

Newtown Linford Magazine

ISSUE NUMBER 113

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April 2014



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At a recent school inspection that I was involved with, the School Inspector had gathered a small group of children around her to examine how well the school was teaching RE. She posed a question to the group, “what is the most important Christian Festival?” A small boy on the front row raised his hand and when bidden to answer offered the reply “Christmas”. The Inspector, rather abruptly, instantly answered “wrong, it is Easter”. The small boy not dissuaded by the reaction he had received, politely raised his hand once more and again when the Inspector requested him to speak answered “surely Miss if we hadn’t had Christmas there would be no Easter”. The Inspector was not impressed, and again reiterated that the most important Christian Festival was indeed Easter. My heart went out to the small child, the honesty with which they had responded to the question, and indeed the logic that he had used in the reply.

At a recent meeting I attended to review some research findings on Church growth statistics, the leader of the meeting stated that if the Church could find a way to have three Christmases each year then we would all experience significant growth. It is intriguing to note that he didn’t mention Easter as a significant festival within the Church year, rather stating that Christmas is the one that most people associated with the Church.

Perhaps he was simply reflecting on the ease with which we are able to talk about, celebrate and encourage others to join in with the Christmas story. It is of course by contrast far harder to develop a simple message around the Easter story and its associated celebrations. When we dig deeply into the background of Easter we are certainly handicapped by several key issues.

Firstly, Christmas has a fixed date of the 25th December, Easter as we know it is a truly ‘variable feast’ in the real sense. Research shows the reason why Easter Day varies is based on the patterns of the moon! Whilst biblically, the

3 Last Supper celebrated by Jesus with his disciples is clearly shown and recorded to be their Passover Meal, and this Jewish feast certainly has a

“ **Something that is based on the phase of the moon is our most important Christian Festival** ”

variable date based on the phases of the moon, it nevertheless makes it very hard for us as Christians to explain to others that the date of this most important Christian festival, is moon base. It sounds more like star gazing than something of faith.

Secondly, in English speaking countries the celebration of the resurrection of Christ is known as Easter. Research shows that the derivation of this name comes from the pagan god Eostre who was celebrated as being the god responsible for new life in the spring time. Clearly this is also the root of the female hormone oestrogen also known as the birth hormone. Again it makes it difficult to explain to non-Christians that our most important Christian festival is named after a pagan god!

Thirdly, I am frequently asked about the symbolism of the 40 days of Lent. The immediate biblical reference is quite clearly the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert, or by extrapolation, the 40 years that God's people spent wandering in the wilderness following their escape from slavery in Egypt and before they entered the Promised Land. However, careful counting of the number of days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday will show a period of 46 days. Within various Christian traditions, Sundays, the Lord's Sabbath day, are regarded as holy and special days and so Lenten devotions don't count. With six Sundays in Lent, this gives us the special 40 days. However in some traditions there are no days off, so Lent is 46 days, unless you count Mothering Sunday (previously known as Refreshment Sunday) as a special

day and so Lent can become 45 days duration. It is not an easy explanation to those who are enquiring about the Christian faith.

I am left wondering whether we have indeed made Easter too complicated to really use it as a significant mission and outreach festival in our Christian year. The Christmas story is by comparison so much easier to explain, to teach and to celebrate. Perhaps the complexities not only make it hard for those on the fringe of our Churches to understand, but also serve as a significant distraction for those within our church family.

The School Inspector was adamant that Easter was the most important Christian festival, the way that we portray Easter within our churches does not necessarily reflect this sentiment and there is a real need and a deep desire to be able to make Easter more significant for everyone. Despite the terminology, despite the movable dates, despite the variations in Lent; the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, the Messiah, the Promised One of God, cannot surely be surpassed by perceived difficulties and obstacles, can it?

So what would it take this year to make Easter more important to you than Christmas, and if this is the case, how would you share this with others that are around you in your home, in your community or in your workplace?

With good wishes for a blessed and significant Easter. *Revd Peter*

VILLAGE DIARY



April 2014

- 12th Village Ramblers
- 9th Bone Marrow Donors event (Anstey)
- 14th Parish Council Meeting
- 17th Parish Council Meeting
- 26th Gardening Club Plant Sale

May 2014

- 7th Bradgate Flower Club
- 16th/17th Bradgate Drama Society
- 26th National Garden Scheme
- 31st Village Quiz

June 2014

- 12th - 14th Newtown Linford Choral Society

Regular events

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday afternoon | Mature Movers fitness class V. Hall |
| Mondays 8pm at the Church | Bell Ringing |
| 1st Monday of the month | Youth Club |
| 4th Tuesday of the month | Gardening Club |
| 1st Wednesday of the month | Flower Club |
| 3rd Wednesday of the month | Ladies Luncheon Club |
| 3rd Thursday | Gentlemen's Lunch Club |

Easter Flowers

During the year and on special church days the willing band of ladies keep the Church decked with lovely flowers. We wondered if there was anyone else who would like to give to the FLOWER FUND so that this Easter (20th April) we can have lovely lilies in our church.

