

# Newtown Linford Magazine

**ISSUE NUMBER 174**

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**May 2020**



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# The Bradgate

Group Parish



I spoke today to someone who has good reason to wonder what on earth is going on, and what is going to happen next. A few weeks ago he left his job, moved out of his flat, moved away from his home for the last ten years in order to travel to Bangladesh for three months to work in a remote village, helping alleviate poverty there. A week before he was due to travel the project was cancelled, for obvious reasons. So now, jobless, homeless, he's back living with his parents 200 miles away from his friends.

There are so many people in a similar boat – plans dashed, hopes disappointed. And that's not even mentioning the number of people who have been touched even more painfully by this virus that's turned our world upside down, who have grief or permanent physical effects to reckon with as well.

Where is God in all of this?

My friend was going to be working with a Christian charity, had felt led by God to take this risky step of giving up his secure job and home. Where is God?

Some people have leapt to tell us this is a judgement, a punishment. Others have seen it as evidence to confirm their opinion that God is not real or, if he is, he's not interested in this planet's predicament. I am not so rash as to believe I have all the answers. Let me offer two thoughts for you to consider and form your own opinions.

First, at one point in the Bible (John 11) we see Jesus standing alongside a family who had lost a loved one early. We hear the sisters berate Jesus for not doing anything to help. In this they stand in good company in the Bible – when bad things happen it's OK to wrestle with God about them. But we read that 'Jesus wept'. At Easter we remember that in Jesus God did not stand separate and safe from suffering. He was hurt, he grieved, he suffered. When we look around us at the pain and wonder where God is, he isn't far away, he is with us, standing alongside us.

Second, I am convinced that a Christian thing to do is not look back for causes, but to look forward for purpose. When Paul the apostle had suffered so badly that he 'despaired of life itself', he didn't wonder if God was punishing him or abandoning him. He knew he was to use this ex-

perience to help others. If we can rely on God not to leave us – and to be able to turn even death into life, as Easter demonstrated, then we can use what we learn, what we have in our capacity, to help others.

That doesn't happen overnight though. We do have to reckon with the emotional and physical implications of this crisis, this trauma we're all living through. And in that we need practical help – the offering so wonderfully being given by neighbours in our community – and prayer. Where is God? He is still here.

**Richard Trethewey**

**Rector of All Saints' Newtown Linford and St Peters, Glenfield**

## **VILLAGE DIARY**

**May**

**All meetings cancelled due to Coronavirus/Covid-19**

**Regular events NOT RUNNING AT PRESENT**

### **How to stop infection spreading**

- You should regularly wash your hands with soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection and save lives. This remains the case when you are helping others.
- **If you have been shopping/at work, when you get home you change your clothes, put them straight in the washing machine and leave your shoes at the front door. Wash your hands & arms or take a shower**
- You should not go inside the homes of anyone you do not live with, especially vulnerable people or people who believe they may be infected and are isolating themselves. Breaking these rules could put you at risk of infection, or risk spreading it to others.
- If you are picking things up for others, try and do so when you are out shopping for yourself rather than make an extra trip.
- You should stay 2m or six feet away from anyone you do not live with at all times. Do not share a car journey with them.

- If you have offered to help other people, please do not place yourself in positions where you may feel unsafe, for instance helping late at night.
- If you or someone in your household has shown symptoms, or if you are more vulnerable to coronavirus yourself, then you must stay home. You still play an important role but will need to do this from home.

## Coffee & Cake @ Newtown Linford Village Hall

Hello everyone

I am hoping that when you are reading this in May we could be back at Coffee & Cake but at the moment it could be wishful thinking?



I hope you are all coping with the isolation. We have all tried to keep in touch with everyone by e mail or making sure someone has seen or been in touch with those we haven't heard from recently

In the middle of April, Jo Costello did a trial Coffee & Cake with a very small group on Zoom. If you have members in your family under 40 you will be aware how amazing this has been, keeping groups of friends holding quizzes and other social events in their own homes on line

It was a great success for some of us but some found the signal not great. If anyone wants to join the group on a Thursday morning at 11am for a chat then please contact Jo and he will tell you how to download the APP ZOOM. The only rule is you have a cup of Coffee and a Cake!

Call Joe on 01530 249613 or email him [jo1846@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jo1846@hotmail.co.uk) or [jo1846@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:jo1846@btinternet.co.uk)

Give it a go he is great at talking you through it

Hoping to see you all very soon and stay well

**Carol Ann**

If you need any help please let me know



# DOWN LINFORD V.E. DAY CELEBRATIONS



# From the Records - VE Day 1995



This year our May Day Bank Holiday was moved from the first Monday of May to Friday 8th May so that many would be able to have a bank holiday off to celebrate VE Day . Writing this 19th April, I wonder if some restrictions will be lifted and announced on this day to give us cause for celebration. However I do not have a crystal ball!

For those of you not interested in history and to save you "Goggling" it 8th May 1945 was Victory in Europe Day, generally known as **VE Day** and is a Day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on 8 May **1945**.

