

Newtown Linford Magazine

ISSUE NUMBER 182

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March 2021

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The Bradgate

Group Parish



March 2021

We're all used to waiting, at the moment, even more than usual. Whether it's in the queue in Morrison's or waiting for the delivery to arrive, or for results back from tests (of whatever kind). Waiting – even with superfast broadband speeds and next-day delivery – is an inevitable part of life. But few of us enjoy it. We try to eliminate it whenever possible. We invented the microwave because a traditional oven just isn't quick enough at times; HS2 is still on the table because two hours from Birmingham to London is just too long. Waiting is something we'd definitely like to eradicate. But some people tell me that waiting can be a good thing. That waiting can make the moment more enjoyable when it arrives. That patience is a virtue. I have to admit, if stuck at a traffic light I'm not always convinced they're right.

We're approaching Easter - Good Friday and Easter Sunday: on one Jesus died, on the other he rose again. Both events are of enormous significance to me and, I believe, to the world. But why did nothing happen on Saturday? Why the third day, not the second? Why the wait?

I'm not sure I have the perfect answer, but I do think that there is something meaningful about that day. In a sense Christians still live on Easter Saturday. Jesus has died, and in dying has dealt with what separated me from God so I can now know my Father. But the promise of knowing God is that one day we'll also rise to the new life Jesus had. Yes, we can experience it now, but one day it will be fulfilled. So we wait, and sometimes nothing seems to happen. Sometimes patience, particularly in times like this, is needed. But we look forward with assured hope to an Easter Sunday of our own.

Richard Trethewey
Rector of St Peter's Glenfield
and All Saints', Newtown Linford
0116 287 1604



Coffee & Cake News

Zoom meetings still on and great fun for anyone who would like to join up Joe Costello organises them and will talk you through how to sign in. It's lovely to see faces you can't at the moment, with all their news and banter!

The Fish & Chip Van will be back! Unfortunately the weather meant that February's visit had to be cancelled due to the snow but will be here for the 2nd Saturday of March and each month thereafter. Deliveries are still available to the elderly who need it in lock down.

If anyone would like a jigsaw to do we are doing a 'jigsaw swap' please drop one into Gable Cottage (next to the school left hand side) and pick another one up or call 01530 243433 and I can deliver and pick up if you are not leaving the house



Until then stay safe all. Please let me know if you need help or are feeling low and make sure you call your friends and neighbours regularly.

Best Wishes to you all

Carol Ann.

Fish and Chip van visits the village

Carolyn has organised the fish and chip van to come to the village outside The Linford on Saturday 13th March from 5pm.

Ring direct on 07710 166800 to place your order. You will be given a collection time. You can pay by having the exact cash or by contactless card on the night. Carolyn or Carol Ann will again deliver to villagers who are housebound or shielding/vulnerable, but you must have your order delivered between 5 and 5.30pm. Please ring them on 01530 249173 or 243433 to organise delivery.

Menu and prices

Cod £5.50; Chips £2.50 & £3.50, Sausage £2; Battered Sausage £2,
Scampi £4 Chicken Nuggets £3.50; Peas £1, Curry sauce £1
Red Shrimp (with a thai sweet chilli dip) £4,

The fish and chip van will then continue to visit on the 2nd Saturday of each month. **PLEASE NOTE YOU MUST RING UP AND PREORDER**

The Bradgate At time of press, The Bradgate like other pubs and restaurants are closed due to COVID. Takeaways are now available: served all day during food service times of 12 - 8.30pm Tuesday - Saturday / 12 - 6 Monday and Sunday.

Call 01530 242239. Order and pay over the phone.

