

# Parish church news

**ANYONE who has walked past St James' Church on Church Hill recently will have noticed that, in spite of the bad weather, the work on the church roof is almost finished.**

Unfortunately, this good news has been overshadowed by the fact that during the later stages of the repair, thieves decided to steal all the down pipes from the east side of the church, so that immediate action had to be taken to prevent water soaking into the walls! This was very upsetting news for the congregation and anyone who cares about the upkeep of Birstall's most historic building.

More encouraging news comes from Wanlip, where a meeting was recently held to discuss ways of making better use of the only community building in the village, the Church Rooms. Wanlip residents met with representatives of the Church to talk about improvements, which would be needed to make the rooms more available for social functions as well as church events, and a planning committee was formed to come up with ideas for

renovation and funding.

In March, weekly Lent study sessions on the subject of prayer, organised by the Anglican and Methodist churches, start on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Methodist Church from 2-3.30pm, with a repeat on Wednesday evenings at St James from 7.30-9pm (starting on the 4<sup>th</sup>). All will be welcome and the meetings continue for five weeks.

Easter will not be with us until next month, but events are being planned for Holy Week (the week before Easter Day), including the annual joint churches' Passover Supper on Wednesday April 8. This year there will also be a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion by the Cossington Voices in St James' Church on Tuesday April 7 - for more details please see the Noticeboard page.

Further ahead, there will be a coach trip to Stamford and Burghley House in Tuesday May 12 for which names will be required shortly by Sandra (2677238) or Beryl (2674913). Finally Sandra would like to hear

from anyone who is interested in a three day 'city break' in Norwich from Sunday August 2 to Wednesday August 5. Travel is by coach from Birstall and one or two excursions are planned. Please contact Sandra (as above) as soon as possible, as places are going rapidly.  
*From Beryl McHugh*

## Forum for local issues

**THE BRADGATE, Rothley, Mountsorrel and Birstall Area Forum will be held at Woolden Hill Primary School in Anstey on Thursday March 5 starting at 7pm.**

One of 27 Area and Community Forums established recently across Leicestershire, this forum is a meeting place for residents, local businesses, voluntary and community groups, councillors and service providers.

As a local resident you will have an opportunity to suggest improvements to services and to discuss issues affecting your area. You will also be able to ask questions and get answers about local service provision from senior officers of the key agencies working in your area.

At the next meeting the key issues will include an update on the steps being taken to deal with flooding in the forum area, as well as a presentation on the joint work being undertaken to tackle crime and disorder and create safer communities.

The chair of this Area forum is Cllr Leigh Harper-Davies of Charnwood Borough council.

In between meetings you can keep abreast of developments of the Area Forum by going online at [www.leicestershireforums.org](http://www.leicestershireforums.org).

If there is anything that you would like to see discussed at this or future meetings please contact Richard Downing, Community Engagement Manager on 0116 3055823.

## Birstall Running club

**38 RUNNERS from Birstall Running Club took part in the Markfield 10km, the second Leicestershire Road Running League Winter league race of 2009.**

This race is a tough course but on the day perfect running conditions prevailed. Carl Voisey led the Birstall men home in 30<sup>th</sup> place overall (37.22), second Birstall Runner back was Gary Harrison followed in quick succession by Pete Read, Phil Halse and Rob Peel, all within 40 seconds of each other.

A club spokesman said: "There were also super runs by veteran Andrew Goodman (47.15) and Dave Richards (47.10) who was back after a long term injury. Liz Cocks led our ladies in a fine 6<sup>th</sup> place overall (40.24) followed by Charlie Hardy (42.23), Lesley Griffin (44.54) and Liz Jones (48.40) who was the 4<sup>th</sup> counter, just pipping Maeve Wynn-Williams by 3 seconds. A special mention for new girl Sarah Collins (52.04) and Glenda Barratt (59.24)"

Team captains Steve Powell and Angie Budge said they were especially pleased with the presence of several new runners who turned out at the race.

The spokesman added: "John Brennan had a fantastic run breaking his personal best by over 3 minutes (48.15) which gave John the runner of the day trophy, an award given to the best personal performance at a league race. The donkey of the day award was a hard one to judge but it was decided that Tom Burbidge was to receive it. Tom was nearly 3 minutes down on his personal best for 10km so he was awarded the worst performance of the day until the next race where he can redeem himself."

The next Winter League Race is the Ashby 5 and the club hopes that even more new runners turn out. Anyone wishing to run with the club can check out the website for details of training runs or race dates.  
[www.birstallrc.org.uk](http://www.birstallrc.org.uk)

## Graffiti caught

**TWO YOUNG people caught writing graffiti in Birstall have been made to remove it and to apologise**

They were caught vandalising council property and writing on a garage door on Lambourne Road.

