

Newtown Linford Magazine

ISSUE NUMBER 171

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February 2020

Paint Wizard



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The Bradgate

Group Parish



February 2020

The builders have moved in! As you can see from the photo, the renovation work in All Saints' is under way. The scaffolding went up, the covers have gone on and by the time you read this the serious work will be well under way.



Those who have seen earlier articles will know what is being done: there's a new dais (platform) going in at the front, to make it easier to host things like the Choral Society concert which filled the Church in December; the complete lighting system is being replaced, so we can see and appreciate the true colours within the building as well as doing our bit for the planet; a new AV system is being installed; and last, but not least, every accessible bit of wall is being painted. As many others have com-

mented, this work is not before time. The need for some form of redecoration has been evident for some time. What hasn't been quite so obvious is some of the more structural work which is underway – the replacement of old wiring for instance.

Sometimes our lives are like our buildings: we can recognise we need a bit of a renovation. Sometimes that can be something as (apparently!) simple as doing a bit more exercise. Sometimes it's about changing a career, or just a job. But sometimes we look at ourselves and realise that the renovation needs to go deeper than just changing some of the surface stuff – painting the walls, if you take the analogy. I have on my shelf a book called 'Renovation of the soul'. Sometimes, like the author, I look at my life and recognise that there are deeper issues which need attention, things which are there which shouldn't be, or things which I'm lacking which might cause a collapse. Things like an anger problem, or an addiction, or an envy problem.

Renewing a building is an incredible task – it takes hard work and great skill. The results are often deeply fulfilling. But the harder task is the renewal of a soul. For that we need help. In the book of Ezekiel, God promises: *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

What renovation work does your soul need? God, and often only God, can help.

VILLAGE DIARY

February

8th Ramblers
25th Gardening Club

Regular events

Monday afternoon	Mature Movers fitness class Village Hall
Mondays 6.30	Brownies, School
Mondays 6.30	Yoga, Village Hall (also Wednesdays)
Mondays 8pm at the Church	Bell Ringing
4th Tuesday of the month	Gardening Club
Wednesdays	Trim N Tone fitness class The Linford
3rd Wednesday of the month	Ladies Luncheon Club
Thursdays 9.15	Jolly Tots Playgroup, Church
Thursdays 11.15	Coffee Mornings for all, Village Hall
Thursday Eves	Bridge Club 9 Main Street
3rd Thursday	Gentlemen's Lunch Club



Coffee & Cake @ Newtown Linford Village Hall
Thursday Morning 11.15am - Free
All Welcome - All Ages



Coffee and Cake Duty Rota

February

6th	Jacqui Marsh, Maria Simms	07904123603
13th	Felicity Manning, Sue Brown, Amanda Sculthorpe	245298/249384/242445
20th	Ann Scrine, Steve & Dave Pratt	242301/589031
27th	Bev Griffiths & Sue Dobby	01509 890264/245366

March

5 th	Iris & Peter Sayer, Glenis Meredith	243822/242897
12 th	School, Judy Rowe, Clare Altridge	243989/243119
19 th	Carol Ann, June Hallam, Sue Howard	243433/Lei 2304808/245373
26 th	Mary, Wes, Sarah Raynor, Jean Deveaux	243042

An opportunity for everyone to catch up on Village news and activities and to meet your fellow neighbours

Rota Volunteers - If you are struggling with putting the Tables and Chairs out for your duty the following have offered to help if around just give them a call

Roger Leech 0116 3480192/Wes Raynor 243042/Joe Costello 249613
 Arthur Harrison 0116 2213845/ Alan Birkett 244317

The first session of Jolly Tots started in the Village Hall on 16th January whilst the Church is being renovated. Thank you to all the Coffee & Cake group for accommodating the youngsters and their families. Welcome to everyone we hope you will stay after Jolly Tots for Coffee & Cake, it is lovely to see all the generations together in one place in the village.

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.

Newtown Linford Choral Society

STABAT MATER: JENKINS

JAZZ MASS: CHILCOTT

Soprano : Bethan Williams

Chamber Orchestra

Musical Director: Sue Ford

7.30pm, Friday 31st January &

Saturday 1st February

St Philip & St James Church, Ratby

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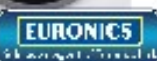
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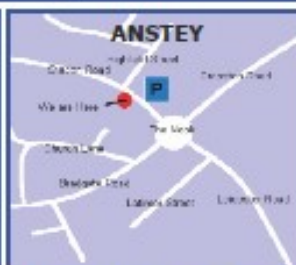
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Newtown Linford Brownies An evening with the Choral Society

On Thursday 19th December 2019, the Brownies went to the Village Hall

to sing with the Choral Society. We all wore festive head bands and hats. Whilst we waited on stage, we listened to the other carols being sung. The time had arrived, it was



our turn to perform. The songs that we sang were Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Jingle Bell Rock and Santa Claus is coming to Town. Everybody sang the Twelve Days of Christmas and the Brownies line was "a partridge in a pear tree".

After that, Brown Owl kindly gave us some chocolates and treats. Then we put on our coats and we strolled outside following Brown Owl to the Christmas tree. All the brownies danced joyfully around the dazzling Christmas tree. It was lots of fun.