If you would like to give please hand your donation to Sue Howard, Main Street, Janet Neaverson Grey Crescent, or in Church to Sheila Langton or leave in an envelope on the offertory dish

Janet Neaverson



Newtown Linford Gardening Club

Is it really the beginning of spring? We still have had no snow and very few frosts. As we drive around the area there are daffodils in full bloom even though the snowdrops have not yet finished. We have also seen hedgerows showing the first sign of greening up and leaf buds appearing on several shrubs. Surely there will be something to bring us up short but, at the time of writing, there are no such signs yet. However much pruning is being done at this time, taking advantage of the rainless spells we are having at the moment, so the lull in gardening activity of the past months is coming to an end.

The photo this month is of the rhododendron 'Christmas Cheer' which is in full bloom in Keith and Sue Bird's garden on Groby Lane. It is usually out very early, but not often before the end of February!



After a packed evening learning all about the huge range of plants called 'daisies', plus some that look like daisies but aren't, we turn our attention, in March, to fruit and vegetables. The full title for our

speaker, David Thornton is 'Healthy eating Aspects of Fruit and Vegetables'. David Thornton is a national expert on the subject. He is the long-serving secretary of the National Vegetable Society and we are privileged to be able to welcome such a prestigious speaker.

We are holding a plant fair on Saturday 26th April at the Sunday School Rooms in Newtown Linford from 10.00am to 1.00pm. There will be a wide range of plants for sale and also home-made cakes. We welcome all comers to see what we have to offer.

We can also give advanced notice of our celebrity event in the Autumn. On 4th November, Adam Frost will be coming to Newtown Linford. He has already won gold medals at Chelsea for garden design on four occasions (perhaps five by the time he comes to speak to us!!!) and is now one of the newly established experts in this subject. He appears on our screens at regular intervals and has a reputation as a fascinating speaker with an innovative gardening brain. As last time, when Christine Walkden came to our village, we will invite members of other gardening clubs and interested visitors to join us. Put the date in your diary and look out for fur-

ther details in the near future.

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) , 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

**Spring is just around the corner.
Look for the first shoots this month**

Newtown Linford Gardening Club

PLANT FAIR



**Plants and
Home made Cakes for Sale**

**Newtown Linford Sunday School
Saturday 26th April
10am - 1pm**

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QUIZ

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Saturday 31ST May 7.00 for 7.30

Tickets £10 including food, bar available

Tables of 8, come as a table or to join others.

Call Beverly Griffiths

01530 242632 or 07970 020510



Bradgate Flower Club

Have you wondered what lies behind the creative genius of the flower arranger? Journey "Back to the Future" with Bradgate Flower Club and be enthralled by the skill and repartee of an experienced demonstrator. Lee Berrill is the guest for our special Open Meeting at 7.30 on Wednesday 7th May. The venue for this meeting is Groby Community College. Visitors and guests are welcome - entry fee of £8, payable at the door. Details from Lilian Coleman on 0116 2363191.

Geraldine Abbott

Village Ramblers

12th April	Jan Croft	01530 244865
10th May	Penny Neaves	0116 2362660
14th June	Glenis Meredith	01530 242897

On March 8 Toby led 12 ramblers through Castle Hill Park, Anstey – an area surprisingly little known to village inhabitants. We were shown a number of mediaeval remains: the old sheepwash, the fishpond and the “castle” (actually a moated building complex associated with the Knights Hospitaller), and there were nice views over towards Bradgate Park. Thank you to Toby for leading the March walk

Jan's walk in April is a farm walk/talk followed by tea and cakes at :- Brian & Allan Webster, 58, Moor Lane, Coleorton, LE67 8FQ Please let Jan know if you will be going, to ensure enough cakes and to inform the farmers. Unless you live near Coleorton, meet as usual opposite the Village Hall at 2pm. Let Jan know if you intend to go straight there.. We expect to start the walk from Coleorton at 2:30 .



14th June is the day of the Choir Concert, hence some members may be busy. I suggest that the village walk joins the guided walk "Deer of Bradgate Park". This is a ranger led walk, cost £3 and is pre-bookable, therefore I shall need to know numbers please. If you have not pre-booked you can join if there is room. In the past the guided walks have been excellent, and go in areas of the park not normally accessible to the public.