Village Archive: Extract from White's Directory of Leicestershire 1863

I recently found this in the archive, it is a beautifully handwritten copy of the extract:-

Newtown Linford: - 5.2 miles North West of Leicester is a pleasant village picturesquely seated at the South Eastern side of Charnwood Forest on the banks of a forest rivulet and near the entrance of Bradgate Park. This is often visited by the lovers of wild romantic scenery. The Parish contains 502 inhabitants and 3911 acres of land including Holgate, High Lees and Roecliffe and other scattered farms around Bradgate Park and among the rocky hills of Charnwood Forest. The soil is generally peat but has been greatly improved by draining and is the property of the Earl of Harrington and Stamford who is the Lord of the Manor formerly held by the Hastings family by grant of Edward 1Vth. Roecliffe Hall, a handsome mansion, which was enlarged in 1841, occupies a bold acclivity on the East side of Charnwood 2 miles N by E of Newtown Linford and 6 miles NW of Leicester. It is one of the seats of Sir Frederick William Heygate Bart MP for Londonderry, but is generally occupied by his brother Hon Unwin Heygate Esquire MP for Leicester. Its pleasant grounds are thickly wooded and command highly picturesque views. The Heygate family is descended from Thomas Heygate whose grandson recorded his pedigree visitation of London in 1634. The first baronet was Lord Mayor of London in 1822 and was Chamberlain of the City in 1843. He died in 1844 and was succeeded by his son the present baronet.

The Church (All Saints) is a small ancient structure with a tower and four bells. It was repaired and had a new South porch added at a cost of £120 in 1860. The West window is a good example of the decorated style. At the entrance to the Churchyard is a stone (*now in the Church*) on which are cut the capital and small letters of the alphabet and also the numeral figures. This one had long been used as a sort of textbook by a mason when it was purchased by a poor illiterate man to be fixed over his grave. The benefice is a Rectory valued at £100. The Earl of Harrington and Stamford is the patron and the Rev Robert Martin M A of Ashby Pastures is the incumbent for whom the Rev Joseph Allen of Groby officiates. An infant school (*Sunday School Rooms*) was built by the late Earl in 1822 and is supported by the present Earl and the Rector.

In 1800, Mary Heard left £600 for the poor of Newtown Linford, Anstey and Illston on the Hill and it was invested in the purchase of £1042.5s 3% Consols. The yearly dividends £31.5.10 are divided in equal portions in the three Parishes and given away in underclothing for the poor.

Foot post from Loughborough at 10am returns at 4 in the afternoon.

1863 Residents: -

Beck James, Vict (*Victualler*) Bradgate Arms
Clarkson Mrs Mary Ann.
Goadby Jane, Blacksmith.
Greasley Wm, Carrier to Leicester Saty (*Saturday*).
Green Edw Mortimer, Solicitor, Oaks Cottage.
Johnson Henry, Joiner.
Martin Francis, Gamekeeper.
Matts Joseph, Tailor & Draper.
Richardson George, Asst Overseer.
Rudkin Wm, Bricklayer.
Shaw James & Rbt, Timber dealers.
Shaw Thomas, Timber dealer & Grocer.
Shaw Thomas, Timber dealer & Grocer.
Smith Francis, Parish Clerk.
Wesley Geo, Jas, & Joseph, Shoemakers.
Wesley Thomas Miller, Baker & Grocer.
Woolley John Brick & Tile Maker Rothley Plain

Farmers & Graziers; -

Astill James, High Lees.
Bacon Samuel, Rice Rocks.
Beck Thomas, Rice Rocks.
Glover Sarah, Rice Rocks
Burchnall Thos, Holgate Lodge.
Frith Mary, Benscliffe.
Gray Joseph, Benscliffe.
Johnson Alice, Benscliffe.
Hackney William, Black Hill.
Matts John.
Matts John Shepley, Grazier & Butcher.
Renals Thomas.
Skevington Joseph, Rothley Plain.
Thompson Thomas, The Oaks.
Wain Sarah, High Lees
Walton Richard, Fieldhead.
Watson John, Blakeshay

Without checking the appropriate Census I can't confirm this is a complete list of all residents but the village was obviously a great deal smaller than it is now.

Iris Sayer



Information from David Snartt.

Nationwide Building Society.