50 years on from VE day in 1995, the village came together on 8th

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May to celebrate VE Day. The event commenced with the Leicestershire Cooperative Youth Marching Band leading the Childrens' fancy dress parade. A guest speaker "Sir Winston Churchill", officially opened the proceedings. The afternoon was full of activities and games for the children. There was a balloon race, tug of war and a barbeque. The party on the cricket field, bring your own rations! With live music, games, stalls and the inevitable tug of war! 10/- entrance (50p). All supported by a rummage sale on 26th March. The village marched along Main Street. From







the pictures It looks as if they were on Malcolm's field and in the park too. The Morris Dancers were up at Old John dancing and celebrating the event too!  
Can anyone identify some of the villagers taking part in the events, I think I can recognise some of the children on the next page in the fancy dress competition





Why not do our own VE Day 2020 and celebrate it with just our immediate household but decorate our houses with red, white and blue and enjoy a picnic in our front gardens - keeping a suitable distance from our neighbours!



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# How well do you know your village

Over the last month of lovely Spring sunshine I have spent more time walking around the village. With more time to stand and stare my curiosity stirred and I started to wonder why, and when, certain activities, or events, took place. I don't know the answers, I have some assumptions, but I would like you to look at the six photos and help me fill in some detail so I can give the answers in a subsequent copy of this magazine.

## 1. Smugglers Gate.

What is the origin of the Smugglers Gate leading into the left hand corner of the cricket ground?



## 2. Daffodils.

There is an isolated clump of daffodils growing in an old ridge and furrow field, known as Richardson's meadow. These daffodils give a ray of sunshine every time you walk up the green lane. They look in remarkably good health possibly

helped by the grazing cattle later in the year. Who planted them, and why in the centre of the field?

## 3. Graffiti on the Bridge.

On the corner of the road bridge by the cricket ground are the initials D B carved into the stone. The initials are inverted. Who does it refer to, an idle cricketer perhaps, or just a recycled stone. Just have a look and let me have your suggestions.



#### 4. Tyburn

Why is the large copse of trees in Bradgate Park, nearest to the village, known as Tyburn? There is a grim history of executions associated with this name so is there any connection? I hope not.



#### 5 Gutters.

These gutters may be totally unique. Do you now where they are and importantly who designed them?

#### 6 Stags Head

Hopefully you all know where this is but how old was the tree from which it was carved?

Please send me any comments, observations, old photos and I'll collate the answers.



#### Replies to

**[dickhoward342@icloud.com](mailto:dickhoward342@icloud.com) would be appreciated.**  
**You can also just give me a call on 01530 245373 if you prefer.**

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## **David Snartt Reports.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who put their names forward to be included in the Community Action Response Leaflet that was delivered to households across the Newtown Linford Parish. Special thanks to Hannah Shaw, the Parish Clerk for her outstanding contribution to our community during these difficult times.

### **Coronavirus Pandemic.**

I am hopeful that you have received a letter from Charnwood Borough Council, updating residents about services and useful sources of further information. This included information about helping people in the community, if you are worried about paying your council tax, garden waste service (brown bin) and help and advice for businesses. If you need more information please get in touch either by e-mail

[cllr.david.snartt@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.david.snartt@charnwood.gov.uk) or telephone 01530 244804.

Just to reiterate the message in the letter about the campaign launched by Charnwood Borough Council in partnership with John Storer. Charnwood Community Action can help people who may be self-isolating or staying at home to protect themselves and need assistance with a variety of tasks. If you need assistance, request support via [www.johnstorercharnwood.org.uk](http://www.johnstorercharnwood.org.uk), alternatively call 01509 631750 (Monday-Friday 8.30am to 5-30pm)

If you have received a letter from the NHS which identifies you, or someone you care for, as someone at risk of severe illness if you catch coronavirus and you do not have family or a support network to help you get food and medicine please go to [www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable), or call 0800 0288327. For latest information about Council services please visit [www.charnwood.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### **Business Support.**

Around 2,500 businesses in Charnwood could be eligible for Government support to help them through the coronavirus pandemic. Charnwood Borough Council will be contacting some businesses, however it has also created an on-line form so businesses can also contact the Council.

Businesses are urged to visit [www.charnwood.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinesssupport](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinesssupport).

### **Message from Charnwood Borough Council.**

We would also like to reassure you that when we emerge from this difficult period, the Council will be leading the recovery to ensure that our communities across Charnwood will return to the happy, safe and thriving places they were just a few weeks ago.

**Take care and stay safe.**

## David Snartt Reports.

### Garden Waste Collection (Brown Bin)

Charnwood Borough Council are starting their garden waste collection service again from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. It will not be their usual service as the Council are still having to focus resources on the refuse and recycling service.

For Newtown Linford please put your garden waste bins out on Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> by 6am, (this regardless of what your usual collection day is). The Council will endeavour to collect your brown bins on Monday or Tuesday but it may take longer. Please leave your bins out until they are emptied.

More information on Charnwood Borough Website  
[www.charnwood.gov.uk/gwr](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/gwr)



## Tennis Club Fundraising Bike Ride -



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## Caught down under.....

**As I am writing this on Easter Monday events and circumstances may well have changed by the start of May. But these are indeed strange times. I am just coming to the end of 14 days self-isolation, prompted by flying home halfway across the world in two crowded planes.. and transiting through 3 airports.**

**I am so very grateful to all those in our community who have volunteered to enable the more vulnerable to obtain food, medicine, daily papers and stay in contact with neighbours and friends. Hannah has been tremendous in setting up our CAR (Community Action Response) team, and I know that this has made a huge difference to our lives in our village.**

**Life will be very different for a while but I'm sure our community will look after those who need help and support each other as we all deal with the emotional, practical and financial difficulties that this pandemic creates.**

So, to while away a moment or two, my story of a holiday with an unexpected conclusion....

