

Highlights

Welcome to the December 2024 Quarndon newsletter.

In a packed publication as we head for Christmas, we have a feature from our new MP, Jonathan Davies, who has been out and about in the mid-Derbyshire constituency that Quarndon is now within. He visited the Quarndon Repair Café in October and also walked around Allestree Park with members of Allestree Park Voice.

The Quarndon newsletter writing, compiling and editing elves will be taking a break to enjoy the Christmas festivities, so there will not be a January 2025 newsletter. The next publication will be the February newsletter. The elves wish all our readers a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.



Leaves and cobwebs on heather – photo Ros Grum

This newsletter, in addition to 'What's On', includes:

- Telephone box book exchange/library news
- Why not have a pre-Christmas clear-out?
- Quarndon Swift Group – Update and plans for 2025
- Our councillors' update - focusing on care home closures
- An introductory piece from Jonathan Davies – our new MP
- Quarndon Repair Café – October 2024 report and Parkin recipe
- Quarndon Community Speedwatch update
- Quarndon in snow – November 2024
- Quarndon Events Christmas Quiz night
- Water tower and mobile phone mast proposal

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. Email Keith or Clare at: QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk

What's On

St Paul's December 2024 and January 2025 church services

Christmas Day – Saturday 25th December – There will not be a Christmas Day service at St Paul's this year. Instead, the group of churches of which St Paul's is a part will hold Holy Communion in St Nicholas Church (St Nick's) at 10am on Christmas Day. 2 Lawn Ave, Allestree, DE22 2PE



DECEMBER SERVICES	
ST PAULS, CHURCH	
SUNDAY 1ST	10AM INFORMAL HOLY COMMUNION
SUNDAY 8TH	10AM MORNING PRAYER
SUNDAY 15TH	10AM HOLY COMMUNION
SUNDAY 22ND	6PM CAROL SERVICE
CHRISTMAS EVE	5.30PM CRIB SERVICE
SUNDAY 29TH	10AM JOINT HOLY COMMUNION AT ST EDMUNDS, ALLESTREE

January 2025 services, St Paul's Church¹ UOS

- Sunday 5th 10am Holy Communion
- Sunday 12th 10am informal service at St Nick's Allestree²
- Sunday 19th 4pm Christingle³ service
- Sunday 26th 10am Morning Praise

¹ The Church boiler problems persist. If the boiler isn't working, services will relocate to the Hall. It is a very short walk from Church to Hall.

² This service is to say goodbye to Phil Moncur and hello to Cathie our new curate who will work with Sarah in both St Nick's and St Paul's.

³ This is a lovely family service, very popular with all ages. The children will collect the items needed to make a Christingle as they enter Church and assemble it during the service. Then they will stand in a circle round the pews holding their lighted Christingle. Finally, they can eat the sweets decorating the Christingle which represent the fruits of the earth. Poster [here](#).

More information about St Paul's Church is [here](#).

To help with the Church heating, please donate by cheque payable to: St. Paul's Quarndon PCC Appeal Account, send c/o 9 Woodlands Lane, Quarndon, Derby, DE22 5JU, or by BACS to: **St. Paul's Quarndon PCC Appeal Account**, Sort Code: **05-04-07**, Account Number: **70035285**. Thank you.

30 November 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.

We are expecting Nicola Yeoman of Harris-Rose, who recently welcomed a new baby to her family and provides various plastic-free refills to be at the Café this month. You can contact Nicola by email at: hello@harris-rose.com or order via her website [here](#).

We are still collecting bikes, suitcases and educational materials including dictionaries and textbooks for Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity. See list of items required [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you at the Café.

Note that there will not be a December Repair Café. It will be back in 2025 on 25 January.

30 November 2024 – Kedleston Hotel Tractor Run – 5.30pm start

A cavalcade of festively illuminated tractors will start their 20-mile run from Kedleston Hotel at 5.30pm and immediately pass through Quarndon heading north on Church Road and onto Woodlands Lane. On their return, after a tour extending to Belper, the tractors will come uphill on Burley Lane and south down Church Road



This is for the charity, 'Ben's Den' (The Ben Parker Trust Fund), which supports the families of children fighting leukaemia or cancer, by gifting them a free holiday and allowing them to spend quality family time together away from the overwhelming hospital environment. For more details of the run and how to donate click [here](#).

If you are planning to spectate by the roadside, please bear in mind that these are large machines which will be travelling at a good speed. Do not obstruct the road by parking on it and find a viewing point where you can be safe, well away from the edge of the road.