Along with my councillor colleagues Deborah Taylor and Paul Baines, I have been corresponding with the decision makers at the Nationwide Building Society about their decision to close Anstey branch. I was grateful to the Daily Mail for raising this issue in the national press (photograph courtesy of Money Mail). I am also pleased that Deborah started a petition which has shown the strength of feeling by local residents against this closure decision.

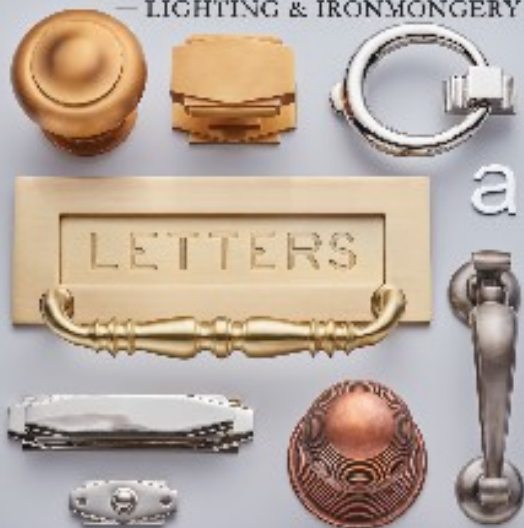


I am still in the process of trying to reverse this decision. In my view, they have not grasped the detrimental effect this closure will have on local communities, not just Anstey but the smaller surrounding villages. I believe this will hit the elderly and disabled who rely on public transport. It is unreasonable to say they can access other branches, especially the poor links with the current bus timetables which exist today. In my opinion, it is not good enough for them to suggest 'the impact assessment provides a map to the next nearest branch to Anstey, as well as links to the County Council, so members can plan their own trip. Although we are unable to provide transport services for disabled members to access other local branches, if these members do need to come into branch the investment we are spending on the surrounding branches will make them



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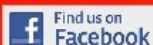


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much easier to use'. I believe this shows how out of touch Nationwide are with this closure.

It was interesting when this matter was printed in the Daily Mail there was also an article from an ex-bank manager about bank closures, who stated 'despite their glossy advertising, banks no longer care'. This seems to be the case with Nationwide, who in their December newsletter to members stated 'Our promise to you. We passionately believe in communities, that's why we've made a promise to keep a branch in every town and city we currently serve until at least 2023. We hope this brings some reassurance to our members when the last thing any of us need is more uncertainty'. In my opinion, Nationwide are doing just that with the Anstey branch closure.

Council Tax.

Charnwood Borough Council are proposing to raise its share of Council Tax by less than 9p a week for a Band D property. The proposed increase would see the annual charge for an average Band D property rise by £4.45p (3.60%) to £131.08p from 1st April .

The Council's Cabinet will consider the proposed budget plans with its recommendations due to go before Full Council on Monday 22nd February. The proposed final budget for 2021/22 is around £19 million. The Covid-19 pandemic has added significant costs and a reduced income from various areas, including car parks, leisure centres and Loughborough Town Hall.

Charnwood Borough Council has the 23rd lowest Council Tax charge out of 188 District Councils in the country.

Government Grants to Businesses.

Around £43 million in government grants has been paid to businesses in Charnwood to support them during the pandemic. Charnwood Borough Council has been responsible for distributing the grants since the start of the national crisis last year. Whilst the grants have proved a lifeline to many businesses, the work is far from done and the Council says it will continue to get funding to eligible businesses as swiftly and securely as possible. It recently paid the first wave of new lockdown grants to 900 local companies totalling over £6 million. May I encourage all businesses to check for which funding they may be eligible. More information about Covid-19 business grants is available on the Council's website.

www.charnwood.gov.uk/cvbusiness.

Lateral Flow Testing.

Rapid community testing for Covid-19 is now available in Loughborough,

for key workers and those who cannot work from home. A testing site has been set up at Gorse Covert in Maxwell Drive, Loughborough. One in three people who have coronavirus show no symptoms. Rapid lateral flow testing, led by Leicestershire County Council public health team, can quickly identify individuals and stop the spread of infection. Rapid testing is only for those who are eligible, who don't have symptoms and are already isolating. If you do have symptoms, or have been told to self-isolate, then you should not attend. It is open to key workers and anyone else in the County who currently cannot work from home.

