

# Newtown Linford Magazine

## ISSUE NUMBER 152

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**March 2018**

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**March 2018**

Simon Thomas will be familiar to one generation as a Blue Peter presenter, taking on challenges like climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and running the 60m against Darren Campbell, to another as one of the main football presenters on Sky, presenting live games alongside big name pundits. But in November last year Simon's world was, in his own words, 'turned upside down and inside out'. His wife of twelve years, Gemma, died suddenly only three days after being diagnosed with leukaemia, leaving him with their eight year-old son.

Simon recently shared his experience of bereavement. 'As I write now, it's just after three thirty in the morning. I'm into the tenth week of severe sleep deprivation... My body is weak. My mind is frazzled... Most of the time now I do feel useless. Physically I feel the weakest I've ever felt, I couldn't be strong even if I tried... When people ask me how I'm doing, I long for the day I can say with authenticity that I am OK; but right now I can't say anything other than I'm not OK, I'm really struggling.'

In the same piece he quotes something written by the Christian author Pete Grieg: "When life is tough they tell you to be strong. Don't be strong. Be weak. Unclench your fists. Dare to vulnerable. Honest weakness takes courage. It affirms our common humanity, deepens friendship and elicits grace."

We all try to be strong, yet loss and heartache can hit any of us at any time, revealing to us our own weakness. God spoke to Simon in his own place of vulnerability through the Bible, through Paul's experience: "My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness." That's a really hard thing to hear, it's a hard thing to do, to be vulnerable, to acknowledge weakness, to ask for help. But if we turn to God in weakness, he turns to us with his loving strength

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

## VILLAGE DIARY

### **March**

3rd Rummage Sale (Brownies)  
10th Ramblers  
14th Ladies Evening—Linford Club  
19th Friends of Charnwood Forest  
23rd Newtown Cricket Club—Annual Sportsman Dinner  
26th Parish Council Meeting  
27th Gardening Club

### **April**

14th Village Safari Supper

### **Regular events**

Monday afternoon	Mature Movers fitness class V. Hall
Mondays 8pm at the Church	Bell Ringing
4th Tuesday of the month	Gardening Club
1st and 3rd Wednesdays of month	Home Study Group
3rd Wednesday of the month	Ladies Luncheon Club
Thursdays 11.15	Coffee Mornings for all, Village Hall
Thursdays 6.30	Brownies, Sunday School Rooms
Thursday Eves	Bridge Club 9 Main Street
3rd Thursday	Gentlemen's Lunch Club
Boules	Phone 01530 245373 for more info

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**Coffee & Cake @ Newtown Linford Village Hall**  
**Thursday Morning 11.15am - Free**

**All Welcome - All Ages**



**Coffee and Cake Duty Rota**

**March**

1st	Judy Rowe/Clare A/Rhian/Natasha	243989/243119
8th	Mary & Wes Raynor	243042
15th	Lesley C/Chris A/Gay Redstone	242214/242432/Lei2351625
22nd	Amanda Sculthorpe/Vicky Lightfoot	242445/07779123952
29th	Casey Pearson & Jenny Cole	249259

**April**

5th	Jo & Claire Costello	249613
12th	Carolyn Turner & Charlotte Jackson	249173/242959
19th	Margaret Bloor & Sue Dobby	245078/242000
26th	Sue Pritchard & Teresa Calvert	243119/482802



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

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

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

**Tissington Well Dressing Trip**

**Tuesday 15th May**

Coffee and Cake Group– but all welcome

Leaving village Hall at 9.30am

Return to village for 5.30pm

**£10 a head for coach**

Free entry into Tissington, a fab day out as the well dressing is incredible. Good Garden Centre, Read in the Village Hall and recommended Butchers Shop in village.

**Book through Carol Ann on 243433**





# RUMMAGE SALE

**NEWTOWN LINFORD BROWNIES  
BROWNIE RUMMAGE SALE**



**Saturday 3rd March 2018**

**1.30pm in the Village Hall**



**Admission 50p**



**Tea and Home made cakes**



Well the Rummage Sale time has come round again and we are hoping you are having a Spring Clean. If you are clearing out your unwanted clothes, bric-a-brac, books and toys etc, the Brownies would be very grateful for your surplus articles.

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



**Hilary - Brown Owl  
07432 302983**



# VILLAGE SAFARI

## SUPPER

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**Tickets £10**



**Proceeds towards redecoration of the Church**



**7pm  
Drinks and Canapes  
in Church**



**8.15pm      Main Courses in houses in the village**

**9.30          Deserts and Coffee back in Church.**

Please come and join in

## **EVERY ONE WELCOME**

If you can help in any way (particularly as a main course host) or to buy tickets,

Please contact Ed Killick 01530 249 589



NLCC 1st XI  
Everards Division I

# Newtown Linford Cricket Club Sponsorship 2018



The First XI fell agonisingly short of promotion to the Premier Division, finishing third while the Seconds ended a commendable sixth in Division Four Central but there was better news for the Third XI.