Thank you to the Choral Society for inviting us, we really enjoyed it.

The Brownies also attended the Christingle Service at the Church on 8th December. We all made Christingles and lit them during the service. Some of the Brownies ate their sweets from the Christingle.



By Madison Hindocha Cato, age 8 ½.

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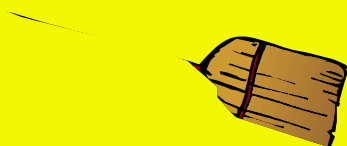
Saturday 14th March 2020

1.30pm in the Village Hall

Admission 50p

Tea and Home Made Cakes

Are you Spring Cleaning?



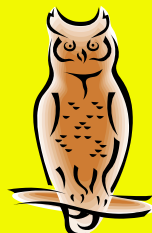
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Hilary - Brown Owl
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Recycling in Charnwood.

I thought it may be interesting to give details on one area of recycling carried out by Charnwood Borough Council: Battery Collections.

The Council operates a kerbside battery collection scheme. Batteries can be put in battery bags provided by the Council. You can put your bagged batteries out for collection on your recycling day, either on top of, or next to your green recycling bin, but not in it. They will be collected by the recycling crews and stored in a small pod at the side of their vehicle. To make the scheme more efficient the Council ask that residents save batteries until they have at least ten to present when a battery bag is collected. A replacement bag will be left, alternatively call 01509 634563 for some bags to be sent to you.

Types of batteries collected will be D, C, AA, AAA, 9v, button, rechargeable, mobile, I pod and hearing aid batteries. The Council cannot accept car or other industrial batteries along with e-cigarette batteries.

Fly Tipping. Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of household and trade waste. It is a criminal offence and can result in unlimited fines and, or five years imprisonment. To investigate, Charnwood Borough Council need as much information as possible. Any help you can give is very important. Please remember: Do not touch fly-tipped waste, it may contain dangerous items such as syringes, broken glass, toxic chemicals or other hazardous substances. There may also be evidence that could identify the culprits. Do visually inspect the waste. I would be grateful if you would let Charnwood Borough Council know where it is located and how much has been fly-tipped. Report any incidents of fly-tipping direct to the Council's Street Management on 01509 634564.

Lady Jane Mobile Home Park. I thought you would be interested in the latest information about the planning application to develop 7 bungalows and a replacement dwelling at 532 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford. I have asked for this application to be determined by a plans committee, until I have a better understanding of the impact this will have, especially the two storey replacement dwelling, on the listed buildings, which includes Rose Cottage. I also stated the need for a mix of two and three bed bungalows. I have also raised the issue of vehicle parking on village streets whilst people visit Bradgate Park. Full details about this application can be found on the Charnwood website under planning application P/19/2119/2. I also note a tree preservation order has been placed on three trees on this site, located close to the south western boundary. These trees make a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the area. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to ensure that the trees are properly protected.

Councillor David Snartt

Bus Service 125.

Following the review of bus services 120 and 155, these services have been combined into one service, 125.

I thought you would be interested in seeing the new timetable which will start on Monday 24th February 2020.

David Snartt.

Information from County Hall

Following review of Services 120 and 155, these two services have been combined into one – Service 125 – with East Midlands Airport no longer being served.

Since the community engagement events held in October 2019, where details of the intended changes were shared, we have reviewed the comments received.

Please note, it is LCC's duty to consider the provision of passenger transport services for areas not served by alternative commercial bus or rail services, to enable them to access essential facilities and services such as food shopping and primary healthcare.

Despite addressing the following issues raised (which will be incorporated into finalised timetables), it will not be possible to meet all journey requirements:

- Last journey from Leicester to Coalville retimed to 17.45 (rather than the proposed 17:30)

Increased time between arrival and return journey in Coalville – Passengers travelling to Coalville on 10.15 journey from Castle Donington will have increased time in Coalville (from 2 hours to 2 hours 15 mins) before making return journey.

Please see attached, change notice containing finalised timetable for the new 125 service (Castle Donington – Leicester via Coalville & Bradgate Park).

This notice will be displayed on relevant buses and bus stops.

Please note, these service changes will take effect from **24th February 2020.**

Kind Regards,

Safe & Sustainable Travel Team
ptps@leics.gov.uk

Service 125

Castle Donington to Leicester via Coalville & Bradgate Park

Operated by Roberts Coaches
Supported by Leicestershire County Council

Service Change

Following review of Services 120 and 155, these two services have been combined into one – Service 125 – with East Midlands Airport no longer being served. The new timetable for Service 125 will be effective from Monday 24th February 2020.