For more information on this important testing and details how to book a test, visit the Leicestershire County Council website.

Coronavirus

I thought since our Village Magazine is kept as a record of village life, and that as we look back at previous editions we should put in a little more about the epidemic that has been facing us for the past year, for future generations. I am sure as villagers we are responsible citizens following government guidelines and if we have not had our vaccination yet are ready and hopeful for the day to come.

As of the 17th February it was reported by Press release from the University Hospitals of Leicester that they can confirm that 1,241 patients being cared for at our hospitals, and who had tested positive for COVID-19, have died. 89 of those deaths have been announced since last Wednesday (10 February). The ages of the patients ranged between those in their 30s to those in their 90s., and who had tested positive for Covid-19, have died.

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Newtown Linford Choral Society



Many village residents who have attended our Summer Concerts will have been amused by the stories told by our regular compere, Len Matthews. He has travelled down from his home in Derbyshire to present these concerts since 2002, but has now decided that it is time for him to retire on account of his age - 87 next birthday. We have counted ourselves as very lucky to have had his services for so many years, and he will be greatly missed.

Compering was Len's post retirement hobby, following his previous employment in the Derbyshire Police Training Department. In this role he has been very much in demand by choral groups in all parts of the UK, including a concert at the Barbican in London featuring the Swingle Singers. In addition he was the regular compere for the close harmony group 'Yesteryear' who appeared on TV.



The Choral Society is continuing with its weekly online rehearsals during lockdown, and our Director Sue Ford's next project is to produce a 'virtual choir' video of music appropriate for Easter — watch this space for more news about where you will be able to see this!

Peter Sayer



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Village Coffee and Cake

I was feeling slightly despondent and felt it too cold to venture out straight away so I would like to say thank you to Phil for the Parkin recipe. I've never made it before but as you can see from photo the appearance isn't too bad and it tastes delicious (to me anyway).

I also made the orange almond recipe last month so again thanks.

One Happy Villager

Note from Editor

I spotted Parkin at the Co-Op In late October 2019, and bought some as a reminder of my past (always used to have it on Bonfire Night "UP NORTH"). As no one in the family likes it, I took it to work to share with my colleagues. Imagine my surprise when no one had had it before (or heard of it). It must be a more northern recipe. Highly recommend it. If you have no longer got your February magazine - get the recipe from it on the Parish Website. Past Magazines can be found there.



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THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST



The meeting by Zoom at 7.30 pm on 15th March will be given by Martyn Speight on 'The Tucker's Family and their Loughborough Brickmaking' and aims to unpack key family members, works locations, their wider role in the town and their Charnwood Water legacy. Many houses in the vicinity were built with Tucker's bricks, which were also used in the building of St Pancras station. Many of you have probably walked around Charnwood Water, the legacy left by their brickworks.

The April meeting, also by Zoom, at 7.30pm on Monday 19th April, will be on the Trees of Charnwood Forest, given by Simon Greenhouse, the Woodland Officer for the National Forest Company. This will hopefully prepare us for some summer outings if this proves possible.

The necessary links will be sent to members of the Friends of Charnwood Forest. Anyone else who wishes to participate should contact the membership Secretary, mem@focf.org.uk

Marilyn Palmer, Events Officer

Friends of Charnwood Forest

Charnwood Water is a former clay pit situated off Tuckers Road, Loughborough.

Offering a lovely scenic wooded walk around the lake. It covers an area of some 27 acres



BRADGATE TEAM SUNDAY SERVICES



DATE	GLENFIELD	NEWTOWN
7th March 2nd Sunday of Lent		
	10.15am Online Service	10.30am Online Service
14th March Mothering Sunday		
	10.15am Online Service	10.30am Online Service
21st March 5th Sunday of Lent		
	10.15am Online Service	10.30am Online Service
28th March Palm Sunday		
	10.15am Online Service	10.30am Online Service

All public worship in our churches is currently suspended for the time being but our services online via facebook and our service phonenumber will continue .

