

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Village Website

www.hathersage-outseats.org.uk

### Derbyshire County Council (DCC)

Telephone: 01629 580000

www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Your County Councillor:

Judith Twigg: 01629 813292

Call Derbyshire 0845 605 8058

(to report pot holes, streetlights)

### Derbyshire Dales District Council

Telephone: 01629 761100

www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Your District Councillors:

Jean Monks 01433 650300

Jacque Bevan 01433 650581

### Parish Council Meeting Dates

Next meetings: 24 Oct, 28 Nov, 23

Jan, 27 Feb, 26 Mar. All 7.30pm in

Sampson Room, Memorial Hall.

### Peak District National Park

Authority (PDNPA)

Telephone: 01629 816200

www.peakdistrict.org

### Mobile Library

Thursdays, 10am-1pm, 2-5.30pm

Oddfellows Road Car Park

### Member of Parliament

Patrick McLoughlin 020 7219 3511

patrick.mcloughlin.mp@parliament.uk

### Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Derbyshire Police Call Centre

Telephone: 0345 123 3333

bakewell.neighbourhoods@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

## OUTSEATS PARISH COUNCIL



## NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2011

### Issue Number 25

#### Snow and Ice Clearance this Winter

Now that autumn is here, our thoughts are turning to what bad weather winter may bring this year. The Parish Council are very aware that most residents of Outseats live on and are dependent on access to the village via a steep hill, so keeping the Parish running during bad weather is one of our major concerns. Over the summer, we have been making plans to do whatever we can to assist the Parish in keeping moving if bad weather hits again. However, Outseats Parish Council are only a small parish council with one part-time member of staff (employed for 4 hours a week) so the Council cannot undertake the clearance of snow and ice itself. Therefore, other than the very limited assistance provided by Derbyshire County Council (DCC), we are entirely dependent on the independent contributions of

residents to clear snow and ice in the Parish. Many residents have done this in the past and we are very grateful for the sterling work that they do. To help this work to continue in the coming winter, the Parish Council would like all residents to be aware of a number of matters that we detail below. It may be a good idea to retain this newsletter, so that you can refer to it again if bad weather strikes.

#### How to Clear Safely and Effectively

Above all else, the Parish Council want to ensure that anyone deciding to clear snow and ice in the Parish do so safely. Do not undertake any clearance activities unless you consider yourself physically fit enough to do this. Remember to tell someone where you are going if you plan to clear snow and ice alone. Check the weather forecast before you leave home and take a mobile phone with you. Derbyshire County

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

### **Chairman :**

Councillor Mrs. Jane Marsden

Telephone 01433 650659

### **Vice Chairman:**

Councillor Mrs. Pauline Whitney

Telephone 01433 650261

Councillor Mrs. Anne Claxton

Telephone 01433 650450

Councillor Bill Gordon

Telephone 01433 650704

Councillor Mrs. Jean Hodgkinson

Telephone 01433 650746

Councillor Simon Taylor

Telephone 01433 651810

Councillor Bill Hanley

Telephone 01433 650316

## HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Clerk:** David Palmer

Treetops, Hill Lane,  
Hathersage, S32 1AY

e-mail: clerk.outseatspc@googlemail.com

Telephone: 01433 651180

Council (DCC) have supplied practical advice on how to clear snow and ice safely and effectively:

*Step 1 - Have you got what it takes?*

You will need a suitable shovel to move the snow and a supply of rock salt or table/dishwasher salt will work best to melt ice. Definitely no hot water or heating device or you risk creating a new hazard. The melted water may turn to black ice which is more slippery and difficult to see. The next best thing to salt is sprinkling sand/ash to improve grip, although this won't help melt the snow and may need clearing later.

*Step 2 - Be seen – be safe*

Wear suitable, warm clothing, gloves and safe footwear and if you are working in poor visibility, you may wish to consider wearing a high visibility tabard or jacket. Whilst not essential if clearing the footway, it is a sensible precaution to undertake to ensure you are seen and safe in all circumstances. You may already keep one in a vehicle in case of breakdown or because you protect yourself when moving about on the public highway.

