

Newtown Linford Magazine

ISSUE NUMBER 124

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May 2015

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The Bradgate Team Parish



It's nearly over; all those weeks of posturing, shallow promises, exaggerated statistics and cutting remarks. General elections seem more and more to have become a kind of sport enjoyed mainly by the media and the politicians. Whether you will be feeling like a loser or a winner after May 7th, I think a universal feeling for the nation will be thank goodness the campaigning and all that goes with it is over. Although, of course, there's likely to be more to come with the job of forming a new Government.

I remember my first experience of a general election when I was still in primary school. It was February 23rd 1950 when a gang of older lads grabbed hold of me in the playground and demanded,

“Are you labour or conservative?”

I didn't even realise there was an election going on and these were only meaningless words to me. Although I can't remember what I said, I do remember the thumping they gave me so it must have been the wrong answer.

For me, this was an early initiation into confrontational politics. Today, the general consensus seems to be that election bickering, character assassination and everything we've come to call spin haven't addressed the real issues. Rather, they have left most of us feeling disappointed, weary and confused. Let's hope and pray that with a new Parliament, there will be more opportunity to see the people elected by the Nation working more cooperatively, driven less by self interest and more by the clamouring and obvious needs of our society and the world.

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, the man who put his own life and wellbeing at risk to help a foreigner whose own people had just walked by. Jesus was addressing an age of acute prejudice and intolerance. His story was a challenge to cut through racial political and religious prejudice and he

ended by saying, "Now you go and do likewise."

The world needs to re-discover some alternatives. To concentrate on the things that unite rather than the things that divide. Like the very moving story of the Palestinian man shot and killed in the conflict with Israel whose family has made his organs available for transplant to save the lives of Israelis; or the young Muslim man who stood blindfold in a busy high street with a sign saying

'I'm a Muslim, not a terrorist, do you trust me?'

and waited for the reaction of passers by. An amazing number of people stopped to give him a hug.

It was Richard Baxter, the 17th century Protestant minister and peace-maker at the centre of so many clashes when England was locked

in deadly religious and political conflict who said:

*"In necessary things, let there be unity;
in doubtful things, liberty,
and in all things, charity."*

May unity, liberty and charity be God's blessing on our new Parliament. And may we all do our part in echoing the teaching of Jesus in the fight against prejudice and intolerance as we pray for those charged with representing us in the new Parliament.

Revd Fred Brodie



Mums and Toddler Group

3pm - 5pm every Tuesday at the Newtown Linford Sunday School Rooms by the entrance of Bradgate Park. Cost is £1 plus free tea, coffee and biscuits.

Everybody is invited;
Parents, Grandparents, Carers, Brothers
and Sisters.

For more information call Beate on 01530 245198

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TOYS

your kids will play with



VILLAGE DIARY



May 2015

3rd Bluebell Walk
11th Village Ramblers
12th The Linford - Gardening talk with wine & nibbles
18th Parish Council

June 2015

12/13th Choral Society

Regular events

Monday afternoon	Mature Movers fitness class V. Hall
Mondays 8pm at the Church	Bell Ringing
Tuesday afternoons 3-5pm	Mothers and Toddlers (SS Rooms)
4th Tuesday of the month	Gardening Club
1st Wednesday of the month	Flower Club
3rd Wednesday of the month	Ladies Luncheon Club
Thursdays 11.15	Coffee Mornings for all, Village Hall
Thursdays 6.30	Brownies, Sunday School Rooms
3rd Thursday	Gentlemen's Lunch Club

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Newtown Linford Gardening Club

We really are having a lovely spring – no late frosts (so far!!); our trees and hedgerows are in the first flush of new greenery and there is a splendid display of daffodils, primroses and other seasonal flowers.

This is what we gardeners have been waiting for all winter and there are signs of activity all over the village. As usual we have to wait a little longer before we plant out our summer bedding but we should all have learnt by now that this is something you just don't do too soon.

After our Annual General Meeting in April we start our new season with a visit to the NGS garden at Barracca near Earl Shilton. This is a one acre garden containing a wide variety of features including a silver birch walk, a wildlife pond, a Mediterranean area and a utility garden for fruit and vegetables.

This is our annual local visit when we gather together to enjoy someone else's garden and share some food and drink.

After that we move into our traditional summer activities with the garden party in July; our long trip in August, which this year is to Hyde Hall, the RHS garden in Essex; a collection of prestigious speakers culminating in our annual celebrity evening in October when Chris Beardshaw, the award winning garden designer and TV presenter is coming. We have also added an extra trip which is to the Norwell Gardens near Newark. Ticket sales for the Chris Beardshaw evening will be announced in the coming months, and we expect it to be very popular, so pencil in the date which is 27th October.