Our long awaited trip to see our friends in Brisbane was due to commence in early March. Prior to departure Hannah and I had our usual meeting and briefly discussed reviewing procedures should public meetings become restricted in the future... neither of us could foresee the changes that would occur within the next month.

Worried by events in China and Hong Kong (where we were due to spend 2 nights) we re-routed and flew through Bangkok direct to Brisbane. Armed with medi wipes and hand sanitiser we took precautions and reassured our family that we would be safe. Ironic in view of the wave of infection about to hit Britain...

Together with our friends we had a week in Tasmania (which at the time reported 5 cases of Covid-19). There were increased amounts of hand sanitiser etc visible in the hotels and restaurants but little else was changing at this point. Boat trips still operated, markets were still open but on our final day in Hobart two cruise ships were prevented from disembarking their passengers - apparently mainly to avoid taking any virus on board (!).

Returning to Brisbane on 15th March everything was still operating normally and, leaving our friends at work, we went on a short road trip up to Bundaberg (visiting an excellent rum distillery) and along the Sunshine

coast. Now things were starting to change... tourist sites were beginning to close - turtle viewing was cancelled, available boat trips reducing and restaurants were starting to increase the amount of space per table. Tasmania announced a 14 day mandatory self isolation for visitors and the purchase of loo rolls increased... Our friends were now being urged to work from home and were starting to notice shortages in larder staples in their local shop.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March we were all on the beach on the Sunshine coast but now things were changing fast.. restaurants were empty, people were keeping the 1.5m rule (it's less in Oz) but there were still large groups with picnics and BBQs. Playing golf was still allowed (we sanitised our buggy before use) but now the Club Houses were doing take-away only and by 23<sup>rd</sup> March so were all restaurants and coffee shops.

We were extremely anxious re the situation in Britain, both on a personal level and in my current role, I was in daily contact with Hannah – who by now had formulated and actioned the CAR programme that has been so successfully implemented within the Village.

Knowing we were due to return on 25<sup>th</sup> March we contacted our airline 3 days before travel (as requested) only to find that, having already re-routed us once, one of our key flights had now been cancelled, an hour on the phone and we had successfully rerouted to Brisbane - Singapore - Amsterdam - Birmingham. The UK then issued a 'return home now' edict... Singapore then closed to transiting passengers, rapidly followed by the UAE and our carrier could do nothing for us. Australia was now also starting to restrict interstate travel - Sydney was becoming a 'hotspot' - and Perth and Melbourne were not allowing transits. After a frantic evening with four of us on our laptops, we managed to purchase Brisbane - Sydney - Bangkok - Heathrow albeit with 15 hour stops in both Sydney and Bangkok... At 4am in the morning on Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March I watched in horror as Boris

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Johnson announced Britain's lock down... simultaneously Thailand announced that all transiting passengers would need a clear Covid test to travel. The USA required a valid ESTA for transiting through Los Angeles and was not accepting applications. All routes home were now shut.

At this point I genuinely thought that we would be having to stay in Oz for at least two months, I had an emotional face time with my children (who told us to stay put and under no circumstance get on a plane!), and contacted wider family and friends. We were lucky, we had friends to stay with and no visa issues. Hundreds of travellers were not so fortunate - we were hearing stories of others who had maxed out credit cards booking flights that had been cancelled (refunds take up to 60 days and are frequently in the form of credit notes), who were left without money and nowhere to stay. The British High Commission started collecting details on those stranded and began negotiations with airlines...after several days Qatar airways agreed to run flights via Doha to London and even put on new flights (one per day) from Brisbane. We had a route !

Landing at Heathrow was surreal, no people, no planes, no traffic.. hiring a car (thank goodness Hertz accepted our booking) we drove to Birmingham to pick up ours. The motorway was empty apart from lorries – we were half expecting to be pulled over for unnecessary travel! In a car park for 3,500 cars our meet and greet company had 87 ... at the cattery 'guests' were now reduced to one. 33 hours after we left our friends' flat, the relief was immense, back on the same time zone as family and friends, and safe within my home and garden.

**With so much changing in our world I was so fortunate to get home and my thoughts are very much with those who are still to return to their loved ones and even more with those whose loved ones have departed on their final journey.**

**Stay safe, stay well.** Sue Pritchard



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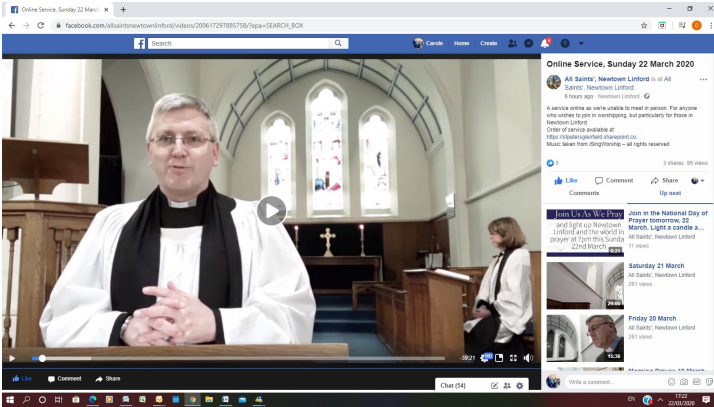


# BRADGATE TEAM SUNDAY SERVICES

## April Public Services Suspended

### Online available

### Virtual Church Services



You can join in with the Sunday Morning Service from the comfort of your own home.