Local Police dealt with the matter using 'restorative justice', a government initiative that is being trialled in Leicestershire. It aims to keep minor crimes out of an overcrowded courts system while providing a balance between punishment and rehabilitation that prevents re-offending.

## Council increases hire charges

**BIRSTALL PARISH Council is to increase the cost of hiring its premises.**

The increases will take effect from April 1, 2009.

Brenda Thomas, Clerk to Birstall Parish Council said: "Birstall Parish Council have not increased its costs since 2005. Due to the increase in running costs over the last four years the Council has had to review its charges. All organisations who regularly book one of our premises will receive notification of increases during the next two weeks."

Anyone else wanting to view the increases can do so either by visiting the Council's website at [www.birstallparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.birstallparishcouncil.org.uk) or visiting the Parish Council Offices, Birstall Road, Birstall.

## Methodist church news

**Ways of Praying - A course for Lent**

During March there are two courses being run, jointly with St James Parish Church. The Ministers of both churches will lead the sessions. There are 5 sessions in each course, one is run every Monday afternoon starting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> (at the Methodist church) & the other is at St James starting Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Just turn up, or if you need more details, phone either Rev James Shakespeare 2674517 or Rev Rachel Parkinson 26718904.

**Wii**  
It is hoped to hold this unusual event on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March running from 10am to 1pm. The idea is to make it free. It is hoped to have several large screens around the premises where the 'events' can be seen by both participants & onlookers.

Wii is a computer game/system where you can play various games or activities such as Tennis, Ten-Pin-Bowling, Skateboarding and many others.

By making it free we can be fairly confident we can test the systems out.

Coffee will be available as usual (but not free!) and the funds from the coffee morning will go towards the Cameroon Orphanage fund which David & Joy Bark are organising.  
**Charnwood Hike 2009**

The hike this year is starting from Markfield on 18<sup>th</sup> April (not 4<sup>th</sup> as shown in Contact). Organised by Old Boys of the Boys Brigade its aim is to give lads (and girls) the chance to develop their map reading skills by participating in this competitive event. It is open to teams of 3 ages 12 to 18. There are also veterans team for those 'over 18'. Teams go from point to point with 'incidents' at each checkpoint. Teams are likely to end up rather 'muddy'. For more details contact Neil Clarke 01664 569698. The entry fee is £12 per team.

[www.birstallmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.birstallmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Don't forget Birstall Methodist Church has a first class, regularly updated web site, complete with a 'blog'. Its well worth dipping into for the latest news and photographs and also the current weeks 'notices'. The introduction from Rev Rachel Parkinson reminds all of us that as a Church we are far from being perfect - but all are welcome! Another comment you may find is very relevant - "we don't come to church to learn how to be respecta-

## Free healthcheck

**FREE HEALTH checks are available at Birstall library.**

A qualified fitness instructor from Charnwood Borough Council's Active Together Team will measure your weight, body fat percentage, blood pressure, body composition, basal metabolic rate, muscle mass and total body water percentage.

The free checks are available between 10am - 4pm on Thursday March 26, Thursday April 23 and Thursday May 21.

To book contact 01509 634529.

## Planning applications

**101 Sibson Road - Display of 1 illuminated fascia and 1 illuminated projecting sign Hallam Fields, Units 48-49 on land to north of Harrowgate Drive and West of the A6 - change of external appearance of 2 units**

**271 Birstall Road - felling of 1 sycamore tree and 1 silver birch tree**

**Land to the north of Harrowgate Drive and west of A6 - erection of 77 houses and 3 apartments**

**Plot 242 (Hallam Fields), land off Loughborough Road - substitution of house type to a smaller type for housing association purposes**

**27 Saltersgate Drive - proposal for rear side extension, front porch and alterations**

### Flyfishing for Trout



### Cropston Reservoir

Limited number of Season Permits available for 2009 season

For further details ring Ian Kilgour on 0116 2350025 (answer phone)

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**BIRSTALL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting of Birstall Parish will take place in the Village Hall on Monday 6 April 2009 at 7.00 p.m. This is an annual forum for residents of Birstall to meet and raise any issues of concern in the Parish. Reports will be received from both the Parish Council and from the Borough and County Councillors representing the area and there will be the opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of life in the village and to suggest improvements you would like to see. Therefore residents are encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting. This meeting is in addition to the regular meetings of the Parish Council which also gives residents to have their say. The meeting will be followed by the regular monthly meeting of the Parish Council.

**Brenda Thomas**  
Clerk to Birstall Parish Council