



Airmyn News



JANUARY 2016

Volume 16 SPECIAL Issue 0

WEBSITE INUNDATED, BUT NOT THE VILLAGE!

Boxing Day 2015 proved to be somewhat dramatic for parishioners when many received a call from our dear friends, the Environment Agency, alerting us to the danger of imminent flooding. Although we all know that technically we are at risk, this move was unprecedented and had to be taken seriously, a fact underlined when on Sunday 27 December the ERYC took up position in the Hall car park with a large mobile pump and several truckloads of sandbags. Thanks must go to the sterling work of Mary Mason-Pitt and her team, as well as Andrew Percy, who in characteristic fashion was out in the rain, working in a very practical way for his community and helping people load sandbags into their cars (whatever your politics, he does live up to his reputation as being one of the hardest-working MPs in the country—literally!) The recently-revamped Airmyn website also proved its worth, with a record 6,000 hits recorded on the Sunday, and the Twitter and Facebook accounts also kept people informed of the evolving situation. Over 12,000 people accessed the village's social media—pretty impressive!

The alert was lessened at around 6 pm or so, when attention switched to Rawcliffe and Reedness. The incident has, however, highlighted the fact that, despite a front-page article in this very publication not 6 months ago, quite a few people were unaware of the existence of the Emergency Committee or the Emergency Plan! Despite some parishioners having to wait for the truck to reload and return to the village, the operation passed off very smoothly. However, based on the Editor's own experience of suddenly having to make decisions about what to move upstairs, readers should go on <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency> where advice on creating your own flood plan can be found.

AIRMYN ACTION FOR ALI'S ANGELS

Samantha Stevens, Alison Coulthard & Angela Meneight, would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported their recent 'Ali's Angels' fundraising raising events.

The Christmas coffee afternoon at the home of Richard and Samantha Stevens on the 9th Dec raised a wonderful £246. It was very well attended by just over forty people and was a very enjoyable afternoon. Special thanks to all those who baked cakes and donated raffle prizes.



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On 12th Dec a snowman hunt raised an amazing £215. Despite truly appalling weather the event was very well attended by 38 children, plus parents/grandparents, who bravely took on the elements to find fifteen snowmen hidden around the village. The trail started outside the church and finished at Ferry Lane where hotdogs, cakes and hot drinks were served along with games and a craft stall. We were overwhelmed by the support given to this event, it was wonderful to see so many village children and their families turn out in support. A big thank you to the residents who kindly allowed us to hide snowmen in their gardens and also the volunteers who helped out on the day.

AIRMYN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
GEORGE DALES ROOM
AIRMYN MEMORIAL HALL
2.30PM START
£3 inc. REFRESHMENTS

21ST-CENTURY TECH COMES TO THE HALL

Not only can you now come along and enjoy a good and inexpensive night out without leaving Airmyn, you can pay for your ticket from the comfort of your sofa and print out your own ticket at your leisure. Just go on to the website and select the event you require, then pay via Paypal or with a credit card!

The Airmyn Community Association's techno-wizard has been hard at work to make life easier for both villagers and the Hall alike, and it is hoped that this facility will encourage people from further afield to make use of the Hall, which should in theory increase its income. You can access the booking screen at: www.airmynvillagehall.org.uk

Meanwhile, as reported in the Christmas edition of the AN, a new condensing boiler has been installed at the Hall, with immediate improvements to the supply of hot water to the toilet and changing facilities. However heating in the Main Hall continues to be problematic, and this is a top priority at present. As reported previously, the Hall's heating and lighting methods are under review, with the Committee taking specialist advice on renewable sources of energy, as well as the implementation of energy-saving measures including improved insulation and the installation of LED lighting.

NEWLAND BRIDGE HAS REOPENED. ORIGINAL BUS TIMETABLES ARE ON PAGE 8, BUT PLEASE CHECK WITH THE BUS COMPANY BEFORE YOU SET OUT!