Just join facebook if not already on it and join the group All Saints' Newtown Linford. Richard is running a service online

**10.30am**

**Online service**

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

### Church Contact Details

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

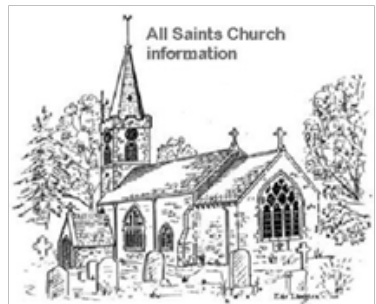
Revd Sharon Andrews , (Curate)  
sharon@allsaintsnewtownlinford.org.uk

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

**Church Wardens:** Jane Woolmer, Michelle Petty

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

**Website:** [www.allsaintsnewtownlinford.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsnewtownlinford.org.uk)



## **Rosemarie Upstone**

It is with sadness that we report that Rosemarie Upstone passed away on Friday 10th April aged 83 years. Rosemarie has been in declining health for some time and moved in January to Cedar Mews Care Home where she has received wonderful care.

She will be missed so much by Michael and all her family.

The funeral was held on Tuesday 21st April, for immediate family only but there will be a Thanksgiving Service when it becomes possible.

## **Doreen Golland**

Many of you will remember Doreen who had lived in the village for over 50 years. She died recently in the Cedar House Care Home in Rothley, aged 95, after a few years of failing health and eyesight. She was well-known in Newtown Linford and was at her happiest walking her beloved dogs in the park. She was a very much loved aunt to Andrew, Jennie and Helen and sister-in-law to Julia.

Under the present circumstances we are holding a private burial ceremony and we hope that, in a few months' time, some of you will join us to celebrate her life.

**Thank you** On Thursday evenings at 8pm, many of the villagers are coming out to celebrate and say thank you to the staff of the NHS and show support in the current crisis by clapping/ horns etc. I am sure this is really appreciated by our staff on the front line as the pressure they are under is immense at such times.

This has now expanded as thanks to everyone out there who are also putting themselves at risk by having to work or volunteer - this is essential workers, shop assistants, lorry drivers, farmers, carers and so many more.

Can I also say thank you to our volunteers who are delivering our Village Magazine and those helping others in these dangerous times..

## From the Records

### NEWTOWN LINFORD

*I found a copy of this record very recently when I was looking through the Village Archive. Only one section is dated (in Nov 1963) I have no idea when the first part was made but I think possibly earlier. The whereabouts of the original is unknown. I have found it a fascinating read and I hope you do too.*

**Iris Sayer**

### MEMORIES OF GEORGE EDGAR SMITH

**Born March 1888**

I have been asked by a few in the village to write the history of Newtown Linford as long as I can remember. I will start from the Sharpley Hill commencing first with the allotment with the well at the entrance. This well used to supply the top end of the village for drinking and washing. The first cottages faced down the village and then two cottages which are now converted into one Pilgrim Cottage.

Mr Bown's house was once a Public House and was known as the Stags Head, but it was before my time. My father informed me that a Mr Thomas Beck was the last proprietor. I can remember a large sycamore tree on the front, also a pump. The next cottage was once a thatched cottage and it was the only thatched cottage as I have known to get burned down in the village. This cottage was supposed to have been in the Foulds family for over 150 years.

The next cottage was occupied by Mary Warner and her nephew John Brewin. They used to do the "carrying" for the village, used to go to Leicester on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday and always put up at the Salmon Inn, Butt Close lane. They also used to sell tobacco and cigarettes, tobacco 4 pence an ounce and cigarettes, (5 Woodbines) 1penny. There was also a very large Elm tree on the front.

The next two cottages, I think was the first that the thatcher commenced on the Bradgate estate and it was 25 years to the time it wanted repairing again. He never required any wire netting to keep the birds out, but he wouldn't let anyone know how it was done. His name was William Smith, but he taken the craft with him when he died. There used to be a sycamore tree on the front. Then one single cottage. Mr Sill's garage used to be a calf place belonging to Mrs Neale, Ivy Farm.

The remainder used to be 3 cottages, one of the cottages was where I was born, and it had been in the Smith's family since 1633, and was a grocer's shop for over 40 years. I remember one farmer used to come along on a Saturday to fetch four 4lb loaves for the week, a 4lb loaf was

4 pence in those days. He came from one of the farms by Ulverscroft Priory.

Then came an open field belonging to Ivy farm. I have heard my father say he had seen hares in that field, like a pack of hounds, but if anyone killed a hare, or stole a bit of holly in Lord Stamford's time it meant instant dismissal off the Estate. Then there were 2 cottages at the other end of the field and a large sycamore tree in the front and a small well close by the highway. There used to be a pinfold yard by the end of the garden to these cottages and a butcher's shop which is now joined on to the next cottage. There used to be a spring in the cellar where they used to get their drinking water. There used to be an orchard between there and Thatched Roofs, this was a single cottage with a pump in the front and the next one a single cottage. Yew Tree farm was once owned by Mr D Pettifor who had a brewery at Anstey. He had the restaurant built on blocks so when he left the village he could take it down but there was a small piece at the back, built on a wall so it stopped him taking it down. There used to be a small orchard in front but it was fenced in.