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

Editors Note - the take by Ady Dayman - see page opposite - the money raised will be going to Rainbows. If you would like a ticket contact Carolyn on 01530 249173



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THE LINFORD

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ADY DAYMAN

Radio Leicester's Gardening Expert and
BBC Midlands Today TV Gardener

Tuesday 12th May at 7.30pm

At the Linford Suite Newtown Linford

TICKETS £5

Proceeds to Rainbows

Including Glass of Wine and Nibbles

Bradgate Drama Society - Appeal for New Members

Dear Friends

The Bradgate Drama Society has been treading the boards in Newtown Linford for some 60 years now and has delighted audiences young and old over the years.

We are lucky enough to have great facilities including a great sound and lighting system and the facility to rehearse on stage which is always a bonus. We are also able to provide a bar on performance nights which adds to the night out.

Sadly, even with all this in our favour we have reached a point whereby we are having to take a long hard look at how we are able to carry on. We have a diminishing membership and are finding it very hard to recruit new members, and none of us are getting any younger. Our audiences have also diminished over the last few years and from selling out over three nights we have had to reduce our performances to just two nights. All of this is having an effect on the type of productions we are able to produce. We have gone from having auditions to just seeing who is available and finding a play to fit. Without an injection of new members I feel that it won't be long before we bring the final curtain down on the Group.

As Chairman of the Society I do not wish to preside over the demise of the Group, so if you are willing to join us we would love to see you and don't feel that you have to be on the stage - we need plenty of help behind the scenes as well. I realise that this may not be for everyone so if it's not for you then why not lend your support by coming to see our productions I am sure you would have a very enjoyable evening.

If on reading this you think you may want to join us then please contact myself via the Society's email address -

bradgatedrama@gmail.com
or give me a call on 0116 2601375.

With a little more help and support we can together keep this Group going to entertain people for many more years to come. As the saying goes "use or lose it"!

Andreas Hastie
Chairman





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Village Ramblers

The next ramble will be led by Penny Neaves on 11th May 2015. Contact Penny on 07930 557415 for more info.

13th June John Castle on 01455 293165

Meet : Opposite the Village Hall, to depart at 2pm unless stated otherwise. Please wear walking boots/shoes. The walks usually are about 3 - 4 miles and last about 2 hours.

The lovely muddy, Charnwood Forest walk from and back to Donnington Le Heath Manor House towards Ellistown, including the Birthday Walk was enjoyed (with the help of tiny chocolate Easter eggs as bribery). We would like to say thank you to the kind lady who stayed behind to serve us delicious refreshments, provide Ben the puppy with water and helped us purchase some very reasonably priced plants from the medieval herb garden. Although closed for refurbishment the Manor House will be open for special events. Access the Donnington Le Heath Manor House website for more information.





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**MARGARET GEE D.A.H.Hyp
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The Grey Lady 

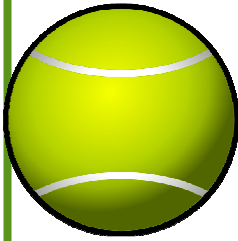
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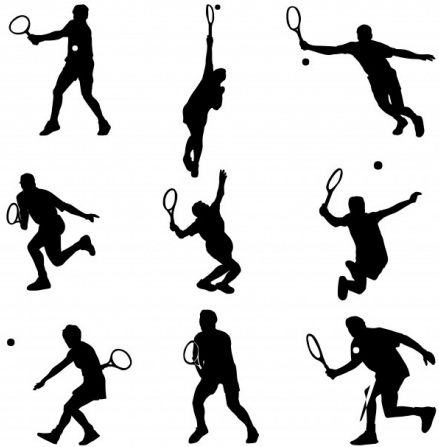
Newtown Linford Tennis Club

New for 2015 Season - Daytime Tennis Group

If you are interested in joining a Friendly Daytime Tennis Group please contact Jane Schofield on janeschofield27@hotmail.com

Club Night has started every Tuesday Evening from 6pm - come and meet other members and play friendly social tennis - Juniors are invited once they reach a good rallying level.

For further enquires re the club and membership please contact John Sugden on 01530 243433



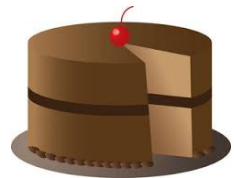
Coffee & Cake

Newtown Linford Village Hall

Thursday Morning 11.15am - Free

All Welcome - All Ages

May 7th - Pat & David Wood
May 14th - Marlisse & Brenda Wheeler
May 21st - Katie Cook & Haley Lewis
May 28th - Iris & Peter Sayer



Please join everyone to catch up on village news and activities and to meet your fellow neighbours – call 01530 243433

Don't Be Scared of Healthy Fats

Over the past 40 years or so we have had it drummed into our systems that FAT is bad for us. And yet, the average British person is actually 3 stone heavier than they were 40 years ago! In my opinion the introduction of the high carb, low fat craze in late 1970's/early 1980's contributed towards the massive weight gain of our nation.



