

# Newtown Linford Magazine

**ISSUE NUMBER 141**

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**February 2017**



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February 2017

I am writing this with a cup of coffee to hand. To be honest, I think I've written all of these with a cup of coffee close by. This one happens to have been made for me by a well-known high street chain which shares a name with a Chelsea striker, but most I make myself. Over the past few years, I've developed a bit of an interest in the processes in making a proper cup of coffee and of course, being a gadget fan, all the bits and pieces of equipment needed. I worked out the other day I have at least seven ways of making a cup, not including various grinders, tampers and ways to keep it warm as long as possible. It didn't used to be this way, I would once have just spooned the instant into a mug and poured on the water – quick and easy.

But there's something about the process, taking time, which results in a more enjoyable end product. The same is true of tea, I gather, though I don't drink it, the rituals and routines of warming a pot and doing it right make the cup much more satisfying. Or even cooking, microwaves are marvellous inventions but nothing beats a properly cooked meal.

It's normally about this stage of the year that we realise that change in life can take time: those resolutions haven't resulted in immediate transformation of waistline or relationship. Sometimes there is no quick method that works, just a process to engage and stick with.

I follow Jesus, who said that change in our lives is not just to be desired but essential so that we could experience life at its best. All of us have things in us, in our experience and in our own habits, which could do with transformation. Sometimes changes are instant, but more often there's a longer process to work with, as he helps us change. That can be frustrating – none of us like waiting! – but is worthwhile, as the best results, the best life we can have, comes from that patient 'brewing' of a perfect blend at the hands of the perfect guide.

**Richard**

Newtown Linford Village Hall

# QUIZ EVENING



**Friday 3 March 2017**

**7 for 7.30pm start.**

£10 Ticket price includes Ploughman' supper.

Please advise at time of ticket purchase if vegetarian.

There will be a licensed bar.

Tickets from Vicki Lightfoot on 01530 242445

or via email [vickilightfoot32@gmail.com](mailto:vickilightfoot32@gmail.com)



# VILLAGE DIARY

## **February**

3rd/4th Choral Society  
11th Ramblers Society  
24th/25th Book Launch  
28th Gardening Society

## **March**

3rd Quiz Evening  
4th Brownies Rummage Sale  
11th Ramblers  
24th Cricket Club Annual Dinner

## **Regular events**

Monday afternoon	Mature Movers fitness class V. Hall
Mondays 8pm at the Church	Bell Ringing
4th Tuesday of the month	Gardening Club
3rd Wednesday of the month	Ladies Luncheon Club
Thursdays 11.15	Coffee Mornings for all, Village Hall
Thursdays 6.30	Brownies, Sunday School Rooms
3rd Thursday	Gentlemen's Lunch Club

**Thank you !** We are so lucky in our Village with the events put on by the various groups and individuals which help to create our wonderful sense of community and the opportunity to meet neighbours old and new.

Thanks have been sent in by Betty McChrystal to all those villagers (you know who you are) who made the home made mince pies and brownies for us to enjoy after the Carols by Candlelight service in the Church. They were much appreciated and enjoyed by all who came, along with the mulled wine organised by Jane. Thanks also to the Village Hall for the loan of the glasses to the Church . The Church looked glorious with all the candles, the tree and the beautiful flower arrangements around the Church.

Many of us enjoyed the Carols at the Village Hall put on by the choir, and the Ratby Brass Band at the Club. A great evening was enjoyed by many with the Christmas Meal in the Village Hall, thanks to the Village Hall Committee and those who provided the fantastic food, entertainment and decorated the Hall.

If you have not yet joined in - why not come along to the Quiz Evening on the 3rd March or the Choral Society's performance held in Ratby.

**Carole, Editor**

# Coffee & Cake @ Newtown Linford Village Hall

Thursday Morning 11.15am - Free

All Welcome - All Ages



## Coffee and Cake Duty Rota

### February

2nd	Carol Ann Sugden/Gillian/June Hallam	243433/0116 2304808
9th	Mary & Wes Raynor	243042
16th	Ruth Goddard & Ann Smith	245316/242639
23rd	Lesley Cook/Chris A/Gay Redstone	242214/242432/ 2351625

### March

2nd	Amanda Sculthorpe & Vicky Lightfoot	07779123952/242445/ 07704882983
9th	Jo & Claire Costello	249613
16th	Judy Rowe/Janet Brunton & School	243989/242662
23rd	Betty McChrystal/Sue Howard & Gill Bates	244363/245373/ 224491
30th	Casey Pearson & Jenny Cole	249259

### Christmas Coffee & Cake - December 8th 2016

Thank you to everyone who came to support Alicia's Grandson and to all those who brought raffle prizes and Cake. The younger children from school came to sing their Christmas Songs and were fabulous, thank you to them. The turkey sandwiches were delicious - you raised £550 which will once again provide Alicia's grandson Ashton with valuable physiotherapy.

