

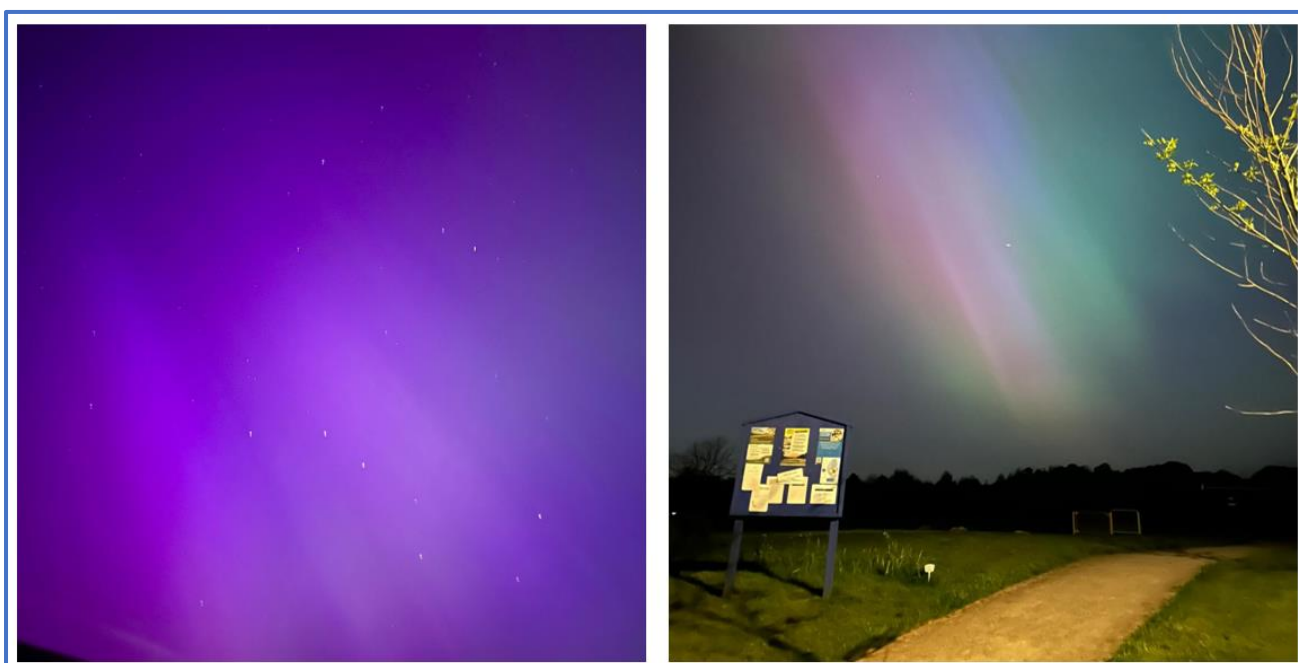


Highlights

Welcome to the June 2024 Quarndon Newsletter.

Highlight of the last month – for those that saw it – was undoubtedly the appearance of the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) in the skies over the parish on the night of Saturday 11 May 2024. It is highly unusual that the Northern Lights are visible as far south as they were on this occasion.

The stunning photos below were taken by residents of Kedleston Grange and are reproduced in this newsletter with their kind permission. For those that missed the 11th of May display, strong sunspot activity causing the Northern Lights is expected to be aligned with the Earth again around the 25th of May. To see measured activity visit the Lancaster University website <https://aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk/> and look for a red alert - but note that access may be extremely slow when high levels of activity are expected due to pressure of visitors to the website.



Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) over Kedleston Grange – photos Georgia Jones & Annie Paige

This Newsletter, in addition to 'What's On' and our councillors' updates, includes articles on:

- July's Scarecrow Trail and how to take part
- Our first East Midlands mayor and new Police & Crime Commissioner
- Quarndon Swift Group as the migrating birds begin to arrive
- The war memorial restoration at St Pauls
- The April Quarndon Repair Café – including cake photos!
- Resilience planning
- Blooming Quarndon 2024 – last call for donations please
- Derby Arboretum – why not plan a visit?