We have taken the term low fat out of context. If you have been instructed to follow a low fat diet, what that essentially means is to replace the steak with a chicken breast, to replace carbonara sauce on (wholewheat) pasta with tomato sauce, swap chips for a small baked potato or baked sweet potato.

The foods you see in the super market marked 'Low Fat', such as yogurt, cottage cheese, cereals, ready meals and many, many more are LOADED WITH SUGAR and sugar WILL make you fat if you consume too much of it. This is because sugar spikes raise your insulin levels, which causes your body to store fat much faster. In a slim person, approximately 40% of sugar eaten converts straight to fat but in a person who is overweight that changes to 60% which is converted to fat. Think about that for a second!! It's pretty shocking.

Good fats are found in foods like nuts, seeds, oils, fish, seafood, avocados and most meats. This good fat sends signals to the brain to tell you that you're full. Fat also slows down the insulin spike you get from too much sugar which will help keep blood sugar levels on a more even keel and keep your energy levels more steady. Healthy fat is good for your skin and helps your body better absorb vitamins and minerals. Your joints will benefit, your hair will benefit and so will your nails....

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From the Park



A Busy Spring

Peter Tyldesley

Many figures have been bandied about in the past for the number of visitors to Bradgate Park each year. The figure of 900,000 is often quoted and I have seen claims for up to 1.3 million. Since knowing how many people come through the gates each year is a key figure in managing any visitor attraction, I was quite surprised when I first arrived here that I was unable to find a robust methodology to support any of these numbers.

Not having turnstiles at the gates, we will never know exactly how many visitors we welcome annually but we can arrive at a reasonable approximation based on how many parking tickets are sold, a realistic estimate of average car occupancy and a percentage addition for people not arriving via our car parks. Using this methodology we now have figures for the past four years.

Visitor numbers for the year ending 31st March 2015 according to this formula were 501,000, which is an increase of 6.6% on the previous year. Being an outdoor attraction our numbers are very dependent on the vagaries of the British weather. In the very wet summer of 2012, the quietest month of the entire year was June which had 4,000 fewer visitors than November of the same year. In 2014/15, 11 out of 12 months were either the best or worst of the four years we have on record. In the end the 'bests' outnumbered the 'worsts' and we had a record year but the variability from month to month was striking: whether or not this is a symptom of climate change, I don't know but it does make you wonder what the weather has in store for us next.

What I do know is that on Easter Monday, it felt at times that all 501,000 had arrived at once!

We are trying to shift some of the focus away from Bank Holidays, which is why we do not stage events on these busiest weekends. The first major event of the 2015 is the Early Summer Fair, which will be held on the last weekend in May (the weekend after the Spring Bank Holiday).

Preparations are coming together for the fair and we are always keen to hear from local businesses and craftspeople who are interested in having a stall at these events.

As mentioned last month, we have been successful in attracting our first National Lottery Grant. Thanks to support received from Awards 4 All (the Big Lottery Fund) and the Leicestershire & Rutland Masonic Chari

ties Association we have been able to purchase a 'Tramper' off-road mobility scooter. This will enable our visitors with mobility difficulties to reach those parts of the Park that they would otherwise be unable to. We are still working on the details of routes and booking procedures but we envisage the Tramper being available on free loan and with 'slots' that are pre-bookable so you can plan your adventure in advance. Full details will be available on our website.

On the subject of our less mobile visitors, the 'drive-through' scheme is in operation again this year on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. If you wish to take advantage of the scheme on a regular basis, we ask that you apply for one of our permits from the Estate Office. There is no charge for the issue of a permit (although we do invite donations to help cover costs) but it does help us to keep track of who is using the scheme. However, if you are not a permit holder but have a friend or relative visiting who is a Blue Badge holder, we welcome one-off users of the scheme so please just turn up at the gate with the badge on a drive-through day.

I am always disappointed to receive complaints about the drive-through from members of the public and I always tell them that this is the only opportunity that some of our visitors with disabilities have to enjoy the Park in something approaching the way that the rest of us take for granted so please be patient and tolerant and perhaps take the opportunity to go for a walk off the beaten track away from the tarmac.

At the time of writing this the General Election campaign is in full swing. My advice is to escape from the wall-to-wall political coverage and come for a walk in the Park!



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NEWTOWN LINFORD CC SUCCESSFUL IN LOTTERY BID



Major clubhouse refurbishment work is well underway at Newtown Linford Cricket Club thanks to a £10,000 grant from The Big Lottery Fund.

With a newly formed committee at the helm, pro-active steps have been taken behind-the-scenes during the winter months to help reinforce Newtown's reputation as boasting one of the most picturesque grounds in the country. And this latest news has allowed the Club to undertake an abundance of improvements ahead of the 2015 Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket League season which started on Saturday 18th April .