Please swap with someone else if you are unable to do your duty. Pass on the hall key to the next people on duty.

**An opportunity everyone to catch up on village news and activities and to meet your fellow neighbours**

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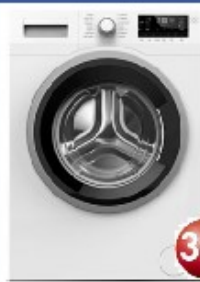
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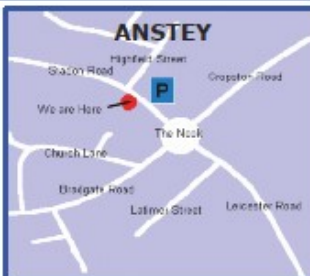
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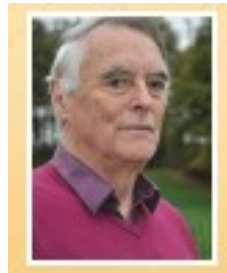
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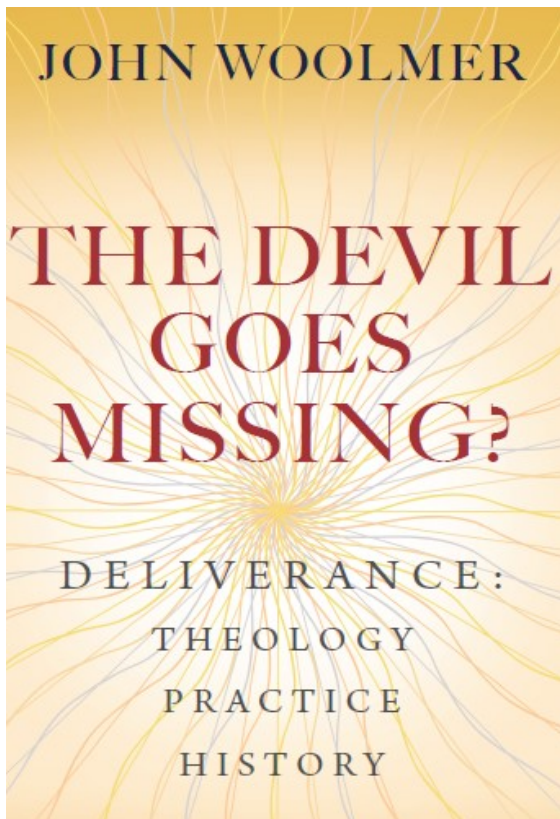
## **Book Launch “The Devil Goes Missing”**

Local author John Woolmer invites you a book launch party for 'The Devil Goes Missing?' at Fig Tree Cottage on February 24th and 25th 6 - 9pm RSVP.



Prebendary John Woolmer was Rector of Shepton Mallet from 1982 - 2002 (he chaired the Bath and Wells Diocesan Healing Group and helped with Deliverance Ministry). From 2002 to 2007, he worked with Springboard and ReSource while leading a “new expressions” Church in Leicester. John has written a number of books, led missions, and taught about healing and deliverance in many countries including Zambia, Tanzania, Argentina, and Papua New Guinea (as well as holding regular Services in our Church in Newtown Linford).

**For more details contact John via email at [jstwoolmer@gmail.com](mailto:jstwoolmer@gmail.com).**



If you do not have access to a computer and want more details please contact the Editor of the Magazine - information and phone number on page 38.





# LAUDATE DOMINUM

Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart,  
Schubert, Mendelssohn, Rossini.

## Sacred Music of the Masters

### Newtown Linford Choral Society

With

Chamber Orchestra

**Bethan Williams: Soprano**

**Joanna Kirkwood: Flute**

Friday 3rd February & Saturday 4th February, 7.30pm.