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(St. John Meyers)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE HALL SPRING 2016

Quiz Night

Friday 29 January 7.30 pm
£10 including buffet

Leap Year Hop (live ceilidh band)

Friday 26 February 7.30 pm
£15 including buffet

RACE NIGHT

Friday 22 April 7.30 pm
£10 including buffet

Tickets available online or from :

91 High Street Rivermead, High St
59 High Street 9 Woodland Way
7 Bridge Road

NB CASINO NIGHT POSTPONED

LETTERS

Re: Maintenance of the willows on the riverbank.

I would just like to highlight that in the mid 90's the National Rivers Authority (NRA) wrote to all riparian owners in Airmyn highlighting the cost of maintaining the riverbank and also the potential dangers to the public of falling trees, etc.. They requested that riparian owners sign over their rights to the NRA and they would take over the responsibility for maintaining the riverbank. We signed over our rights, I wonder how many other High Street owners also signed their rights over? The responsibilities of the NRA were taken on by the Environment Agency in 1996.

Paul Houston

Helen Cowling comments: Every time the Parish Council has asked for trees etc. to be tended to, the Environment Agency has disclaimed responsibility. When the river banks were increased in height in the 90s, the EA issued an agreement to the riparian owners. I have seen a copy of another High Street resident's agreement, and it is purely seeking permission to undertake the work, not to assume ownership of the riparian rights. David Galloway wondered if leaving the willows uncut is detrimental in some way, as they impede the flow of the water, both when the tides are rising and when they are falling. It also used to be said that if they are allowed to grow too tall, the wind catches them more strongly and they transmit its force through their roots and into the banks, thereby destabilising them. Clearly this needs further investigation

AND THE WINNER IS.....

Thank you to all those who have taken the time and trouble to complete the Airmyn Community Association survey. This will be invaluable in deciding upon future events and developments at the Memorial Hall, and the findings will be published in the February issue. A total of 65 people responded in writing and on the website. The draw was conducted on Monday 18 January using a random number generator in the presence of Helen Cowling, Chair of the ACA, and we are pleased to announce that the i-Pad Mini has been won by David Theakstone (that's young David to those of you who know the family!) of Goole.



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HALL HIGHLIGHTS



The Airmyn Community Association have been hard at work putting together a programme of events that will both earn funds and entertain folk.

Kicking off the year's programme will be a Quiz Night on Friday 29th January, when Adi Hayes will preside over proceedings; quizzes have proved to be highly popular in the past, the most recent having being held to raise funds for the Jubilee Committee in 2014. You can form a team of up to 8 people, and for just £10 you also get a buffet. This will be closely followed by a Leap Year Hop (yes, the Editor dreamed that one up— sorry!) - a ceilidh with live band, Ermine Street (pictured above). The Casino Night advertised in the flyer you may have received has been postponed until later in the year and has been replaced with a Race Night, which will take place on 15 April.

As you will know from the questionnaire sent out with last month's bumper issue, the ACA are keen to hear from anyone who would be able and willing to donate time/skills/ideas/raffle prizes or just cold hard cash (no, seriously, it's for a good cause) to help with fundraising. Of course, you can donate your cold hard cash by simply going along to one of these events, or those which are planned for the rest of 2016. Please note that our Ward Councillor, Caroline Fox, will be organising an event on 11 June to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, which will be a Proms-themed dinner party.



WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL?

WEEKLY

Monday	Line Dancing
Tuesday	Post Office/T'ai chi
Wednesday	Pilates
Thursday	Badminton
Saturday	Sequence dancing

MONTHLY

Tuesday	Bingo (1st Tuesday)
Wednesday	Ukelele (1st & 3rd)

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER TO VISIT AIRMYN

The Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Grove will be holding a meeting in the George Dales Room, Airmyn Memorial Hall on Wednesday 3rd February, at 7pm. All residents of Airmyn Parish are welcome to come along.

The Police & Crime Commissioner will be supporting Airmyn Neighbourhood Watch.