Please get in touch if you wish to contribute to the Newsletter or publicise any events or activities in the Newsletter and the Quarndon website. Contact Keith or Clare via QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk

What's On

St Paul's June 2024 Sunday church services

- Sunday June 2nd 10am Holy Communion in Church
- Sunday June 9th 3:30pm T-Time, an informal family session including refreshments, in the Hall
- Sunday June 16th 10am Holy Communion in Church
- Sunday June 23rd Morning Praise 10am in Church
- Sunday June 30th 10am joint service with St Nick's Church at St Nicks Allestree



More information about the church is [here](#).

25 May 2024 - Quarndon Repair Café - 10am to 12noon

Come along to see if our team of volunteer repairers can fix your broken items - if you can bring it, we will have a go at fixing it. We have computer whizzes, so if you have any IT problems give us a try.

You don't have to book in but if you want advice, or have a specialist problem email Isobel isobeljshorrock@gmail.com



COFFEE AND CAKE ALWAYS AVAILABLE – so come for a chat even if you have nothing to fix.

Nicola Yeoman, who provides various plastic-free products and refills will be visiting the Café again.

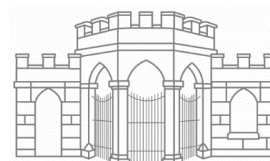
We are still collecting bikes and suitcases for Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity.

We look forward to seeing you at the Café.

24 June 2024 - Quarndon Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm at the Village Hall

The Quarndon Parish Council meets monthly in the meeting room at the Village Hall. The agenda is published in advance on the Parish Council noticeboard outside the Hall and on the Quarndon website [here](#).

All are welcome to attend. 'Public speaking' is at the start of each meeting if you have an issue to draw to the attention of the Parish Council.



29 June 2024 - Quarndon Repair Café - 10am to 12noon

Details as for the 25 May 2024 Repair Café above.

5 July 2024 – Duffield Swift Walk - 7:30pm

Expert-led walk from Greys Recreation Ground, DE56 4FF. The skies were thick with swifts last year. This event, run by Duffield Save Our Swifts is highly recommended.

5-7 July 2024 - Quarndon Events Scarecrow Trail

Householders are invited to exercise their creative talents to make scarecrows on the theme of 'What a Job!' to form part of a Trail throughout the parish of Quarndon for 5 to 7 July 2024.

See page 3 of this Newsletter for full details.



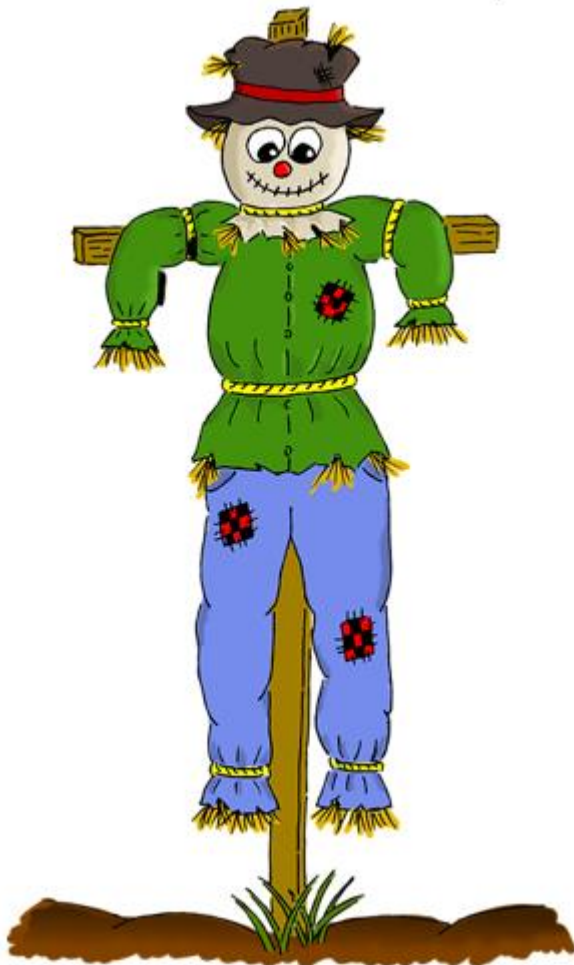
29 July 2024 - Quarndon Parish Council – 7:30pm at the Village Hall

Quarndon Parish Council meeting details as for the 24 June 2024 meeting above.