The new Monday to Saturday timetable is shown below:

Castle Donington – Leicester

Castle Donington Bus Station (Stand B)		10:15	14:00	
Isley Walton		10:19	14:04	
Tonge (Station House)		10:20	14:05	
Breedon on the Hill		10:23	14:08	
Worthington		10:30	14:15	
Newbold		10:33	14:18	
Coleorton		10:35	14:20	
Sinope		10:39	14:22	
Coalville Memorial Square Arr		10:57	14:42	
Coalville Memorial Square Dep	07:30	11:00	14:45	16:45
Hugglescote	07:34	11:04	14:49	16:49
Ellistown	07:37	11:07	14:52	16:52
Stanton Under Bardon	07:43	11:13	14:58	16:58
Markfield, Uplands Drive	07:48	11:18	15:03	17:03
Markfield, Markfield Court	07:51	11:21	15:06	17:06
Newtown Linford (For Bradgate Park)	07:53	11:23	15:08	17:08
Anstey	07:58	11:28	15:13	17:13
Glenfield	08:04	11:34	15:19	17:19
Leicester St Margaret's	08:25	11:55	15:40	17:40

Leicester – Castle Donington

Leicester St Margaret's	08:30	12:00	15:45	17:45
Glenfield	08:42	12:12	15:57	17:57
Anstey	08:48	12:18	16:03	18:03
Newtown Linford (For Bradgate Park)	08:53	12:23	16:08	18:08
Markfield, Markfield Court	09:01	12:31	16:16	18:16
Markfield, Uplands Drive	09:08	12:38	16:23	18:23
Stanton Under Bardon	09:13	12:43	16:28	18:28
Ellistown	09:19	12:49	16:34	18:34
Hugglescote	09:22	12:52	16:37	18:37
Coalville Memorial Square Arr	09:25	12:55	16:40	18:40
Coalville Memorial Square Dep	09:30	13:15		
Sinope	09:36	13:21		
Coleorton	09:40	13:25		
Newbold	09:44	13:29		
Worthington	09:47	13:32		
Breedon on the Hill	09:54	13:39		
Tonge (opp Station House)	09:57	13:42		
Isley Walton	09:58	13:43		
Castle Donington Bus Station (Stand B)	10:12	13:57		

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Ramblers

DECEMBER VILLAGE WALK Saturday 14.12.19

Our December walk started earlier than usual, at 11.00, due to the shortened daylight hours in the afternoon.

Eleven of us set off from the Village Hall and we walked to the Tyburn entrance to the park and then along the permissive path on the outside of the park wall, to Hunts Hill. We then went through the car park and along Benscliffe Road, turning right along the Leicestershire Round. We walked through the wood and across Lingdale Golf Course and then two fields, coming out onto Maplewell Road in Woodhouse Eaves.

From there we walked up Victoria Road, along a footpath on to Brand Hill and we then walked along the road to the Wheatsheaf, where we met one non walker for lunch.

Everyone enjoyed the food and the company was very pleasant. After lunch three of us walked back to Newtown, via the triangle, Swithland Woods and straight across the Park (others went back by car).

We arrived back in Newtown at 3.45. Although we had rain for a short time during the outward walk, the weather was mostly dry and pleasant.

Ed Killick

The New Year 2020 walk on January 11th was attended by 9 walkers and 1 dog. We left from Lesley's house at 2.15 and kept to the higher dry ground of



Bradgate Park, to escape the mud elsewhere. On return to Lesley's 4 others joined us for tea and cake and to list the walks for 2020 (see next page). Please change with another person on the list if you are unable to do a walk. All walks leave at 2pm on the second Saturday of each month opposite the Village Hall, unless you receive an e-mail informing you of other arrangements

Lesley Baker.

Newtown Linford Ramblers proposed walks programme 2020

February 8 th	Joe & Claire Costello
March 14 th	Fiona & Andrew Bradley
April 10 th	John Castle & Glenis Meredith
May 9 th	Christine Hall
June 20 th	Jane Woolmer
July 14 th	Gill Speechley
August 8 th	Iris & Peter Sayer
September 12 th	Peter & Carolyn Lowe
October 10 th	Toby & Felicity Manning
November 14 th	Sarah Forrester
December 12 th	Ed Killick

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(If you have a
promise you
would like to
include
please contact
the above)



Newtown Linford Gardening Club

2019 has been a very successful year for Newtown Linford Gardening Club with membership high and a full hall at our meetings. We have welcomed some prestigious speakers during the year. Our two celebrity evenings saw an audience of 150 listen to Matthew Biggs in February and Chris Beardshaw in October. In addition we had excellent talks from Alan Power from Stourhead Arboretum, Timothy Walker from Oxford University Gardens and Julie Attard from the National Forest.

Our two visits took us to David Austin's Rose Nursery at the height of flowering in June and Leicester University Botanical Gardens in August. Those events, coupled with a Summer Garden Party when the weather was at its finest in July, and a Christmas Party to end the year, made it one of our best years ever. We even had some members weaving willow dragonflies under the watchful eye of Katharine Wright from the Leicestershire Craft Centre in Market Harborough.

2020 will be equally full. As well as some highly entertaining local speakers, we have visits from Jim Buttress from the Britain in Bloom Organisation, Stella Exley, a gold medallist with her camassias and Jack Willgoss, the national authority on violas whose nursery we will visit in August

Our two celebrity speakers will be Helen Yemm, Gardening Correspondent for the Daily Telegraph and James Alexander-Sinclair, who has appeared regularly on Gardeners' World and Chelsea. We are pleased to welcome visitors to these two occasions and tickets for Helen Yemm's visit on Tuesday March 24th are now available. They can be obtained from the Secretary for £12.