David Jackson's young charges did the Club proud by taking the Division Nine West crown by some 66 points.



The Thursday XI also enjoyed success, reaching the semi-finals of the Loughborough Thursday Evening League.

The junior section of the Club is thriving with the Under 13s, 15s and 17s all having a good season with the Under-15s winning their league and reaching the play-off semi-finals.

The summer also saw the successful launch of our Village Cricket Challenge aimed at encouraging reluctant and former cricket players to engage with the Club and the sport.

In other off-the-field news, we secured Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status. Becoming a CASC is the equivalent of being a charity in sporting terms and it will open up many opportunities for us over the coming years.

You will also be pleased to hear that planning has begun in earnest for our Centenary Season in 2019 and a programme of events is being formulated. If you'd like to get involved or have any ideas then please do not hesitate to contact [pdmutvihill@gmail.com](mailto:pdmutvihill@gmail.com)

Newtown Linford Cricket Club  
**ANNUAL SPORTSMANS DINNER**  
Friday, March 23rd 2018 - Upplegate Golf Club  
7.30pm - 10.00pm (Seating from 8.00pm) - £25.00 per person (incl. drinks)

Tickets  
**£35**  
All proceeds go to the Club  
for the benefit of the Club

Guest Speaker  
Former Denmark and Liverpool legend  
**Jan Molby**  
and Comedian **Lee Roberts**

The Club is moving in the right direction but we cannot afford to rest on our laurels so any support is always very much appreciated.

Thank you  
**Jon Dale**  
Club Chairman

## Package A £150

- Two free tickets to our annual Sportsman's Dinner 2018 (March 23)
- Invite to President's Day Luncheon
- Recognition on sponsors board & club communications throughout the season
- Full page advert in the NLCC 2018 fixture book\*

## Package B £100

- Invite to President's Day Luncheon
- Recognition on sponsors board & club communications throughout the season
- Full page advert in the NLCC 2018 fixture book\*

\*Size: 138mm (h) x 95mm (w), artwork to be supplied by 28 February 2018 in order that printing deadlines can be met.

## Package C £60

- Invite to President's Day Luncheon
- Recognition on sponsors board and social media throughout the season
- Half page advert in the NLCC 2018 fixture book\*\*

\*\*Size: 67.5mm (h) x 95mm (w), artwork to be supplied by 28 February 2018 in order that printing deadlines can be met.

For information on further opportunities including match ball or stumps sponsorship please contact Jon Dale on 07824 016 041 or Ed Clarke on 07979 538 676.

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NIGHT

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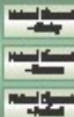
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## How to contact the Police

All incidents are to be reported to the Police and **by calling 101**

They will then assess the situation and deal with the situation as they see fit. This may involve a vehicle from another area. If you wish also advise our NHW coordinator who will circulate if appropriate.

## From the Park



I referred last month to the Public Meeting that was due to be held on 1st February to discuss the issue of parking in the village. A detailed account of proceedings can be found elsewhere so I don't propose to give one here. However, I will say that, at a time when community spirit is often said to be dying and apathy is often supposed to reign, what a pleasure it was to see the Village Hall full to capacity as people came together to discuss issues of mutual concern in the community. It was also a pleasure, although not a surprise, to see proceedings conducted in such a good-natured and respectful way – yes, there was passion aplenty but it never crossed the line into rudeness or personal abuse. A way forward seems to have been identified for the County Council to work in partnership with residents and the Parish Council to develop the holistic, whole-village approach to the issue that everyone agrees is required and we look forward to playing our part in that process.

On the Park, the Rangers have been getting through the usual round of winter maintenance work and those small projects that can be accomplished without causing unnecessary damage to the Park's environment or getting bogged axle-deep in mud. Having finished the regular work of tarmac repairs to the main carriageway, this week the staff car park at the Deer Barns is being extended and resurfaced.

In March we will say goodbye to Jason and Becky Bonney after six years with the Trust as Rangers. In their short time with us – around here anyone with less than 20 years' service is still seen as the 'new boy/girl' – they have made a real impact with Jason driving much of our work around producing and marketing our venison and Becky setting up and running the Young Rangers group. To any concerned Young Rangers and their parents, I can give the assurance that Young Rangers will continue after Becky's departure but obviously it won't be quite the same without her. We wish the Bonneys all the best as they further their careers on a private estate in Shropshire.

In the office we have been preoccupied with the issue of intellectual property and how we go about regulating the unauthorised commercial exploitation of the Trust's trademarks. We have also been working hard on the development of the Trust's new website, which is always one of those projects that takes much longer and involves far more  
11 work than you ever thought possible but now, finally there is light



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at the end of the tunnel and we hope the new website will go live at the end of March.

