

FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FINDERN AND HIGHFIELDS



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Photos: Carol Carroll of Findern Footpaths Group

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PARISH ROOMS, THE GREEN, FINDERN DE65 6AA

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Welcome to the first edition of the new newsletter from Findern Parish Council, which aims to keep our residents updated on projects and events happening within our parish.

As we come to the close of one budget year and the start of another, we reflect on past achievements and look ahead for new challenges.

We were pleased to see so many of our residents at our Christmas Lights Switch-On events; both at Highfields and Findern. We take great joy in seeing so many happy, smiling faces as we start the festive season with the lighting up of the trees. Whatever your faith or culture; these beacons of colour and light in the dark, winter months are a welcome sight. We hope to continue this tradition in the winter of 2025 and will update residents on dates for these events in the next edition of this newsletter, which will be published around September time.

Looking back further we recall the great fun that was had at the Party in the Park event last summer on 6 July. We were concerned that the numbers would be low for this outdoor, free event as England was playing its quarter-final in the European Football Championship that evening with kick off at 5pm. Fortunately, England won, and the fans made it to the event in good time to celebrate with music from Abba Express and the fabulous Waking Vegas. The weather was kind; and we danced and sang along to great music, finishing the night off with a loud rendition of 'Sweet Caroline' in support of the winning England team.

We are already planning the next Party in the Park for the summer, so get the date in your diary! Details can be found overleaf along with the details for this year's Easter Egg Hunt and Easter bonnet Event.

We hope that most residents are aware of the public consultation that is taking place around the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Findern Parish. If not, for more details of this please see Page 5 to find out how to have your say on this important document.

The Parish Council is made up of 10 Councillors who are volunteers; we currently have one vacancy on the Council, and we are seeking a community minded individual to fulfil the role of Councillor. If you think this could be you, see Page 5 for more information.

We also highlight in this newsletter, the Findern Footpaths Group, who work tirelessly across the parish on our Rights of Way footpaths and on the nature reserve sites, south of the village. The group are always looking for volunteers for their work parties so if you love nature and the fresh air, see details on Page 7 on how to get involved.

In this newsletter we provide on Page 4, a specific update on Highfields activity; however, Members of the Parish Council look forward to working on behalf of both communities in 2025.

**Councillor Tammy Brown
Chairman of Findern Parish Council**

FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL

invite all to come along to a **FREE EVENT**
on **FRIDAY, 18 APRIL 2025 11am - 1pm**

Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet Competition

at Findern Village Hall,
Castle Hill, Findern DE65 6AL

If coming by car, please think about car sharing; and park responsibly,
respecting residents' access to their driveways.

There will be Games, Competitions and
Children's Entertainment by Dream Parties.
We hope to see you there! **ALL WELCOME.**

FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTS

Party in the Park

LIVE MUSIC • ENTERTAINMENT • ICE CREAM • BURGERS • HOT DOGS

FEATURING

SUGAR TREE - DUO WITH A LATIN TWIST
and

THE MONEY - ROCK 'N' ROLL INFUSED 4 PIECE BAND

**Free
Entry**

Saturday 5 July 2025

FINDERN
HILLSIDE PLAYING FIELD

Doors open at 6pm
Entertainment from 7pm until 10.30pm

For more information residents can email: clerk@findernparishcouncil.org or telephone: 07444 085807

UPDATE ON HIGHFIELDS

Since breaking ground around 2016, we have watched as Highfields has grown into a vibrant community of about 1040 properties with a commercial centre for shops and services; and a Primary School.

This large development involved four major building companies; Barratts and David Wilson Homes; Taylor Wimpey, and Miller Homes; with the later addition of a smaller development by Meadowview Homes.

Residents will be aware the ongoing plan for the management of the green areas and Public Open Space is for these areas to be handed over to Greenbelt Group Ltd. with each household being charged an annual service fee. It should be noted that not all areas have been handed over yet; the Mackworth Road play area and sports pitch are still to be completed; also, the balance ponds (SuDs) and some of the ditches are not yet the responsibility of the Greenbelt Group. The Parish Council continues to monitor the progress on these; liaising with the consortium of builders and South Derbyshire District Council to seek a satisfactory completion of these areas.

The challenge for the Parish Council is where and how we can add value to the development with additional services and amenities; we do not have responsibility for any of the land on Highfields, therefore we have to seek permission for anything we want to do there.