There is a proposal currently under consideration by Airmyn Parish Council to install CCTV at either end of the village. This would allow traffic in and out of the village to be monitored and thus enable miscreants to be more easily traced, as well as (hopefully) discouraging any would-be wrongdoers. The issue of CCTV will be discussed at the meeting and the views of the community will be adhered to. If you have views on this matter please do come along to make them heard.

Caroline Fox



St David's Church, Airmyn



Snowdrop Festival

Sunday 21 February 2016

Church open 10.30am—3.00pm

Refreshments, Cake Stall, Tombola

Walk organised by Dennis Kelly

Followed by Afternoon Service

at 3.30pm

Everyone Welcome



THE RIVER TIDES AT AIRMYN

Following our recent experiences with flood warnings et al, David Galloway has kindly written a very interesting piece on the river which gives the village its name. He would like us to state that he does not profess to have a monopoly on riparian expertise, and that there are others in the village who will be able to add to the article below.



Like the tides in all other rivers and seas throughout the world, the tides in the river Aire at Airmyn are generated by the gravitational pull exerted on the surface of the water by the moon, and, to a lesser degree, by the gravitational influence of the sun. The height of the tides varies directly with the proximity of the moon to the Earth and with its apparent size, and also with the length of time that the moon is visible above the horizon and therefore exercising its direct influence on any particular area. The nearer the moon is to us, and the more that we can see of it, and the more time it is visible to our part of the world, the bigger the tides will be. The moon orbits the Earth approximately every 28 days and we experience its light and its gravitational influence in two distinct 14-day periods. During each lunar 'month', the moon waxes, i.e. increases in visible size, for 14 days, culminating in a full moon, and then wanes, i.e. diminishes in visible size, for another 14 days, culminating in a 'new' moon. The tides are at their very highest on those two days, and near those days, when there is either a full moon or a new moon. At these times, the Earth and the moon and the sun are aligned in a precise row of three, with the Earth in the centre, and the gravitational influences of both the moon and the sun exert their maximum 'pull' on the waters on the surface of the Earth, causing them to 'bulge' and move as a strong tide.

In order to ascertain the time and the height of tides at Airmyn, you have to find out the times and heights of the tides at Goole, which is our nearest reference point for which published details are available. There is a website for this purpose and you can order a booklet from it, if you prefer, for £1.50. When you have the times for high tide and low tide each day at Goole, you need to add on about 40 minutes on average to get the times for the high or low tides at Airmyn.

There are two high tides and two low tides each day. When the tide is rising, it is called the flood tide and when it is falling, it is called the ebb tide. The highest tides in each monthly cycle are called 'spring' tides (nothing to do with the season of spring, by the way), and the lowest tides are called 'neap' tides. Spring tides run much more powerfully than neap tides and, at Airmyn, a spring tide can rise from absolute low water to its full predicted height in just three and a half hours. A neap tide, on the other hand, will take perhaps four and a half hours to drift slowly up to its predicted level, which might well be only half that of the highest spring tides. The ebb tide at Airmyn usually runs for about eight and a half to nine hours so each high tide time is usually about half an hour later than was its predecessor. The highest tides at Airmyn are usually those which occur around 9-00 am or 9-00 pm (GMT) and 10-00 am and 10-00 pm (BST).