These include: new kitchen and clubroom flooring, new clubroom ceiling tiles, improved electrics/lighting, new dressing room flooring, redecoration, a wipeable and non-slip floor surface in the main clubroom adjacent to the bar area, replacement tiling and sanitary ware in the male toilets, a fully compliant unisex disabled toilet, as well as additional storage.

The work is being project managed by former Club Captain and Vice President Steve Heywood. The Big Lottery Fund is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery. The Fund is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK.

Chairman Jon Dale is delighted that the Club has been acknowledged by The Big Lottery Fund and said: "We are privileged to have a warm and welcoming facility to play our cricket at but the clubhouse had started to look a little antiquated in recent years.

"Like with an abundance of local cricket clubs, finances have prevented us from any sort of major refurbishment work so we were over the moon when we were notified that our grant application had been successful. It was a pleasant belated Christmas present!

"We are an aspiring club both on and off the field and these improvements are another step in the right direction. We'd like to thank The Big Lottery Fund for their support along with all of our other generous sponsors."

Newtown has a growing junior network as well as three Saturday senior sides, a Sunday XI and Thursday evening team. Daniel Brown is our current Club Captain. For more information:

Email Chairman Jon Dale at jonrdale78@gmail.com

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BRADGATE TEAM SUNDAY SERVICES—May 2015

DATE	GROBY	RATBY	NEWTOWN LINFORD
3rd May St. Philip & St. James	8.00am Holy Communion (LC)	8.00am Holy Communion (PH)	
	9.30am All Age Worship (LC)	10.00am Worship 4 All (PH)	10.30am Holy Communion (JW)
		4.00pm Evening Praise (PH)	
10th May Christian Aid Week			8.00am Holy Communion (PH)
	10.00am Special Service (LC)	10.00am Special Service at the Methodist Church	10.30am Family Service (PH)
	6.30pm Holy Communion (LC)		
17th May 7th Sunday after Easter	8.00am Holy Communion (PH)		
	9.30am Morning Worship (LC)	10.00am Family Communion (LC)	11.00am Yeomanry Service (PH)
	6.30pm Evening Prayer (LC)	6.00pm Holy Communion (PH)	
24th May Pentecost			8.00am Holy Communion (LC)
	9.30am Holy Communion (LC)	10.00am Holy Communion (PH)	10.30am Morning Prayer
	6.30pm 4SE		
31st May Trinity Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (LC)		
	9.30am Holy Communion (LC)	10.00am Morning Prayer (PH)	10.30am Holy Communion (JW)
	6.30pm Evening Prayer (PH)		

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES—May

NEWTOWN LINFORD	Thur	10am	7th			
GROBY	Wed	9.30am	6th	13th	20th	27th
RATBY	Thur	9.30am		14th		28th



CHURCH REGISTERS

Weddings

None

Baptisms

None

Funerals

*30th March ~ Donald Reginald Hackett, Main Street,
Newtown Linford*



*16th April ~ Eileen Coombes, Main Street, Newtown
Linford*

**We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends,
and pray that they may find peace through faith in Jesus Christ
our Lord.**

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

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

Regular Events

Bell ringer's practice: Monday 8pm

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, NEWTOWN LINFORD
ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING, 2015**

The DCC had their AGM after the normal church service on the 19th April. This was a slightly unusual meeting because with the new pastoral measures at the end of June when Newtown Linford will no longer be part of the Bradgate Team (but joining with Glenfield instead), the DCC will only continue for another three months. After this time, we will have our own Parochial Church Council (PCC) and there will be a Extraordinary General Meeting to elect members.

At the meeting on the 19th, thanks were given to Sheila Langton who has served for the last five years as church warden but who now wishes to stand down. The Revd Peter Hooper made a presentation to Sheila to thank her for her loyal and exemplary service. Two new church wardens were appointed Mr Clive Rowe and Mrs Jane Woolmer. Jane read out the piece below

SETTING OUT - from Pocket Prayers for Pilgrims compiled by John Pritchard



The most vulnerable time on a pilgrimage is when we are setting out. We don't know how difficult it will be or how well we will respond to its opportunities and stand up to its rigours. We may feel a real need for blessing, putting ourselves under the protection and guiding hand of God. It's also the time of greatest energy and hope with the prospect of discoveries, meetings, and adventures yet unknown. We gain much if we can recover a sense of the Christian life as an adventure, rather than just a safe place.

This was the introduction to the "setting out" chapter, and I felt it appropriate as I was setting out on a new venture in being a Church Warden. My prayer is that Clive and I will have the wisdom to help lead Newtown Linford Church successfully through the changes that will be taking place and to help people grow spiritually.

Jane Woolmer

Superfast Broadband - letter from a resident

I hope you don't mind me contacting you but thought yourself and others in the village may be interested.

It seems to me that either the broadband is getting weaker in our village or - which amounts to the same thing - more people are using it.

I have been keeping up to date with the Superfast Broadband Leicestershire project but it concerns me that we are being neglected. I have since last year been in touch with the County Council and been given different dates - each date being moved to a later date. The latest date now being Autumn this year.