ANY QUERIES -Ring **Glenis Meredith 01530 242897** or e-mail glenis72meredith73@gmail.com

Well-behaved dogs only are welcome. To be under the close supervision of the owner, and to be on the lead where there is livestock or nesting birds. Please check with the leader that dogs are allowed across any access land.

*Disclaimer. Members are reminded that participation in walks is at their own risk, and that the leader(s) accepts no liability for any loss or injury, however
10 caused.*

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NEWTOWN LINFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

COLOURS Concert

12th-14th June. Full details next month.

Bradgate Drama Society

The Society's Spring production is
Alan Ayckbourn's
'Snake in the Grass',
a ghostly thriller which will have you on the
edge of your seat.



Performances are on
Friday 16th. and Saturday 17th May
beginning at 7.30p.m.
in Newtown Linford Village Hall.

If you'd like to join us for an extremely spooky night
out tickets, price £7, are available from Lesley Baker
(01509 890771) or Toby Manning (01530 2415298) or
by e-mail at bradgatedrama@gmail.com

News from the Park



Spring at Last

I hope I am not speaking too soon but Spring appears to have finally arrived. The rain has stopped, the sun is shining and the visitors are beginning to reappear after their long hibernation.

As I write this we are hosting a fundraising event for Sainsbury's. Teams from all their stores in the region are competing to see who can complete the most challenges from the Bradgate version of the National Trust's '50 Things to Do Before You Are 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ '. They all seem to be having a good time in the Spring sunshine and at the last count had raised over £9,000 for Sport Relief.

Turning to people who are experiencing their first, rather than second, childhood, our partnership with Woodlark Forest School continues to develop. In addition to the popular 'Little Larks' Parent & Toddler Group on Tuesdays, Woodlark ran a Holiday Club during February Half-Term and will do so again at Easter. 'Woodland Warriors' is a new activity for 7-11 year olds on alternate Saturday mornings where children can learn bushcraft and survival skills.

Further developing our involvement in the Forest Schools movement, we were pleased to host a Forest School Assistant Leader course at the end of March in partnership with the Forest Education Network. A dozen aspiring leaders, including one of our Rangers, have taken their first steps on their exciting Forest Schools journey.

Many local residents will have seen the archaeological dig that was carried out in March. We have known of the existence of an Upper Palaeolithic site on the Park for several years and the preparation of our Parkland Plan gave us the opportunity – and the funding from Natural England – to have an evaluation of the site carried out. The team from University of Leicester Archaeological Services dug a series of test pits over a two-week period and we eagerly await their report on the extent of the site and analysis of the many finds that they recorded. We now know that this is one of only a handful of open air sites that have been discovered from the time at the end of the last Ice Age, around 15,000 years ago, when people began to re-colonise what is now Britain, following the herds of deer and wild horses as the ice sheets retreated.

Going even further back in time – some 600 million years further back – Dr Phil Wilby of the British Geological Survey delivered the first Bradgate

Lecture to a packed Village Hall on 26th February. I strongly suspect that the second lecture will be on 'The Archaeology of Bradgate Park', watch this space!

Those who attended the Geology lecture will be aware of some of the issues we have had concerning vandalism and graffiti at Memorial Crags. With the help of some funding from Natural England, we have been able to have the graffiti repaired and coloured to match the surrounding rock with the result that this unsightly scar on the rock face has almost completely disappeared.

The 2014 Guided Walks & Events Programme has now gone to the printers and should be on the shelves by the time you read this. As well as walks led by our own Rangers, we will again be teaming up with partner organisations to offer a range of opportunities to discover the Park's wildlife. We will be starting the season with an Early Bird Walk led by the Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society on Saturday 26th April starting at 6am. Details of all the walks and events can be found on our revamped website.

We are coming to the end of our first season in the venison business and we could not be more pleased with the way it has gone. I should like to thank all our customers who have supported our new venture and I hope you have enjoyed your purchases. As well as the venison boxes, you can now buy sausages and burgers from the Country Park Shop and I am delighted that Cook's Farm Shop will also be stocking Bradgate Park Venison.

Just a quick reminder that tickets for all this summer's theatre productions are now available online at www.seetickets.com and we are hoping to receive our allocation of tickets for sale at the shop in time for Easter Weekend.

Peter Tyldesley MRICS

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ENJOY A DAY IN OUR GARDENS

MONDAY 26th MAY 2014, 11.00 – 5.00pm

As part of the National Garden Scheme you are invited to look around and enjoy six village gardens that you probably have only seen from the road, or path. Four of the properties have the River Lin as a friend, either running through, or along the boundary.