7 December 2024 – Crescendo Choir Christmas Concert – 7:30pm St Nicholas Church

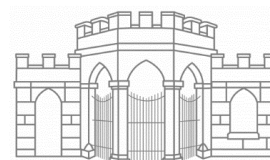
The Crescendo Choir, featuring singers from the local area, including Quarndon, will be performing their Christmas concert at St Nick's church in Allestree.



Doors open 7pm, tickets at £10 for adults and £5 for children from the choir's website: www.crescendochoir.co.uk

16 December 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.

The Telephone Box Book Exchange/Library

If you have any children's books with a Christmas theme do pop them in the book box during December. Children's books are located on the bottom shelf at the left.

Books always welcome, but not in bulk please. If you have a lot of books that you feel our telephone box visitors would appreciate, please email: web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk

Telephone boxes have taken on a new life as homes for books. There is even a novel about them now, *The Telephone Box Library* by Rachael Lucas. A copy will be making an appearance in the Quarndon box over Christmas...



Christmas Clear Out?

Many of us have a post-Christmas clear out.

However, why not have your clear out well before Christmas and gift those things you no longer need to local charity shops in time for them to boost their stocks for the increased footfall during pre-Christmas shopping? There are a range of charity shops that you can donate to at Park Farm.

Quarndon Swift Group

Struggling for interesting Christmas gifts? Swift nest units (box or brick) or a swift caller make a great Christmas present for anyone wishing to support this endangered species and benefit from its incredible aerial displays between May and August. For nest units and callers destined for Quarndon parish, we can offer these at very low prices (see funding, below).



Please contact the QSG for nest unit prices and advice on which type of nest unit is suitable for the installation envisaged, and for our swift callers.

In other news:

QSG has already raised considerable funds from Birds on the Brink and QPC. A couple of other funding applications are still outstanding to support the 2025 swift season. Once funding is finalised, we will need to decide how it'll be deployed - but it's already clear that these funds will enable some extremely attractive grants to be made towards Quarndon residents' costs in buying and fitting nest bricks or boxes. These grants will apply to nest units in new locations in the parish, and to additional units on the same building.



QSG is in discussion with some supportive members of Amber Valley Borough Council, working alongside the Duffield and Belper swift groups, to ensure planning permissions granted for new buildings and alterations are conditional on making provision for swifts, and to see how we can assist the council in ensuring compliance. This falls within the legal requirement for developers to deliver 10% gains in biodiversity at each development (the Biodiversity Net Gain legislation became effective from April 2024). Sadly, it's clear from analysis by Derbyshire Swift Conservation that, in our borough, we are currently underperforming when measured against other Derbyshire local authorities.

QSG is in dialogue with Miller Homes in connection with the Kedleston Grange estate, which passed planning before the Biodiversity Net Gain legislation came into force. Miller Homes have given several reasons why nest units can't be fitted to the houses yet to be built so, unfortunately, it's going to be up to residents to retrofit nest units. On a more positive note, Miller Homes are a leading (voluntary) signatory to the Natural Measures

Scheme which, amongst other things, commits them to fitting one swift nest brick to every home built on future developments. In addition, it is likely that QSG will shortly receive some "compensatory" funding from Miller Homes to help its cause.

Please will you help? As previously reported, QSG's plans for the 2025 season are:

1. to double the number of boxes in the parish (to about 80); and
2. to elicit the help of supportive builders, soffit and window fitters, roofers, etc that are active in Quarndon - who will act as ambassadors for QSG when speaking to their clients.

We would greatly appreciate your help in promoting the installation of nest units to your neighbours and friends to help achieve the first objective, and for the names and contact numbers of tradespeople that we can meet with to see if they'll act as ambassadors.

Thank you.

More information on swifts, including contact details for QSG, can be found on QSG's leaflet available by clicking [here](#).

From our Local Councillors:

Care Home Closures

Derbyshire County Council is moving ahead with major service cuts, including the closure of eight care homes and six day centres across the county.

Initially, it seemed the newly built Ada Belfield care home in Belper was safe. However, during November it has been revealed that Ada Belfield, subject to consultation, is now on the list to be closed or sold. Ada Belfield was built just four years ago at a cost of over £11 million.

County Councillor Gez Kinsella, along with fellow Green supporters and Amber Valley Green leader Rachael Hatchett, stood in support for Ada Belfield by attending County Hall in Matlock on the day the cabinet discussed these proposed cuts.



Amber Valley Green leader Rachael Hatchett with Councillor Gez Kinsella showing their support for Ada Belfield care home

Gez has actively opposed care home closures following the announcement earlier this year, raising questions at Full Council meetings and writing to Cabinet Member Natalie Hoy back in June.