One of the advantages of the new website platform is the ability to integrate online ticket sales and donations into our own site, thus removing the need for the Trust to pay commission on donations and visitors to pay a booking fee when buying tickets for events.

On the subject of events, the 2018 Guided Walks and Events programmes have been published and can be picked up from the Tea-rooms, Visitor Centre or the dispensers at the gates or downloaded from our website.

As we continue to wait for Winter to finally give way to Spring, I look forward to seeing you on the Park.

**Peter Tyldesley**

## **STAG'S HEAD APPEAL**

### **TARGET EXCEEDED**

Thank you all for the over whelming financial support the carving of the Stag's Head so we have now exceeded the target. As a result of generous donations plus two fund raising activities a total of £3500 has been raised.



The surplus will all be spent in the village on projects agreed with the Parish Council, but suggestions will be welcome. Planting out the graveyard extension with trees and shrubs is a high priority.

Keep an eye open for Peter Leadbeater, sculptor plus his assistant, who will start work in the second week of March.

The Music and Pudding evening was a great success, raising over £600. The N'Ukes, who played to a full house, kept us well entertained and we were amazed by the versatility of the percussionist and her array of instruments. Thank you to all the cooks who produced 25 wonderful desserts and helped to add on the calories. Also thanks to everyone who helped on the evening.

**Dick**

**The Friends of Charnwood Forest**  
**LEICESTERSHIRE A HERITAGE AT RISK**  
A 1970 CPRE Film and talk by Tony Stott



**MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
WOODHOUSE EAVES VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

In 1970 the CPRE (Council for the Preservation of Rural England) produced a film highlighting the concerns for the countryside, loss of hedgerows, new houses, loss of village identities, new roads etc. Most of the issues raised, some 48 years ago, are almost the same today. The delightful aspect of this film is that it brings back memories of a quieter pace of life in rural Leicestershire and Charnwood Forest, but do the pubs look the same. After the film Tony Stott, acting Chair CPRE East Midlands, will look at the issues today and the impact of the current Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan.

The meeting will be preceded by a short AGM.

**Future Events.**

Monday 23rd April 2018. "A Soldier's Journey; from Headley Court to Stanford Hall" will be a talk by Luke Wigman of his own experiences of success over adversity. Luke is an ex paratrooper and an ambassador for the Defence National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) which is due to open at Stanford Hall this April. Luke, who is a truly inspirational speaker, has been in great demand all over the UK and overseas and we are fortunate that he can come and talk to us on the eve of the opening of Stanford Hall. Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall 7.30pm

**For further information contact Dick Howard or look at our web-site [www.focf.org.uk](http://www.focf.org.uk) Visitors welcome £3 on the door.**

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# Ladies Evening - 14<sup>th</sup> March

## Newtown Linford Village Hall

With presentations and demonstrations from



Louise from 'Hats from the Hall'  
Jan Ramsey 'Creative Chocolate'  
Jason Crockett 'Entertaining Dishes'



**£10 a Ticket -**

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### **Parking Enforcement, Newtown Linford.**

Following the Public Meeting in the Village Hall, I have been in correspondence with both the County Council and Borough Council about what, in my view, were the difficulties and issues with illegal on-street parking within the village. This, I believe, needs effective enforcement to be carried out especially at peak times when the weather is fine and sunny.

After the meeting, I have received an e-mail from a resident living in a nearby village who outlined why she does park within the village when visiting Bradgate Park, I thought I would share it with you. 'Further to your report in the local Magazine regarding parking in Newtown Linford, I think it might also be useful to consider how Bradgate Park is used and the causes for the problem parking in the village. As a local resident I like to use the park on a regular basis, but I will only usually be able to stay for an hour at the most. As parking fees at the park are priced for the whole day this makes the charges unrealistic for the type of usage I have for myself and others. I know it is of the utmost importance that some free or reasonably priced short stay parking is always available'. I did refer to this issue at the Public Meeting, as being the possible root cause of the escalation of vehicles parking on the village roads, Until the last two years, I have never seen so many vehicles parked all along Bradgate Road sometimes right to the Parish boundary and beyond. This can occur even when the Bradgate Park car park is relatively empty. I have also corresponded with the Director at Bradgate about my thoughts on the consequences of only a full day parking charge.

16 The response I received was somewhat disappointing. Therefore, I



have asked that this is an item on the agenda at the next Trustees Meeting and a response given so that I may communicate the outcome to local residents.

I have also put forward a question to the Charnwood Full Council Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, asking the Leader of the Borough Council to take this issue up with the County Council to have effective enforcement for the village of Newtown Linford, recognising the number of visitors to Bradgate Park and the increasing number of vehicles parking illegally on the village roads. In my view, this problem has increased since the Bradgate Park Trust changed to only all day parking charges within their Newtown Linford car park.