Online Services

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsnewtownlinford/live>

<https://www.facebook.com/stpetersglenfield/live>

CHURCH REGISTERS

FUNERALS



28 January - Rose Hurd

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends, and pray that they may find peace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church Contact Details

Revd Richard Trethewey
(Rector) 0116 287 1604 richard@allsaintsnewtownlinford.org.uk

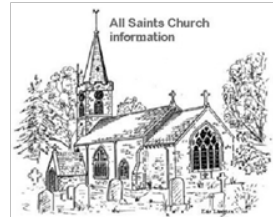
Revd Sharon Andrews , (Curate)
sharon@allsaintsnewtownlinford.org.uk

Hayley Moore (Church Administrator) 0116 239 3768
office@bradgatechurches.org.uk
www.allsaintsnewtownlinford.org.uk

Church Wardens: Michele Petty, m.petty@ulverscroft.co.uk,
Jane Woolmer, ejwoolmer@gmail.com.

Regular Events - Bell ringer's practice: Monday 8pm (cancelled)

Website: www.allsaintsnewtownlinford.org.uk



All Saint's Church still has some of the old blue pew cushions to give away. They are suitable for garden use, forest school or anything else you can think of, it would be better if they did not end up in landfill. If you are interested please contact Jane Woolmer - ejwoolmer@gmail.com / 0116 2355236



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Wildflower Meadows

A century ago, animal husbandry was simple. Farmers had fields which grew grass during the summer; then, at the end of the season, the grass was cut, dried and stored as hay to feed sheep and cattle over the winter. Although the main crop was grass, many wildflowers such as buttercups and yellow rattle also grew. The cropping regime permitted the wildflowers to flower and set seed before harvesting.

The development of chemicals has changed all this; fields are now planted with rye grass and fertilised, allowing several crops of grass to be cut during the summer. The grass is also fermented and made into silage, rather than stored as hay.

While this change has increased agricultural efficiency, it has had a significant side-effect: the rye grass out-competes the wildflowers which also cannot survive regular cutting, and as a result our fields now look green rather than being multi-coloured. And because there are few wildflowers, there are few insects which rely on their nectar for food, neither habitat nor food for ground-nesting birds such as skylarks and a general reduction in biodiversity. As a result the number of wildflower meadows has drastically reduced; Plantlife estimates that 97% of meadows have been lost in the last century.

We are lucky in this area: the Ulverscroft valley is an area where wildflower meadows still exist. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust owns Lea Meadows and Herbert's Meadow, both with a good variety of wildflowers including orchids, while other sympathetic landowners have eschewed the high intensity cultivation route. The photograph shows buttercups, spotted orchids and stitchwort at Lea Meadows. The field beside the footpath up towards Tyburn from the Village (starting opposite the village pump), and owned by Bradgate Park Trust, is another good example.

With the recent removal of large amounts of bracken, Bradgate Park would also be a good site for wildflowers were it not for the grazing pressure from the deer. One cannot have everything.

We cannot turn back the clock. Like the rest of us, farmers need to make a living. But we can all do our bit, and the Newtown Linford Biodiversity Group, in collaboration with the Parish Council, are exploring the creation of wildflower meadows within the Parish.

The first area has been in existence for several years, on the verge in Markfield Lane. This area is managed in the old-fashioned way: with a single cut of grass towards the end of the summer. While as a result the

area looks “untidy” it is also colourful and beneficial, in a small way, to our wildlife.

Part of the churchyard is being turned into a wildflower meadow, and we are exploring making the triangular area of land at the Anstey end of the village, next to the corner of Bradgate Park, another wildflower meadow, although this

will involve discussions with Bradgate Park, the landowner. And finally, we can all make a difference. We made our lawn more sympathetic to wildflowers by the simple expedient of avoiding chemicals,



both weed killers and fertilisers, and initially regular mowing, with the clippings removed to take away the fertility. Now the mowing is more sympathetic and occasional, to allow the wildflowers to grow and flower without letting the lawn get out of hand.