St Philip & St James Church, Ratby

Tickets:£10 (£5 Children under 18 & Students )

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Peter Sayer 01530 243822

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# RUMMAGE SALE



**NEWTOWN LINFORD BROWNIES**

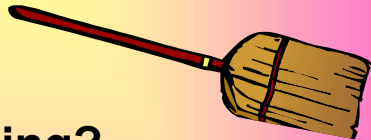
**Saturday 4th March 2017**

**1.30pm in the Village Hall**

**Admission 50p**



**Tea and Home made cakes**



## **Are you Spring Cleaning?**

If so and you are outting unwanted clothes and bric a brac - please remember we are having a rummage sale and would be very grateful for your surplus articles.

Village doors will be open for dropping off rummage from 9.15am on date of sale or collection can be arranged.

**Hilary - Brown Owl**  
**07432 202983**



## Village Christmas Celebration is a Resounding Success



This year the Newtown Linford Christmas Celebration was re-imagined, drawing the largest and liveliest crowd in years, with villagers of all ages sharing in the joy of the festive season. Following a decline in numbers last year, this year a dose of imagination and creativity on behalf of organisers succeeded in bringing the annual event into a sparkling new era.



This year the Christmas Extravaganza was host to none other than the famed Emmanuel Apostolic Gospel Academy Choir, as featured on BBC 2's The Choir. This exciting appearance, following their success earlier that week as runners up of the televised competition, filled the room with the Christmas spirit as everyone joined in with classics such as the 12 Days of Christmas.



In preparation for the event, an enthusiastic team of Christmas helpers transformed the Village Hall with red and gold and illuminated the stage with a star-studded backdrop. With flickering candles, tinsel Christmas trees and twinkling fairy lights it was impossible to resist the magic of Christmas.

The festive menu too was revitalised, starting with a warming winter soup and followed by a delicious main course of salmon, accompanied by dauphinoise potatoes and a selection of locally sourced vegetables. The meal was rounded off with enticing desserts, an irresistible cheese board and coffee and mince pies. This delight for the taste buds was accompanied throughout by an assortment of live piano favourites from jazz through blues to Christmas jingles.

Special thanks for this tremendous evening go to the village members who, despite preferring not to be in the spotlight, should none-the-less be thanked for all

their hard work and dedication to make this evening such a marvellous success to be enjoyed by all.

**Sophie Lightfoot**

## **From the Park Mission Accomplished**

When I wrote my column in February last year, we were just getting ready to start work on the new Visitor Centre with the builder being due on site at the end of the month. Since then, we have opened to the public (in July) and held the official opening, which was performed by Sir David Attenborough in September.



Because the new Visitor Centre was to be such an improvement on the old one and would be open every day, we really did not know how many people to expect in its first season of opening. I set the rather arbitrary target of attracting 10% of a typical year's total visitors: 50,000 people, which I felt would be quite a challenge to achieve. Such has been the popularity of the new Exhibition that we achieved the first year's target in less than seven full months of opening: on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January. As well as representing 10% of a typical year's visitor numbers at Bradgate Park, the figure of 50,000 is also significant because it represents the number above which Visit England classify a property as falling into the category of Large Visitor Attraction.

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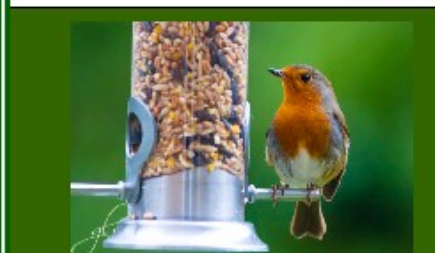


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for only £5 extra per couple

As well as counting the number of visitors, we have also been surveying them to find out what they think of the Visitor Centre. A staggering 96% rated the overall experience as either Excellent or Very Good and 72% said they had “learned a lot”. A typical comment either in the Visitors’ Book or via the feedback terminal goes something like: “I have been coming here for over 40 years and I never knew there was so much history here.” In fact, I challenge anyone not to learn something new from a trip around the Visitor Centre.

We are building on the great work that is done in the Visitor Centre by our volunteers by recruiting and training volunteers to act as tour guides for the Ruins and also for Old John, which will be open to the public on Easter Monday and then hopefully on every weekend until October. If you would like to volunteer to welcome people to Leicestershire’s most well-known landmark, please email [volunteers@bradgatepark.org](mailto:volunteers@bradgatepark.org)

We are making a few changes to the format of our events and guided walk programmes this year and they will be going to print shortly. In the meantime, tickets for this summer’s theatre performances, *Wind in the Willows* and *Pride and Prejudice*, are available to buy online at [www.seetickets.com](http://www.seetickets.com) as are tickets for the Bradgate Proms on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August, for which we are offering an Early Bird Discount of 20% for tickets purchased before the end of March.