### **Traffic Management, Newtown Linford.**

After the Public Meeting, I noted the comments and possible solutions that came forward about the recent parking consultation conducted by the County Council.

There is a growing highway safety issue on Bradgate Road, which came across very strongly during the meeting. After the meeting, I was sent videos taken by a resident showing disturbing driving practices along this stretch of highway. Drivers of vehicles were mounting the kerb and driving at speed along the footway for some distance. This is totally unacceptable behaviour, especially as this footway is used by young people and families living in this area of the village. This is the consequence of the visitors to Bradgate Park parking their vehicles, I am told, to avoid parking charges as stated above.

I have forwarded the information and videos to the Police, I see this as a major priority to achieve a resolution to this problem, before there is a serious accident involving pedestrians. The Police have responded stating: we will be meeting with the County Council to discuss what options, if any, are available to us with a view to remove or to minimise the problems illustrated on the videos.

I will continue to press for a satisfactory solution to this unacceptable position. As I said at the Public Meeting, to do nothing is not an option, as there are further issues right across the village. These, in my opinion, also need to be addressed by a total village solution, but after seeing the latest videos, I do believe there is a priority to resolve the current driver practices along Bradgate Road.

If you need to contact me on any issues please write to, 10 Groby Lane, Newtown Linford, Leicester, LE6 0HH, e-mail [david.snartt@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:david.snartt@charnwood.gov.uk) or telephone 01530 244804.

**David Snartt**

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The next walk is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March and will be led by Toby and Felicity Manning (Tel. 245298).



Meet opposite the Village Hall at 2 pm as usual. All welcome.  
Claire & Joe Costello

## VILLAGE RAMBLERS

The weather was so grey and damp for our February ramble that we'd feared earlier in the day that it might be too wet to venture even a few yards without getting soaked to the skin; the BBC weather forecast that morning had predicted rain all day long, right up until midnight! In the event, it more or less stopped around the start time of 2 pm, and ten of us and three dogs set off for a much shorter walk than the one originally planned. We decided to go into Bradgate Park where it wouldn't be quite so muddy underfoot. The route took us along to the ruins, and then up to Tyburn. We left the park via the footpath which links it with Main Street and skirted the fields at the back of Grey Crescent. We ended up at our house in Markfield Lane where we were joined by two non-walkers for tea and cakes (with the Six Nations on TV in the background for the rugby enthusiasts!).

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## Newtown Linford Gardening Club

### Gardeners' Question Time

Our Gardening Club was privileged to be invited by BBC Radio 4 to host a recording of that very popular programme 'Gardeners' Question Time'. The Village Hall was packed to hear them make not just one, but two programmes which will be broadcast on February 16<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>.



The engineers began to set up their equipment at 2.00pm, the audience arrived at 5.30pm and the actual recording began at around 6.15pm.

In the chair was Eric Robson, whose dry wit and mellow tones kept the programmes running smoothly throughout the whole evening.

The three panellists were:-

Matt Biggs, who grew up locally and has relatives buried in Newtown Linford Cemetery. He made his name working at Kew for a number of years.

Matthew Wilson, who has been curator at both RHS Hyde Hall and RHS Harlow Carr and whose Chelsea garden won the People's Choice Award.

Christine Walkden, who will be well-known to all gardeners from her regular television appearances and for her unique style of presentation.

The first programme was presented as being directly from Newtown Linford whereas the second one was announced as being from the County of Leicestershire. Many of our members were selected to ask questions and we are all looking forward to hearing the final version of the programme on our radios.

This was a wonderful coup for our Club and yet another example of the high quality of Meetings which we strive to present.

On another matter entirely, our April Celebrity Evening with Bob Flowerdew is already a sell-out and the best anyone, who has not got a ticket, can do is to join a waiting list and hope for some returns.

# BRADGATE TEAM SUNDAY SERVICES MARCH 18

DATE	GLENFIELD	NEWTOWN LINFORD
4th March	8.30am Holy Communion (RT)	
3rd Sunday of Lent	10.15am Worship as One (RT)	10.30am Holy Communion (JW)
	6.30pm Evensong (RT)	
11th March Mothering Sunday		8.00am Holy Communion (RT)
	10.15am Holy Communion (RT/GS)	10.30am Morning Prayer (JW)
	6.30pm Compline (BH)	
18th March 15th Sunday of Lent	8.30am Holy Communion (RT)	
	10.15am Service of the World (BH/GS)	10.30am Holy Communion (RT)
	4.00pm Messy Church	
25th March Palm Sunday		8.00am Holy Communion (RT)
	10.15am Holy Communion (PH)	10.30am All Age Service (RT)
	6.30pm Joint W & H Holy Communion at Glenfield (RT)	
29th March Maundy Thursday	10.45am Holy Communion (PH)	
	6.30pm Agape Communion (JW)	
30th March Good Friday	10.15am Worship as One (RT)	
		2.00pm Hour at the Cross (RT)
	7.30pm United Service at GMC	
1st April Easter Day	8.30am Holy Communion (PH)	8.00am Holy Communion (RT)
	10.15am Worship as One HC (RT)	10.30am Holy Communion (JW)
	6.30pm Holy Communion (RT)	