Tide heights for Goole are given in metres. These figures represent the actual rise in the water level above what is called 'datum', which is a nationally agreed mean sea level that serves as the base mark for measuring the heights of tides around all Britain's coasts and, therefore, also along each of its river systems. The highest tides in any year at Goole are usually 6.6 or 6.7 metres (about 20 feet). They usually occur in the second half of March and in the second half of September and they coincide with the Spring Equinox and the Autumn Equinox (those times when we have equal amounts of daylight and darkness in a day.) A 6.0 metre tide will just reach foreshore level at Airmyn and if you allow for 0.1 of a metre being equal to 4 inches, then you will see that there will be about 2 feet of water on the foreshore when we have our highest predicted tides of the year. There are two Environment Agency boards near the boat slip at Airmyn which indicate the height of the tide. One is set from near the low water mark to exactly the level of the foreshore and the other is set up on the foreshore itself. These are calibrated to indicate a level of 5 metres at foreshore level rather than the 6 metres I mentioned a moment ago. This is because the tides at Airmyn, being further 'upstream' than Goole, actually rise one metre less than they do at Goole, where the river bed must be that much lower. If you went 15 miles upriver from Airmyn, you would come to the weir at Chapel Haddlesey and this marks the limit of the tidal section of the river Aire. Here, the tide only ever rises about one metre at the most.

What is it, then, that sometimes makes the water in our river at Airmyn rise well above the predicted height of even the biggest tide and causes us to worry about having our homes flooded if it comes over the top of the bank? The answer is the very heavy rain that falls on the Pennines and finds its way down the eastern side of the watershed and into the rivers that drain these hills. We are especially affected here, of course, by huge amounts of 'fresh', as it is called, flowing down the Aire and the Calder and the Ouse after these periods of heavy rain. This flood of extra water is often a very powerful and spectacular sight and might last for three or four days. In the meantime the tides will continue to occur as predicted so the water level in the river will rise accordingly at these times. This can be quite alarming to those not familiar with what is going on. The speed of the 'fresh' apparently overwhelms the incoming tidal water so that, on the surface, the river always appears to be running down and yet the river starts to rise rapidly and will continue to do so until the appointed time for the high tide is reached.

It is when a scheduled, exceptionally high tide of, say, over 6 metres coincides with a time when there is a lot of 'fresh' pouring down our river after a period of heavy rain that we are quite possibly going to have the water level getting very near the top of the floodbank that protects the High Street and the rest of the village and the fields all around us. Where the two forces meet, there will be several flood 'hot spots', not always at the same places every time, and you can imagine the height of the river rising so rapidly in these circumstances that it will overflow its banks in a few places for an hour or more until the tide time has passed, the ebb sets in and the river level falls back within its normal confines. If this happened in Airmyn, I believe that most properties protected with sandbags could escape serious flood damage. If, on the other hand, the river bank was breached, i.e. collapsed at some point and let out all the water above our road level, that would be catastrophic and our houses would be severely flooded and damaged and there would be extreme risk to life, especially for those living in bungalows.

We have been quite lucky in Airmyn in recent years. In 2000, the Aire burst its banks at Gowdall and thereby the potential pressure on the flood defences of settlements further downstream, such as Snaith and Rawcliffe and Airmyn, was removed in an instant. In 2013, Reedness and adjacent villages experienced the Ouse overflowing heavily into their homes and I suspect that we were helped by this on a night when the river here still got to within 15 inches of overflowing into Airmyn's High Street. This year, December, 2015, the Aire burst its banks first in Leeds city centre and next near Eggborough and these events undoubtedly reduced considerably the amount of 'fresh' that found its way down to, and past, Airmyn.

If you ever want to see what happens when a torrent of 'fresh' flowing downstream meets up with a strong incoming flood tide at Airmyn, you need to go and stand on the bank near the Clock Tower. It is at this point that the two forces seem to neutralise each other, all flow stops, and the river simply starts to rise quickly. What is actually happening as well, however, in these circumstances, is that a whirlpool forms there, not visible on the surface to any degree, but there nevertheless, flowing in an anti-clockwise direction. Over many years it has bored a deep hole in the river bed at this point. An echo-sounder depth reading of the river bed taken in 1990 showed it up clearly. I believe that the Environment Agency filled the hole in with rock on one occasion but that only led to this whirlpool creating a new identical hole right alongside the one that had been filled in. In 2005, the High Street was closed to vehicular traffic for some months whilst piles were inserted into the river bank opposite this point and opposite the frontage of Airmyn Hall. I believe that this had to be done because the foreshore and potentially the floodbank and even the High Street itself were being induced to slide towards the river because of this developing cavity in the river bed.