As usual, the Bradgate Lecture will be held in the Village Hall. This year, Steve Woodward of Loughborough Naturalists’ Club will talk about *The Ecology of Bradgate Park*. The lecture will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February starting at 7.30pm and admission costs £2 for adults and £1 for children, students and OAPs.

Out on the Park, it has been a busy winter and the steady flow of visitors has never really stopped. The wet weather has slowed the woodland work and we are in need of some good, hard frosts to enable us to extract timber without causing damage to the ground.

Sadly, the Red Bus Café at Hunts Hill has suffered a spate of vandalism. If anybody has any information relating to this, please report it to the police by dialling 101. We were delighted to get our stolen Land Rover back thanks to the power of social media and it would be good if we could put a stop to this antisocial behaviour as well.

As the days slowly lengthen, I look forward to seeing you on the Park.

**Peter Tyldesley**



Newtown Linford Ramblers at Old John, December 2016

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## **Village Ramblers**

The December Village walk was on Saturday 10th and started from the Village Hall at 11am.. There were eleven of us on the walk and the weather was very pleasant. We took the path, near to The Bradgate, up to the Park wall and then we walked on the outside of the wall all the way to Hunts Hill. On the way we enjoyed the beautiful westerly views along this path, looking towards Copt Oak. From Hunts Hill we walked up to Old John, where John Castle took the photograph and as ever we appreciated the panoramic views from there. We then walked to the War Memorial and from there we slowly meandered through the Park, back to Main Street and to The Bradgate for our Christmas meal. Twelve of us enjoyed a pleasant lunch and we arranged to organise our 2017 walks at Lesley's house, after our January walk. **Ed Killick**

**January Walk.** Nine walkers, plus two joining us later, walked along Roecliffe Road, via the outside edge of the wall in Bradgate Park towards Hallgates. Then we walked across the field to Swithland Woods, making our way back to my house for tea and cakes and to compile the list of walks for 2017. It was a beautiful, warm and sunny afternoon and we thought ourselves extremely lucky after the previous day of storms and snow. **Lesley Baker**

## **Ramblers Village Walks 2017**

11 <sup>th</sup> February	Toby and Felicity Manning
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Pat Woodward
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Claire and Joe Costello
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Penny Neaves
17 <sup>th</sup> June	John Castle
8 <sup>th</sup> July	Christine Hall
12 <sup>th</sup> August	Iris and Peter Sayer
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Peter and Carolyn Lowe
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Jan Croft
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Sarah Fane-Forester
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Ed Killick
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Lesley Baker

Unless otherwise notified, all walks depart from opposite the Village Hall at 2.00pm. New members are always welcome. All you need is a pair of walking boots and the ability to walk 4/5 miles. Well behaved dogs are also welcome but must be under the supervision of the owner and be on the lead wherever there is livestock or nesting birds.

## Newtown Linford Brownies

A fantastic, festive, fun filled evening!

The Brownies were kindly invited to sing some Christmas Carols at the Newtown Linford Choral Society Carol Evening on the 15th December 2016.

We had been practising hard for a couple of weeks for the special event. We even had some singing lessons from Amy.



The Village Hall was full of people with wonderful voices, shiny loud instruments and the Brownies were on the stage.

Magic filled the room with Christmas cheer when the instruments were played with such confidence and the carols were sang with such effort.

The Brownies sang 'Ding Dong Merrily on High', Jingle Bell Rock, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and Children of the World.

The brownies got into the spirit of Christmas by wearing Christmas headbands and hats. I wore my Rudolph headband! My favourite song was Jingle Bell Rock because the words are great and it makes you want to dance!

At the end everyone celebrated with a drink and cake - it was an amazing evening I will never forget!