# CHURCH REGISTER NEWTOWN LINFORD



Weddings  
*None*

Baptisms  
*None*

Funerals



29th January ~ Eleanor Sturges, formerly of Markfield Lane, Botcheston  
30th January ~ Keith Smith, formerly of Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford



Website:  
[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@bradgatechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@bradgatechurches.org.uk)

**Please note new email address for the office**  
**Regular Events** - Bell ringer's practice: Monday 8pm

## MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES—March 2018

<b>GLENFIELD</b>	Wed	10.45am	7th	14th	21st	28th
<b>NEWTOWN LINFORD</b>	Thur	10.30am	1st			

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# **PARKING PROBLEMS IN NEWTOWN LINFORD**

**Public meeting, 1 February 2018**

**Newton Linford Village Hall, 19:30 – 21:30**

This meeting was called by Newtown Linford Parish Council and designed to hear more about local issues and concerns, to find out if there were other ways to control the situation, and see if there were ideas not yet tried that just might work. Underlying these issues, the Parish Council Chair explained that it's members were keen to continue to collaborate with the other organisations so that the Parish could remain a good place to live and work.

## **Attendance**

Around 90 local people attended. Chaired by County Councillor Deborah Taylor, and addressed by Borough Councillor David Snartt, representatives from Leicestershire County Council, Police and the Bradgate Park Trust listened to villagers' concerns and responded to questions. Cllr Taylor welcomed and thanked all present and Parish Council Chair, Sue Pritchard, gave an outline of the issues.

It was a good meeting, and generated some good ideas, including forming a local group to develop a more holistic vision of how to improve the situation, perhaps a 5-year plan to acknowledge likely growth in visitor numbers. All of the contributed papers are filed.

## **Background**

### Rise in visitors

Visitor numbers to Bradgate Park have increased over the years – it is among the most popular locations in Leicestershire, and high on a national list of places to walk. Local people feel privileged to live close to it, but suffer from problem parking and associated issues. At weekends and on bank holidays, normal life can be compromised. The situation has become not only intolerable for some, but also untenable in the long term. The current situation has a detrimental effect on local residents. The village is swamped, weekly, not only at weekends. People are afraid to walk along the pavement. When vehicles speed, they risk hitting kerbs and turning over. There are particular problems on Bradgate Road, with a rise in parking that compromises residents' safety due to vehicles mounting the pavement. Doing nothing is not an option.

### Regional development

The development of a Charnwood Forest Regional Park, recently awarded £2.75 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, promises to bring yet more visitors. The Park, and other 'honey pot' locations in the area form part of the tourism attractions noted in the County Enterprise Partnership's growth strategy and the Borough Council's economic plan – both currently open for consultation.

## **The issues**

The over-arching themes during the meeting were

- safety
- speed
- disruption
- capacity
- collaboration

In spite of road improvements such as speed humps, chicanes and signage, which have been negotiated by the Parish Council, nothing seems capable of addressing the problems fully. As well as the parking problems on Bradgate Rd, Main Street is the most congested Parish Road although there are some problems on others. Road traffic collisions indicate driver difficulty in 'reading' local roads, exacerbated by varying speed limits and the capacity of police to enforce them. Local people can be locked into their homes by inappropriate parking, or struggle with sight lines when leaving home.

## **Why parking has become worse & what might be done**

### **Park Funding**

Bradgate Park was formerly funded by contributions from the County and City. This had reduced by 95% since the 1990s to £24,000 a year. Therefore, the Trust has to raise money from activities, of which car park fees are a major source – some £500,000 a year. Income from visitor parking forms 80% of the total amount needed to maintain the Park, and car park charges are 40% of visitor income. The Park contributes £1 million to the local economy – visitors spend money in shops, pubs and so on – so its economic value is considerable. The Trust was disappointed to be excluded from the Borough Council's car parking study, inferring that Trust and its parking problems were just a little local problem rather than worthy players in the wider economy. The Trust is as keen to find solutions as members of the local community.

Long ago, many visitors arrived by bus. These are no longer available on the busiest day of the week or on bank holidays. The Park has not kept up with dealing with visitors. Safety on the roads is an issue, especially on Bradgate Road, making travel towards Anstey or the city quite scary. When the Trust changed its parking charges to an all-day fee, street parking rose. Some drivers want to avoid paying anything; some find the car parks full; some have no idea that there are three car parks; some turn up without money; and some are blue badge holders. The Park felt that charges were well below what they should be if inflation was factored in. Charges used to be 3 hours at one price and more for all day. The Trust found that 94% were 3-hour tickets but they couldn't enforce this. A resident challenged the Park on this point, as a lack of will to want to allocate staff to enforcement. Automatic barriers were viewed by the Park as expensive and time-



consuming as it took a while for each vehicle to enter or leave, and the volume of visitors would create queues in both directions – e.g. as at Beacon Hill country park.