Quarndon and Parish Scarecrow Trail 2024

Date: 5th - 7th July 2024

Theme : "What a job!"



Householders are invited to create their own unique scarecrows, forming part of a brilliant Scarecrow Trail. Ideas for the theme

"What a job!" could involve a nurse/ a dentist/ a teacher/ ballerina/ road construction worker etc. - Let your imagination run free!

It's a great thing for everyone to be involved in, whatever age. Start to think what wonderful scarecrows you could make!

To register your scarecrow, send **the title of your scarecrow**, your **name** or organisation and **where it will be to** scarecrowquarn2@outlook.com

It is **free to enter** as an individual, family, group, organisation, school, business or street.

Entries need to be registered by 28th June, so that the trail map can be organised.

Scarecrows need to be up by midday (or before) on 5th July and the winner will be announced at 6pm on Sunday 7th July on the village website.

The luxury hamper for the winner and the highly commended certificates for the runners up will be distributed after judging.

The trail map will be available to download from the village website.

From our Local Councillors:

Road Improvements Update

Councillor Gez Kinsella is pleased that Burley Lane has finally been resurfaced after significant pressure on Derbyshire County Council (DCC). However, there is still much work to be done.

Church Road has deteriorated badly over the last six months and is becoming increasingly unsafe. This issue has been reported to DCC, and Councillor Kinsella will follow up to find out what Highways plans to do and when.

Gez continues to press DCC to review their current practices to ensure potholes are repaired effectively the first time around. This will not only improve road safety but also save taxpayers' money by avoiding repeated repairs.

Wildlife-Friendly Gardening

If you visit Belper this summer, you'll notice a move towards a different kind of planting in the parks and planters. Working with the outdoor team, Green Party Belper Town Councillors have been working hard to make sure that by 2026, Belper will have beautiful, wildlife-rich, and peat-free floral displays.

Why the Change?

Many plants are currently grown in compost that contains peat, which releases carbon into the atmosphere and speeds up climate change. Traditional bedding plants are bred to bloom brightly without needing insects, offering little or no nectar or pollen, and they only last a year. These plants are often grown in peat-based compost.

By summer 2026, Belper Town Council aims to use only peat-free plants that provide food and shelter for wildlife in all the hanging baskets, flower beds, and planters.

Want to make your garden more wildlife-friendly and peat-free? Here are some tips:

- Choose wildlife-friendly plants. These are available at most shops and garden centres.
- Ask for peat-free plants. You can find them at Tesco and many plants at the Little Eaton Garden Centre [*and others – Ed.*] are grown in either peat-free or reduced-peat compost.
- Use peat-free compost in your garden.
- Share your plants. As your plants grow, divide them and share with friends and neighbours.



Gez, Alison & Eva

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Eva Long Email: eva.long@ambervalley.gov.uk

Gez Kinsella Email: Gez.Kinsella@derbyshire.gov.uk

The First East Midlands Mayor

In May 2024 Claire Ward (Labour) was elected as the first ever Mayor of the newly created East Midlands Combined County Authority.



Following her election, Claire said:

"I am truly humbled that the people of Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have elected me to become your very-first East Midlands Mayor.

We know we can punch above our weight as a region, but we have been held back. Constantly at the bottom of the table for investment from Government, projects promised then scrapped, we've been overlooked and underfunded for too long. That must end now.

If we are going to change politics and make it work better for people, we will need to work together. As Mayor, I will work across the political divides, uniting those who share an ambition to make this a better place, so we can delivery truly transformational change for our region.

So let me set out that my commitment from day one is to be the person who stands up for this region, shouts out for this region and demands better for this region.

Our region has a proud heritage of leading where others follow. From Cromford Mill, to Derby's Silk Mill, this is the true birthplace of the industrial revolution. Our businesses and creative talent across the region, over decades, have led in manufacturing and innovation.

Together we will restore that pride and purpose, to make the East Midlands the best place to live, to work and to learn."

New Police & Crime Commissioner



In the May 2024 election Nicolle Ndiweni (Labour) was elected as Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire.