On the Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 26th May, from 11am until 5pm, Woodlands (86 Main Street), Lin Croft (88), Bank Cottage (90), Dell Cottage (92), Dingle House (94A) and Apple-tree Cottage(114) will be welcoming you all to enjoy stunning displays of Rhododendrons and Azaleas, Wisterias, a prolific Exochorda known as The Bride, and depending upon the weather this Spring there could be some displays of tulips. You will be invited into a colourful courtyard garden, see a small lily pond, and gardens on many levels.

Home made teas will be available at Bank Cottage and Apple tree Cottage where you will be able to sit and relax. All the gardens have a southerly aspect so if the weather is fine you can enjoy the sunshine, the view, and the wonderful home made cakes. In addition we will have a Plant Stall including home grown seedlings.

The National Garden Scheme has been raising money for nursing and caring charities since 1927. Over 3700 gardens are just waiting to be discovered nationally and we are just 6 of those.

Entrance £4 adults, children free.

Unfortunately the gardens are not suitable for wheelchairs, and we ask you not to bring your dog.

Dick Howard

John Sutherland, Borough Councillor who lives in Anstey is not well. He is in urgent need of a bone marrow transplant.

Can you help by joining the bone marrow register?

For thousands of people with blood cancer and disorders, their only hope of survival is a donation of healthy stem cells. They must however be from a person who is a match.

To register simply come along to the event below and complete an application form and then spit into a tube - it is that simple. To join you need to be between the ages of 16 and 30 and in good health. The Anthony Nolan Team need more younger donors as they offer patients the best chance of life

Parking in Newtown Linford.

The recent excellent weather on Sunday 9th March brought an unprecedented level of visitors to Bradgate Park. Unfortunately this caused severe problems within the village because vehicles were parked illegally and irresponsibly on verges, double yellow lines, footways and bends in the road causing highway safety issues. I believe we have seen an increase in the times this is happening during the year. Therefore I have asked officers at Charnwood Borough Council if arrangements can be made to make sure Street Wardens are available to patrol the village when good weather is forecast, especially on a Sunday. I have also asked the County Council to conduct a review of the parking restrictions throughout the village. I have already received a petition to extend the double yellow lines between the Sunday School and Marion's Cottage close to the entrance to Bradgate Park. There is also a need to repaint some of the existing double yellow lines.

Making Residents' Views Count.

Charnwood residents are being invited to join a Virtual Citizens' Panel to let Charnwood Borough Council know what they think of its future plans. The Council is looking for as many Charnwood residents as possible to join the panel to represent the Borough's diverse population. Members will be invited to complete surveys - online or post - giving their views on a range of topics from bin collections to Council Tax. The vital feedback from the panel will help shape Council services now and in the future.

For further information contact communications@charnwood.gov.uk <<mailto:communications@charnwood.gov.uk>> visit www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/citizens_panel <http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/citizens_panel> or call 01509 634989

David Snartt, Borough and County Councillor.

FREE Computer Course

A teacher from Castle Rock would like to offer a FREE course to help with e. G. computer- iphone, iPad, power point presentation etc.

This is run by students at Castle Rock School for adults.

Every Wednesday 3.30 until 4.30 pm - term time only

Kay Webster and I have been attending these sessions and really enjoy them. My contact details are 01530 244865 if anyone would like a lift or more information.

Jan Croft



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BRADGATE TEAM SUNDAY SERVICES—April 2014

DATE	GROBY	RATBY	NEWTOWN LINFORD
6th April	8.00am Holy Communion (LC)	8.00am Holy Communion (PH)	
5th Sunday of Lent	9.30am Family Worship (LC)	10.00am Worship for All (PH/RC)	10.30am Holy Communion (JW)
	6.30pm Holy Communion (LC)		
13th April			8.00am Holy Communion (PH)
Palm Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion (LC)	10.00am Special Service (FB/RC)	10.30am Special Service (PH)
	6.30pm Evening Prayer (RC)	6.00pm Holy Communion (PH)	
20th April		5.45am Holy Communion (PH)	8.00am Holy Communion (PH)
Easter Sunday	9.30am Family Communion (LC/KW)	10.00am Family Communion (PH)	10.30am Family Communion (FB/RC)
	6.30pm Easter Worship (LC)		
27th April			8.00am Holy Communion (LC)
2nd Sunday of Easter	9.30am Holy Communion (PH)	10.00am Holy Communion (LC)	10.30am Morning Prayer (KW)
	6.30pm Evening Prayer (PH)		