Recently I heard that residents from Bagworth got together and asked for the Superfast Broadband installation to be brought forward and now installation is happening.

I wonder then if as many of us as possible from our village could email the county council requesting Superfast broadband as soon as possible. The email address to send to is info@superfastleicestershire.org.uk.

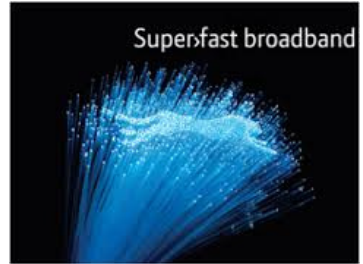
Residents can also contact Pam McMorran to express interest as well as emailing above - we have a bad mobile connection and our broadband is verging on ridiculous. Together we may be able to move forward.

Pam emailed the team and received this reply

We do expect Newtown Linford to be included in the Superfast Leicestershire programme. We are due to connect Markfield 2 cabinet which serves Newtown Linford premises.

We currently expect the cabinet to go live towards the end of the summer 2015. It will require a new fibre cabinet to be installed and for this to be connected to fibre cables. This work can take a while, especially when blockages are experienced along the network

Once the cabinet has gone live you will be able to contact your ISP to upgrade to fibre broadband





Newtown Linford Neighbourhood Watch - A member of the Parish Council



Easter weekend was beautiful especially Bank Holiday Monday. Well what can I say? I have received a number of letters from residents setting out the problems in their area. I have to admit I did actually ask for these comments. They will be discussed at the April Parish Council meeting which comes after the deadline for this Magazine. I will just make one point now and that is some people thought the wardens did not come. They did come to some parts of the village and in fact ran out of envelopes for the tickets.

Crime has not been too bad. The surrounding villages are still suffering. The Police were unable to attend the last Parish Council meeting but hopefully they will be here in April. The resident on Main Street who lost items from his unlocked car was extremely lucky to have a family heirloom returned. It was found in a field some distance away. Please remember to never leave your car unlocked if your back is turned on it.

According to the Police three cars have been criminally damaged whilst parked near to the School on Main Street. It is thought that it may have been deliberate. I would hate to think a resident had done this for whatever reason.

A Yale type key was found in Woodhouse Eaves recently near the Bulls Head public house.

As this goes to press I note that the new parking conditions are in force i.e. half hour parking on the service road on Groby Lane, 2 hour parking in the layby opposite Tyburn Cottage and the parking removed alongside the Sunday school.

Pam McMorran
NHW Co-ordinator—
pam@riverlyn.freeserve.co.uk
01530 242201

How to contact the Police

You can contact you 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.

Choose Better Guide with the NHS

Residents recently received a small guide with information on how to choose the right service with the NHS with regard to illness.

Looking at:

Self Care,

Pharmacy Services

GP practice,

NHS111 for fast reliable medical help and advice

Urgent Care Service with the walk in centre or

A&E (Emergency Department) 999 call

I thought that residents may appreciate my experience recently . I had an infection that I was trying to manage until Monday morning when I could go to my local GP to get a prescription (old problem and I thought I knew what the answer would be). By Sunday I realised I could not wait and rang the urgent care centre at Loughborough to be told that it was 3 hours waiting at the present time. I explained I could not wait for 3 hours due to family circumstances and she suggested another option of the 111 service. I rang 111 and went through my symptoms and they agreed that I would need to see a GP. They rang me back about 10 minutes later to offer me an appointment at the Loughborough Walk In Centre for 25 minutes time. I explained I could not get there that quickly and was offered an appointment at 5.30. I left the village at 5pm (my original phone call had been at 4pm) arrived at Loughborough at 5.25 to see a full waiting room and a note that it was 3 hours waiting. I was called within 5 minutes to see the GP and then after a consultation, given a prescription, went to Glenfield and was home again in the village by 6.10! If I had gone straight to the walk in centre I would have been waiting until at least 7pm to be seen.

All I would suggest is that if it is not a 999 call and you cannot wait to consult your GP, it might be worth that 111 phone call. This really was the NHS at their very best - a private consultation could not have been any quicker!

Church Ladies With Typewriters

Here are some more of our amusing quotes from other church magazines!

**Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM .
Please use the back door.**

From the Records

Here today and gone tomorrow

Over the years various items and interests in the village have waxed and waned. What prompted these thoughts, a drive to Swithland passing the new elaborate entrance and gates of Roecliffe Manor. I was reminded of when



we were involved with Roecliffe back in the 70's. Roecliffe Manor had been a children's convalescent home and Dora Tomson had been the Matron. When she retired she came to live in the village in Main Street with Nurse Matthews.

Roecliffe Manor had been obtained to be used as a home for disabled adults by the Leonard Cheshire Foundation. It stood there, a lovely house but an empty shell awaiting our help.