**By Lexie Rose Edwards, Age 8**

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# NEWTOWN LINFORD SERVICES

## February 2017

DATE	GLENFIELD	NEWTOWN LINFORD
5th February  Presentation of Christ in the Temple	8.30am Holy Communion (RT)	
	10.15am Worship as One (BH/RT)	10.30am Holy Communion (CH)
	6.30pm Evensong (GS)	
12th February  5th Sunday before Lent		8.00am Holy Communion (RT)
	10.15am Holy Communion (RT)	10.30am Morning Prayer
	6.30pm Compline (RT)	
19th February  4th Sunday before Lent	8.30am Holy Communion (RT)	
	10.15am Service of the World (GS/BH)	10.30am Holy Communion (RT)
	4.00pm Messy Church	
	6.30pm Evening Prayer (BH)	
26th February  3rd Sunday before Lent		8.00am Holy Communion (RT)
	10.15am Holy Communion (PH)	10.30am All Age Service (RT)
	6.30pm Bradgate Group—Songs of Praise held at Thurstaston	

### MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES—February 2017

<b>GLENFIELD</b>	Wed	9.30am	1st	8th	15th	22nd
<b>NEWTOWN LINFORD</b>	Thur	10am	2nd			



## **CHURCH REGISTER** **NEWTOWN LINFORD**

### **Weddings**

None

### **Baptisms**

None

### **Funerals**

26th January ~ Pat Parkinson, formerly of Groby Lane, Newtown Linford



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.

**Newtown Linford Church now has its own Website - why not check it out.**

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

### **Church Contact Details**

Richard Trethewey  
Rector of St Peter's, Glenfield, and All Saints, Newtown Linford  
0116 287 1604  
Email: [richard@stpetersandallsaints.org.uk](mailto:richard@stpetersandallsaints.org.uk)

### **Church Wardens:**

Clive Rowe & Jane Woolmer

Parish Office: Bekki Williamson (9am - 11am weekdays)  
0116 239 3768      Email: [office@bradgateteam.org.uk](mailto:office@bradgateteam.org.uk)

## Newtown Linford Gardening Club

It is amazing to think that we now start our fifteenth year. It certainly seems no time at all since a group of enthusiasts formed the Club back in 2002 with a membership of around 30. Some of those founder members are still with us and we are sure they will be delighted that the Club has flourished so well. Our membership is now over 100 and so the range of events we are able to offer has increased substantially. We have an exciting and varied programme planned for the year with prestigious speakers, an interesting visit and our traditional social events. We are looking forward to what we hope will be another successful year. Our programme is as follows:-

28th Feb	Dahlias	<i>Arthur Parkinson</i>
28th Mar	Plants for Shade	<i>Andrew Mikolajski</i>
25th April	Wildgoose Nursery—Viola Specialists	<i>Jack Willgoss (Chelsea Gold Medallists)</i>
23rd May	Echinopsis Hybrids	<i>Brian Fearn</i>
27th June <i>(gardener)</i>	An Evening of Gardening	<i>Ady Damon (local radio)</i>
25th July	Summer Garden Party	
22nd Aug	Visit to Easton Walled Gardens near Grantham	
<b>26th Sept</b>	Bulbs throughout the year	<i>Richard Woods (from Lilies and Chillies)</i>
24th Oct	An Open Evening with Helen Yemm	<i>(Gardening Columnist of the Daily Telegraph)</i>
5th Dec	Christmas Party	

We have welcomed a large number of new members this year and will be pleased if others want to join us. If you are interested in our activities just contact the Secretary (tel. 242452 or e-mail [01530242452@talktalk.net](mailto:01530242452@talktalk.net)), or come to one of our meetings to see how you like it before making a commitment (£2 for visitors). Alternatively give us a ring and ask for a copy of our programme for the coming year and we will be pleased to send one to you.

**Anne and David Couling**

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## Village Hall News

The AGM of the Village Hall Charitable Trust was predictably unexciting; the existing Members were all re-elected/re-appointed. The Committee therefore consists of elected members Toby Manning (Chairman), Janet Brunton (Secretary), Peter Rose (Treasurer), Vicki Lightfoot, John Nixon, Wes Raynor, together with appointed members Pat Wood (Choir), Sue Pritchard (Gardening Club and Parish Council), Peter Upton (Drama) and Caroline Brewster (Playgroup).

The Financial Report showed a loss of £1,015 (after spending £2,073 on renovating the floor) on a turnover of £15,588, and as a consequence the Committee reported that it had instituted an increase in fees of approximately 5% - the first increase since 2009.