I don't think that the Bradgate Arms was a public house until the Stags head was finished with as Mr Thomas Beck had that long room built, and the bedrooms with it on the understanding that his elder son should come to it when he was ? of age, but the eldest son refused it and the second one came to get it. The bungalow adjoining was one time the Post Office.

The next farm used to be tenanted by butcher Matts. I remember we had fun in his barn and sports in his back fields for the Coronation of King Edward V11. I believe it was 1901.

The first of the next 3 cottages was tenanted by Mr William Seal, and he used to make cloven gates in the yard opposite. At the end of these cottages one time it was used as a paint shop, and after as a bake house, and a small shop and at one point it got overheated and caught fire, and I lived in one of the 3 cottages at one time when I first got married.

Then came the blacksmiths shop which is now Brown's Stores and there used to be a cottage at the back of the blacksmiths and a small one on the front when the house at the front was like a small holding, there were 2 or 3 fields at the back.

The next cottage, Vine Cottages used to be favoured as best in the village and it was also the post office for quite a few years. It is rather a (?) house, 3 bedrooms and 3 staircases. The next cottage always seems to be damp, and when we used to have a lot of rain, it always used to be

flooded. The next 2 fields, one of which is the cricket field, used to go with the (?) at Groby lane corner, and the garden in front of the Estate Office used to go with one of the cottages against the church yard. That row of cottages always went by the name of Workhouse Yard, and I think the one who lived in the first, Mr Mee was the only one who worked at the Swithland slate pits from Newtown. That was before I could remember.

Now we come to the church, I notice that the old original gates, are two gates at the top of the village, that was before the Lych Gate was given by Mr HG Pettifor. The park field used to belong to Beech farm, and I can remember 4 apple trees used to grow by the brook side, they were nice and handy when we had to go to the old school. That school was used for the village and district as far away as Ulverscroft Priory, and also the keeper's families in the (?) districts, the attendance used to be between 50 and 60, there used to be (?) teachers, and the infants used to be in one corner with 3 raised seats. The garden has always been used by Mrs Mossop's parents opposite.

Then came the 2 park cottages, one of them has been in the Cluers (?) ever since I can remember, and they always used to get their drinking water from a spring that used to run under the ash tree, on the opposite side of the road. An old lady that used to live in the village said that there used to be another cottage in the next croft and that she was born there. The next cottage, I can't quite remember who used to rent it.

Now we commence on the other side of the road, from the Anstey Hill. The first cottage was tenanted by someone by the name of Stafford Smith and was used for making stockings, I can just remember 2 or 3 working there. I heard my Dad say that they used to walk to Nottingham with the work, go one day and back the next, they generally wore clogs in those days. The next 2 fields used to be used for the Estate horses and also the agent's cattle and ponies.

The next cottage was tenanted by a Mr J Rudkin and he was a bricklayer on the estate, and his wife used to go to Leicester with a carrier's cart 3 times a week, they were the present Mrs Mossop's parents and they also had a small shop and sold cigarettes and tobacco. They had been there for 87 years.

The next field where Mr Down's house is used to be tenanted by Mr T Johnson and the next 2 fields where the engine house is, (*Jade's Tea-rooms*) and Mr F Fould's shop (*Park Deli*), used to be a small barn, and a pump close by the Groby footpath. The next 2 cottages used to be



thatched until they were bought at the sale. Mr Hill's cottage had been tenanted by them, ever since I could remember.

Now we come to Beech farm, it wasn't used much as a farm in the old times but was used for making cloven gates and fencing, the only fields that used was the park field and sometime the vicarage fields.

The vicarage has altered quite a lot since I can remember. The first vicar as I remember was the Rev Kerry Williams, he used to have a pony and trap and a donkey and the 2 fields at the back belonged to the vicarage, and the estate yard used to join up to the vicarage yard. The Groby Lane farm used to have quite a lot of land, but not much ploughed land, only about 2 fields down the Groby Lane.

The estate house next for the estate agent and one field at the back, the stables and coach house were built early in 1900 in the time of Mr C F Garrett (Garnett) I have mentioned about the next yard in a previous page.

The next cottage and building are owned by Mr T W Johnson. This cottage has been in the Johnson family for over 100 years, so they say the father Benjy Johnson was one of the finest bricklayers in the district. I was informed that he helped to build St Leonards in Leicester, also the keeper house in Bradgate Park.

The next cottage was very small, 2 small bedrooms, kitchen and scullery. The next cottage is quite a noticeable one, for its old timber in construction. There used to be a small paddock where the council school is, there used to be a stable, a small carriage house and the old lady who lived there used to have a pony and a 4 wheeled carriage.

Now we come to another small farm used to be tenanted by Mr Joseph Ball. I think there were only 3 fields to it at the back but it used to do good business with teas and parties, but never on a Sunday. The next cottage and farm buildings used to go with the Bradgate Arms Hotel at one time, but not the large house, that was under a different tenant.

We now come to the old cricket field, that used to be, here we used to have the shows and etc at Newtown Linford Easter, one of our main attractions, of course, it was all horse brakes and no motors, that was the time when tea folks made their harvest.

Now the next 3 cottages known as Bolton's Yard is rather interesting, the first one is lath and plaster, the next one brick and the bottom one stone, this stone house was used by the coal merchant in the village, just 8 and 1/2d for a cwt (50kg) of coal, and it was coal then, not stone as we get sometimes.