Programme 2020

Jan 28th	Leicestershire Walled Kitchen Gardens	<i>Sue Blaxland</i>
Feb 25th	Plant your Pond for Wildlife	<i>Linda Smith</i>
Mar 24th	Open Evening with	HELEN YEMM
Apr 28th	Violas	<i>Jack Willgoss</i>
May 26th	It Shouldn't Happen to a Nurseryman but it Did	<i>Steve Budding</i>
June 3rd	Visit to Belgrave Hall	
June 23rd	A talk from Jim Buttress (Britain in Bloom)	
July 28th	Summer Garden Party	
Aug 27th	Visit to Wildgoose Nursery	
Sept 22nd	Camassia, Chelsea & Chaos	<i>Stella Exley</i>
Oct 27th	Open Evening with JAMES ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR	
Dec 8th	Christmas Party	

Continued from previous page

Anyone interested in our activities can contact the Secretary (tel.01530 242452) or e-mail us at 32couling@gmail.com, or else come along to one of our meetings as a visitor (£3). If you would like a copy of our programme for the coming year, we will be pleased to send one to you.

Anne and David Couling

All Saints Church

Home group: The next Meditation evening will be on Wednesday 22 January at 7.30pm at Fig Tree Cottage. All are welcome, please speak to John Woolmer for more information.

Jolly Tots: After a slightly extended Christmas break, Jolly Tots will begin again, at 9.15am, also meeting in the Village Hall during the closure of the church building.

Y Centre: Thank you for the generosity of all those who gave at the Carol Service in support of the work of the Y Centre. A little over £400 was raised.

Newtown Linford Choral Society

Our 'Come and Sing Carols and Christmas Songs' evening was a great success and we would like to say thank you to everyone who came along especially the Brownies and Brass Quintet. The retiring collection raised £381.95 for the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Leicester.

Dates for your diary: -

31st January and 1st February: Winter Concert in Ratby Church (Tickets now available).

11-13th June: Summer Concert in the Village Hall.
Iris Sayer 01530 243822



Newtown Linford Brownies

Newtown Linford Brownies would like to say a big "THANK YOU" TO Charnwood Borough Council and in particular Councillor David Snartt for their successful application for funding from "Members Grant offer".



This took them to the Town Hall in Loughborough to see the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk". It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Brown Owl

Do you pray?

Christians, and people of other faiths, are expected to pray. Many agnostics admit to praying from time to time. Some atheists occasionally offer a prayer. Most Christians, and Christian sympathisers, admit to finding prayer difficult. Almost all, towards the end of their lives, say that they should have prayed more often and with more faith.



In March, on four of the five Sundays (Mothering Sunday excepted), I shall try to open up this important subject during our relocated services in the Village Hall. There will be a talk about prayer, a time for questions, and a time to explore various methods of praying

We shall look first at the question of confession (why?) and giving thanks and praise (which CS Lewis, the writer of the Narnia stories, found particularly puzzling when he first became a Christian)

Secondly, we will explore the use of silence. Something much needed in our busy talkative world. Silence is seen by many as the key to prayer. Jesus is frequently recorded as spending long periods of prayer in lonely places.

Thirdly, we will look at the question of intercession. Why do some prayers get dramatically answered (like those of the trapped Chilean miner who taught all his comrades to pray while they waited for an unlikely rescue)? Why do others seem to receive an unwanted 'no' like those offered for my friend David Watson, a leading evangelist who led some IRA and Loyalists in the Maze prison to faith, who died of cancer at a very early age? Is it a waste of time praying for big world issues?

Fourthly, we will consider how to pray directly for other people who in the words of the Book of Common Prayer may be in 'trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity'.

The last remaining copies of my book, *Thinking Clearly about prayer*, will be available (for a small donation to the Restoration Fund!).

The services, as always, are open to those of any faith or none. John Woolmer jstwoolmer@gmail.com for more details or questions.

BRADGATE TEAM SUNDAY SERVICES February 2020

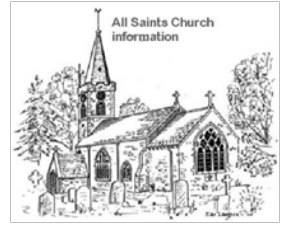
DATE	GLENFIELD	NEWTOWN LINFORD
2nd February The Presentation	8.30am Holy Communion (PH)	
	9.00am Breakfast Church (RT)	10.30am Holy Communion (JW)
9th February 3rd Sunday before Lent		8.00am Holy Communion (RT)
	10.30am Joint Holy Communion (SA)	10.30am Joint Holy Communion at St Peter's
	6.30pm Compline (SA)	
16th February 2nd Sunday before Lent	8.30am Holy Communion (RT)	
	10.15am Service of the Word (BH)	10.30am Holy Communion (RT)
	4.00pm Messy Church	
23rd February Sunday before Lent		8.00am Holy Communion (SA)
	10.15am Holy Communion (PH)	10.30am All Age Service (SA)
	6.30pm Holy Communion (SA)	