*Step 3 - Map it out*

Decide in advance where you are going to put the snow you clear from the pavement – so that it doesn't cause an access problem for neighbours or prevent melting snow reaching drains later. So keep access clear for paths, gateways, doors, drains and adjacent parked cars. (Salt will also damage grass and plants, so keep away from these if you can). Make sure you create a safe walkway for yourself to stand on as you go. You can always salt this first and then make the cleared area wider if

needed. If any areas are steep or include steps, you will most likely need to apply more salt.

*Step 4 – Get up and go!*

Newly fallen loose snow is much easier to clear than compacted snow – so the job can be less of a task earlier in the day. If the day is clear and bright, the sun can help melt any ice beneath.

*Step 5 - Shake it all about*

For best effect – shake salt onto the cleared area – about 40 grams per metre is about right. A good technique is to put the salt on your shovel and use a small trowel or spatula to “flick” the salt along the newly cleared area. The action of people walking on it will begin to help melt ice. If you can, cover the path with salt in the evening to stop it freezing overnight – but if you can only do this once, spread salt straight after your first clearing of snow.

*Step 6 - After care*

Your best efforts might need a top up later – further snowfalls may need a repeat effort – and low temperatures might need further applications of salt on newly formed icy patches.

Risk Assessment & other documents

Over the summer, the Parish Council have completed various documents that are required by our insurers and these will also be of interest to residents. They include a formal risk assessment for snow and ice clearance, the Council's Snow & Ice Clearance Policy and various documents giving advice from DCC and from the Council's Insurance Brokers. We recommend that you read these and become familiar with them before undertaking any snow or ice clearance. These can be found on

the Village Website or can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Grit Salt in Grit Bins

Once again, we need to remind residents that the grit salt provided in the grit bins is solely for use on the roads and pavements in the Parish and is not to be used by residents to grit their own drives or for other uses. We recommend that residents buy their own grit for use on their drives before the bad weather arrives – it is available for about £5 a sack from many local suppliers (Eyres at Brough, Markowitz in Tideswell, High Peak and Calver Sough Garden Centres, etc) as well as the larger chains (Wickes, B&Q, etc). Thank you for your understanding. Also, we would ask residents to try to use the grit sparingly: we try to ensure that the bins are refilled as quickly as possible, but it is very difficult to fill them as quickly as they get emptied in sustained bad weather.

Empty Grit Bins – What to Do

If you find a grit bin is empty, please tell the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors (contact details are on the back page). We know how to inform DCC quickly that new grit is needed. To enhance this process, the Parish Clerk has even been designated a “Snow Warden” by DCC.

Unfortunately, since we are subject to deliveries of grit salt from outside bodies (principally DCC), the Parish Council cannot guarantee that grit salt will be always be available in the grit bins. Previous experience is that DCC's ability to replenish supplies is most restricted at exactly the times when new grit salt is most wanted. Nevertheless, the Parish Council will

do everything it can to obtain refills as quickly as possible.

Legal Liability

We know that some residents are concerned that they risk being “liable” if they clear snow and ice. Derbyshire County Council's Winter Service Plan gives the following advice:

*Provided that members of the public who clear snow and ice from pavements or minor roads near their property take reasonable care and apply a common sense approach in doing so, they are unlikely to find themselves being held liable if someone has an accident and is injured on the area they have cleared. If members of the public take action to clear snow and ice they should ensure that they do not create any further hazards by doing so. For example:*

- *Do not clear ice using boiling water which then freezes over the surface of the road*
- *Do not clear an area leaving an obstructive mound of snow on the pavement*
- *Do not attempt to clear the snow if you feel that this will cause you physical difficulty*
- *Take reasonable care in all of the circumstances.*

Further Information

Further information can be found on the Village Website and on DCC's Website. Alternatively, please contact any member of the Parish Council.

Parish Council Meetings

The dates and locations of the next meetings can be found overleaf and on the village website. We welcome attendance by all our residents.