The effects of the whirlpool are very apparent to anyone such as me coming upriver in a small boat on the Little Airmyn side against a strong ebb tide. On reaching the Clock Tower, instead of creeping very slowly along as you have been obliged to do thus far because of the tide, your boat is suddenly propelled forward for about 150 yards as if the tide was suddenly going in the other direction. This is because you have caught the fringe of the whirlpool. After this has happened, equally suddenly, you encounter the full force of the ebb once again.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE AIRMYN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER

Councillors present: J Peake (Chair), S Hayward, P Gardner, A Thompson and C Fox.

Apologies received: Ward Councillor J Barrett, R Shelton

Planning

- 15/03445 Erection of a single storey extension with new pitched roof over existing extension to rear.4 Park Road Airmyn, Mrs M McGowan Extension until 10 December. Resolved no comments or objections.
- 15/02555 Erection of detached garage following demolition of existing garage, Mrs S Moore. Approved by ERYC.
- 15/02742/STPLF Erection of a substation/utility room(associated with approved application 14/02555/STPLF. Elite Office Furniture (UK) Ltd. Work on site had commenced before the plans were approved. On the site there is no lead name in charge of the project. Health and Safety concerns were expressed due to lack of proper fencing when the ditch is full of water, use of own site access and mud on the roads. Resolved the Clerk to write and express the council's concern for traffic and residents.
- 15/02196/STPLF Excavation of embankment along drainage ditch and installation of sheet pile wall along with part culverting of connecting ditch.Elite Office Furniture (UK) Ltd.

Financial matters

- Draft projections for the precept 2016/2017 were fully discussed as this has to be set at the next meeting. The Chair emphasised the implications on home owners of increasing the precept. Resolved the clerk claim VAT for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 November 2015 to give a more accurate picture. The Chair asked everyone to consider a proposal that the parish council take on the maintenance of the playing field and associated costs, including tree maintenance - expenses currently met by the Airmyn Community Association.
- Financial risk assessment is covered in the standing orders and financial regulations; Standing Orders approved.

Other issues

- Neighbourhood Plan Information received from the ERYC. Resolved to place on the January agenda.
- Website and advertising. A page on the website would be available if needed.
- Environment agency feedback regarding the Willow trees in the river. Fox has contacted the agency and they may have some funds available towards the end of this financial year to look at the willow trees. Monetary contributions may have to be made by this parish council and home owners. A Percy is also looking at this problem for residents.
- The parish noticeboard needs replacement following damage in the gales. Quotes to be obtained by next meeting.
- Bracken Hill shooting issues. Feedback from PCSO that visits will be made to monitor any incidents.
- Remedial works to the High Street: C Fox confirmed these will commence in the spring after the bad weather.
- Goole Fields 11 Wind farm : S Hayward attended the November meeting and she reported that the trackways were being constructed. Regulations on grants to local communities will be looked into. Applications will be overseen by ERYC.
- Bridge road/Boothferry Road A614 roundabout email from parishioner. This item is not within the parish council's jurisdiction. Clerk to pass to ERYC Highways. Agreed traffic does not heed the white lines.
- Projector for viewing planning applications will be collected Friday 4 December 2015.This has been tested and will be added to the asset register.
- CCTV: a recent burglary in the village and mystery vehicles driving around are causing concerns. CCTV is a possible solution, recording vehicle numbers of cars entering and leaving the village . There are charges then an annual maintenance fee. Careful consideration is needed as there are privacy implications for residents. To be examined as from the January 2016.
- Queen's 90th Birthday: A dinner party with A Last Night of the Proms theme will be organised by a small committee and held on 11 June 2016 to celebrate the occasion. It will be publicised in the Airmyn News.
- The community payback programme has done a wonderful job and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks.
- A black salt bin at The Crossings still needs filling up in case of bad weather.
- The dyke at the end of the 30mph limit needs attention. C Fox will look into the matter.

