

August/September 2008

Scarning Newsletter

How have you been affected by

the rising cost of living ?

Scarning Fuel Allotment Charity is a small, long established charity designed to help those in hardship. In the light of increasing fuel costs the trustees of the charity would like to offer small amounts of money to the elderly, the disabled and those who can prove that they are in genuine hardship. The trustees will also consider applications made on behalf of those in hardship.

All information is treated in the strictest confidence. If you know a worthy recipient, or would like to make an application, please write to the Clerk to the Charity, Oakleigh House, Shipdham Lane, Scarning, NR19 2LB.

Women's Institute

The next meeting of the Women's Institute will be in the Village Hall on August 27 at 7.30pm when a talk will be given by Carol Chittock titled Everything you need to know about Hedgehogs in the Village.

The following meeting will be on September 24 to which partners and friends are invited. At the meeting a talk will be given by Mr Summers on the Life & Work of George Skipper, Norfolk Architect.

For more details about forthcoming events, please contact Rosemary Hutson on 687538.

Dog Bins

The Parish Council has recently installed new dog bins on the corner of Rushmeadow Road and in the lay by opposite Kestrel Close.

Parish Council Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Councillor on Scarning Parish Council. Persons interested should apply in writing to the Parish Clerk at Oakleigh House, Shipdham Lane, Scarning, NR19 2LB.

If more than one person applies to fill the vacancy, a formal interview will take place.

Applicants must be aged 21 years or over. Must be a British subject or a citizen of the Irish Republic or other Euro-national. Must be a local government elector and have either during the whole of the twelve months before nomination/application occupied land or other premises as owner or

tenant in the parish of Scarning, or has during the same period resided in that area or within three miles thereof, or has during the same period had his/her principal or only place of work in that area.

Applications to be received please by 30 August 2008. For further information please contact the parish clerk on 687492.

Please don't leave it to others

If you would like to have a greater say in how the playing field on the Water Meadows is run ... if you would like to see more facilities in the area ... if you think there are issues that are not being addressed ... if you would like to make a genuine contribution to your community, then why not consider becoming part of a committee to manage the area. For more information please telephone Nick Hartley on 687492.

What's In a Name ?

Those seeking the origin of the name Seaming have a number of options. The Norfolk historian Walter Rye suggested the origin of the name was Danish and that those who settled in the area were from the village of Skjerning. It has also been suggested that the village derives its name

from the Anglo-Saxon patronymic

Scarningas, denoting the original

settlement of a family or descendants of Scream.

Augustus Jessopp, the village's Victorian rector and author of a number of historical books, called it Skeorn's Inga. Scarn also means dirt or mud and Inga a meadow. On the other hand, a copse hidden rivulet called the Scar is said to separate Scarning from Dereham, while there are those who believe the village's name is born out of the numerous springs that are found within it.

What is certain is that the village can trace its origins to before the Norman Invasion. Archaeological evidence indicates the presence of some form of settlement in the area for thousands of years. In 1912, a bronze spearhead was found deep in the soil of Potter's Fen and twenty years later a Neolithic adze was discovered in a field overlooking Rushmeadow. Other finds in the parish include Iron Age brooches, Roman coins and medieval rings.

The abundance of names, however, continues. In the Domesday Book the settlement is called Scerningha. The village is also referred to in old documents as Skarning, Scernynge and Scherninge amongst other names, while an inscription in the parish church records the death of Mark Browne, 'deceased at Scharning the fifth day of July 1693.'

The one certainty would appear to be that there is no one certainty when it comes to the village and its name. For more on archaeological finds in the parish go to www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk

Make a Date for Breckfest

Celebrations will be taking place across the whole of the UK to mark the handover of the Olympic Games from Beijing to London on 24 August and the close of the Paralympic Games on 17 September. The celebrations will include many small and large scale cultural and sporting events and activities that will bring together all sections of the community. For more information on events in Breckland, go to www.breckfest.co.uk

Harvest Celebrations

Scarning Church still follows the time honoured tradition of a harvest festival service and a harvest supper. This year the festival service will be on Sunday 28 September at 6.30pm. The format will be informal with the well-loved harvest hymns. There will be a warm welcome for all at this service of thanksgiving for the countryside and those who work to provide our food.

Speaking of food - why not book a ticket for the Harvest Supper at 7.30pm on Friday 26 September in the Village Hall ? Tickets will be available from 1 September from 694886 or Dereham Parish Office on Church Street (69143) at £7.50 each. Delicious fare and home grown entertainment will be the order of the day. Numbers are limited so please book early I

Chapel Lane Copse

As a result of its investigations, the Parochial Church Council has established that the copse is the responsibility of the Diocese of Norwich. The Diocesan Surveyor will be carrying out an inspection of the copse. In the meantime, it would be appreciated if local people could help protect the area by ensuring it is not used for the dumping of rubbish etc.

The Newsletter is published by Scarning Parish Council. Every effort will be made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print but no liability will be accepted for losses caused by inaccurate information.