On the 31st January 1972 a very enthusiastic meeting was held in Newtown Linford Sunday School. At which both Mrs Clemerson and Mr Vernon spoke to us about the work of the Cheshire Homes. It was decided to form a local branch of Friends.

A further meeting was held on 7th February, consisting of representatives from various areas of the village - Mrs Castle, Mrs Wheeler, Mr Coleman, Mrs Gibson, Mr Sarson, Miss Golland, Mrs Neaverson, Mrs Trewin and Andrew Augustus. The Chairman was Mrs Trewin, Secretary Miss Dora Tomson and Treasurer Mr Coleman.

It was decided that our major effort would be to obtain good unwanted linen and raise money for further bed-linen, towels etc required to set up the new home at Roecliffe Manor. A village collection was made and a considerable amount of bed-linen, pillows, quilts and towels were taken to Roecliffe.

A large amount of furniture was donated, also household and kitchen items. Meanwhile a house to house visit by each Committee Member explained the aims of the Friends and enlisted offers of help, gifts of money, deeds of Covenant and further linen and furniture.

A register of those willing to help was made and sent to Mrs Clemerson. A band of young people under the direction of Mr Coleman our Treasurer volunteered to clear and tidy the gardens of Roecliffe Manor. Many

including the Crusaders, in preparation for a Garden Party.

On Sunday 9th April a visit was arranged for those interested in seeing the house and gardens before the residents arrived. The total received by Roecliffe from all the Friends for the fete was just over £1,000. Newtown Linford friends' share was £122 from the Tombola staff, pony rides £1.10, Singing Minstrel £4.11 and the carriage rides £9. By July nearly £1,000 had been raised by Newtown Linford Friends this included donations and deeds of covenants.

In November the Crusader coffee morning raised £126. A Christmas Fair was held at Heatherfield Ulverscroft, the home of Mrs Broad, the house was decorated by friends. In the evening there was a sherry party, and on the following day a coffee morning and tea and biscuits between 3-5pm. By 1975 the 4th Annual Fete raised £2,500, our efforts £189.75 including the tombola (£115.90).

For many years practical help was provided by our Village, cooking at weekends, serving meals and assisting in the rehab of residents. Those who could sew were wanted for repair of pillow cases, sewing on name tapes and other mending jobs. Several of our residents used to go to Roecliffe to talk to residents and help them with letters.

Eventually the upkeep of the Manor became very expensive and when the purpose built units at Syston and Staddon Road, Anstey were built the residents moved and the Manor was closed. We disbanded our group of friends - the end of an era.

While it was empty the vandals did a great deal of damage.

It took many years to sell and now we have a family in residence.

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Brownies

Here are the Brownies having a great time with another way to recycle newspaper, make things with it and have a fun time.

They made snowballs and had a snowball fight with newspaper rolled into balls; they played race games to find letters of the alphabet from the broadsheets and the finale was to design a ball gown from newspaper. The four designs are included with the winners beaming with delight.

A good evening had by all.

Tawny Owl



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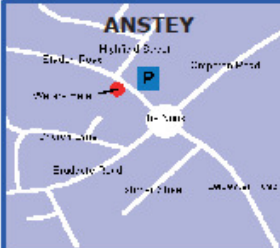
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BROOKVALE HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATING CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS!

It has been many years since Brookvale High School has seen the success in Cross Country running that we have experienced this season.

The year 7 boys and girls have swept the board in all events, both as a team and individually, while the junior (year 8 & 9) boys have been runners up in two of the events. Year 7 girls won the league, winning 4 out of the 5 races.

On an individual note, two of our year 7 students, Rachel Nealon and Hollie Gamble, had a battle royal for 1st place! Between them they won all the races, with Rachel winning 3 to take 1st place, and Hollie winning 2 to take 2nd. In the relay championships, the girls not only won but beat a select team of club runners! At the School County Championships, they again swept the board winning the team event, with Hollie coming 1st and Rachel 2nd. In all, 7 girls competed during the season.



Year 7 boys had similar success and put out enough runners to have a 'B' team in the league and relays. Lucca Watson-Quilter won all 5 league races, with his brother Roman in 2nd each time to finish 1st and 2nd individually. The team also won all 5 races to take 1st place, with the 'B' team finishing just outside the medals in a very creditable 4th. At the relays our two teams finished 1st and 13th.



Finally at the School County Championships, Lucca and Roman were again 1st and 2nd individually, with the team coming 1st. In all, 10 boys competed during the season.

The junior boys had to contend with an exceptional Loughborough Grammar School team, but through their perseverance were runners up in both the league and the School County Championships. Individually, Chris Nealon was 8th in the league and George Robinson 11th. At the Championships, they were also our best placed individual runners in 9th and 15th respectively. In all, 6 boys competed for the School.

Whilst we wish the year 9 boys that ran in the junior races success in the future at Groby College, we do hope for more success with year 7 when they make the big step up to the junior races next year.