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES—February 2020

GLENFIELD	Wed 10.45am	5th 12th 19th 26th
	Wed 7.30pm	26th
NEWTOWN LINFORD	No midweek communions during renovation	



CHURCH REGISTER, NEWTOWN LINFORD



Weddings

None

Baptisms

22 December ~ Isaac George Sanders

We welcome him into the Church Family



Funerals

9 December ~ Cyril John Brewin



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

Richard Trethewey

Rector of St Peter's, Glenfield, and All Saints, Newtown Linford

0116 287 1604

Email: richard@stpetersandallsaints.org.uk

Church Wardens: Jane Woolmer, Michelle Petty

Parish Office: Hayley Moore (9.30 - 11.30am weekdays)

0116 239 3768

Email: ; office@bradgatechurches.org.uk

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

Website: www.allsaintsnewtownlinford.org.uk

Cedric Murray

Cedric Murray, a villager for 51 years, sadly passed away a few weeks ago.

Cedric lived at Heyday Hays with his beloved wife Elisabeth and his four children: Caroline Juliet, Paul and Vicky – until they married and moved to their own homes locally.

Cedric's funeral service was held at All Saints Church Newtown Linford followed by the Wake at the Grey Lady.

Cedric, who worked at Livingston and Doughty in Oadby (a family business) was very family orientated and was also involved in various local Charities.

Together with Elisabeth, they became well known for the bluebell open day at Heyday Hays with proceeds going to charity.

Cedric will be sadly missed by family and friends

Donations from the funeral went to Parkinson's UK.



CHRISTMAS DAY ALONE 2019

Everyone who attended Christmas Day for Those Alone in Anstey and surrounding villages had a great day, volunteers and guests alike. We catered for 89 people! All guests had a lovely 5 course Christmas dinner, a present each and a goody bag with lots of yummy treats. We enjoyed great entertainment with Nigel on his squeeze box doing a Christmas sing along and of course several games of BINGO!!

We would like to thank all the volunteers who came forward to help both prior to the day and on the day whether that be the initial planning, securing funds, setting up the room, wrapping presents, putting up posters, providing transport, hosting a table, and last but so very much not



least all those involved in the catering. The meal was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and catering for 89 is not an easy task!

A very grateful thanks to the companies etc. who support us – to Next for again donating all the lovely presents for everyone, Nationwide in Anstey who's lovely staff co-ordinated collecting chocolate oranges, others goodies and cash from the lovely folk of the villages who donated, Anstey Parish Council, Anstey Chippy, Britvic, Charnwood Brewery, Councillor Baines, Everards Brewery, Forget me knot, S J Langton Butchers in Glenfield, Roy Green Surveyors, Sainsburys local in LFE, Morrisons, Pladis (Jacobs) Wigston, Midlands CO-OP, Tesco, QD bargains, Whitfields , Yorkshire Tea.

Many thanks to all who have donated money and goods themselves, my friends, work colleagues and local people who donate what they can. Everything helps small or large and all donations have helped make the day very special.

Thanks also to St Marys Church, Anstey for the use of the room again, without which this couldn't go ahead so thanks very much once again. Thanks for reading and a happy New Year.

Kerry Sharpe

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THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST



The last meeting of the Friends for this year took place at The Brand, Woodhouse Eaves, on 17th November, and was hosted by Colonel & Mrs Martin. The house is situated at the end of a longish drive just outside Woodhouse, and is nestled shyly amid a grove of trees. It was built in 1875 for the Ellis family. They, however, found it was too inconvenient for their interests in Leicester, so in 1888 they rented it to the Martin family. The Martins had resided in Anstey at a house named Anstey Pastures for over 400 years. However, Robert Frewen Martin, the then owner of Anstey Pastures, was suffering from ill-health, and as Anstey was being engulfed by the city, he had decided that The Brand was more suited to his condition. He finally bought the property, together with some cottages, from the Ellis family in 1892 for £11,000. One must ask – where could you get a property, save perhaps a rabbit hutch, for such a sum today?

In 1875 Robert Martin had founded the Mountsorrel Granite Company; his sons inherited the concern and between the wars the company had prospered; so much so, in fact, that the Martin family was able to assist in finance for the old Loughborough College – now the University – and in Bradgate Park. The present owner is the 23rd generation of Martins to live in the shire, so the internet tells me.

Unfortunately, due to the weather, there was no parking available at the house; members had to park along the road and walk the drive to reach the house, although a shuttle service was arranged for those who were not able to walk. On the walk one could admire three highland cows in an adjacent field. At the front hall we were greeted by a glass of wine. Members slowly spread out into sitting rooms; small groups stood for a while and then sat down. Much chatting then took place.

Then it was lunch time. In the dining room was a large table bowed under a lavish spread. It was so large that members often went round twice, though I admit I did not make a study of this. At the end there was still food on the dishes. All too soon it was time to go. We thanked Colonel and Mrs Martin for their hospitality, took the long walk down the drive and, feeling suitably refreshed, set out on the drive home.

Our following meeting was on 20th January, when Neil Pilcher gave a talk on “Charnwood Forest – A living landscape”, at Woodhouse Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Dr D McNeil

From The Records - 1954

Back in 1954 the Mercury looked back on the Christmas present given to the people of Leicester & Leicestershire 28 years previously - when on December 29th 1928 Bradgate Park was bought by Mr Charles Bennion.