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES—April

NEWTOWN LINFORD	Thur	10am	3rd				
GROBY	Wed	9.30am	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
RATBY	Thur	9.30am		10th		24th	

Church Contact Details

Team Rector Revd Dr Peter Hooper 0116 239 4606
The Rectory, 23 Ferndale Drive, Ratby, LE6 0LH
Email: peter@hoopers.orangehome.co.uk

Team Vicar Revd Louise Corke 0116 231 3090
58 Pymm Ley Lane, Groby
Email: words.th@talktalk.net

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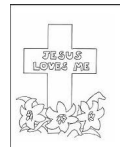


Regular Events

Bell ringer's practice: Monday 8pm

Family Services

All Saints Church, Newtown Linford are launching a new monthly family service and would like to invite families (and everyone else) along to join us on the day.



Dates For Your Diary

20th April is Easter Sunday

We would like to invite all children (whatever your age 0 - 100) to come along with your family to celebrate these special days.

From May the Family Service will be on the second Sunday of each month and we hope to make it a more age appropriate family event.

We are introducing the children's corner where children may go and colour, do puzzles and be more creative - We are also looking at possibly making this a shorter service of 45 minutes or so instead of the normal hour followed by coffee, soft drinks and biscuits.

We would welcome ideas on what to call this monthly event, or design us a logo to use. Suggestions to the editor who will pass onto the Revd Peter.

Who knows - there may be a prize for the best entrant!-

Please come along and join us - you will be most welcome

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GET IT DONE!!

Hi everyone! We're now rapidly approaching Spring and it's time to start getting those bodies ready for outdoor activities and summer clothes.

Why not set aside just 15 minutes a day to start your new exercise regimen?. The health benefits obtained from this short period of time include improved circulation, a healthier heart, better strength and flexibility and a happier mental outlook.

Using your body for cardio and resistance training is probably one of the easiest ways to start with your 15 minute programme. Some of my personal favourite exercises to give yourself a full body workout include: The Plank - To start, have your toes, body and forearms resting on a mat. Tense your stomach, engaging your core and bring your body up straight, so your hips are in line and not sagging or too high which happens when the hip flexors are used instead of the core. Maintain this position for as long as you can. If your hips start to drop or your lower back becomes sore, you need to end the exercise. Start with 15 seconds and eventually work up to one minute.

Plie Squats - Stand with feet slightly wider than shoulder-width apart with toes turned out. Keep your abs tight and your torso upright, bend knees to 90 degrees (if possible). Press back up to the start, squeezing your glute muscles (bum) as you go up. Start with 12 reps and work up to 20. The Push Up - Place your hands on the floor so they're slightly outside shoulder-width. Spread your fingers slightly out and have them pointed forward. Raise up onto your toes so that all of your body weight is on your hands and your feet. Contract your abs to keep your torso in a straight line and prevent arching your back or pointing your bottom in the air. Bend your elbows and lower your chest down toward the floor. Once your elbows bend slightly beyond 90 degrees, push off the floor and extend them so that you return to starting position. If you're a beginner, start off with your knees on the floor but remember to keep your body in an incline position.

Remember to consult with your physician PRIOR to starting ANY exercise programme.

For more information, please feel free to email me at Forestfitstudio@gmail.com or Facebook at Newtownfitness or find me online at

www.forestfitstudio.com



Stations of the Cross at Leicester Cathedral during Lent



Leicester Cathedral will be home to the stunning 'Stations of the Cross' art installation by Garry Bedford through Lent which begins on Wednesday 5 March until Easter Sunday, 20 April.

The 'Stations of the Cross' follows Jesus Christ's journey: from his being condemned to be crucified, his journey carrying the cross, those he met along the way, to his crucifixion; death; entombment and ultimate resurrection. This series enables the viewer to perform their own pilgrimage in the footsteps of Jesus.

This series is arranged around the choir screens: the first seven in the South aisle, the second seven in the North aisle, with the fifteenth, the Resurrection, sited in the Chancel overlooking the memorial to King Richard III.



Artist Garry Bedford says:

"As a Christian I have always found Easter to be a time of great emotion; a real story of human strength, courage, greed, fear, betrayal, loyalty, cruelty, love, friendship, hope, pain, suffering and joy. Easter encapsulates all human frailty, all human strength and God's selfless love".

David Monteith, Dean of Leicester, commented:

"Garry has encapsulated the energy, yet haunting stillness of the story of the cross. You can't help but wonder 'what does this mean for me?'"

The installation will be launched at Choral Evensong on Sunday 2 March at 3.00pm, followed by light refreshments. Garry will speak about this work. All welcome.