(NB: The investment costs of installing the (two) new car park entry/exit systems at Beacon Hill Country Park amount to £160K. On-going maintenance costs will amount to approximately £5K per annum and the anticipated return on investment is £35K per annum. The guaranteed lifespan of the equipment amounts to 10 years – [FOI response](#) 24 Feb 2016)

Of the 170,000 parked vehicles, 66% arrive via Newtown Linford; 14% via Old John [the Park was criticised for signing to that entrance as Hunts Hill which is a mystery to non-local visitors] and paid for brown tourism signs to try to spread car parking. The Park is also exploring ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) and the provision of an upgraded pushchair friendly track to tempt some visitors to other entrances and parts of the Park.

The County & City could consider

- a levy on all county residents to help fund the Park, given its status as a popular county & city venue. Very small contributions from all county residents, as little as 50 pence, would equate to the car park income
- better recognition of the size and scale of the problems in Newtown Linford. This would also apply to the Borough and County councils' growth and tourism strategies, and to the emerging Charnwood Forest Regional Park project
- resident-only parking spaces – currently ruled out because of insufficient numbers – if 40% have a drive, then resident-only parking is not applied
- amending speed limits from 40 to 30

### **Driver behaviour**

In some cases, drivers are abusive when asked to consider the free movement of local people, and existing parking restrictions are viewed as widely abused. Enforcement is insufficient. Some Parish roads are blocked at the busiest times, a hazard for local people of all ages, whether on foot, cycle or horse, and are a serious risk for the flow of emergency vehicles. Children are especially vulnerable, and the Primary School gathers other parking problems which remain unresolved.

The Highways interpretation of Department of Transport Rules for setting local speed limits is that, where possible, they should be self-enforcing i.e. a majority of drivers should be able to use road markings and signage to assess the right speed for the road. When assessing a road for an appropriate speed limit, the median point for the majority of passing vehicles is where officers feel that the limit ought to be. When drivers see roads with a lot of housing on both sides, most drivers adjust their speed accordingly. But Highways have also suffered budget reductions, down by 78%, which limits how much they can do to help, although they are willing to do what they can.

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## **Enforcement**

Police no longer have powers to deal with yellow line offenders. Extending these might make little difference, and push the problem further along. Double lines prevent loading and unloading, which affects businesses but also householders. The County Council, as highway authority, instructs Charnwood Borough Council to enforce parking restrictions. Wardens drove through every Sunday and Bank Holiday last year and up to now, to find parking offenders. This was news to many of those present. But the staffing levels are low, wardens operate from Loughborough, and local people feel that too few offenders are identified and dealt with. Local experience appears not to match warden enforcement.

Police do have powers to deal with obstruction outside residents' homes, but only if residents cannot leave their property. They can tow away offending vehicles. If their drive is obstructed when they return, police cannot prosecute. Obstructive parking or driving on pavements can be crimes and can be reported – police are happy to receive any videos etc from residents. However, police budgets have also been severely cut, leading to reduced manpower.

Disabled parking spaces outside individual homes are enforceable but for blue badge holders only; and white lines across driveways are only advisory. Where drivers park on private land or drives, no authority can take action. The land or drive owner can only seek redress privately through contact with a solicitor, claiming trespass.

## **Collaboration**

The Chair thanked the Trust for funding the brown tourism signs and other measures, but there was a strong feeling among residents that the Park Trust could (should) do more to help by taking ownership of the problem. For example, it could consider making

- the overflow car park useable in all weathers to increase capacity
- parking charges more flexible to help local short-term visitors
- installing more enforceable pay-on-exit car parking
- better signage to the other two car parks – e.g. Old John's always has space
- wardens available to help the community to monitor and 'police' inappropriate roadside parking
- charging visitors on foot a nominal amount to enter (e.g. £1 as at The Outwoods), possibly removing car park charges altogether (annual totals are 500,000 visitors so a fee could replace parking charges). However, there are public rights of way into the Park, and people cannot legally be charged to use them

## **Further actions**

The County Council Highways Department is unable to fund further traffic calming measures. However, there might be other, lower cost options to improve congestion and reduce speeding traffic.