The man who had looked after the park since then was Mr Edward Haslegrave. He has worked amongst the bracken and granite of Bradgate Park since 1913. Mr Haslegrave came to Leicestershire from Yorkshire where he had started his apprenticeship at the Temple Newsam Estate at the age of 16. When he was appointed estate agent at Bradgate soon after his arrival in the Midlands, the parkland which belonged to the Greys of Groby then covered 9,000 acres. By 1954 it covers 1,044 acres under public ownership - 896 of them the original Bennion gift.

Mr Haslegrave was particularly interested in the deer during the December months. He felt they had not had an easy time in the recent years, after a couple of previous good years. When he had first come to the park they had been too domesticated and fed too often with all sorts of food. "You never found the deer in the places where their natural food was. Their natural food all lies in the park, but they were being fed on hay, maize and beans". This year however the deer are in fine spirits: in fact they are, in Mr Haslegrave's opinion, "healthier than ever before".

Mr Haslegrave did not know how many deer were roaming the bracken but checks took place. When the park is in the grip of winter and the deer have difficulty in finding enough food, Mr Haslegrave introduces the winter feeding arrangements and once the animals have become accustomed to their eating places and to the estate workers who looked after them, their number would be counted.

Mr Haslegrave's open air life contained mornings, lots of hard work and plenty of good brisk exercise. In the old days there were horses for transport. These days it is "shanks pony". Motor cars are no use to me he said "can't drive and can't be bothered". "they just don't appeal to me". And no wonder to see Mr Haslegrave striding out over the bracken and up to Old John you wouldn't guess he was 80 on his last birthday.

Roll forward 66 years - he would not believe how many cars come to the park and Village, and the three car parks serving the main Park. Instead of a queue of buses to take families to and from the Park, the residents of Leicester would only have 2 buses a day to take them to the park (the other two being too late for visitors to use).

Michael Pitchers

Michael Pitchers, late of Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford, died peacefully at the New Wycliffe Home on 2nd December 2019, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's dementia.

He and my mother, Sonia, had lived in the Village since the late 1960s and Dad never recovered from Mum's sudden death in 2014. They had been married for 69 years! In happier times Dad was known as a keen dinghy sailor, photographer and aero-modeller and for a time was chairman of Leicester Aero Model Club. He also had 'green fingers', providing the family with a wonderful variety of vegetables. After retiring, he indulged his passion for aviation and earned his Silver Certificate flying full-scale gliders at Husbands Bosworth.

He will be greatly missed by his daughter Julie, his grandchildren Eleonore, Edward, Ben, Sarah, Becky, James, Nick and Joanne and all their families. Mike will also be missed by the many friends that he made in his 96 years.

Kind regards
Julie Richards



John (Cyril John Brewin)

John (Cyril John Brewin) passed way suddenly in his sleep at the age of 75 on the 19th November 2019. He was the husband of Jackie and father of Emma, Karl and Christopher. Jackie writes that the shock of losing my soul mate and Team Leader will never leave me.

John was born in 1944. The family lived in Hawthorne Cottage, Newtown Linford for a short time – then moving to Groby whilst the new house was built on Grey Close as the road was then known. It subsequently became Grey Crescent when other houses were built. The family moved into the house in 1950 and the family are still living in the same house today.

John's Dad worked at the woodyard. His Mum worked as a dinner lady, part time at the Village School. His sister Joy became a teacher and worked in Leicester.

John worked for Mr. F.A. Thorpe O.B.E. at Chitterman Hill Farm on Polly Botts Lane for fifteen years. Then one day Mr. Thorpe offered John a job working at his factory, as a warehouse manager, working with large print books for the partially sighted. This was Ulverscroft Large Print Books. On the books they had the logo of the Old John monument on the front cover.

John worked for the company until he retired. John was very well liked and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

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Brewin
with
Fred
Thorpe
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Reindeer Drive

In mid December, well before the first snow of winter, The Linford was host to a full house for a Reindeer Drive. I had never seen so many antlers. Sold Out notices were plastered on posters, the website was updated accordingly but still the phone rang, such was the enthusiasm for an event that most people had no idea what to expect.

Roll a six for the body, followed by a five for the head, what was this all about. Well if you have ever played Beetle in your youth you would have been well prepared, but on this evening we drew a Reindeer complete with antlers, ears, a tail and a nose (red of course). All sorts of shapes and sizes including some rather deformed Reindeer appeared on paper.

This event appealed to all ages but the younger players quickly realised that the quicker you threw and moved the dice the more chances you had of completing your Reindeer first. There was a crescendo of noise and excitement as each round progressed until "REINDEER" was called out, play stopped, and the scores were added up.



Everyone was greeted with a warm glass of mulled wine or soft drink to get the evening off to a good start and in the interval mince pies and stollen were served.