Nicolle lives in Derby and has a degree in Criminology and International Relations, experience in both the public and private sectors, and is a former District Councillor and Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities.

Nicolle made the following seven pre-election pledges to: **'ELEVATE OUR AREA; LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND; and PROTECT AND PROSPER US ALL'**.

1. **PREVENT** - Prevent crime and anti-social behaviour by prioritising early intervention and diversionary activities.
2. **PROTECT** - Protect residents and provide support for victims of crime and those impacted by crime.
3. **POLICE** - Increase police officers and PCSO numbers. Target resources and secure more funding for our force and communities.
4. **PROSECUTE** - Work with the CPS and police to improve communication, reduce delays, and bolster case file quality to drive up the charge rate.
5. **PARTNER** - Have a stronger strategic partnership approach to tackling crime through better collaboration with key organisations, criminal justice partners, schools and businesses.
6. **PRESENCE** - Visible, accessible and effective force and Police & Crime Commissioner. Putting the needs of our residents and communities first.
7. **PUBLIC TRUST** - I'm determined to restore your confidence, trust and pride in our local police service.

Quarndon Swift Group

The 40-odd artificial nest boxes and bricks around the village (including 6 swift bricks on the Village Hall) are installed, and the swift callers activated. However, in the second half of May, although swifts have been spotted in the skies above Quarndon, it's only in very small numbers. Dr Andy Broadhurst of Derbyshire Swift Conservation advises that we shouldn't be concerned because:



- the swifts' return to the UK is, generally, later this year – and so it's likely the second wave is due soon, followed by the third wave of juveniles in July; and
- those swifts that have returned already will have existing nests, which they sit in for 12 hours a day, and feed for the remaining 12 hours of the day – so they're only entering or leaving the nest twice a day, making spotting them a matter of pure luck.

There should be a lot more visible activity in June and July when the breeding pairs will be feeding the chicks, and those under 3 years old search for/build nests.

So, if you're tempted to join in, it's still not too late to put up artificial nests and electronic swift callers.

Swift Awareness Week - this is an annual national initiative running between Saturday 26 June and Sunday 7 July, inclusive, this year. There are lots of events, including the expert-led **Duffield Swift Walk on 5 July, starting at 7:30pm from Greys Recreation Ground, DE56 4FF**. The skies were thick with swifts last year and this event, run by Duffield SOS, is highly recommended.

Alternatives are running in Hathern (29 and 30 June), Derby city (3 July), Rowsley (4 July), and Melbourne (6 July). For details, see [SAW 2024 events - Google Docs](#)

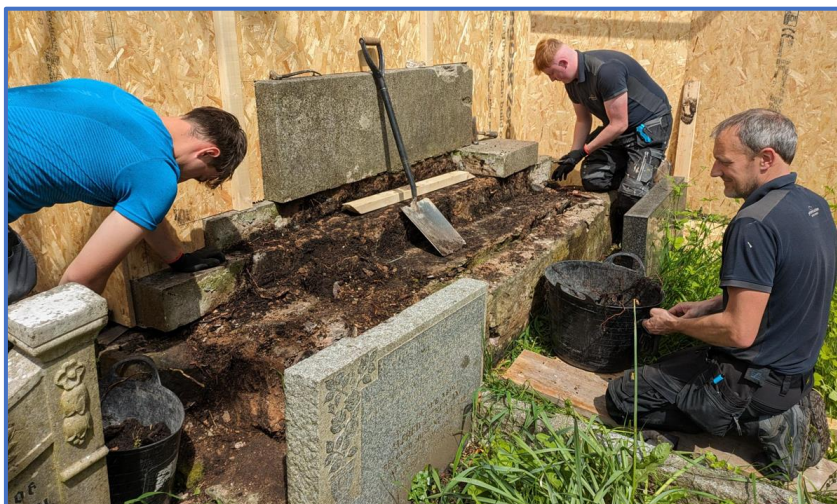
For more information on getting involved, or to obtain free literature, email John Farnsworth of QSG on jpfnsworth4@gmail.com

War Memorial Restoration

The War Memorial in St Paul's churchyard is the responsibility of the Quarndon Parish Council and it has recently been noticed that the memorial's plinth was subsiding on the side nearest to the church.