We now come to another 2 small cottages, and then Ivy Farm, that used to be the Post Office. As I remembered first, it was the first door by the cottages. They used to rent 3 back fields, and one along the way by the side of Markfield Lane, now built on, and the one facing Markfield lane, where Johnsccliffe Guest house stands.

Now we come to Lane End farm this one used to be about the largest in the village. Some of the land used to be nearly at the Field Head, Markfield and the foot road used to go through most of those fields. The next cottages are at the end of a croft from Markfield Lane and a fairly large garden, which are now built on, the croft and the garden belonged to the first cottage. The 2 cottages close on a foot road leads along to the old Water Mill and to Markfield. In front of the cottages a garden that belonged to the last cottage in the village, and that now built on. The next cottage has been altered quite a lot, from the old original, then comes another small croft and the village pump in the recess used to supply drinking water for the top end of the village.

The next 2 cottages, 1 of them is turned into a garage, and the garden gates are the old Church gates before the Lychgate and Porch was erected. The 2 thatched cottages were demolished for that new cottage to be erected for a farmworker, then we used to have the stockyard, and then 1 small cottage and a garden where Mr Mason's house now stands.

It used to go with the Old Mill house, this is a little way along Ulverscroft Lane. I will now try and write about the River Lyn, it originates from the Abbey Pond, Ulverscroft Priory. I think this pond was made about 1800 and between the pond and Polly Botts Lane there used to be a water cress bed, that used to supply Bradgate House. It used to be an open brook over the road, Polly Botts Lane. Gipsies used to camp in the lane and used to do the washing in the brook. Then we come along to the old Water Mill, there used to be a mill dam and flood gates. The old mill used to grind for quite a lot of farmers and quite a lot of corn used to come to Glenfield Station. I have spent many happy hours across at the mill and journeying to Glenfield Station. Further down the village where the culvert is at Groby Lane corner, I don't know if there is a well under it as there is a grave stone in the churchyard where the gamekeeper was drowned while drawing a fish through the culvert. The river Lyn is the main supply of water to Cropstone Reservoir.

**MEMORIES OF GEORGE EDGAR SMITH will continue next month moving on to the Church and Park**

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## Who was George? Notes on conversation with Mr Edgar Smith, by Jack Ayling.

Told me he had been umpire for CC for 20 years.

His father told him Countess of Stamford was a former circus rider, a dare-devil. Once the fox went across a canal she jumped 33 feet, no one dared follow her.

There were stables at Old John and a pack of hounds were kept.

Mrs Mossop has lived in the same house for 83 years and remembers that visit of Prince of Wales, circa 1890.

The Olde Cottage has been in the Smith family since 1633. Mrs Sills (Mr Smith's sister, lives there now (75 main St)

He remembers the gallery in the Church where the choir used to sit. There were steps down to the porch and up from the belfry where the choir used the vestry. The font was where the pulpit is now and the pulpit was on the opposite side. There was no side aisle. The harmonium was in the gallery.

The village had a very good band which practiced in the Sunday School. A man who lived in the place where Charlie Johnson lived was supposed to be the best cornet player in England. Another stalwart of the band was a cavalry man who lived at Beech Farm. This was formerly a timber yard.

The land behind the Church (2 meadows) was Glebe Land and the Vicar Kerry Williams used to have a pony and trap. When the alterations were carried out to the Church he was on the job at dawn and stayed with the workmen to see they did the job. He was a former carpenter. If anyone wasn't at Church, he visited them to find out why. Most excuses were paltry and he said so.

Mr Smith had a sister who owned a Sunday School prize given in 1824 by Robert Martin. He lent the book to Sir Robert (it was Pilgrim's Progress) and hasn't had it back.

For many years the bells were rung by the Smith family and he remembers the suppers which were held in the Sunday School. They had hare for supper. His first supper of this sort of this sort was at the age of 11.

## Village Ramblers

13 ramblers and 3 dogs were present for our March village walk, which was an impressive turnout considering the circumstances regarding Corona virus. It proves that Newtown Linford villagers are made of sterner stuff than wandering the streets looking for loo rolls! - I have yet to understand the correlation between catching the virus and increased usage of loo rolls.

The weather was kind to us as we walked through Bradgate Park and out to Swithland woods. In the woods we had a small diversion to view the former Swithland slate quarry. We have walked around those woods many times and were never even aware of this large 'hole' – so thank you to John and Glenis for pointing that out.

The dogs played in the fields and park and one younger dog, Rosy, was to be let off the lead for the first time, where she was enthusiastically shown the ropes by Molly the Labradoodle who was more than happy to point out the deepest and muddiest puddles to ensure her baptism in walking free was complete. Sausage, a shy boy, kept himself to himself and stayed remarkably clean, trying to set a good example, that was not followed by the girls.

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We returned to The Old Vicarage for scones, strawberry jam and clotted cream, where we were entertained by tales of the various vicars of old who had lived in the house, which was fascinating.

The people on these walks do truly make them something not to be missed. All are welcome, so please do come along with your furry friend if you have one. There were many discussions about an array of subjects from grandchildren to HS2 and all manner of other topics. Its not just a walk, it is an education with lively discussion and excellent company – not to mention home-baked cakes at the end.



The next scheduled walk will be after restrictions are lifted when we will gather outside the Village Hall at 14:00 as usual.