After twelve competitive rounds, players added up their scores. The younger members showed the way with the overall winner Rida Haq, aged 10, who also won the under 11 prize. Rida was presented with a framed painting of a reindeer with Father Christmas in the background painted by John Nixon, and the junior prize, Prickly, a reindeer cactus. Brown Owl had encouraged about 20 brownies to play by organising a few practice sessions beforehand which proved to be very successful. On the evening they soon settled in and were much better in moving up, or down, a table than the adults.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm and support which made the evening such fun. Also thank you to our team of helpers, Clive and Judy, Ann and Chris, Ed, Iris, Sue and John Nixon.

The event raised £680 and was split equally between the Church Interior Restoration Fund and the Children's Society

Rudolf kindly provided us with a fact sheet about reindeer - well he should know he is one. He just left us with one last question.



Q. Where would a reindeer go if he lost his tail?

A. To a retail outlet.

Dick Howard

Also many thanks to The Linford for providing such a festive venue.



Newtown Linford Gentlemen's Luncheon Club

On the third Thursday of every month, The Grey Lady Kitchen and Deli in Newtown Linford plays host to a gathering of around two dozen retired gentlemen who enjoy an excellent three course lunch and, of course, convivial company.

The Gentlemen's Luncheon Club has been meeting for well over twenty years, initially at the Johnsccliffe, and more recently in the village centre. Some members have been with us for most of that time, but the majority have joined in more recent years as the demands of daily work slow down or come to an end.

We are a very lively bunch, as the staff at the restaurant will testify, although, of course, impeccably behaved, sharing conversation and repartee along with a convivial drink and meal.

The club is open to any gentleman who has retired and who wishes to have an enjoyable meal in the company of people who

are of a similar age. It is especially beneficial to anyone who has recently retired and is looking to meet new people and occasionally do something different during the day.

We will always welcome new members and if there are readers who might consider joining us, we would be delighted to hear from them. A telephone call to me at 242452 will help to provide more details so you can decide whether to give us a try. We look forward to hearing from you.

David Couling



Newtown Linford Scarecrow Festival 2020



Hello everyone and Happy New Year. The Newtown Linford Scarecrow Festival 2020 will be taking place on the weekend of 19th/20th September this year and we are looking to everyone in our lovely village to take part and make it a fun filled, fund raising weekend. This years theme is **MOVIES**, which offers a very broad spectrum of ideas.

Please feel free to be as creative as possible with your designs – the only thing we would ask is that you try not to use any plastic bottles or single use plastic with your designs. Scarecrows will be judged on Saturday morning and the winners will be announced Saturday afternoon in the Village Hall. However, feel free to leave them up all weekend as there will be activities happening throughout both days. If you live further out and wish to create a Scarecrow, we absolutely welcome it and can find a space to accommodate you.

We welcome the Village Groups, organisations and businesses to get involved. It's a great way of marketing and creating new interest. We are happy to assist with fundraising if you're feeling short of ideas. There will also be a village raffle, net profits of which will be split between village organisations to be chosen by a Committee. Please note, to be considered for receiving a portion of funds raised, your Group or organisation **MUST** take part in the Scarecrow Festival.

If you or your business/organisation wish to be involved in the Scarecrow Festival, please let us know the details of any events you will host before the end of April so that we can publicise them accordingly.

Entry forms will be available from May onwards and we aim to get all entries for your amazing designs two weeks prior to the Festival so that we are able to sort out the programme.

If you wish to volunteer to help with the Scarecrow Festival, we would welcome your support. There are many areas in which we could use extra hands.

Finally we would like to thank Grace Portus for her lovely new design which we can use going forward.

Really looking forward to an amazing Scarecrow Festival in 2020. Please feel free to email Jacqui at NLScarecrow2020@gmail.com

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Newtown Linford Neighbourhood Watch - A member of the Parish Council



In late November, I received a report from a resident who'd had their catalytic converter stolen from their vehicle. This happened overnight and whilst it was parked on their driveway!

This isn't a new crime but catalytic converter (CAT) thefts rose dramatically during 2019 and owners of any vehicle fitted with a CAT, are being warned to take precautions.

What is a catalytic converter? A catalytic converter is part of a car's emissions control system. It cleans up the exhaust gases by breaking them down into less harmful substances and water vapour, before they are expelled from the car through the exhaust pipe. All cars sold in Europe since 1993, have had to be fitted with catalytic converters by law. Catalytic converters are located in a box on the exhaust pipe under a car. In order to steal it, thieves slide under the car and use high-powered cutting tools to detach the box from the pipes around it. It can take less than three minutes!

CATs are a target for thieves as they contain precious metals such as rhodium, platinum and palladium and therefore, their value is high. There are between 3-7 grams of platinum group metals in a standard catalytic converter but the amount varies based on vehicle manufacturer and model. Those that are most often targeted are cars with a higher chassis, such as a 4x4 or an SUV and hybrid vehicles.

As hybrid cars have two power sources, the CAT is used less frequently and therefore, the metals are less likely to have corroded, meaning they are worth more.

This isn't an isolated incident in our area and PS Roderick Smart of Charnwood NPA, reported an increase in CAT thefts back in October 2019, via the Neighbourhood Link crime update. His advice is as follows:-

- Park your car in a locked garage where possible but if this isn't an option, then park it in a well-lit and well-populated area.
- Park close to fences, walls or a kerb with the exhaust being closest to the fence, wall or kerb to make the theft more difficult.
- Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for thieves to access the catalytic

converter.