“This doesn’t make any sense, even by the Council’s own logic,” Gez said. “The Council rightly argues that there is an increasing need for specialist dementia care. There’s also a huge demand for community support beds for short-term stays and faster hospital discharges. Ada Belfield excels in both, yet DCC plans to shut down or privatise this service.”

The consultation period will run for 6 weeks, ending on January 12th. Green leader Rachael Hatchett emphasises that this is just the beginning of the campaign to protect Ada Belfield and other essential care services across Derbyshire.

Gez Kinsella – Derbyshire County Council. Email: gez.kinsella@derbyshire.gov.uk

Alison McDermott – Amber Valley Borough Council. Email: Alison.mcdermott@ambervalley.gov.uk

Eva Long – Amber Valley Borough Council. Email: Eva.long@ambervalley.gov.uk



Snowy panorama from Cannon Hill – November 2024

From Jonathan Davies – Our New MP

With effect from the general election held in July 2024, the electoral boundaries in our area were re-drawn moving Quarndon from the Derbyshire Dales constituency to mid-Derbyshire. Jonathan Davies (Labour) won the seat with a majority of just under 2000 and became our new MP.

Jonathan and his office manager, Tracey Hill, visited the Quarndon Repair Café (QRC) on Saturday 26th October, shortly after International Repair Day, which was on 19th October 2024 with a theme of 'Repair for Everyone.' In the UK, the focus was on bringing this message to our elected officials, encouraging them to support measures that make repair more accessible and affordable for all – so we were delighted that Jonathan joined us and heard about this first-hand.

Jonathan is very engaged and interested in local issues. At the QRC, he agreed to write occasional pieces for this newsletter to share news on issues he is working on with Quarndon residents.

Here is his first piece:

I have spoken recently with a number of people and organisations about water quality and environmental concerns.

I met with River Action UK and Surfers Against Sewage to talk about solutions for cleaning the nation's waterways. I also went canoeing in the Derwent River with Paddle UK's Ben Seal. Paddle UK is exploring opportunities to revitalise our rivers.

I also visited Quarndon's Repair Café. While I was there, I discussed issues including environmental sustainability and beekeeping with residents. Some of the staff were also repairing a shredder. It was great to see communities and local organisations promoting reuse so that we reduce our consumption.

Members of Allestree Park Voice invited me to join them for a walk around the park and lake. They are doing great work to support the park and the people who use it.

My summer listening survey has highlighted that water quality is a particular concern of residents in Mid Derbyshire, and they are right to be concerned.

In 2023, spillages on Severn Trent Water's watch polluted sixty-four sites, with 2,732 sewage dumps occurring over the year, lasting for a total of 16,576 hours. On average, these spillages equated to over seven per day.

Back in September, the government introduced the Water (Special Measures) Bill, which brought in criminal powers to prosecute water companies that fail to meet basic standards.

Under these new powers, Severn Trent Water has been forced to pay £327,500 under threat of prosecution to restore and improve a waterway where a sewage spill caused damage.

However, the issue is systemic. Of the forty individual environmental targets set under the 2021 Environmental Act, the UK is on track to achieve only four.

I will continue to raise these issues with relevant ministers to ensure that our rivers are clean and can be used safely for community recreational purposes.

Jonathan Davies MP Email: jonathan.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Note: If emailing Jonathan about a constituency matter, please include your address/postcode.



Jonathan (black jacket) canoeing on the Derwent

Quarndon Repair Café – October Report

The Repair Café continues to be busy, with a wide range of items for fixing. This month's items included an iron, a paper shredder, a clock, a hair dryer...



COFFEE AND CAKE WERE AVAILABLE AS ALWAYS.

We also collect bikes and suitcases for **Derby Refugee Solidarity (DRS)**. They require both urgently. Find a list of other items they need [here](#). We will deliver any items you can spare that are dropped off at the Repair Café to DRS.

As covered on Page 6 of this newsletter, Jonathan Davies our new MP visited.



Fixers in action at the October Repair Café and Jonathan Davis MP (dark pullover) chatting with residents

Repair Café Recipe

Amongst the selection of delicious home-baked cakes available at the October Repair Café was a lovely version of the classic Yorkshire parkin - a sticky, spicy ginger cake made with oatmeal. The recipe for this can be found at: [Vegan Parkin - Domestic Gothess](#)



Quarndon Community Speedwatch (CSW)



Since the November newsletter was published, the Quarndon Community Speedwatch team has held five sessions during which 42 drivers were recorded as speeding and received an advisory/warning letter from the police. These letters notify drivers that they have been recorded speeding and that their details will be held pending any further incidents of them exceeding the speed limit.