Toby Manning

Looking to sell? We're looking to buy!

We're a couple of young professionals looking to buy our first house together.

Location is really important to us, so we don't mind if the property needs some work doing to it. Ideally, we would need a minimum of three bedrooms and a garden. Our favourite locations are: Newtown Linford, Cropston, Woodhouse Eaves

Please message Emily on 07964608384 in the first instance with details and images. Our budget is around £300k.. Thank you! Emily



The following crime statistics were recorded during January and received from PCSO Mitch Jarvis:

1 x Theft of personal belongings taken from a household – no suspects.



This month's Neighbourhood Watch update comes from Leicestershire County Council Trading Standards and although not all warnings are crime related, it contains

some important information for all residents:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/trading-standards>

Scams and Doorstep Crime

Scam savvy

Criminals are turning to more sophisticated ways to steal your money, whether it's through online offers, emails, texts or phone calls.

Check how scam savvy you are by taking a quiz, where you can also learn how to make a confident challenge when faced with unexpected requests for your money and personal information.

See if you can outsmart the criminals: <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>

Doorstep alert

Police officers in North West Leicestershire are warning residents to be on their guard after a pensioner in their area was charged £60 for a small number of cleaning products.

These doorstep scammers often target the elderly and vulnerable and will often portray an untrue account of their difficult lives to persuade the resident to part with more money. It's a scam.

Please keep an eye on elderly or vulnerable neighbours and family members.

Never feel pressured to buy anything. We always advise not to open the door to strangers and don't agree to buy goods or services on the doorstep.

The police are advising members of the public to call them if you spot these doorstep scammers on 101 or 999 in case of an emergency.

For further free advice and guidance from the Citizens Advice Consumer helpline, or to report a matter, please call 0808 223 1133. #ScamAware

Scam alert - Fake Covid19 Vaccine Invitation Email

There have been numerous vaccine scams recently. The latest email vaccine scam is where the link will connect you to a fake NHS webpage. Remember, the NHS will contact you when it is your time for a vaccine. The vaccine is free of charge on the NHS and the NHS will never ask for:

- Your bank account or card details

- Your pin or banking password

- Copies of personal documents to provide your identity such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips

If you think you have been a victim of fraud or identity theft, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 #ThinkQuickNeverClick #ScamAware

Courier Fraud

Leicestershire Police have received reports of a courier scam happening around the North West Leicestershire area.

Courier fraud occurs when a fraudster contacts victims by telephone, purporting to be a police officer or bank official. The caller might be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details such as your full name and address to help substantiate the call.

During these uncertain times, please speak to your elderly relatives, neighbours and friends and warn them that this is happening.

The police are advising members of the public to call them if you spot these fraudsters on 101 or 999 in case of an emergency.

For further free advice and guidance on scams or consumer issues, or to report a matter, call the Citizens Advice Consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133. #ScamAware

Safety recall

Various products are recalled due to safety concerns - why not check them out on the website below

<https://www.tradingstandards.uk/consumers/product-recalls-and-safety-notices?>

Product registration

If you have bought any household appliances recently, please register them for free at <https://www.registermyappliance.org.uk/>

Registering is a wise safety precaution. This means that you will never miss out on appliance safety recalls, keeping your family and property safe.

Button Cell Batteries

A BBC article reports on the dangers of button cell batteries after an 11-month-old girl had one lodged in her throat for four months.

Button cell batteries are used in everyday electrical items from watches to remote controls, key fobs, toys and novelty gifts. In the most extreme cases ingesting these batteries can cause death.