**The Stations can be viewed during normal Cathedral opening hours (depending on events and services)
8am – 6pm Monday-Saturday and 7.30am-4pm Sunday**

Youth Club News

In March due to the success of the previous month we repeated the cooking activity with pancakes. 25 children turned up to take part in the cooking, eating and racing with them. Helping them again were Sarah (2 pancakes) Raynor, Elaine (3 pancakes) Mulvihill and Louise (5 pancakes) Portus. Additional help by Beth and Charlie.

30 pancakes with lots of sugar and syrup were cooked and devoured by the youth clubs atten-



dants (6 by Paddy Mulvihill). Cricket, dodge-ball and football were played alongside the cooking with the final event being the pancake race. Three teams flipped their pancakes twice before running towards their teammates at the other end of the hall. They then passed on the pans to the next player. Several pancakes disintegrated during the game but no child was injured.

Myself and Paddy (6 pancakes)



Mulvihill have been running the youth-club for the last 4 years and are stopping in June. It is great fun and we have both enjoyed running it over that time. Please if any person/ persons would like to take it on we would love to hear from you. It would be a shame for it to end as all the children still love taking part.



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Newtown Linford Neighbourhood Watch A member of the Parish Council



Not a lot to report this month. Very quiet on the crime front fortunately. P.C. Leye Price tells me she is trying to arrange a meeting between all the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators on her beat so she can plan how to move forward with the present scheme. I have to admit I am having trouble getting my head around the present scheme!!

Despite anything printed recently in this Magazine our two points of contact are P.C. Leye Price 4505 and P.C.S.O Steve Quinn 6646. There are other officers including Richard Carruthers but they are not to be contacted.

Incident reports as follow:-

- Thursday 13th Feb at approx. 16:15 on Warren Hill. There was a distraction burglary in Newtown Linford where an individual was called by someone claiming to be British Gas and asking to check the meter. The suspect also asked for the victims address. A short time later an individual turned up not in British gas uniform or van and had a look around the outside of the property and then inside the property. Fortunately nothing was taken and it definitely was not British Gas.
- A letter in the post saying the resident had won lots of money.
- 2 Burglaries on Markfield Lane

The Bank Holiday on the 29th May is going to be very busy traffic wise as several residents on Main Street between Markfield Lane and Sharpley Hill are opening their gardens for the National Garden Scheme. A very worthwhile cause but it will mean a lot of extra traffic. I understand that the Linford has allowed the use of their car park but they will be busy for the Bank Holiday anyway. I have to say I think it will be chaos and hope that the Police and Traffic Wardens are able to come as requested.

Please remember my telephone number is now 242201

Pam McMorrان

NHW Co-ordinator – pam@riverlyn.freereserve.co.uk

01530 242201

How to contact the Police

You can contact your local policing team –
PC 3505 Leye Price and
PCSO 6646 Steve Quinn
by calling 101,
selecting option 2
and when prompted, tap in identification number
3505 or 6646, to leave us a message.



We will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also send us an email by logging onto the website at www.leics.police.uk and clicking on the “Neighbourhood Policing” icon.

From the Records

Last month I brought you news about our famous Lady Jane Grey as portrayed by the film industry, this month I have found a newspaper cutting about another Lady Jane Grey who lived in the 20th Century.



In May 1985, the last Lady Jane Grey (daughter of William Grey 9th Earl of Stamford) came to stay in our village at Beech Farm the home of Trevor and Joan Stevenson. Joan was our local historian and had done much research about the Greys and had met Lady Jane. She was hoping to find out more as she was about to pen her second book about the Greys of Bradgate Park, Leicestershire. Lady Jane had also started to take a new interest in the Leicestershire story of her family.



The eldest daughter of the Earls of Stamford was always christened Jane but the title died out with the death of the tenth Earl but his sister was called Lady Jane Grey. She changed her name to Turnbull when she married, so the title Lady Jane Grey died.

In 1985 Lady Jane was 85 and told Joan that as a child she was terrified she would be beheaded like her ancestress. She had become very interested in her family history since she had been asked to give a talk about her famous namesake to her local Suffolk W.I. about 13 years before.

She had spent much time researching and had much to talk about with

Joan Stevenson.

Lady Jane said she was so sad that so few mementoes of her famous ancestress remained. "There is a contemporary painting, a piece of embroidery that she did which was on show in **Syon House*** In Richmond (Duke of Northumberland's London Home) and some letters she wrote to a Swiss religious reformer in a Zurich museum.

She went on to say "I have been back to Bradgate twice in recent years. Once to give a talk to the Women's Fellowship. This time it has been most interesting talking to Mrs Stevenson about my family and I love to walk in Bradgate Park. I think those old gnarled oaks give the place a very special atmosphere". This time she gave a talk to the Johnsccliffe Luncheon Club.