The Christmas Evening meal was considered a success, with 97 tickets being sold. I know that some Villagers regretted the change from a lunch, but attendance at this had been steadily reducing (it was 57 in 2015) and of course the regular coffee mornings are available for those in the Village during the day. Our thanks to Carol Anne Sugden, Vicki Lightfoot and her team for organising it.

We look forward to the Village Quiz on 3rd March – please see the separate advert in this issue.

**Toby Manning, Chairman**

### **Would you like to make a difference in Newtown Linford?**

Why don't you join the Newtown Linford Good Neighbour Scheme Steering Group and help launch this scheme! We need community-minded residents from the Village to join the Group and assist with the set up and running of this important project. The scheme is Village led and is about linking people in your neighbourhood who are in need, with local volunteers who are willing to help them. Not only is it a great way of meeting new people in your Village and providing support to those who need it most, but it also helps everyone to feel more connected with their neighbours. This scheme is supported by the Rural Community Council, a local charity, and Leicestershire County Council.

Would you like to help get this scheme established? Then please contact us using the details below and come along to our next meeting. If you would like more information, please contact Keira Gaynor from the Rural Community Council on:



## Fundraising for LOROS

Megan Raynor knitted some mini pompom hats before Christmas to sell. She sold out, raising £70 which she then donated to LOROS on Christmas Eve.

This was entirely Megan's idea and she did it in memory of her God Father Terry Cook and good friend Sharron Gregory who passed away a few years ago.



## Miss Joan Richardson

Formerly of Sandhills Lodge Farm, Ulverscroft and latterly in Oxfordshire.

Born 7th May 1941

Died 16th December 2016

Joan's committal took place on 4th January 2017, in Oxfordshire with family and friends travelling down for the service.

Carolyn Wright



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## From the Records

The Leicester Advertiser of 1961 did an interview with Newtown Linford Author Mrs Marjorie G Lowe. Mrs Lowe had been writing since she was a child but it was only when her family had grown up that she could get down to serious writing. She had already produced some short stories that were printed in Women's Magazines but over two years wrote her first novel which was set in Charnwood Forest and about a Victorian gypsy.



It also ran as a serial in a Women's Magazine and Mrs Lowe's family also read it - week by week. Mrs Lowe researched local history for the novel and wrote it around her housework - spreading out her papers after she had cleared the breakfast table and fitting her writing around housework.

At the time of being interviewed she was already on her second book which was based close to Thurmaston - the village where she was born but this time it was an imaginary location.

Moving forward to 1963, the paper again caught up with Marjorie - when her historical romance "Raking for the Moon" was published by Macdonald (16s). She was complimented for the great deal of research she did to get the historical background of the early 19th century right. The hosiery trade was in trouble because of the slump caused by the Napoleonic Wars and the "stockingers" who had been made redundant by the new -fangled mills.

It also mentioned that Mrs Lowe was the daughter of a former director of the Leicester Museum, Libraries and Art Gallery.

A bit of research on the internet by the editor revealed the Mrs Lowe continued to write and publish, with several books still to be found on Amazon (but it looks like there are two authors called Marjorie G Lowe - one born in California)

Jess (1963 published by Pan) advertises on the front cover - that it is "a fiery historical romance that kept 5 million women in suspense for 9 weeks" when it was serialised in Woman magazine as Romany Gold



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## Markfield Lane roadside verge

Three years ago, I was concerned that the wide area of verge towards the bottom end of Markfield Lane was being mown too frequently during the growing season. Native wild flowers were being cut down before they even had a chance to seed. I felt that it could instead be a conservation area - roadside verges being one of the few places left where wild flowers, and their associated wildlife, including bees, whose numbers have declined massively in recent years, could thrive. It seemed a pity that our wild flowers, especially summer ones such as White Campion and Field Scabious, were never allowed to colonise the area.



As there are no road safety issues which need the grass to be kept short along this stretch of road, I suggested to the Parish Council that the verge need not be cut so often. The Parish Council agreed and the County Council was informed that their contractors no longer needed to mow the wide area of verge between Markfield Lane and the service road, apart from either side of the footpath and a metre-wide strip next to the road. Arrangements were then made locally for mowing the verge in late summer, and removing the cuttings (taking away the cuttings reduces the fertility of the soil and restricts the growth of the grass which tends to choke out many flowers).

Dedicating the area for wildlife has met with difficulties along the way: sometimes the



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grass-cutting team didn't cut the margins on either side of the footpath, and the path subsequently became overgrown; and once in error they mowed the whole area at the height of the growing season.

