interested and want to know more, please do get in touch. It is a nice group and you only do what you feel you can and no expertise is required.

Secretary: Sue Stone

stonesd271@gmail.com

Chair: Brenda Shore

brendashore@talktalk.net