Around 2020, we recognised the need for some dog waste bins on the development. No such items were included in the plans; therefore, the Parish Council stepped in and over a couple of years managed to get the relevant permissions from the consortium of builders to site (and manage) eight much needed dog waste bins at different sites around the development.

The Parish Council is also keen to site general waste bins, benches, planters and grit bins across the development. However, for the moment, we have been asked to put on hold any plans, until all the Public Open Space is completed and Highways at Derbyshire County Council have adopted the roads and pavements. It will then will be clear what street furniture and amenities are still required; also, seeking permissions to action plans should be easier!

The Parish Council is pleased that for the last three years we have been able to provide a festive tree with lights. Each year planning for this, and seeking the permissions to site the tree start in the spring! Thanks must go the consortium of builders who gave us the permission for the tree pit to be installed; and the continued support from Greenbelt Group Ltd. who have helped fund the purchase of the tree each year. We hope to continue this tradition with the accompanying Light Switch-On event becoming a popular occasion in the calendar for Highfields residents. The planning has already started for 2025!

We would welcome any suggestions from Highfields' residents on what would make things better for you. The Parish Council is always available to help with any issues or concerns. We may not have direct responsibility for these, but we will try to point you in the relevant direction or lobby on your behalf.

Contact the Clerk by Email: clerk@findernparishcouncil.org or Mob: 07444 085807



Be Extraordinary Become a Parish Councillor

Would you like to:

Make a difference for local people?

Give something back to your community?

Help shape change for the benefit of your local area?

For more details contact the Clerk to Findern Parish Council: -

Email: clerk@findernparishcouncil.org or Mob: 07444 085807

Parish Councillor Vacancy

No special qualification is required to be a councillor. It is important that all sorts of people serve as councillors so that all parts of the community are represented. Training for new councillors is also available to help you understand the responsibilities of the role.



PLANNING AHEAD
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
FOR FINDERN PARISH

SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE INFORMATION...



We have reached the **PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION STAGE** for the Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Findern Parish. We are asking residents across all of the parish, from Highfields, to Findern village, and everywhere in between to take a look at the Plan and give us their views on it.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: 10 MARCH to 25 APRIL 2025

A Neighbourhood Plan gives communities the opportunity to take a pro-active role in developing a shared vision for their neighbourhood and to shape the development and growth of their local area; they are asked to consider the local issues and concerns that affect them, their families, and their neighbours; and to identify what it is about their neighbourhood that they value and want to protect. To find out more, follow the QR link above or visit : -

<https://www.findernparishcouncil.org/neighbourhood-plan/pre-submission-consultation-march-2025/>

WARM WELCOME TUESDAYS

at Findern Village Hall, Castle Hill, Findern DE65 6AL

Warm Welcome is a weekly community event that takes place every Tuesday between 12noon and 2pm at Findern Village Hall. You can enjoy a light lunch and have the opportunity to socialise. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.

The volunteers provide a warm and friendly environment for the community to come along and enjoy the company, and have some warm food and tea & coffee and cake. All are welcome, you do not need to live in the parish to come along to join in the group.

We hope to see you there. No need to book!

Warm Welcome is one of many activities that take place at the Village Hall; others include: -

Girl Guiding - Rainbows, Brownies, & Guides meet on Monday's during term time.

Rainbows 4:30pm - 5:30pm : Brownies 5:30pm - 7pm : Guides 7pm - 9pm

Indoor Bowls Club - An over 50's friendly and social group who play in Findern Village Hall all year round on Thursday afternoons 1:45 until 4pm. They also play on Monday afternoons same time, same place. from October until March.

FitSteps® - an energetic, upbeat dance class designed to achieve real, measurable, fitness results. No partner or experience needed, suitable for all ages and abilities. Classes on a Tuesday at 10:30am and Thursday at 7pm.

Findern & Friends WI - meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at Findern village hall. 7.30pm-9.30pm All welcome. A full programme with guest speakers, games, crafts, outings. Also include walks, book club, lunch group, and others.

Pilates with Amanda Supple - Pilates class on Tuesdays from 6pm - 7pm. Pilates improves core strength, flexibility, mobility, posture and balance. Suitable for all ages and abilities, including beginners.