- the Parish Council is willing to fund vehicle activated signs. These can help, even if they don't remove the speeding problem altogether
- with Park staff, it could help to promote better signage to other Park entrances and other 'honey pot' sites, through liaison with the Park Trust and the Charnwood Forest Regional Park project
- local people could re-engage with the Community Speed Watch scheme, which can also help. County Highways promised at this meeting to review earlier data from the community's past involvement with the scheme
- better roadside notices about yellow line parking rules and how income from Bradgate car parks helps with maintaining it
- approaches to landowners and businesses around the Park to create more places at busy times
- coning along the affected roads, as is done for Quorn & Woodhouse Great Central Railway events

## **Conclusion**

Parish Council Chair Cllr Sue Pritchard welcomed and was encouraged by the contributions made by residents; and grateful for the information and responses from the Bradgate Park Trust, County and Borough Councils, and Police. She invited people who wished to help to get in touch via the Clerk. Cllr Taylor thanked all concerned for attending and closed the meeting at 21:28

## **Guests**

### **Bradgate Park Trust:**

Peter Tyldesley, *Trust Land Agent & Surveyor*

Carolyn Holmes, *Development Manager*; Colonel Robert Martin, *Trustee*

### **County Council:**

Fiona Blockley, *Traffic & Signals Team Manager*

Denise Hough, *NPU/Residents Parking Team Manager, Traffic and Safety Group*

### **Police**

Sergeant 2992 Roderick Smart, *Neighbourhood Sergeant, Charnwood West* (covers Cropston, Rothley, Swithland, Thurcaston, Newtown Linford, Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves & Quorn)



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## From The Records

In the April 1987 edition, Harry Fletcher, the Vicar, was writing about the villagers in his normal friendly fashion in the section Know your Neighbour. He noted it was great to hear Gregory Sparham, the son of Mr and Mrs Harry Sparham of 430 Bradgate Road speaking about "The Sealed Knot Society" and the Civil War on Leicester Radio. The whole Sparham family have become keen "Parliamentarians" in the tradition of the Greys of Bradgate and Gregory contributed an article in that edition of the Magazine. Harry was having a new cannon cast, which was to be a replica of the type of cannon used in the Civil War. It was Harry who cast a plaque in memory of Jack Ayling in our Church, the upper part of which depicts the ruins of Bradgate House. Greg, in the present day, follows his father's footsteps and casts and produces flower pots, bird tables etc which can be purchased in the summer months from his home in the village.

I have replicated Greg's article from 1987 below.

The Grey family sided with Parliament during the Civil War and on 5th May 1642 the Earl of Stamford came to Leicester to take control of the militia and was confronted by a commissioner sent by the King. He accused Stamford of being a traitor and of seducing the people from their allegiance to the King. The Earl drew his sword and told the King's Commissioner to leave immediately or else he would make the place "too hot for him". The people of Leicester quickly took Stamford's side and the King's Commissioner saw he was outnumbered and left the town.

The Earl of Stamford removed all the arms, gunpowder and armour from the County Magazine to his seat at Bradgate. Later it was agreed to distribute the arms evenly thorough out the County.

Rockingham castle was taken by the Greys after a short siege during which Lord Grey damaged the round tower with a 200 lb mortar. The damage can still be seen today at Rockingham along with the letters sent to parliament by Lord Grey. Attempts however to take other royalist strongholds like Ashby and Belvoir Castles met with little success, mainly due to the besieging forces not having adequate troops and guns.

Stamford's son Thomas signed the death warrant of Charles the First, much to his father's distress, revealed in part by a letter sent to Lord Grey on the weakness of the defences of the town of Leicester on 12th April 1645, "Sir, there are not above 200 soldiers in the town for its defences, which, if lost, would take away all commerce with the North East of England. Tis God's providence alone in keeping it from the enemy's knowledge and suppressing their courage. But when we neglect to

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serve God in his providence by secondary means, Tis just with God to leave us with our own strength, which is but weakness". Incidentally, the town of Leicester was never properly fortified or garrisoned despite warning such as the above, and was taken by storm on the 30th May 1645 by 10,000 Royalists troops, with 400 townsfolk losing their lives during the fight.

**Gregory Sparham**

For those interested in the Civil War, I can recommend a visit to the National Civil War Museum in Newark (but not its café) which is great for children with lots of interactive items and a lovely day can be spent there with a visit to the castle overlooking the River Trent

**Carole Heubeck Editor**

**Public meeting re Parking in Newtown Linford.- Sue Pritchard**

The Parish Council was extremely pleased to see how many residents (at least 90) were prepared to turn out on a cold Feb evening to discuss parking issues with representatives from Bradgate Park Trust, Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council. Thanks must be extended to Deborah Taylor (County Councillor), who chaired the meeting, and Anne Irving (Woodhouse Parish Clerk) who provided a record of the discussions. Her record and some contributions from those who spoke can be found on the Parish Website. I think this was an extremely valuable evening that left no illusions as to the depth of local concern regarding the increasingly inconsiderate parking and dangerous driving practices that frequently blight our roads.