Well done to all involved.

Andrew Stean, Head of PE, Brookvale High School

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TRIBUTE TO EILEEN COOMBS

I know for certain that Mum wouldn't want to be remembered as the little old lady with a zimmer frame who couldn't hear very well. She would want to be remembered as how she was in her prime and I know a lot of people here knew her then.

She was very vivacious, fun-loving, witty and the life and soul of the party. She did everything twice as quickly as she needed to! As a child, I always seemed to be hanging on to her coat tails as she whisked me through town.

She liked to organise everyonenot that she ever stopped doing that even a few weeks ago she was trying to give me money for my bus fare and I've had a bus pass for 4 years !

Fortunately, she never lost her sense of humour. A few days before she died she rallied a little.

The male nurse was down on one knee trying to help her to balance on the edge of the bed and she looked at him and said " OkI will" (as if he was proposing.) He grinned at her and she said "You're meant to kiss me now you know!" He obliged.

I'll start at the beginning:

Mum was born in 1919 to Harriet and Frederick. Her Dad served in the war before becoming an insurance salesman, and



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apparently she believed for years that he brought her back in his kit bag. She had a happy childhood as the youngest of 4 children. She had 2 sisters May and Frances and a brother, Fred. I get the impression that, as the youngest, she was rather indulged by her parents and her sisters and brother.

She often told the story of Frances and Ern who were courting at the time and later married, sending her out of the house to buy sweets to get rid of her. apparently, she raced to the shop, bought the sweets and came back to sit between them and share them. I'm not sure that this was part of their plan!

Mum lived in Freeman Road North and went to Moat Rd School. When she left she worked in a dress shop in the centre of Leicester and during the war she worked as a post woman.

She used to go horse riding but her real love was dancing! She was a talented dancer and was in a dancing troupe and performed at Blackpool Ballroom. She never lost this love of dancing.

She often went to dances in Leicester and actually met our Dad, Bill at a dance! I can only assume that it was love at first sight as I can't imagine that it was his dancing technique that impressed her!

Dad was an only child and his mum died when he was 14 so he spent a lot of time at Mum's home. Mum and Dad married in 1941 and one of the wedding guests, Rita is here today. Mum was always a stylish dresser and she was very pleased with the matching pin stripe suits they wore. Dad was an engineer and went to serve in the war in the Middle East, Greece and Austria.

Last year we took Mum to visit her oldest friend, June and they sat together holding hands giggling as they reminisced about the things they got up to in their 20s. One of the stories was of how they fused all the lights in the house they rented and feigned innocence when the landlady appeared.

Mum and Dad had a Dalmatian puppy after they married but then moved on to a baby. Roger was born in 1946, then I was born (I'm not saying when but obviously there was a huge gap between us ! ... not) Then Jeremy was born and last but not least, the baby, Lesley.

We were brought up in Evington and had a very happy childhood. Dad was starting up his own business as a toolmaker and worked long hours and Mum threw herself into looking after us.

I think she was a bit before her time as she always seemed to be whisking us off to various activities. She took us to brownies, cubs, guides, scouts, ballet lessons, piano lessons.....(I still can't play), band practice, ballroom dancing lessons and swimming lessons. Apparently, she took Lesley to swimming lessons 5 times a week as well as numerous Galas and yet she never learned to swim herself (although I assume she must have known the theory after all that !)

Our family holidays were spent in caravans and cottages in places like the Isle of Wight, Skeggie, Gt Yarmouth, Wales, Devon and Cornwall. A particular favourite, that we returned to many times, was St Ives in Cornwall and we still go there. We sometimes took friends with us. We also used to spend a lot of time visiting Dad's relatives in Llanhilleth, South Wales.

Mum was an akela for 15 years with the 1st Evington Cubs. She loved doing this and I should think her cubs are all grandparents by now. Although there were 4 of us it must have seemed a lot more as we always had a house full of our friends and quite a lot of them are here today.

I'd like to think it was our scintillating company that attracted them to our house but I strongly suspect that it was the copious supplies of cheese and onion cobs that Mum used to produce at 9 o'clock every evening that was the attraction.

As some of us began to 'fly the nest' Mum and Dad bought one of several boats and enjoyed lots of holidays on the river. Sometimes we joined them for what seemed like a long pub crawl. I missed the time when Mum, who you remember was unable to swim, fell in the river but I'm sure Roger or Lesley will fill you in with the details. (I gather there was more hilarity than sympathy).

Lesley reminded me that Mum had an amazing sense of direction and could direct any driver through Leicester including knowing which lane to be in without ever learning to drive. Apparently Mum did once get a provisional driving licence but never booked any lessons.

In their early fifties Mum and Dad started having more exotic holidays to America, Austria and lots of Mediterranean countries. They also bought 2 timeshare apartments in Tenerife, one in the summer and one at Christmas and they had a great time and made lots of new friends. Mum was still in touch with some of these friends.