Another issue has been that some of the residents in Markfield Lane prefer the whole area to be cut on a regular basis, to keep it neat and tidy.

In the light of these difficulties, a different arrangement is now in place, which was agreed by the Parish Council at their December 2016 meeting. This is that the verge will revert to being cut according to the normal County Council grass-cutting schedule, apart from a section of it planted by the village Brownies some time ago

with a selection of wild flowers (*Plugs for Bugs* as part of the *Stepping Stones Project*). This section will be marked out, as it was originally, and, as a much smaller area, will be easier to manage on a community basis. It will be mown in late summer and the cuttings taken away.

The Parish Council has agreed for me to continue to liaise with the County Council over grass-cutting in this part of Markfield Lane, and to arrange for the management for wildlife of this now much smaller conservation area. I have suggested that some extra wild flower seeds are set, and perhaps some more plug plants, to enhance the amenity value for local residents and passers-by.

For anyone interested, the organisation *Plantlife* ([www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)) has a Road Verge campaign, supported by Alan Titchmarsh. They want to reduce the unnecessary, routine mowing of verges by Local Authorities. Britain has lost over 97% of its meadows since the 1930s, they say, and roadside verges can supply vital food and shelter for Britain's declining wildlife.

**Claire Costello**

**Tel.01530 249613**

**[cecostello25@gmail.com](mailto:cecostello25@gmail.com)**

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



This is the Newsletter received from the Beat Team. As you will see there has been no reported crime in December. The Beat team have apologized for the January Parish Council Meeting as none of them will be on duty.

Happy New Year to you all we hope you had a safe and happy Christmas. There has been no reported crime during the month of December

### **Crime Prevention**

We have had several reports from other areas within Charnwood of theft from motor vehicles.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind residents of the following advice:

- Leave it on show then expect it to go – Always remove valuables from your vehicle
- Remove satellite navigation systems including the cradle and cables and wipe the windscreen where the cradle sits. Many people leave their satnav under the seat or in the glove compartment, and an empty cradle is still an invite to break into a vehicle
- Don't leave tools in a van overnight
- Please make sure that doors and windows are closed and keys removed when you leave your vehicle even if it's for only a moment
- Park your vehicle in a well-lit spot that is visible to others or covered by CCTV
- If you have a garage, lock your vehicle inside it and lock the garage.
- On icy mornings never leave your vehicle unattended whilst the engine is running. Not only is this an invitation to take the vehicle but often insurance companies won't pay out if the keys are left in the vehicle.

Home security is the best way to reduce your chances of being burgled. A lot of burglars are opportunist, they see an open window or other easy point of entry and take their chance.

### **Things to consider**

- Securely lock all doors and windows before leaving  
31 the house. It's easy to forget when you're in a hurry,



but it's the simplest way for a burglar to enter your home

- Never leave keys anywhere near the front door, including your letter-box; burglars know where to look
- A home that looks empty is far more likely to be targeted by a burglar, so it's worth making sure your home looks occupied
- Use automatic timer-switches to turn on a light and perhaps a radio when it goes dark, even if you are just out for a couple of hours
- If you're away for a longer period of time, cancel any newspapers or milk deliveries
- Why not ask a neighbour or relative for help? Could they clear the post away from the door mat and open and close the curtains?
- Visible burglar alarms are a deterrent
- Visibly and permanently marking your belongings helps you and the Police identify them if they are stolen. It can also make it more difficult for the thief to dispose of the property
- Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home by installing locked gates, 2 metre minimum fencing or walls. Trellis topping also makes climbing difficult
- Security lighting can be used to make offenders feel vulnerable and observed. Consider using dusk to dawn lighting
- Fit strong padlocks to shed and garage doors
- Make sure that passers-by can see the front of your home. Remove and secure items that may be used to break in or climb up such as ladders and garden tools
- Beware of bogus callers; use your spy hole and a door chain until you have seen their ID and are satisfied you want to let them in
- Never discuss your security requirements or existing arrangements with a doorstep caller or salesperson
- Work with your neighbours to keep an eye on each other's security.

Please report any suspicious activity at the time by calling 101

### **Local Priorities**

Following complaints from local residents, our local priority is to tackle vehicle related antisocial behaviour on Kinchley Lane. Local officers have regularly patrolled the area in order to reduce the ASB.