Work has started by Derbyshire firm JWH Construction to remove the plinth's stonework on the side nearest the church, renew and strengthen the foundations, and then replace the stonework. This remedial work will prevent further damage and keep the memorial properly supported for many years to come.

For those of you wondering what is happening behind the wooden screens, here is a photo of the team in action.



The work is being funded by the generous donation of a local resident.

April 2024 - Repair Cafe

The Repair Café on 27 April 2024 provided the usual friendly social gathering with coffee and excellent cakes/biscuits provided by our skilled bakers – a big thank you to them for making the monthly cafés such a treat for us all.

In amongst the coffee-drinking, cake-eating and chat, our fixers have been tackling items including a brass duck with a broken wing and a Christmas lantern that had lost its sparkle. Norman worked his magic with solder to mend the duck's wing and Keith made Christmas come early by finding that the lamp had an unexpected second compartment in need of fresh batteries!



Next Repair Cafes are on 25 May and 29 June – see page 3 of this Newsletter.

Quarndon Resilience Planning

The Parish Council and the Community Group have been considering whether Quarndon should have a Community Resilience Plan. A short meeting was held after the Repair Café on 27 April 2024 to discuss, what sort of events should be considered and what actions could be taken.

Severe weather events are an obvious source of potential problems where people may need help from the community – and these seem to be on the increase. But have you thought what you would do if you or a family member fell ill or had an accident? If you had to go to A&E, what would you take with you? If you had to wait there for hours, what would you need?

If you have ideas about help that may be needed and/or have 'off-grid' facilities for heating, cooking, etc. that you would be happy to share if, for example, there was a prolonged power outage, please email QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk with any offers or suggestions that you may have.

Blooming Quarndon 2024 – Displays expected 25 June

We expect the 2024 floral displays to be installed during the evening/night of 25 June.

Many thanks to all those who have donated, enabling the displays to be funded again this year. If you would still like to donate, it is not too late. Please make gifts by bank transfer, to: **Quarndon Parish Council**, Sort code: **30-92-59**, Account Number: **03328525**, reference: **BLOOM24**, or by cheque payable to Quarndon Parish Council, write on the back 'Blooming Quarndon 2024' and post it to: QPC clerk, Unit 108731, PO Box 15113, Birmingham, B2 2NJ.

Derby Arboretum

In 2023 the Friends of Derby Arboretum group was awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service for its work transforming Loudon Lodge, a derelict building, into a vibrant community hub and garden in Derby Arboretum, and for hosting popular community events throughout the year.

The disused bowling green has been transformed into a thriving community garden thanks to the dedication of volunteers. The garden boasts a semi-formal layout, featuring espalier fruit trees and bushes, raised beds brimming with produce, and year-round displays of colourful blooms. The Arboretum is located about a mile south of the centre of Derby and there is free on-street car parking on Rosehill Street (DE23 8FZ) and Reginald Street (DE23 8FQ).



The Quarndon Village Website

In addition to regular newsletters, Quarndon Parish Council and Quarndon Community Group post information on the Quarndon Village website:

www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk alias www.quarndon-village.org.uk

This site brings you information about local groups and services, up-to-date news about planning issues and applications, plus Parish Council documents to keep you au fait with events affecting all of us in the village.



Not only is the website a source of current and future events, but it is also a record of village activities, in particular through its photo gallery page. If you have any photos of village life that you would like to be considered for inclusion on the website please email them, with background information about the image and the permission of any people seen in the photo, to web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk

Information, suggestions, ideas, photographs, drawings about village events; in fact, all contributions from residents - of all ages - are warmly welcomed. Contact us at web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk

Quarndon News and Events

If you are organising an event in Quarndon, or wish to publicise some news, please email details to Clare at web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk for inclusion on the website www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk

Contributions to this Newsletter are welcome – please email Keith at: QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk

Contacts:

Website: www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk (alias www.quarndon-village.org.uk)

web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk - information for the website

QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk - contact the Quarndon Community Group

clerk@quarndon-pc.gov.uk - contact the Quarndon Parish Council