Mum and Dad moved to Newtown Linford about 34 years ago and loved



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living here. They made lots of new friends and some of them are here today. Mum attended this Church, joined the WI, the Luncheon club and the Embroidery Club. She was very creative and was particularly good at embroidery, knitting and crochet and was able to follow very complicated and elaborate patterns.

Mum had 9 grandchildren ranging in age from 16 to 40 ? and holding? (Sorry Paul). I'm sure all of them will have their own special memories of Grandma and it's very likely that going to Bradgate Park with their bikes and fishing nets will be amongst their memories.

Mum has had a very rewarding life and has been very lucky. Mum and Dad had 64 happy years together until Dad died in 2005. The only great tragedy in their lives was their beloved son, Jeremy dying suddenly in Florida on Christmas Day when he was only 45. He has remained a big part of all our lives and will never be forgotten.

On a lighter note, Mum has been blessed with 8 great-grandchildren (well eight and a half really as Lucy is 6 months pregnant) Max is the oldest and he's 7. I'm sure in the future the older ones will remember going to visit Great Grandma, going to Bradgate Park and playing with the train set !

Mum was still dashing about until about 7 years ago when she broke her hip. Although she recovered she had to use a frame to walk after this so she was obviously less independent.

Over the last two and a half years she became increasingly frail but managed to stay in her own house with the help of her live-in carers Sonia, Glynis and Virginia. Even a month and a half ago before she got pneumonia she was going out to the park, playing dominoes in the cafe and going in the car to a shopping centre.

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As the summer was so good last year she went to Bradgate Park several times a week and visited lots of garden centres. In September she celebrated her 95th birthday and we all went to a restaurant in the village. The next day she had her friends Barbara and Janice round to her house for a birthday lunch.

We're all really pleased that a couple of weeks before Christmas we all gathered for our regular family get together at Mum's house and had a great time. All her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were there (that was 32 of us!) Well done to her grandchildren who travelled from all over the country with their little ones to make it such a special day for her. I'm sure she knew she was loved.

WellI suppose we've got to let her go.

'Bye Mum we all love you and we'll miss you x x x x

Hilary

Eileen's daughter asked us to Please thank everyone for coming to the service and thank them for the generous donations in Mum's memory to The Bradgate Park visitors centre appeal.

**Newtown Linford Parish Council
Lydia Knott**

Clerk to the Council

t: 01530 242522; e: lydia.knott@hotmail.co.uk

We are between meetings, but I thought you would want to hear about the following items:

Parish Councillors for the next four years: I am very pleased to report that thanks to an **uncontested** election (which saved the Parish a lot of money!), we have a full complement of Councillors. They will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 18th May 2015. This also sees the election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The meeting is preceded at 7 pm by the Annual Meeting of the Parish, which acts as an overview of what the Council has been involved in and the work which has been done for the community. Other organisations make their reports, including the Police, the School, and the Village Hall. More about the Parish Councillors in next month's magazine.

Highways, footpaths and traffic: The new parking restrictions have just gone into force. Parking bays with appropriate signs have been installed on Groby Lane service road, with a limit of 30 minutes. The layby opposite Tyburn Cottage on Main Street permits 2 hours, and parking alongside the Sunday School on Bradgate Road has been removed altogether. Traffic and parking at Easter was chaotic, particularly on Bank Holiday Monday. This will be discussed at the April Parish Council meeting and reported next month. Thank you to all the residents who have submitted reports via Pam McMorran our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

Parish Council website: Due to County Council cuts, the Leicestershire Villages websites i.e. the village website and the Parish Council websites will cease to exist in August 2016. The County Council website assistance has already been removed. The sites are being run entirely by the volunteers. At the March Parish Council meeting the Parish Councillors elected to purchase a new website, which will be available for insertion on Monday 20th April 2015. This will allow the two site Editors Pam McMorran and me the next few months to set it up in readiness to go live, which may be before August 2016. The Councillors considered it very important to retain all the historical information from the old site for posterity. This also coincides with the changes to the All Saints Church grouping, which means that they will be removed from the website which they presently use jointly with Groby and Ratby. When the new All Saints PCC is elected within the next two months, it is likely they will choose to use this new site, so in future there will only be one website for the Village. The latter has not yet been finalised.

Next meetings: The next meeting will be on Monday 18th May 2015, and the following one on Monday 22nd June 2015. Both are at 7 pm in the small room of the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

Lydia Knott

Clerk to the Council

t: 01530 242522; e: lydia.knott@hotmail.co.uk

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Booking of Village Facilities

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call Pat Wood on
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Contributions to Village Magazine

Can we have your contributions for the **June 2015** issue by **15th May 2015** please. **Send to the Editor, Carole Heubeck, 5 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford (01530 244790).**
E-mail heubeck111@btinternet.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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