"The family black sheep for Lady Jane, was the Countess of Stamford who bored with Leicestershire life, burned down Bradgate House in the 18th Century".

Janet Neaverson

NB. Something else that might interest you - we have a copy of a letter written by Lady Jane Grey and sent to her sister, the night before she was beheaded. It can be seen in our Church.

***Syon House** was built on the site of a medieval Abbey, Syon was named after Mount Zion in the Holy Land. The Abbey at Syon was dissolved by King Henry VIII in 1539. An interesting and gory fact was that In 1547, King Henry VIII's coffin was brought to Syon on its way to Windsor for burial. It burst open during the night and in the morning dogs were found licking up the remains! This was regarded as a divine judgement for the King's desecration of Syon Abbey.

After the suppression of the Abbey, the estate became Crown property and became the possession of the 1st Duke of Somerset, the Lord Protector to the young son of King Henry VIII, Edward VI. He built Syon House in the Italian Renaissance style, over the foundations of the west end of the huge Abbey Church, (which was the size of a cathedral), between 1547 and his death by execution in 1552. Syon was then acquired by a rival, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland (no relation to the present family.) The Duke's son, Lord Guildford Dudley, had married Lady Jane Grey, and it was at Syon that she was formally offered the Crown by the Duke. She accepted reluctantly, was conveyed to London by river and proclaimed Queen. Nine days later, she was displaced by King Henry VIII's eldest daughter, Mary Tudor. The following year Lady Jane Grey was executed. |



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Village Hall News

The Village Hall Committee Chairman Michael Upstone stepped down from this important office at the AGM in January handing over to Toby Manning. **To mark his retirement he was presented with a set of indoor bowls: the photograph shows the new Chairman (left), handing them over to Michael**

Michael was voted in as Chairman by the Committee in 2004 and has served the Village community with great dedication. In particular he instigated and organized, with the help of the Committee, the planning and funding of the considerable improvements to the Village Hall. This has



provided a meeting place for many village organizations and visitors which is second to none in the area and much admired.

He willingly made sure that any problems involved in the running of the premises were dealt with quickly to the benefit of everyone using the Hall.

Without villagers like Michael who are prepared to volunteer their time to help run a very important village resource there would not be such a good community. His guiding hand will be missed.

Brownies Thinking Day

Sunday 23rd February was a very special day for Brownies all over the world this year. It was "Thinking Day" and on this day, every year, Brownies all around the world get together in their packs to think about each other and attend a special ceremony. They wear different hats and say "hello, happy Thinking Day" in the language of the hat that they are wearing. At Newtown Linford, in a special celebration at the Church, we represented countries from all over the world, such as France, Hawaii, China and Scotland. During the ceremony, we sang the Brownie Promise Song and other songs from around the world. We also decorated a big outline of the Brownie Promise Badge using pennies that we had all collected - 100 from each Brownie!

Thinking Day is also special because it celebrates the birthday of Lord Baden Powell (our founder). This year was particularly important as it was the hundred year anniversary of the start of the Girl Guide movement. At the ceremony, we learnt about badges Brownies could get in the old days, such as 'know the eight points on a compass' and 'cleaning'. We also learnt that Brownies were originally called Rosebuds but the name changed because the girls thought it didn't sound lively enough.

Finally Brown Owl brought a wonderful chocolate birthday cake to the ceremony too and we all had a slice after the Church service. We really enjoyed Thinking Day this year - we hope that you did too.

Lucy Hall, A Brownie age 7

The Brownies and I would like to thank the village for their support towards our Rummage Sale. It was most appreciated and was a great success

**Hilary
Brown Owl**





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Bradgate Lions Club News

We held a very successful "Night at the Races" at Botcheston Village Hall on Saturday 22nd February which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and after all expenses £170.00 was raised for our charity account. All monies collected during our financial year, July-June, are accrued and then donated to our chosen charities.

Our next fund raising efforts will be our "Easter Prize Draw Baskets" in about a dozen local hostelrys during April and a bucket collection with our "Easter Bunny" at Glenfield Co-op on Saturday 12 April.

Saturday 26th April

we are holding a "Night of Nostalgia"

with local band "Sounds like Swing"
playing your favourite music from the 50s &
60s and requests,
at **Newtown Linford Village Hall.**

Tickets are £8.00



and are available now, from Roger on 01530 242912 or e-mail roger.gamble@talktalk.net and at Broughtons Ironmongers in Anstey.