- If parking in a public car park, consider parking alongside other cars and facing your bonnet towards the wall if possible. With the catalytic converter positioned at the front of your vehicle, this will make it harder for thieves to get close enough to steal it.
- If there is a fleet of vehicles, park the low clearance vehicles to block the high clearance vehicles. This will obstruct access underneath.
- If your catalytic converter is bolted on, you can ask for your local garage to weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove.
- Alternatively, you can also etch a serial number on the converter.
- You can even purchase a 'cage clamp' which is a cage device that locks in around the converter, to make it more difficult to remove.

If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it to the Police. Obtain as much information as possible, including any vehicle registrations.

Don't forget, we have a supply of UV Permanent Marker Pens available at The Bradgate for post coding your property and you can sign up to Neighbourhood Link by visiting the website at:

www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk

Dates of forthcoming Police Beat Surgeries, to be held at the Police Box, are as follows:

Saturday 25th January 16:00-17:00

Thursday 13th February 18:00-19:00

Monday 16th March 14:00-15:00

Keep 'em peeled!

Hannah Shaw, Parish Council Clerk

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At the time of writing this, we are into the second week of a New Year and of a new decade. I'm sure 2020 will be an exciting and productive year ahead for Newtown Linford.

Reports have been quieter over the festive period. However, what has remained busy is the number of fly-tipping incidents that have occurred within the Parish and continue to do so.

I am pleased to report that Charnwood Borough Council have now deployed CCTV cameras across the district, specifically to target fly tip-pers and posters have been displayed around the wider area to promote this.

Please, if you see any incidents of fly-tipping and you have any details that might identify those responsible, such as a vehicle registration number, report it to me in confidence, as CBC will take action against those littering our beautiful countryside and Village. Not only can it pose a danger to the public but also to wildlife and the time and cost implications on Local Councils in clear-up operations is draining.

Good news! Charnwood Borough Council have given NLPC a supply of flood defence 'Hydrosnakes' that can be used in the event of flash flooding, as witnessed back in October 2019. These are to be stored in central locations within the Village, that are easily accessible and details will be shared with you once all locations have been identified.

On with the news....

Bob Bown Memorial Field – I was disappointed to receive a report on 30/12/19 reporting an incident of damage to playground equipment. Upon inspection, one of the infant Springers had had a rather large part snapped off and the item had to be cordoned off for safety reasons. The Springer toys are intended for use by 3-5 year olds and although I don't believe the damage was intentional, it could have been innocently caused by an older, stronger user, playing on it with some exuberance and having fun (we've all done it at some time in our lives, I'm sure!). Sadly though, the cost to replace the broken part is substantial at £336, which the Parish Council will have to fund. For now, the Springer is unsafe to use and is easily identifiable by the red and white barrier tape covering it.

Churchyard -

On the very chilly morning of Saturday 14th December, Dick Howard, Scott Raynor and David Rigg formed a working party at the Churchyard and planted between 200 and 250 spring bulbs, which had been kindly donated by Parish Council Chairman, Sue Pritchard. A big thank you goes to Dick, Scott and David for giving up their free time and



helping to keep the village looking spectacular and thank you to Sue for the donation of bulbs. The Churchyard will look a picture comes Spring!

Image: Dick Howard and Scott Raynor planting bulbs at the Churchyard 14/12/19, photograph taken and shared by David Rigg.

Cemetery – You may have noticed that we have had some lovely new memorial trees donated to the Groby Lane Cemetery. Those that flower, should be in bloom this Spring and I look forward to seeing them mature. The Parish Council have also received a generous donation of a new seat for the extension area of the Cemetery and this will be purchased imminently.

Chairman, Sue Pritchard and Sue Dobby formed their own working party to plant spring bulbs here too. Thank you both for your time and again,

when Spring arrives, their hard work will be in full bloom for all to appreciate.

Reports –

02/10/19 – Concern for bollards, Main Street – In progress LCC

02/10/19 – Blocked drains, Markfield Lane – In progress LCC

02/10/19 – Blocked drains, Grey Crescent – In progress LCC

02/10/19 – Debris accumulation to footpath, Markfield Lane – In progress LCC

22/10/19 – Potholes, Markfield Lane – Completed LCC

02/12/19 – Missing Finger Board Signs – Ulverscroft/Priory Lane – On order CBC

02/12/19 – Issue with footpath, Roecliffe Road – In progress LCC

06/01/20 – Abandoned Caravan, Benscliffe Road – Completed CBC

07/01/12 – Main Street Road Sign, Main Street/Markfield Lane – On order CBC

13/01/20 – Damage to footpath, Bradgate Road – In progress LCC

I look forward to seeing you all, both whilst out and about in the village or at the weekly Coffee and Cake mornings, which I will attend as often as possible.

If there is anything I can help you with, please do not hesitate in contacting me on the details below.

Best wishes,

Hannah Shaw, Parish Council Clerk

Tel: 01530 249945

Email: clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk



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Can we have your contributions for the **March 2020** issue by **15th February 2020** 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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