Speeding has also been raised as a concern by local residents at several locations across Charnwood West. We will be carrying out further speed checks in the near future to try and tackle these issues.

**Pam McMorran.....NHW Co-ordinator**



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Firstly the Parish Council would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

This year the Parish Council bought new lights for the Christmas Tree and a number of compliments were received from residents. Thanks go to Malcolm Brewin for installing the tree and lights. His hard work is much appreciated.

**Cemetery:** - The new fencing has been installed delineating the boundaries of the entire cemetery. The tree planting scheme for the new entrance has been submitted to Charnwood B.C. and once the ok is received the entrance will be put in place. The replacement hedging matches what is being removed but we have still had to pay the fee for approval! This work has to be carried out by the end of February when the nesting season commences. We cannot use the second gateway until we have paid for white 'slow' signs on the road and various signage in both gateways. Two residents have promised three trees between them in memory of loved ones. We would still like a few more. An application has been made to the Woodland Trust to see if we are eligible for young hedging plants in 2017. New contractors have levelled a number of graves and turfed them and it is hoped this work will continue over the coming months.

**Bob Bown Playing Field:** - The fencing round the five aside football pitch has been repaired. The Dog Bin has been resited and once again good comments have been received from residents. Thanks for this goes to dog walker Rhona who suggested its resiting. The tail has been broken off the green springer in the children's playground. The tail can be replaced and we presently await quotes to place before the Insurance Company.

**Bradgate Park Trust:** - Peter Tyldesley will have attended the January Parish Council meeting to give an update on proposals for dealing with the serious parking problems experienced in the Village. More on this in the March issue of the magazine.

**Troughs in the centre of the village :-** Following the retirement of Nigel and Betty Blythe who have looked after the five troughs for nearly 20 years – with many thanks for all your hard work- we have been looking for volunteers to take on this task. The Chairman and the

Clerk are each growing plants (that do not need too much water) which will be planted by the Chairman in the Spring. We appeal once again for assistance with the watering. We think they will only need watering once a week and perhaps a resident could adopt one near to them....

**Planters on the lamp posts:-** The Council intends to use the same or similar company to supply and maintain these as last year. The display was slow to get going in 2016 but that may have been due to the weather conditions because later in the season they were extremely good.

**Wild Flower Area on Markfield Lane:** - Following last years' problems this area will be repegged and Highways have been asked to not cut it at all. Resident Claire Costello has agreed to organize a group of people to cut it appropriately. Thanks to them and hopefully it will look better and be to everyone's satisfaction.

**Pam McMorrان – Parish Clerk 01530 242201**  
**[clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk](mailto:clerk@newtownlinford.org.uk)**

### **Dark skies at night ?**

Did you know that, according to the report 'England's Light pollution and dark skies' Charnwood is ranked 152 in the scale dark to light of 326 districts (and that is including the bright lights of Loughborough !).. Local Councils are being encouraged to reduce the amount of light pollution which frequently prevents the appreciation of the night sky in all its astronomical glory. Energy saving measures such as switching off street lighting after midnight and the use of LED street lights (which are far more directional than the incandescent variety) also serve to reduce the light spilling into the skies. In Newtown Linford we are fortunate that the expanse of countryside and dark parkland adjacent to our village enables us to enjoy the night sky more than our more 'built up' local towns and cities

However the cheap running costs of LED lighting do seem to be encouraging the use of more expansive domestic outdoor lighting schemes, whether for security or aesthetic effect. Although, if security is your concern, then motion activated security lighting is, apparently, more effective at deterring crime than a constant illumination.

The Parish Council have become aware of some concern regarding bright outdoor lights that remain on all night, every night disturbing adjacent properties. Please, if you have such an outdoor lighting scheme, can you consider switching it off after midnight, to benefit your

36 neighbours, local wildlife and those that wish to star gaze.....

**Sue Pritchard**

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## Contributions to Village Magazine

Can we have your contributions for the **March 2017** issue by **15th February 2017** please. **Send to the Editor, Carole Heubeck, 5 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford (01530 244790).**

**E-mail [heubeck111@btinternet.com](mailto:heubeck111@btinternet.com)**

**Please could you send any emails to the above email address. 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.**

The opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the Editors and they reserve the right to amend, shorten or not print any article or advertisement submitted for publication. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this magazine, and advertisements are accepted in good faith, no liability can be accepted for loss, damage or claim of any kind incurred by the reader



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