Dancing Digits - is a revolutionary learning programme for young children. Dancing Digits classes give children the chance to have fun with numbers and shapes through Movement, Music & Dance. Class is on a Wednesday: 9.40am – 11.10am

Net & Natter - Walking netball is a slower version of the game designed so that anyone can play regardless of age, ability, gender or fitness level. Our social sessions are fun and flexible Every Wednesday starting 11.30am - 1pm. First session FREE, £4.00 thereafter (No need to book, just come along!)

Chair Yoga on a Thursday 9.30am – 10.30am

Tai Chi on a Friday 9.30am – 10.45am

Karate - Astral Sports Karate Club offers the most effective form of self-defence. We combine the ancient system of Karate, with modern boxing to form Sports Kickboxing and Sports Karate. Wednesday's @ 6pm

Adult Line Dancing Class for beginners. £7 per person, pay as you go. All are welcome, just come along in comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring some water. Thursday's 11:30am - 12:30pm.

Broadway Boogie - this new class is suitable for any fitness level. Classes will be every Thursday 6pm to 6:45pm.

Findern Quiz Group - Come and have fun testing your knowledge! Sundays 7pm - 9:30pm.

For more information on these activities visit <https://findernvillagehall.org/events>



Photo: Findern Footpaths Group

Findern Footpaths Group is a group of volunteers working within the parish on several environmental projects. We look after a number of Public Rights of Way in the parish ensuring they are kept clear for walkers to enjoy the beautiful countryside and we promote and maintain a number of wildlife areas for the community to visit and appreciate nature.

We are always looking for volunteers to join us, so why not come along and take part in one of our regular work parties, which take place every Saturday and Wednesday from 9:30am till 11:30 am.

We use this time to continue the development and maintenance of footpaths and wildlife areas and woodlands at Cote Close, Cardales Meadow, Stanhope Wood and Stanhope Hole.

With the start of warmer weather work parties have been planting trees and shrubs at Stanhope Wood; and working on the eco-garden at Stanhope Hole; both off Crow Park Way, close to the Trent & Mersey canal.

If you would like to volunteer some of your time and energy to help our community and to enjoy the wonderful outdoor areas of the parish, you are very welcome to join us.

For further information please drop us a message from our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FindernFootpathsAndConservation> or email us at findernfootpaths@outlook.com

Mike Barber
Chairman of Findern Footpaths Group



Hold the date for Findern Village Fete

Saturday 12 July 2025 12 noon – 4pm

We are looking for help with this event. Would you like to join the planning team?

Please email findernvillagehall@outlook.com for more information

FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL has 10 Members, who are all volunteers. The Council meets usually once a month to discuss issues in the parish and seek resolutions; also, to progress planned projects across the parish. Members are elected every 4 years in local elections; although, from time-to-time, vacancies do occur and the Council will seek to recruit new Members on to the Council. There is currently one vacancy.

Members of the Parish Council: -

- Councillor Tammy Brown (Chairman) F
- Councillor Mike Ratcliffe (Vice-Chairman) F
- Councillor Baldip Dosanjh F
- Councillor Graham Cooke H
- Councillor Hans Hettmann H
- Councillor Simon Holmes F
- Councillor Yasmin Hughes H
- Councillor Christine Smith H
- Councillor Martin Woodhouse F

F = Village resident H = Highfields resident

Clerk to the Parish Council: Kate Sharpe

For all matters related to the Parish Council, contact the Clerk in the first instance on: -

Email: clerk@findernparishcouncil.org **Mob:** 07444 085807

The Parish Council meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, with no meeting in August.

The venue for all the meetings is Findern Methodist Hall, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD

Meeting dates for 2025 are as follows: -

10 April 2025	11 September 2025
8 May 2025	9 October 2025
12 June 2025	13 November 2025
10 July 2025	11 December 2025

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

for Willington & Findern Ward

COUNCILLOR MARTYN FORD

Party: Conservative

Ward: Willington & Findern

Email: martyn.ford@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Telephone No: 01283 701627

Mobile Telephone No: 07751548603

COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSON

Party: Labour

Ward: Willington & Findern

Email: ian.hudson@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Mobile Telephone No: 07764430641

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

for Etwall and Repton Division

COUNCILLOR MARTYN FORD

Party: Conservative

Division: Etwall and Repton

Email: martyn.ford@derbyshire.gov.uk

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Mobile Telephone No: 07748920132

(ELECTIONS MAY 2025)