Date of the next meeting: 13 January 2016

*For further information contact **Nichola Ingleton** Clerk) 07557 166909/airmynpc@gmail.com. For the full minutes from this meeting, please see the village noticeboard or the village website - www.airmynpc.org.uk*

INFORMATION BOARD

BUSES stop by request in Airmyn

A = Arriva (400) U = Utopia (8) Mon – Fri

	A	A st	A sh	U	U
Selby BS	0725	0825	0833	0935	1135
Airmyn	0800	0908	0908	1010	1210
Goole H	0807	0915	0915	1015	1215
Goole N	0815	0923	0923	1025	1225

	A sc	A
Selby BS	1635	1720
Airmyn	1719	1755
Goole H	1726	1802
Goole N	1734	1810

	A sh	A st	U	U
Goole N	0820	0820	1030*	1230*
Goole H	0828	0828	1015*	1215*
Airmyn	0834	0834	1038	1238
Selby BS	0910	0915	1115	1315

	A	A	
Goole N	1500	1815	* Note this
is			
Goole H	1508	1823	on a circular
Airmyn	1514	1829	route
Selby BS	1554	1905	

st – school term sh – school hols sc – Selby College days

MOBILE LIBRARY

THURSDAY – EVERY 3rd WEEK

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POLICE

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CHURCH CORNER

Christmas Events review:



The Carol Service was led by our Vicar, the Rev. Philip Ball, and seemed to be very much enjoyed by everyone who was there. St. David's was cram-full, which made for a great atmosphere, and this was enhanced still more when the time came to turn off the lights and revert to just candlelight. As ever, the singing contribution from the Airmyn schoolchildren was of high quality and their readers were excellent, crystal-clear and faultless. Our friends from the Goole Christchurch choir, who have been regulars at our evening services for some years now, contributed their own musical items for the occasion and these were also very good indeed. Representatives from several different organisations within the parish played their part by taking responsibility for the other readings. The magic of the Christmas season was brought out in full and the thoughts of everyone in the church were surely focussed for a short while on the events in Bethlehem when Christ was born, just over 2000 years ago.

The Carol-singing around the village also went very well and raised £802 for our church, not quite a record but very good nevertheless. What was most pleasing this year was that we had at least half a dozen newcomers to our group and they all contributed well. To get round the entire village, as we always do, including White City at one extremity and Boothferry at the other, is a demanding and tiring exercise, especially for those who go out on all four evenings, but it is made much easier when we have good numbers of people with us on each occasion, as we did this year. The warmth of the support from the vast majority of our 'customers' is most apparent and it is really rewarding when so many of them choose to stand outside and listen to us for a while.

We sold just over 550 books of Christmas Draw tickets at £2 each this year, the best we have ever done, and after deducting the expenses for printing the tickets and for the hire of the George Dales room for the very well-attended Social Evening, (when the winning tickets were drawn), this initiative will have raised over £1,000 for our church. A full list of the winners is currently on display on the noticeboard in front of the lych-gate at the entrance to the churchyard.

It is the proceeds from the carol-singing and the Christmas Draw which are usually crucial in ensuring that we end up with a slight surplus rather than a deficit in the financial returns for the church for the past year. Everyone's



continued loyal support is therefore much appreciated and it enables us to keep Airmyn's church open and available to you throughout the year.

David Galloway

Airmyn News is published by the Airmyn Village Association and sponsored by Airmyn Parish Council. The views expressed are those of the contributors and do not represent the views of the editor, the Airmyn Village Association or Airmyn Parish Council. Any items for publication should be sent to the editor, **Rachel Shelton**, at rachelshelton18@btinternet.com or **9 Woodland Way, Airmyn**, preferably by the **15th of the month**, to ensure publication in that month's issue. All items must clearly indicate who wishes to have them published. Items without clear provenance will not be published. Please state whether or not you wish your name/address to appear.