**Fiona Bradley-Barlow and Andrew Barlow**



## Newtown Linford Gardening Club

After the long wet winter, it has been wonderful to have a warm, sunny, dry spring and see our gardens come to life. It is a very good year for many plants. Camellias are full of flower, primroses and hellebores have been truly splendid this year and our early blossom trees are in full bloom. As ever, the gardens and roadsides are full of daffodils and tulips are now coming into colour. The lack of very cold weather has meant that our magnolias have been able to flower without suffering frost damage and, all in all, we gardeners can look forward to a bumper year.

Newtown Linford Gardening Club has, like all other similar organisations been in lockdown and we have not met since February. We had a virtual AGM earlier this month and now must wait until the danger is past and we can come together again. To keep in touch we have been exchanging photographs of our gardens and circulating a couple of pictures every day.



We now realise just how many of our members have spectacular gardens and the enforced confinement to home has meant that we have even more time to lavish on them. By the time we meet again later this year we will have a fine collection of slides.

We are still hopeful that we will be able to meet again by July at our annual garden party, but we must just wait and see.

Attached is just one of many lovely pictures we have been sharing with each other.

Anyone interested in our activities can contact the Secretary (tel.01530 242452) or e-mail us at [32couling@gmail.com](mailto: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**





## Newtown Linford Neighbourhood Watch - A member of the Parish Council



There have been a large number of Coronavirus related scams reported nationally over the last few weeks which are outlined below.

### **Buying and Selling**

Please be vigilant and watch out for scammers exploiting the demand for PPE such as face masks, Covid-19 test kits and hand sanitiser by selling fake or non-existent products online. Only use trusted sites and be wary of requests to pay via bank transfer. If a deal appears too good to be true, it probably is!

### **Doorstep Fraud**

There have been cases of fraudsters targeting those who are more vulnerable, offering to do their shopping, or other odd jobs. This may seem like a genuine act of kindness but fraudsters are taking money or bank cards and not returning. Please only accept help from friends, neighbours, Newtown Linford CAR Volunteers or those you know and trust.

### **NHS Scams**

Action Fraud continue to receive a high volume of reports about fake emails being used to solicit donations to the NHS.

The NHS will never ask you to send money directly to a bank account, or make payment using Bitcoin.

### **HMRC Scams**

Additionally, there have been a number of reports regarding emails claiming to be from HMRC offering tax rebates as a result of Coronavirus. If you get a call or message claiming to be from HMRC that asks you to click on a link or to give information such as your name, card or bank details, it's a scam.

### **'Safe account' Scams**

This is when someone claiming to be from your bank says your account has been compromised and your money must be moved to another account. People are more vulnerable to this type of scam because of the uncertainty created by Covid-19 but please remember that your banks will never ask you to move money into a 'safe account'.

Keep 'em peeled!. Best wishes, **Hannah Shaw, Parish Council Clerk**  
**Tel: 01530 249945**                      **Email: [clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk](mailto:clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk)**



# Newtown Linford Parish Council

Serving the people of Newtown Linford

It's difficult to know what to write with the current unprecedented situation we find ourselves in evolving daily. I hope by the time the Magazine goes to print, there is a glimmer of hope that the Coronavirus spread is slowing down and the efforts we have maintained to isolate ourselves over the last few weeks, are proving successful as we seek to overcome this crisis.

Through this, we have been reminded of the importance of community. Whilst we are currently asked to keep a distance between each other, I have seen people coming 'together' in many ways and this includes the work being carried out by the Newtown Linford Community Action Response Volunteers.

Following an appeal for help, 81 residents from around the Parish and beyond, have come forward to offer their help and support to anyone in isolation, who is unable to get out.

Requests for help include picking up shopping and other urgent supplies, collecting prescriptions, posting mail and many of you have been calling one another for a friendly chat. It is increasingly more important for us to stay connected, albeit through technology from our homes.

Community spirit and everyone's good faith has shone through and on behalf of Parish Councillors, I would like to thank everyone for adhering to guidance, for their understanding during this difficult time and for all the help and support currently being offered by the CAR volunteers.

Parish Council meetings have been suspended until further notice and the Annual and Parish Meetings which usually take place in May, have been cancelled for 2020. Therefore, Chairman, Sue Pritchard, Vice Chairman, Sue Greasley and Councillors Stuart Eyre, Rob Haylock, Vicki Lightfoot, Tara Pickles and Tim Porte remain in office.

Parish Council work continues, however, many non-urgent matters will be on hold until such time that current restrictions are relaxed. Please be assured that Councillors remain in regular contact and presently, our efforts are focussed on supporting the Community Action Response. We are considering holding Parish Council meetings virtually and I am currently obtaining new skills in 'Zooming'.

Our thanks go to Pam McMorrان who has now retired from the role of Responsible Financial Officer but remains in post as Registrar for Burials.

I will now continue the work of RFO and look forward to the new challenge this will bring.

Thank you for all the wonderful entries to our Design Your Own Easter Egg competition. We received 21 entries in total, all of which were bright and cheerful. We saw bunnies, hearts, rainbows and references to the NHS and the postponed Olympic Games.

The winners are as follows:

Preschool Runner Up: Matilda Baggott

Key Stage 1 Runner Up: Charles Baggott

Key Stage 2 Runner Up: Rida Haq

The overall winner across all three categories is: Jack Steane

Congratulations to all of you and I hope you enjoyed your Easter treats.