Five of these drivers were locals. For six of them, it was the second occasion that they had been recorded speeding within Derbyshire (by any of the 99 Derbyshire CSW teams). For one driver it was the third time they had been recorded speeding by a Derbyshire CSW team, and they received a visit from the police to give them face-to-face advice on road safety.

Quarndon in Snow

During the night of 18/19 November 2024, winter arrived in Quarndon with a fall of two or three inches of snow. Morning revealed a winter wonderland for those who could walk out and enjoy the views. It was all perhaps a little less welcome for those who needed to get to work or school!



The picturesque snow clinging to the branches of trees, many of which were still carrying leaves, caused some branches to break, including one that temporarily blocked Church Road by the Joiners Arms. A large part of this tree was left hanging alarmingly from the phone/internet cables, but Derbyshire County Council contractors were quickly on the scene to clear the debris.



Quarndon Events Christmas Quiz

On the evening of Saturday 23rd November there was a good turn out of quizzers of all standards at the Village Hall for the Quarndon Events Christmas Quiz and Chips evening. The question setters managed to expose the deep lack of knowledge some participants had on subjects as diverse as Christmas films and the identification of cooking herbs and spices.

Congratulations to the eventual winners – team ‘Not the Hoovers’, featuring two Dysons, aided and abetted by friends from around Quarndon.



Water Tower and Mobile Phone Mast Proposal

Quarndon Parish Council (QPC) has been contacted as part of a pre-planning application process for installation of a 30m tall lattice tower mobile phone mast in the field south of 33 Woodlands Lane.

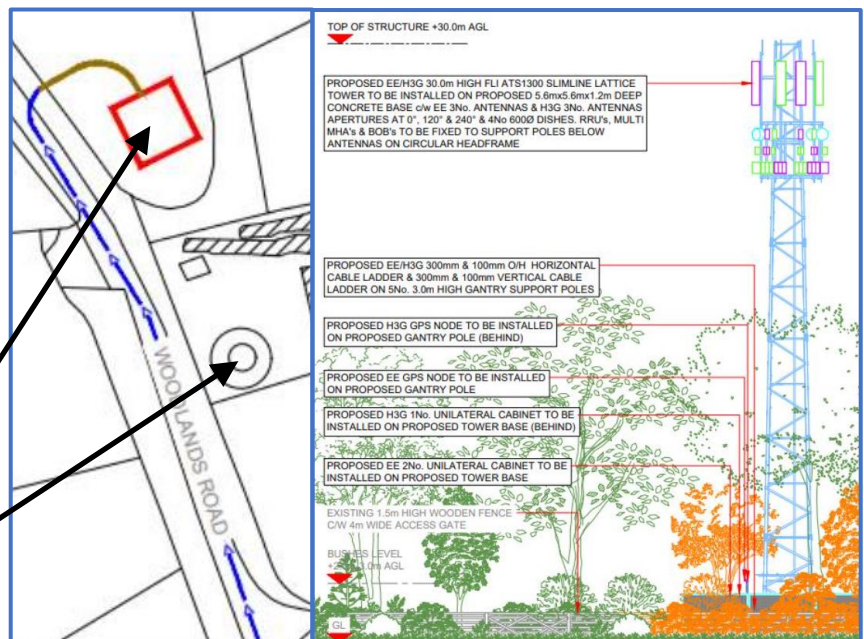
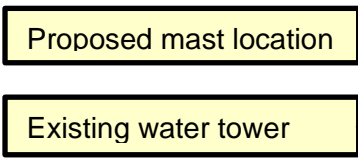
We have been told by the company managing this that the mast is needed because the water tower is going to be taken down. The existing mobile phone infrastructure is affixed to the water tower.

The QPC has not been formally advised of any plan to remove the water tower. However, we have to assume that this may happen.

Whilst we have been assured residents near to the proposed site will be contacted directly, QPC wants to ensure any local concerned residents have an opportunity to comment.

Please comment either through one of the QPC councillors or email the council clerk at:

clerk@quarndon-pc.gov.uk



Plan showing proposed location of the mobile phone mast together with a drawing illustrating the proposed mast design

The water tower was built almost 100 years ago and, to some, is a much-loved local landmark as this delightful and beautifully photographed video from Belper-based historian Roly Keates illustrates: <https://youtu.be/b9XnYta6qZ8?si=eeYtWuOgpUSFyOcT>

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



Park Nook from Cannon Hill – 19 November 2024