Subsequent to the Meeting we have had some offers of help from residents in forming a working party to assist in defining the requirements and possible answers to a 'whole village' parking solution and we will be progressing this over the next month. In the meantime Deborah Taylor and David Snartt will be keeping us informed as to the progress of the recent consultation - in particular how the issues along Bradgate Road are to be dealt with.

Please continue to supply examples of parking and driving that are causing problems- we pass these to 'the powers that be' and, hopefully, this will concentrate thinking at county level!

**Village Magazine**

Apologies for a couple of errors that appeared in the magazine last month. This was due to new publishing software on my new computer that was not compatible with the printers, Dean, the Printer is looking into it to see if he could sort the problem. The errors were:-

- Grace's advert for babysitting lost the telephone number,
- Our Chair of the Parish Council's report on car parking was curtailed by a few sentences.



# Brownies



My name is Isabelle Clarke, my name is Isla Clifford and my name is Zara Edwards, we are all 7 years old.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> January we made our Brownie Promise, we received a badge and a certificate.

There are three parts to the Brownie Promise;

1. Trying to do what we believe is right.
2. Serving the Queen and community.
3. Helping other people.

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Lexie, elder sister of Zara and Libby, elder sister of Isabelle are holding the flag.

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



In January a lady had her car window smashed and small items stolen from her car whilst it was parked on the front of her house on Main Street.

I have been contacted by PC Rachel Chapman 4671 who has been appointed as the new Neighbourhood beat officer for Charnwood West and Mountsorrel. I have given her the dates of our next few Parish Council Meetings and hope that she will be able to attend at least one. This is what she says about herself: -

I initially joined Leicestershire Police in 2006 as a Police Community Support Officer and went onto becoming a Police Officer two years later.

I have had many roles since joining which have all been enjoyable and challenging and spent my early career both as a uniformed response and Neighbourhood Officer. In 2013 I spent a period of time in the Local Investigation unit and within Serious and Complex Crime; going onto working within a specialised department where I was responsible for the management of Violent and Sexual Offenders.



In January 2017 I decided to come back to Neighbourhood Policing and was placed on the Loughborough Central Beat. In January 2018 I moved to West Charnwood.

I thoroughly enjoy spending time serving the public; tackling community issues through engagement, consultation and multi-agency working. Also, one of my areas of responsibility within our team is to take a lead on Youth Engagement, Safeguarding and Vulnerability. I am highly motivated and get great satisfaction in making a difference to people's lives.

If you see me please stop and have a chat and feel free to discuss any issues you may be having. Our team are all dedicated to delivering the best possible service and we need your assistance to do this.

Pam McMorran..... NHW Co-Ordinator  
pamriverlyn@msn.com tel: 01530 242201

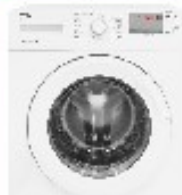


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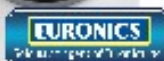


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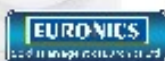


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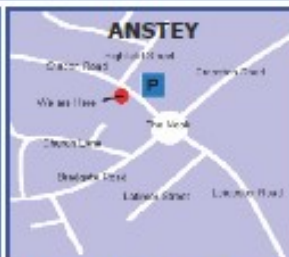
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## Newtown Linford Parish Council

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**Churchyard:** - The Tree surgeon has now taken down the infected Copper Beech in the Churchyard and come spring some decisions will be taken in conjunction with the Parochial Church Council over the choice of a new planting.

**Bradgate Road:** - Leics. County Council has planted several new oak saplings as promised when they removed the dead ash tree and trimmed down the oak to be carved.

**Bob Bown Playing Field:** - A certain amount of remedial work will be carried out during the next few weeks. It is nothing serious but it is necessary for long-term safety. If you spot anything you think requires attention, please contact us. We do have quarterly inspections by a professional company besides our own Councillor inspections.

**Village Magazine:** - The Parish Council has once again provided £650 towards the finances of the Magazine. All Saints Church also makes a contribution. The Magazine does not make a large profit and it is a balancing act for the Editor to decide how many coloured pages should be allocated each month. Obviously, everyone prefers coloured pages particularly when there are large events in the village. Thanks goes to Carole and Julian Heubeck who as Editor and Advertising Manager work extremely hard to give the village such a popular Magazine.

**Planters on lampposts:** - The Council has once again ordered these colourful planters provided by Plantscape. They provide, erect and water throughout the season. Bradgate Park Trust has asked for one of the planters to be moved as it grows so well it blocks out their sign.

**Pam McMorran – Parish Clerk, R.F.O. and Registrar for Burials.**  
Tel: 01530 242201 Email: [pamriverlyn@msn.com](mailto:pamriverlyn@msn.com)

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**Next Parish Council Meeting 26th March**

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**Contributions to Village Magazine**

Can we have your contributions for the April **2018** issue by **15th March 2018** 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.**

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