If you require further information about the above event or about Bradgate Lions just get in touch with Roger, or give our President Jill a call 01455 822008.

Roger Gamble

Two men were chatting at the bar when one said to the other, "I've just been reading in the

paper where it says that lions can make love up to eight times a night" "Oh, damn and blast" says the other man.

"Why, what's a matter? Replies the first man.

"Well I've just gone and joined Rotary, that's all."

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NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

We get a lot of complaints from residents of Bradgate Road regarding speeding, careless driving and inappropriate parking. The Parish Council is fully aware of all the problems which have been of great concern for many years. We have tried to get the speed limit altered to 30 mph from 40 mph at the top end of Bradgate Road. It might give you an insight of why things can't be done if I print out a response a resident, our Borough and County Councillor Mr David Snartt, and we have had from the Team Manager, Traffic Management, Traffic and Safety Group of the Leicestershire County Council. The resident had pointed out the difficulties encountered by her and by her family and by other neighbours.

“Thank you for your recent email. Speed limits are set following Department for Transport guidelines, which look to set an appropriate speed limit based on road function, road geometry, road environment and the level of adjacent development. The guidelines take into account the current mean speed of traffic and also the injury accident rate. The underlying aim is to achieve a ‘safe’ distribution of speeds that reflect the function of the road and the impacts on the local community. An important factor is that speed limits must be set that are reasonable for the road conditions and are thereby self-enforcing.

“Under the guidance provided by the Department for Transport 40 mph is the correct speed limit for Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford, between the Parish Boundary and where the road reaches the brow before the run down to the Bradgate Park entrance.

“I fully appreciate what you say about speeds measured by the Community Speed Watch (CSW) initiative not being indicative of reality due to the volunteers wearing high visibility clothing. It is for this reason that both before and after a CSW operation we measure vehicle speeds covertly.

“In the case of Bradgate Road, vehicle speeds were measured continuously over a full three day period, in order to give a fully representative indication of speeds. The ‘before’ readings were taken on 18-20 September 2012 and indicated 85th percentile speeds of 40 mph eastbound, and 39.5 mph westbound. The ‘after’ readings were taken on 4-6 December 2012 and indicated 85th percentile speeds of 42.3 mph eastbound and 40.7 mph westbound.

“An 85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85% of vehicles are travelling. It acknowledges the fact that some drivers will, whatever
36 the posted speed limit, continue to travel at inappropriate

speeds. It is also the figure used by the Police to determine whether or not enforcement action is appropriate – under current guidelines the Police are unlikely to deploy resources to enforce a 40 mph speed limit unless the 85th percentile speed is above 45 mph.

“Taking these figures into consideration, and also noting that in the past five years there has only been one injury accident on this stretch of Bradgate Road (March 2009, not speed related), then I am sorry to say that I cannot justify the significant expense that would be involved in implementing measures to reduce the speed of traffic.

“Regarding the problems of cars parking on the footway opposite your properties: Unfortunately, the County Council is not able to help here either. There is no enforcement action we can take in these circumstances, but if the vehicles are causing an obstruction, then that is an offence the Police have the powers to deal with. I would therefore suggest that if obstruction is a problem you speak to the Police, your local neighbourhood officer may be a good place to start.

“I am sorry this is not the answer you were hoping for, but I hope you can understand the reasons for our decision.”

If you have any ‘constructive/polite’ comments you would like me to pass on to the appropriate department, let me know.

The majority of the appalling parking over the past two weekends took place across areas which should be protected by double yellow lines. Unfortunately, where road works had been done, often the double yellow lines were not replaced. Or, some have become so worn that they can barely be seen. Desperate (and lazy) drivers immediately take advantage. Around 20 vehicles were parked dangerously, with their boots hanging over the highway near the cemetery on Groby Lane. Their registration numbers were collected and reported to the Police. Highways have now promised to check all double yellow lines in the Village, with a view to having them repainted ‘soon’.

We want to thank our Borough and County Councillor, Mr. David Snartt for supporting residents and the Parish Council in their efforts to remedied these concerns.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 14th April 2014 at 7 pm in the Village Hall. Mr. Peter Tyldesley, Land Agent of Bradgate Park has agreed to attend to talk about forthcoming events during the summer and autumn of this year. This will be very interesting. Please come.

**Lydia Knott, Clerk to the Council, tel: 01530 242522;
e: lydia.knott@hotmail.co.uk;**



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Contributions to Village Magazine

Can we have your contributions for the **May 2014** issue by **15th April 2014** please. **Send to the Editor, Carole Heubeck, 5 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford (01530 244790).**

E-mail heubeck111@btinternet.com & heubecks@googlemail.com

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

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