Here are some key messages:

- Store spare batteries securely
- Know which devices use button batteries and ensure they're properly secured
- Keep unsecured batteries or devices away from children
- Ensure children are aware of the dangers
- Safely dispose of dead button batteries immediately
- If you suspect your child has swallowed a battery, take them straight to A&E #StaySafe
- There are battery disposal boxes at all supermarkets - please dispose safely

e-Cigarettes

During recent examinations at East Midlands Airport, Leicestershire Trading Standards officers detained several consignments that contain e-cigarettes, which appears to be a new product that hasn't been authorised for sale in the UK. These products have insufficient labelling and they contain an unknown amount of nicotine. These could be extremely harmful. Always buy from a reputable business.

Food, Feed and Animal Health and Welfare, Avian Influenza

All poultry and captive birds must now be housed to help prevent the spread of Avian Influenza. If you are concerned that a keeper is not following these rules you can report it directly to us via our website: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/trading-standards/avian-flu-in-leicestershire>

First ever cyber security advice for farmers released

Are you a farmer? Or can you send this link to any that you know and help the farming community to stay cyber secure?

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/cyber-security-for-farmers>

For further information and to see all recent recalls, go to: <https://www.tradingstandards.uk/consumers/product-recalls-and-safety-notice>

Leicestershire Trading Standards Service

Tel: 0116 305 8000

Email: tradingstandards@leics.gov.uk

Wishing you all a safe and crime free month ahead.

Keep 'em peeled. Best wishes,

Hannah Shaw, Parish Council Clerk

Tel: 01530 249945, Email: clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk

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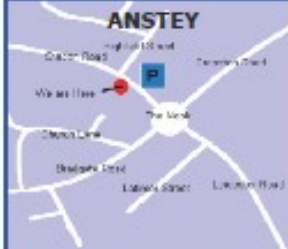
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How to contact the Police
All incidents are to be reported to the Police and **by calling 101**
They will then assess the situation and deal with the situation as they see fit. This may involve a vehicle from another area. If you wish, also advise our NHW coordinator who will circulate if appropriate.

Booking of Village Facilities
To book the Village Hall
call Pat Wood on 242251

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We might still be under restrictions of a national lockdown but for the Parish Council, business continues as normal, albeit through virtual meetings via Zoom.

As it stands, the legislation which allows us to hold virtual meetings during the pandemic, will end on 7th May 2021. It is assumed this will be extended and perhaps to allow hybrid meetings for those who might still be shielding. Regardless, Newtown Linford Parish Council, continues to hold eleven Parish Council meetings per year, including the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, as well as hosting the Annual Parish Meeting

Any member of the public can attend a meeting. These are advertised on the homepage of our website, along with the agendas and minutes. Zoom meeting IDs and passwords are included on all agendas, so please feel free to join us if you wish. However, if you are expecting some drama similar to the 'viral' Handforth saga, you might be disappointed! Newtown Linford Parish Council pride ourselves on how our meetings and business are conducted (and we have all read and understood our Standing Orders!).

Following on from last month's article, a small group of residents have come together to form a Biodiversity Group, focussing on nature and wildlife in the Parish, and led by Community Biodiversity Champion, Claire Costello. So far, three meetings have been held on Zoom to share thoughts, experience and ideas.

Group members are in the process of collecting data on wildlife recorded in the Parish, to help plan where bat, bird and owl boxes and hedgehog hotels might be best placed. If you recall, the Parish Council voted in favour of applying for a SHIRE Environment Grant for the installation of the boxes and hotels, however, as the data collection is more involved than first anticipated, it has been decided to postpone applying until later in the year, when all information has been received. The scheme reopens to new applications again from 1st April 2021 and as soon as we have a clear plan, we will submit our bid.

If you are interested in nature and wildlife and would like to join the group, please do get in touch with Claire or myself. We would also like to hear from families and it is hoped a survey will be delivered to

households in the near future, so you can record your own sightings in gardens and around the Parish.

Staying on the biodiversity theme, you may have noticed the blue hearts displayed at the wildflower area on Markfield Lane. The BLUE Campaign started in 2014 in response to a report on the State of Nature published that year, which highlighted the dramatic decline in biodiversity and biomass across the UK.

