

Medibus can get patients to hospital for 8.30am appointments through to 3 pm. Later appointments in the afternoon can be booked for but there will be no return journey, so you will need to make alternative arrangements. Passenger assistants and children go FREE, but the cost of the service is

Bus Pass holders £5 return, £2.50 single

Non-Pass holders £10 return, £5 single

## FATHER CHRISTMAS AT THE POND

This yearly event organised by the Parish Council will take place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Festivities will start at around 6pm and Father Christmas will arrive between 7pm and 7.30pm. Organisation for this event will commence very soon so if you have any requests/suggestions or would like to volunteer your help please let the Clerk know.

Help on the day is always welcome last year the event was touch and go due to the icy pond, luckily with the support of councillors, previous councillors and the clerk breaking the ice in the pond for most of the day ensured this memorable event took place.

Unfortunately, one of our main helpers for this event is no longer here to help so please please let us know if you can spare a few hours. Many of you have attended this event for years and are now still coming along with not only your children but grandchildren.

## CONTACTS

If you are concerned about anything that affects our Village, please let us know. We would love to see you at one of our Parish Council Meetings all the dates are published on the Website <http://www.swanlandparish.org/>

This website aims to allow the Council to communicate more effectively with residents and to provide ways to allow them to contact both the Parish Council and the East Riding of Yorkshire County Council. It will be kept fully updated with items of local concern including access to current planning applications and how you can make your views.

Contact: Parish Clerk 01482 632309

Email: [clerk@swanlandparish.org](mailto:clerk@swanlandparish.org)

Swanland Parish Council,

6 Westerdale Swanland

HU14 3PY



## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2018

### LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN –

As I write this at the start of September, Bellway Homes are about to have a consultation evening prior to submitting their planning application for the land on West Leys Road. Being the eternal optimist, I hope that they do take into account the comments made there and online.

There have been some recent changes to planning rules and one of the consequences of this MAY be that the number of houses that have to be built in Swanland is reduced. We will have to wait and see what happens in that regard.

As you can imagine, from time to time residents complain to me and the Clerk about issues around the village and I am mentioning here three of those.

Before that, I of course want to make a point of thanking the vast majority of villagers who go out of their way to keep their village incredibly well maintained, whether in the vicinity of their home or in the wider area, for the benefit of everyone.

First of all, cars and other vehicles parking on footpaths cause problems for everyone (if they need to walk on the road) but particularly for those with limited mobility (whether or not they need to use a wheelchair) and parents with children in prams. It would be good therefore if everyone could encourage visitors and workmen not to park on the footpath. Of course, if someone is obstructed by such a vehicle then the driver/person in charge commits an offence; so, if that happens to you can always make a complaint to the police (you may want to take a photo as well as recording the registration number, location, time and how you were obstructed as this would be needed for a statement).

Secondly, parking on verges does cause damage to the grass, especially when wet, which is unsightly and creates a poor impression of the village. Another way to make these verges even more attractive is to plant bulbs, which do not need to be expensive. Who knows, with enough interest the Parish Council may consider paying for these.....

Finally, there are still a small number of hedges around the village that encroach onto footpaths which cause problems to those using them. When these are reported to the Clerk, she writes to the resident to encourage them to trim as necessary. When this does not happen, she will inform ERYC who can (and do) cut back the 'offending' shrub where the footpath is part of the highway (as it usually is) – and charge the resident for that work. So please keep an eye on your property, so that you aren't one of those to get such a bill!

Now I wanted to mention the pond. You will have noticed that, with the very hot weather, the water level has been particularly low, putting the fish at risk. This situation has been ameliorated by the aerators bubbling away at the surgery end to increase the oxygen content of the water.

Feeding bread to the ducks is something many remember fondly from their own childhood and so naturally want their children and grandchildren to experience the same. Unfortunately, ducks cannot digest bread and so it just pollutes the water. Feeding them with seed is much better.

I understand that quite a few years ago, we were informed that the number of ducks that would be able to sustain themselves on the pond was just two pairs! A recent count found there were seven males and then a few days later this had doubled to fourteen, with the addition of seven females. As this sudden increase is unusual (as is the parity between sexes), it may be that someone concerned about how aggressive male mallards can be in the breeding season thought this would solve that problem. The reality is that it is unlikely to do so and instead will lead to more deaths in light of the high mortality rate among female mallards. If you want to help protect the pond and its wildlife, please contact the Clerk who can put you in touch with the Pond Partnership.

When the pond water levels are higher, there is rapid leakage of that water and various pieces of work have been done to improve the surrounding of the pond. This has not yet solved the issue and the Parish Council is in the process of getting quotes to assess the integrity of the wall adjacent to the Parish Hall at the back of the pond and to see what work is needed (ERYC have already done some work on the wall in the front of Mere Flats).

Don't forget, Father Christmas has said that he will again be visiting Swanland pond just before Christmas! (Will this have been the first mention of Christmas I wonder?)

**Derek Shepherd**

## **MEDI BUS**

Changes to local bus services have made it more difficult for residents to get to health centres, clinics and hospitals. Working with our ward councillors an extension to the Medibus service has been arranged. Medibus is a dial-a-ride facility – when you have an appointment that you need to get to either ring 03456 445 959 or email [passengerbookings@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:passengerbookings@eastriding.gov.uk) as soon as you can to book a place on the bus. Opening hours for the call centre are 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays.