

ISSUE NUMBER 80

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pre-printed adverts

A Small Message for Christmas

Have you ever noticed just how tiny new born babies' fingers are? I have just seen my new baby niece Sophie and I could not get over how tiny her fingers were; perfectly formed but incredibly small, not able to do anything yet except look incredibly cute. As I watched her in her mother's arms it struck me how totally vulnerable she was, relying completely on those around her to care for her and provide her with what she will need in these first few weeks and months. Sophie is completely unable to do anything for herself. She relies on others for her food, her warmth, in fact her very safety.

.. from the moment that God became incarnate through Jesus, God knew about what it was to be vulnerable

Now I don't know how crazily busy your life has become yet with preparations for Christmas but if I can urge you
3 to do one thing before Christmas

Day it is this, just take a moment, perhaps with a lovely hot cup of tea or coffee and sit yourself down somewhere quiet. Somewhere quiet and out of the way and take a moment, just a short moment to think about this fact – that the God who created heaven and earth, who created you and me, came to live on this earth as a baby, a small baby who could do nothing for himself, except rely on others to care for him and love him. God had to totally trust that the people he had created would look after him in the weeks and months when he could do nothing for himself. It's an incredible thought isn't it?

And why might this help us as we rush around in our over busy, over pressurized lives? Well, for this reason - Christmas can be the time of year when we feel at our most vulnerable for all

sorts of reasons, memories of loved ones who are not with us any more, difficult situations in our lives which always seem worst when everyone is expecting us to be happy or the fact that we may be facing Christmas on our own.

Whatever the situation (and it may be that you just feel vulnerable because you would like some 'time' for that 'cuppa') remember that from the moment that God became incarnate through Jesus, God knew about what it was to be vulnerable, knew what it was to have to rely on others for his safety and care. Knew what it was to feel helpless.

So my small message for this Christmas comes in the form of that small baby - may we learn this Christmas how to rely on God the way he once had to rely on us. Now that's a thought!

VILLAGE DIARY

December

- 1st Bradgate Flower Club
4th/5th Christmas Tree Festival - Groby
11th Ramblers
16th Fellowship Welcome Club
16th Come and Sing Carols –The Linford
26th Ramblers
20th Parish Council

January

- 18th Parish Council
28th/29th Choral Society - A Mass for Peace

Regular events

- Sunday Evenings, The Linford - 7 -10.30pm Lady Jane Grey Club
Monday afternoon Mature Movers fitness class V. Hall
Mondays 8pm at the Church Bell Ringing
Last Tuesday of the month Gardening Club
1st Wednesday of the month Flower Club
Thursdays am during school term Toddlers Group
Thursdays eve during school term - Brownies
3rd Thursday Gentlemen's Lunch Club

ALL SAINT'S FELLOWSHIP AND WELCOME CLUB

Sorry everyone - a mistake in last months copy!



The Welcome Club remains open every Thursday from 10.30am. The last meeting for the year 2010 is on 16th December. The first meeting in 2011 is on 6th January 2011.

Please do join us for a friendly welcome, coffee and biscuits. Once a month we join together and have lunch in the village.

There are two meetings of the Fellowship in 2011 before the Fellowship closes. No meeting in January but Tuesday 15th February with Mr Brian Johnson 'Living in a Box' and Tuesday 15th March with Mr Graham Wagstaff 'Growing vegetables in a small space'. Please do join us for these last two meetings and make these afternoons special

Kathleen Prince

NEWTOWN LINFORD CHORAL SOCIETY



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Village Quiz

Friday February 11th 2011

7.00 for 7.30pm

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call Beverly on 242632

Proceeds towards YC funds and a charitable donation

Good News

The police have caught my burglar, from last May! He is a prolific burglar, has no assets, and is 34 years old. He will be spending Xmas in the warm H.M. Prison at the tax-payers expense.

Roxy is recovering well, but when she sees another dog in the back field she turns for home.

Glenis & Roxy



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Bradgate Flower Club

'Christmas Magic' overcomes unexpected motoring mishap

As flower arrangers gathered at Groby Community College on 3rd November, few realised that the guest arranger had been stranded further up the M1. David Fawcett-Ropner, from Lancashire, had set out in good time with a trailer full of display material for the Open Evening. When a trailer tyre burst part way through the afternoon, he discovered how difficult it was to locate a replacement wheel! He also lost valuable preparation time normally needed at the venue.

Members of Bradgate Flower Club, which hosted the evening, assisted with unloading and the programme was able to start with only a short delay. David promised a range of floral arrangements around the 'Christmas Magic' theme, from traditional to contemporary, some with controversial elements. His job at the Barton Garden Centre, which has successive awards for its Christmas displays, made David the perfect guest arranger for this winter evening. The College theatre provided an ideal venue for over one hundred members and visitors to enjoy his skill, inventiveness and humour as each of the six large-scale arrangements took shape.

David Fawcett-Ropner enlivened the evening with a running commentary on the flowers, foliage and display material he used, interspersed with anecdotes about his work, wardrobe and experiences as a popular national arranger. He even made light of the fraught journey that day with the final arrangements showing no sign that his motoring mishap had diminished his personal brand of 'Christmas Magic'!

Forthcoming Events

Bradgate Flower Club meets on Wednesday 1st December at 7.30 pm in Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall. The guest demonstrator is Marilyn Ottewell from Burton upon Trent and her theme is *'The First Christmas'*. The Club welcomes new members and visitors for whom a fee of £4 is charged at the door.



David Fawcett-Ropner with finale demonstration display

Tudor Banquet

On Friday 15th October Newtown Linford Primary School held a Tudor Banquet at the Village Hall to celebrate the children's learning last half term.



The children all dressed up in Tudor Costumes to be served by staff and parents at long tables. The tables were laden with platters of chicken drumsticks, ham, beef and turkey, with bread and soup. After the Banquet the older chil-



dren put on a display of Tudor dancing and one child read out a story he had written as the 'official story teller'.

The proceedings were overseen by the King and Queen (Billy & Monika). The occasion marked the ending of the 'Tudors' theme which the children enjoyed learning about last term. Each of the themes the children study begin with a 'wow' event, which in the case of Tudors was a trip to

10 Donington Le Heath Manor House.



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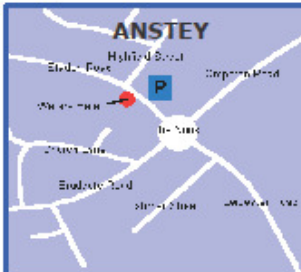
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VILLAGE RAMBLERS



SATURDAY 11th December, meet at the Bluebell, Rothley, to depart at 11am. LEADER Ed Killick. 249589

Lunch at the pub, when we shall decide next years programme.

SUNDAY 26th December, Boxing Day Brunch at the Bradgate, followed by Amble. Meet 10am Book your brunch with the Bradgate Tel.01530 242239.(Ramblers)

SATURDAY 8th January, meet opposite the Village Hall, to depart at 2pm.

LEADER Lesley Baker. 01509 890771

Thank-you to Iris who led the walk in November, the Autumn colours, golden sunshine and unusual clouds meant we saw Bradgate and Cropston Reservoir at its best.

I wish you all a Happy Xmas and New Year, and thank you all for your enthusiasm and good company. ANY QUERIES -Ring Glenis Meredith 242897

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 caused



Photo Alan Illiffe



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Newtown Linford Gardening Club



Hasn't it been a glorious Autumn! The colours of the leaves have been marvellous this year. We went to see New England in the Fall a couple of years ago, but that was no more spectacular than it has been in England this year. The leaves in your garden need to be raked up and stored somewhere to rot down to make leaf mould. This a wonderful nutrient for your flower beds or vegetable plots. If you leave them on your lawn they will spoil your grass and too many on your flower beds will only provide a warm snug home for slugs, snails and other pests which will emerge in the Spring to cause havoc and grief.

We shall resume our garden club meetings in the New Year after our traditional Christmas break. On 25th January Dr Christopher Andrews, from Top Lodge Centre in Northamptonshire, will talk to us on gardening for wildlife. He is a specialist on birds, working for the RSPB, and, hopefully he will have ideas which will increase the number and species of birds we see in Newtown Linford.

Our Summer outing in 2011 will be a trip to Hidcote Manor in August. This is a wonderful garden near Stratford -on-Avon and will, we hope, appeal to many of our members.

We have welcomed several new members over the last three months and are always pleased to see more new faces either as visitors or members. If you wish to become a member, please contact the Secretary (tel. 242452), 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.

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LOROS House to House collection,
Newtown Linford, 2010.

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I have been informed by LOROS that the total raised this year was £664.93, and I am most grateful to all the ladies (and a few gentlemen) who took part in the collection and to those who donated so generously.

LOROS are greatly appreciative of our efforts during the annual appeal, which goes to help in the care of terminally ill patients and their families.

Joyce Lowe

NEWTOWN LINFORD CHORAL SOCIETY



“The Armed Man” A Mass for Peace

Tickets are now available for the Choral Society’s winter concert, which will be held in Ratby Church on Friday 28th January **and** Saturday 29th January 2011. At the concert the Choral Society will be performing ‘The Armed Man’. Subtitled a ‘Mass for Peace’ it portrays the growing menace of a descent into war, expresses the horrors that war brings, and ends with the hope for peace. The text includes words from religious and historical sources including Kipling, Tennyson and Asian poets. The music covers a wide range of styles and it is now being performed regularly all over the world to immense acclaim from audiences.

This is a stirring and very beautiful, contemporary piece written by composer Karl Jenkins, who has an unusual background of classical music, jazz, advertising music and as a member of the rock group Soft Machine.

The Choral Society is looking forward to the concert, where it will be accompanied by a full orchestra, and professional soprano soloist Sarah Stephens. Tickets are priced at £9, and are available from Peter Sayer 01530 243822, Newtown Linford Village Stores and any member of the Choir.

Iris Sayer

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Newtown Linford Sunday School Specials



We meet on the first Sunday of every month, the next sessions will be on Sundays 5th December and 2nd January between 11 & 12noon. Why not come and join us.

We provide a relaxed, fun environment in which children can learn more about Christian values and lessons through stories, songs and creative activities.

Suitable for children of all ages.

Contact Katherine/Carole on 244790

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SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Thank you to Suzy Poulton from "Shore" for donating her Scarecrow "Catch of the Day" to Rainbows. I understand that they were delighted to receive it and it has caused a lot of interest at the Hospice. We would be very interested to know if anyone else was able to take theirs.

The Scarecrow Committee had funds of £500 to disperse this year and donations were made to:-
The Art Group,
Brownies,
Church Bell Tower,
Mums and Toddlers,
The School.

Happy Christmas to everyone from the Scarecrow Committee - Iris, Jan and Sue.



Iris Sayer

Mothers and Toddlers News

Following the successful scarecrow weekend, Iris was able to present the Mothers and Toddlers Group with a cheque for £100. Iris is seen here with Philipa Marriott, who runs the Group that meets on Thursday mornings during term time in the back classroom of the Village School. Philipa is holding the youngest member of the Group, baby Isla, who attends with her Mum Helen and brother Freddie.



The group is thriving but new members are always welcome. Due to the generosity of the School it gives the youngsters the opportunity to get used to the School environment before going full time. Each September the Group proudly sees their latest entrants to the School in their uniform and looking very grown up. You do not have to be a Mother to bring the children - we have a Nanny and Grandmothers as well. If you would like more information, **Philipa can be contacted on 01530 249792**

BRADGATE TEAM SUNDAY SERVICES - DECEMBER 2010

DATE	GROBY	RATBY	NEWTOWN LINFORD
5th Sunday 2nd of Advent	8.00am Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper		
	9.30am Family Service Revd Louise Corke	10.00am Christingle Revd Peter Hooper	11.00am Holy Communion Preb John Woolmer
	6.30pm Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke Revd Helen Hayes	6.00pm Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper	
12th Sunday 3rd of Advent		8.00am Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke	8.00am Holy Communion Canon Derek Buxton Revd Peter Hooper
	9.30am Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke	10.00am Nativity Play Revd Peter Hooper	11.00am Morning Prayer Keith Wignall
	6.30pm Evening Prayer Revd Peter Hooper David Collins		
19th Sunday 4th of Advent	8.00am Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke		
	9.30am Nativity Play Revd Louise Corke	10.00am Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper Revd Helen Hayes	11.00am Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper Revd Helen Hayes
	5.00pm Carol Service Revd Louise Corke Keith Wignall	6.30pm Carol Service Revd Peter Hooper Revd Helen Hayes	4.00pm Carol Service Revd Peter Hooper Revd Helen Hayes
	7.00pm 3SE at the URC Revd Louise Corke		

BRADGATE TEAM CHRISTMAS SERVICES - DECEMBER 2010

DATE	GROBY	RATBY	NEWTOWN LINFORD
24th Christmas Eve	6.00pm All Age Service Revd Louise Corke 11.00pm Midnight Mass Revd Louise Corke Revd Helen Hayes	4.00pm Crib Service Revd Peter Hooper Revd Helen Hayes 11.30pm Midnight Mass Revd Peter Hooper	5.30pm Christingle Revd Peter Hooper David Collins 11.30pm Midnight Mass Preb John Woolmer
25th Christmas Day	8.00am Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper 10.00am Family Service Revd Louise Corke Revd Helen Hayes	8.00am Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke 10.30am Family Christmas Celebration Revd Peter Hooper	9.15am Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper
26th Boxing Day			10.30am Family Communion Revd Louise Corke David Collins

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES

GROBY	Wednesdays	9.30am	1st	8th	15th	22nd
RATBY	Thursdays	9.30am	9th	23rd		
NEWTOWN LINFORD	Thursdays	10.00am	2nd			



*The Ministry Team of the Bradgate Parish
send you their very best wishes
for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year*

David, Helen, Keith. Louise and Peter

Christmas Eve Christingle 5.30pm

What's it all about?

Christingle is a celebration that takes place in schools, youth groups and churches all over the country, and over half a million kids take part each year. In fact, Christingle was originally designed just for young people!



What happens during a Christingle celebration?

During the celebration all the children receive a christingle. A christingle is made of an orange, a candle, a ribbon and sweets on cocktail sticks.

Each part of a christingle stands for something:

- Orange – the world
- Candle – Jesus the light of the world
- Red ribbon – the blood of Jesus
- Cocktail sticks and sweets – the seasons (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter) and all the good things in our world.

You can pick up a collecting candle from church to put money you collect in for The Children's Society and bring it to the service on Christmas Eve.

We will also be doing Christingle activities (games etc at Sunday School in the Sunday School rooms on the 5th December from 11am—why not come and join us then! For more details contact Carole and Katherine on 244790

Boxing Day Worship

With Christmas Day falling on a Saturday this year, Boxing Day correspondingly arrives on a Sunday.

Given the many opportunities to celebrate Christmas in our Churches on both the 24th and 25th, it was felt that a full programme of 'normal' Sunday services would be a little too much. However, it is important that the regular pattern of offering Holy Communion on Sundays is maintained and as such it is proposed that just a single service will be held in the Parish.

Starting at 10.30am, this Family Communion Service will be held at Newtown Linford Church which of course offers the additional opportunity for a walk in Bradgate Park afterwards. A real post Christmas opportunity to exercise body, mind and spirit!

IN THE BRADGATE TEAM PARISH

BAPTISMS

July 4th Harrison Edward BURROWS
31st Charlotte Mei COTTON
August 22nd Faith Allen LOFHOUSE
October 3rd Joshua Ewan LEE

WEDDINGS AND WEDDING BLESSINGS

April 24th Philip JONES & Kathryn FARNHAM
May 1st Dean SPERRY & Sophi JENNER
July 31st Richard COTTON & Penelope BURGESS
September 4th Phillip GIBSON & Louise HARTSHORN

BEREAVEMENTS

March 15th Martha Beatrice ALMEN (87)
June 13th John COOK (69)
July 11th Olive Mary FEATHERSTONE (95)
August 27th Roger Charles LIST (82)
October 21st Joan PATRICK (88)



BRADGATE TEAM SUNDAY SERVICES—JANUARY 2011

DATE	GROBY	RATBY	NEWTOWN LINFORD
2nd Epiphany	8.00am Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper		
	9.30am Family Service Revd Louise Corke	10.00am Morning Prayer Keith Wignall	11.00am Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper
	6.30pm Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper	6.00pm Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke	
9th Baptism of Christ		8.00am Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper	8.00am Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke
	9.30am Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke	10.00am Worship For All Revd Peter Hooper	11.00am Morning Prayer Revd Helen Hayes
	6.30pm Evening Prayer Revd Louise Corke Revd Helen Hayes		
16th 2nd Sunday Of Epiphany	8.00am Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke		
	9.30am Morning Prayer Revd Helen Hayes	10.00am Holy Communion Revd Peter Hooper	11.00am Holy Communion Revd Louise Corke
	6.30pm 3SE		

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES

GROBY	Wednesdays	9.30am	5th	12th	19th	26th
RATBY	Thursdays	9.30am	13th	27th		
NEWTOWN LINFORD	Thursdays	10.00am	6th			

BRADGATE TEAM SUNDAY SERVICES—JANUARY 2011

DATE	GROBY	RATBY	NEWTOWN LINFORD
23rd Week of Prayer for Christian Unity			8.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Peter Hooper
	10.00am Special Rev'd Louise Corke	10.00am Special Rev'd Peter Hooper	11.00am Morning Prayer Keith Wignall
	6.30pm Evening Prayer Rev'd Peter Hooper		
30th Candlemass	8.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Louise Corke		8.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Peter Hooper
	9.30am Holy Communion Rev'd Louise Corke	10.30am Holy Communion Rev'd Peter Hooper	11.00am Morning Prayer David Collins
	6.30pm Evening Prayer David Collins		

Contact Details

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

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

Team website: www.bradgateteam.org.uk

Regular Events

Bell ringer's practice: Monday 8pm



Newtown Linford Church Questionnaire

We are looking at our 11am service to see if the service is timed conveniently to meet the needs of the congregation.



We would like to know the views of parishioners, in order to ensure that we are providing the Main Sunday Service which is currently at 11am at the best possible time.

If you have any suggestions regarding the timing of this Service - including leaving it unchanged, could you please let us have your views by completing the form below by Sunday 19th December.

Please return your completed form by:

- a) Giving it to one of the Parish Clergy.
- b) Leaving it on the table near the church Door.
- c) Posting it to the Editor (see address inside back cover).

Name & Address (optional)	
Do you regularly attend the 11am Sunday morning Service?	Yes / No
Would you like to see the time of this Service changed?	Yes / No
What time would you like to see the Service held?	
Any other comments or suggestions?	
Thank you for your assistance in completing this questionnaire	

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Saturday 4 Dec, 10a.m. to 6p.m.

Sunday 5 Dec, 12 noon to 6p.m.

Entrance £2.50 Accompanied children free



Village Hall Event

Sat 4th 10am—3pm

Craft activities, games, stalls

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Father Christmas

10.30 to 1.30pm

Christmas Cracker

Christmas entertainment with carols
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**Tuesday 7th December
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The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust are looking for volunteers to join the Ulverscroft work party at the beautiful Ulverscroft Nature Reserve, near Markfield. The group meet on the first Sunday of the month from 9am until midday throughout the year.

Come and help carry out a variety of activities such as removing scrub from the important heath grasslands, paths maintenance or work in the woodlands. Winter is a busy time of year on the reserve as we make the most of being able to carry out practical tasks without disturbing nesting birds or damaging any wild flowers. As well as learning new practical skills, you will also learn more about how this nature reserve is managed and the wide variety of wildlife that can be found there.

Group leader Steve Woodward says "Getting up on a winter morning to cut gorse or brambles might not seem appealing - but it is actually very enjoyable, it keeps you fit and there's a good chance of seeing some special wildlife - on the November work party we found the nest of a harvest mouse."

No previous experience is necessary but you need to be over 18 years of age and reasonably fit. You will also need to wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty and suitable footwear for uneven and muddy conditions. You will be provided with tools and gloves and shown how to use the tools safely.

For more details on this group and others that run in your area, please contact Nathalie on 0116 272 8853 or e-mail ncossa@lrwt.org.uk

Contact: Nathalie Cossa
0116 272 8853,
ncossa@lrwt.org.uk



From the Records

Let There Be Light



Winter is well and truly here with dark nights. To save energy and improve our carbon footprint, the Parish Council has decided to join the local scheme to turn off certain street lights between midnight and five thirty am.

Forty years ago (May 1968) our records show we were trying to increase the number of lights in the village. We needed an underground cable along the pavement side of Bradgate Road. This was a one off expense that had to be met sometime and the Parish Council felt it was the right time to do it.

They had asked to increase the precept from 3d - 6d to help cover this cost. At that time all electricity was behind the houses and expensive work would be needed for each lamp, unpractical and unsafe.

Asking for the underground cable meant they could increase the lighting annually as the funds allowed. They thought the rough cost of each lamp would be £200. They intended to put four lamps on Bradgate Road, one on Main Street along from Markfield Lane and one opposite the

Bradgate. In January 1970 the County Council agreed to take over the footway lighting of Grey Close* upgrading it to fit in with the rest of Grey Crescent. They agreed to maintain all Grey Crescent. The Parish Council still look after all the other street lighting. By July 1970 there is a mention that 6 more lights have been erected. It was hoped that they would be working by the Autumn.

Janet Neaverson

Grey Close had been in the village since the 1940's and the newer part of Grey Crescent was originally Bennion Close - the two were joined up and became Grey Crescent.





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To call any police officer or PCSO

Ring **0116 248 5675**

followed by their collar number.

Our neighbourhood beat officer is PC Steve Rhodes. To contact him, telephone 0116 248 5675 follow the instructions and when prompted enter the number 0544. This is for non emergency occasions.

If you have information about a crime and wish to remain anonymous, you can ring Leicestershire **CRIMESTOPPERS** on

31 **0800 555 111.**

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I do not have any more facts than those I gave you last month concerning release of information, save to say it continues to be very scarce and patchy.

However it has been confirmed that the person who committed the burglary in Grey Crescent last May has been arrested and charged, found guilty and now serving time. Unfortunately for the victim he had no assets.

All our surrounding villages have had trouble with people throwing bricks from moving vehicles through the windscreens of vehicles coming the other way and parked cars. At least ten cars have been damaged. CCTV footage is being checked to see if the culprits can be identified.

Reports were received of a dog attacking another dog resulting in the dog requiring a tear in the leg to be stapled and stitched together. The dog is now recovering but the owner is still stressed at the vet's bill. The Parish Council was concerned for the safety of children on the Playing Fields and I understand that P.C. Steve Rhodes and the Dog Warden are dealing with this.

More on animals, this time a mink. I was concerned at losing several of my free flying white doves and suspected a mink. I had been told that they were breeding last year on the river and I know they were living by the lake at Poultney Farm a couple of years ago. I bought a trap and lo and behold this week I caught a mink. They are extremely viscious creatures and make a blood curdling screaming noise. I am told they are territorial but I guess there are more about and another will move in. I now realize this is what has been happening to the Moorhen, Mandarin and Mallard ducklings over the last few years. They have also cleared the brown trout from the river. These had been thriving again. Mink stay close to the river so if you are near the river keep a look out although you seldom see them. If you need a trap I bought mine from Steve Budding at Brookside Nursery, so I guess as he stocks them

other people have needed them

Pam McMorran
NHW Co-ordinator



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Brownies

On a very cold 20th October 2010, Newtown Linford and Anstey Brownies came together at Mims for a BBQ and sing song. This was to celebrate all Brownie and Guiding members in the UK remaking their promise at 8.10pm. We held glow lights and made the shape of 100 to celebrate a 100 years of girl guiding. It was a fun night for all.

By Jade Pilgrim age 8





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News from David Snartt, Borough and County Councillor.

Winter Gritting

The County Council has once again issued more information to help residents whenever freezing conditions or snow are forecast. The County Council has a pre winter stock of 15,000 tonnes of salt located at 5 depots around the County. This is spread on the roads by a fleet of 23 gritters. Residents are asked to remember that if a frost follows rain in the early hours, insufficient time may be available to grit all routes before motorists travel to work. Therefore they must be vigilant at these times.

During heavy snow the County Council has 54 snow ploughs which are fitted to the fleet of gritters and construction vehicles. These vehicles are supported by over 50 farmers who are provided with snow ploughs for their tractors. The target is to open all major routes within 24 hours of the end of heavy snow.

The advice also states in extreme conditions, is your journey essential, always ensure someone knows where you are going and when you expect to arrive, also make sure you take a shovel, torch, wellington boots, warm clothing, food and a hot drink.

Community Safety.

Recently we have had an attempted distraction burglary in a nearby village. The man informed the elderly resident that he was from the water-board, there was a problem with the water supply and he needed to check the taps. Please remember to always check the identity of any person who claims to represent an organisation, any genuine callers will not mind you doing this.

The Charnwood Community Safety Partnership has recently completed a campaign with an advertising van to reduce further the number of burglaries within Charnwood. The van visited villages across Charnwood to remind residents with the slogan "lock it or lose it". There has been a significant reduction over the year in domestic burglary, but I cannot stress enough how important it is for residents to lock doors and windows also use your alarm if you have one and leave a light on when you go out in the evening.

Once again as we come near to the festive season may I wish all residents a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

If you need to contact me on any issue please write to: 10 Groby Lane, Newtown Linford, Leicester. LE6 0HH. e-mail david.snartt@leics.gov.uk or telephone 01530 244804.

“For education there’s Mastercard” The government removes the cap on university fees

With the current recession, the importance of University has risen drastically. Forty or fifty years ago, university was not an option for many who left education, due to the expenses involved, and the pressure to enter work. However, today University is simply the next step in education, and the only way to be sure of a well paid job in the future.

The Government announcement to remove the cap on University tuition fees has resulted in widespread discontent throughout the country. Their proposal is to allow Universities to charge up to £9,000 a year, a staggering increase from the previous cap of £3,290. Despite the fact that Universities will be expected to offer bursaries and other forms of financial aid to encourage students from poorer backgrounds to apply, (if they decide to charge over £6,000 a year) this is still a colossal blow to students everywhere who wish to continue their education.

Tensions within the Coalition Government have begun to rise as a result of these proposals, as the Liberal Democrats have been campaigning to abolish tuition fees for six years. Liberal Democrat party members have permission to abstain from any vote that would result in increased fees, and although many members have claimed that they will vote in opposition to the scheme, it is unlikely that this will be enough to have any effect on the plans, leaving students who voted Lib Dem feeling deceived.

It is evident, therefore, that University tuition fees will rise. In addition, the Government has put restrictions on the amount of students Universities can accept, and as a result University places will be even harder to obtain. As a student planning to go to University myself, in 2011, the increase in fees may not affect me, however the repercussions will. Universities are expecting a huge surge of applicants, each trying to avoid the immense price that the Government has put on education. As a result, more applicants will be turned away, leaving college students wondering what to do next.

This proposal will have devastating long term effects. With such a vast amount of students being turned away, the demand for jobs will be higher, and, as a result, jobs will be even harder to obtain and companies will have higher expectations of their applicants. Even the students who manage to get a place and take out a loan will leave University with huge debts, debts they will spend their lives trying to repay.

Who has the right to put a price on education? The Government's plans will destroy the dreams of students all over the Country. Education is now just something else the poorest families can't afford.

Rebecca Harrison

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NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Most of the October meeting was taken up with a visit by two Senior Technicians of the Leicestershire County Council to talk about the Leicestershire Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project. It has been agreed by the County Council that Newtown Linford Parish should be included in this project. Its purpose is to reduce street lighting levels in the County in order to make savings on energy costs, reduce carbon emissions and reduce light pollution. For Newtown Linford a street lighting 'part night' scheme (where lights are to be switched off between midnight and 5.30 am) will be introduced. The commencement date for the implementation of the scheme has not been finalised as an assessment of non-highways related risks such as crime and anti-social behaviour is necessary for each site, and the relevant County Council departments are currently consulting the emergency services for their views. As soon as we are notified of the final approved scheme for Newtown Linford (we should hear within the next 2 to 3 months), I will let you have you full details.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday, 20th December 2010 at 7pm and the first meeting in 2011 is on Tuesday, 18th January at 7pm. We are always very happy to welcome residents to the meetings.

**ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
I WISH YOU ALL
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**



Lydia Knott
Clerk to the Council
T: 01530 242522; E: lydia.knott@btinternet.com



Return to Bradgate Park

Roy Marshall



Further to the poem by Roy Marshall that has run over the last three copies - below is a short bio, explaining how it came about.

Roy Marshall was born in 1966. His family moved to Quorn in Leicestershire in 1969.

Roy spent happy times here, often roaming freely to the park and around the streets and alleyways. Roy went to school in Loughborough and later in Quorn. He remembers how the river Soar would flood his road and how he would paddle in the flood-waters.

His parents would often take him to Charnwood Forest at the weekends. The family moved south when Roy was ten. In 1986 Roy was working in an office in Hertfordshire when he met a girl who was also working there during her summer holiday. She was studying at Leicester Poly and when she went back the pair exchanged letters for a while before losing touch. Twenty years later the girl (who's name is Rachel) wrote to Roy's parents who passed her letter on to him. Roy came to visit her in Leicestershire and three years later they were married. Their Son Alex was born in 2004.

Roy's poetry has appeared in a number of local and national magazines and in 2010 he was commissioned by Leicester Libraries to write a poem for St. Georges Day. The resulting poem 'Return to Bradgate Park' was performed by Roy outside the Curve Theatre in Leicester.



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Magazine Contributions

Can we please have your contributions for the **February 2011** issue by **15th January 2011** please. **Send to the Editor, Carole Heubeck, 5 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford (01530 244790).**

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

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