The campaign promotes the rewilding of gardens, parks, roadside verges and school grounds. It suggests that part of this ground is set aside and left to grow through the Summer.

A blue heart symbol, made out of recycled materials, is staked in the ground over the area being rewilded. This communicates to neighbours and friends that rewilding is in process and that it is not just the owner or council being lazy!

Interestingly, I was recently informed that Claire's own blue hearts on Markfield Lane, instigated LCC signing up to the BLUE Campaign after a colleague in the Environmental and Preventative Maintenance team at LCC, spotted the hearts whilst out jogging and investigated them. This in turn, will now see wildflower areas and 100 blue hearts extend across 40 parishes in Leicestershire during 2021! Well done, Claire. This is super news!

The area identified for the Wildflower Verge Scheme on Bradgate Road is still under consideration. There was some uncertainty over land ownership, however, we now know the land is part of the Bradgate Park Estate and we are in contact with them to see if they are in support of the project. If all goes to plan, further blue hearts will appear in this location.

Thank you to everyone who alerted me to the recent Big Elm Giveaway offered by East Goscote Nurseries. I'm pleased to report we have been gifted an Elm tree and I will be speaking to Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, to identify a suitable location for its planting.

LCC Highways continue to work through over 200 comments submitted in response to the Traffic Management Consultation.

It is now expected final restrictions will be implemented sometime during April or May when the weather has improved and conditions are better for lining work.

Although the Village currently remains quieter, we have requested a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order be considered for hotspot areas, in time for Easter, particularly if lockdown restrictions are eased before then. We will keep you updated as things progress.

A long awaited dog waste bin has been installed on Main Street to try and tackle issues with dog fouling and resident's personal wheelie bins being used for dog waste. I am now organising signage to further highlight the new addition which has been funded by the Parish Council.

Resident, Jessica Rigg, recently presented Newtown Linford Primary School with a cheque to the value of £325. This generous donation had been in a dormant bank account belonging to the disbanded Newtown Linford Youth Club. It was decided as most of the children who attended the youth club when it was operational, also attended the primary school, current pupils should benefit from the remaining proceeds. Thank you, Jessica and to everyone involved.

Bob Bown Memorial Field

A tree survey will be carried out sometime in March across all Parish Council maintained sites, including the Bob Bown Memorial Field. The purpose of the tree survey is to identify any issues with the trees at the three sites and associated works required.

Cemetery and Churchyard

At the end of March, Registrar of Burials, Pam McMorran, will be retiring from the role. We'd like to thank Pam for all her hard work at the Cemetery and for transferring Cemetery records to electronic format, which has been quite a time consuming task.

My hours will be increasing from 1st April as I take on the role of Registrar.

As a reminder, due to rising maintenance costs of the Cemetery, it has been necessary to review our fees for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 financial years. The increase in charges will be effective from 1st April 2021 and further fee reviews will be carried out bi-annually. The fees remain unchanged between now and April.

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If you are considering purchasing an earthen or ash plot and would like further information, please continue to contact Pam McMorran during March on 01530 242201 or by email to pamriverlyn@msn.com

After this time, please contact myself on 01530 249945 or by email to clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk

Don't forget, should you be unable to visit a loved ones grave at the Cemetery, we are happy to take orders for floral tributes and will lay them on your behalf. Please contact Pam or myself if you would like to make use of this service.

Stay well, stay safe.

Best wishes,

Hannah Shaw, Parish Council Clerk,

Tel: 01530 249945

Email: clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk



Contributions to Village Magazine

Can we have your contributions for the **April 2021** issue by **15th March 2021** please. **Send to the Editor, Carole Heubeck, 5 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford (01530 244790).**
E-mail newtownvillagemagazine@outlook.com & heubeck111@btinternet.com

Please could you send any emails to the above email addresses. If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your email within 3/4 days - please contact Carole, the Editor direct on the above number to check we have received it.

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