Speaking of rainbows, you might have seen a number of rainbow designs displayed in windows around the Parish. These have been created by children as a message of hope during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Teddy bears are also making an appearance at windows, offering children the opportunity to partake in a teddy bear hunt whilst out on a local walk with parents, for their daily exercise. If you have a teddy bear, please consider popping it in a window for the children to spot.



On with the news....

### **Bob Bown**

In accordance with The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) Regulations 2020, the play park is now closed until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. As soon as we are able, the park will be reopened for all to enjoy.

### **Cemetery and Churchyard**

The grass cutting schedule has commenced for the 2020 period and the Cemetery remains open. Many thanks go to Brian Anderson and Dick Howard who have planted 30 new saplings awarded to us by The Woodland Trust. Sadly, the Mother's Day Tree Planting Event scheduled for a later date, had to be cancelled. Photos of Brian and Dick to follow.

You will see I have not included my usual 'Reports' update. Although some issues will still be attended to, those considered non-urgent will be dealt with at later dates. Thank you for your understanding.

If you require information on business grants, community funding or help available for the self-employed, please get in touch.

Keep well and stay safe. Best wishes,  
**Hannah Shaw, Parish Council Clerk**  
Tel: 01530 249945 Email: [clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk](mailto:clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk)

**Services and Supplies Update** please note this is a forever changing list and may have changed by the time we go to print - if you know of a service - send details to Hannah so it can go on the facebook page.

**ADT Taxis Click & Collect Service.** Available through the ADT app. Get your pre paid Click & Collect shopping orders picked up by ADT. Go to <http://onelink.to/4dt653>

**Bradgate Flowers, Newtown Linford.** To order, call Helen on 07561175705.

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**Cook's Farm Shop.** Open Tues-Sat 9-4.30pm and Sun 10-1pm for fruit, veg, meat, ready meals and pet supplies etc. Call 01530 242214. Temporarily closed on Mondays .

**Crowdale Food Services,** Wholesaler and Distributor. Delivery available of Fresh fruit & veg, fresh meat, frozen, chilled, dry goods and non-food products. Orders delivered within two working days. For further information, please refer to their Facebook page. Contact [sales@crowdale.co.uk](mailto:sales@crowdale.co.uk) or call 0116 2885747.

**Crowson Potatoes.** 25kg bags of unwashed potatoes £10. Delivery available. Please contact resident Dean Austin to place an order on 07871237006.

**Forest Fitness Studio** are offering four online exercise classes per week from the comfort of your own home. These are being offered FREE to NHS workers for a period of 3 months. For further information, please call Newtown Linford based, Jacqui Smith on 07876897256.

**The Grey Lady Restaurant.** Call & Collect Veg, Meat, Roast Meal boxes and pies. Call 01530 243558.

**Johnson Butchers, Woodhouse Eaves.** Delivery available on fresh meats, cold meats, meals and pastries, cheeses, bread, fruit & veg, eggs and other provisions. Call 01509 890234.

**Lingdale Golf Club** in partnership with Access Catering. Please see previous post for details. Freshly prepared meals available to order and basic provisions. Menu changes weekly.

Email [accesscatering2020@gmail.com](mailto:accesscatering2020@gmail.com)

**Mindfulnesscic.co.uk** of Newtown Linford, are offering residents three free mindfulness sessions per week. Go to <https://www.mindfulnesscic.co.uk/home-retreat/>

**RW Camplejohn & Son Butchers, Syston.** Fresh meat deliveries. Steaks, Pork, Chicken, Lamb, Sausage, Bacon, Mince. Price list and details available upon request. Email orders to [rwamplejohn@outlook.com](mailto:rwamplejohn@outlook.com)

**Stonehurst Farm, Mountsorrel.** Fruit & Veg, Essentials, Meat and Tea-shop Boxes available. Price list and details available on their Facebook page. To place an order, call 01509 413216 and leave a message. The team aim to return your call, take card payment and deliver boxes within 48 hours. Delivery is available in Charnwood and Loughborough only. Collection option also now available. Open Mon to Sat 9-5pm.

**The Tall Fish Guy.** Fresh fish delivered to your door on Tuesdays. Call Remi 07966556691

**Whitfield's Greengrocers, Anstey.** Free deliveries on fruit and veg orders and will include pickups from the Co-op. Call 01162 363300.

Not local but Aldi Uk have now launched a **Aldi Food Parcel** for those who are vulnerable or self isolating. It includes 22 essentials plus a few treats for £24.99 with contactless delivery.

<https://bit.ly/3clyx5t> and includes coffee, tea bags, pasta, rice, toilet rolls, long life milk, tins of sliced carrots, baked beans, rice pudding, tomato soup, tomatoes, 4 pack of tinned tuna, pack of salted peanuts, and hand wash.

### **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**

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## **Contributions to Village Magazine**

Can we have your contributions for the **June 2020** issue by **15th May 2020** please. **Send to the Editor, Carole Heubeck, 5 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford (01530 244790).**

**E-mail [newtownvillagemagazine@outlook.com](mailto:newtownvillagemagazine@outlook.com) &  
[heubeck111@btinternet.com](mailto: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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- Floral Tributes arranged
- Hearse, Limousines and alternatives available
- Monumental Service
- Car parking available
- Online tribute and donation profile
- Catering suite
- Chapels of rest
- Funeral plans available
- 24 hour service



Funeral arrangements can be made in the comfort of your own home if preferred.



Golden Charter   
Funeral Planning for Life Ltd.

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