

# The Three Towers

February 2021

Serving the communities in and around  
Edenham, Swinstead, Witham on the  
Hill, Toft, Lound and Manthorpe



# Parish News

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jess Lee and Matthew on the birth of Oliver in early December. A brother for young Henry.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Joanna (nee Thompson) and Nick Greaves on the birth of Finn George on 2 December weighing in at 9 pounds. A brother for Eva and a second grandchild for Julia and Ray Thompson.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Rochelle and Aidan Hawes on the birth of Arabella Olivia Grace. Grandchild number 15 for Andy and Sian Hawes!

**CAROL SINGING** Witham on the Hill Christmas Eve Carol Service on the village green was very well attended by approximately 70 people, all safely distanced apart. It was wonderful to be able to sing the carols with gusto, to hear the bible readings and to join in the prayers with Father Ed. It was very important to make a Christian presence felt at this very unusual Christmas.

**STEAM ACTION** delivers Christmas Hampers to 98 local residents. Every year, usually the first weekend of December, Steam Action invites all those in the parish, who are 60 or over, to a Christmas party in Edenham village hall. What follows is a fabulous dinner, with dessert, drinks (plenty of sherry!) and a pantomime, which the members of Steam Action rehearse for from September onwards.



Amongst other events which were cancelled, we were absolutely gutted to have to cancel the Christmas party and pantomime. So we donned our Santa hats, got into the Christmas spirit, and took the party to our members doorsteps! We'd like to thank everyone in the parish for their continued support, and we look forward to happier times when we can all be together.

**WELCOME** to Lizzette, Waldobear and Perry Somerville-Tuscan to Main Street, Edenham. We hope you will be very happy here in our community.

**FOODBANK** Thank you for all your gifts - the Foodbank are always very grateful. We are still taking donations to the Bourne Foodbank regularly. Please give if you can. Non-perishable goods can be left in the Foodbank box in St Andrews church porch or at Manor Cottage, Witham on the Hill, in the cupboard part of the log shed. Or contact Frances Plummer on 590308.

**BOOK AND JIGSAW EXCHANGE** A book and jigsaw exchange has been set up in the Church porch at St Andrews. There are 2 plastic boxes full of an eclectic mix of books. Please feel free to help yourselves to these and to add to the boxes as space becomes available. If you want your books back please label them clearly to that effect.

**ADVENT WINDOWS** Well done everyone for participating in this event – Witham on the Hill looked spectacular and more colourful as we progressed through Advent. Thank you to the Parish Hall Management Committee for the lights on the trees on the village green and to Alto Electrical for the extra lights on the Christmas tree in the car park.

**Witham on the Hill Dog Walkers** please take your dog poo bags home and put them in your own black bins. Do not use the church or village hall bins. Due to only a small amount of waste at these venues, the bins are not always put out for emptying every time. Consequently the poo bags often remain in the bins for several weeks and smell very unpleasant.

**COVID** With the return of shielding for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, LCC Public Health and Emergency Planning Teams are continuing to work with Partners at the Resilience Forum to help get residents the support they need on Covid-19 Helpline: 01522 782189, which is available 7 days a week or contact the SKDC Covid-19 Community Information Hub on 01476 406177, email [SKCommunityHub@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:SKCommunityHub@southkesteven.gov.uk) available 5 days a week.

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# Toft, Lound and Manthorpe Playing Field

## We need your support!

Well, 2020 is now behind us and what a year that was! I don't think any of us could have foreseen that in January 2021 we would still be facing lockdowns. However, with the good news brought about by the current programme of vaccination, we can dare to look forward again.

The Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe parish council is keen to regenerate the playing field for the benefit of all parishioners and their families. The funding of this project through charitable and other grants is your parish council's renewed focus for 2021.

You may recall that we distributed flyers last summer asking that you let us know your thoughts. We fully understand that during this difficult period, the project may not have been at the forefront of your mind.

We have received some positive replies from residents **but we really need to be able to show a higher level of more public support for the project if we are to be successful in applying for grants.**



**If you have not already done so, we would now ask that anyone who supports this endeavour to please take a minute to send a message to our Chairman, Richard Stephenson, on his email address:**

**[richardstephenson17@gmail.com](mailto:richardstephenson17@gmail.com)**

We look forward to your input – by doing so you will help us achieve something which will provide a legacy for future generations.



## The Vicar Writes

One of the most difficult decisions that I've had to face with the start of the third lockdown is whether or not to keep our Churches open for worship and private prayer. During the first lockdown, Churches were closed and clergy weren't even permitted to record or livestream services from their buildings. I was fortunate to be able to use the Stable Chapel as, strictly speaking, it was part of the Regional House and not the Church itself. You may recall the footage of the Archbishop of Canterbury leading a service from his kitchen at Lambeth (even though Lambeth Palace is equipped with a spacious private Chapel). Eventually, the clergy were allowed back into their Churches and I was able to relay and record services from St Michael's here at Edenham.

To close Churches on a national scale was something few could ever have imagined. Church buildings have remained open through some of the darkest and difficult periods of our nation's history; from the Black Death through to the Spanish Influenza and two World Wars. The saintly Bishop Edward King of Lincoln was known to have visited the sick when a virulent form of typhus broke out in the village of Wheately where

he was curate in the mid-1800s. The Church doesn't up-stumps in the wake of a crisis; it maintains its vigil of prayer and it offers whatever pastoral help it can. That is why many Church leaders campaigned for Churches to remain open during the second lockdown. It seemed almost indefensible that Garden Centres could stay open for business while Churches had to close. Churches had all the necessary safeguards in place including hand gel, masks and distancing (with the added benefit of lofty and unintentionally draughty buildings). The through-flow of people in a Church each week could hardly be compared to that of a shop or supermarket.

The question that many seemed to ask was 'Do Churches *need* to be open? Do people really *need* to go to Church, especially when there's a potential risk?' The answer I would give is 'yes'. Now, that's not to say that those who are clinically vulnerable or at risk should attend, nor am I suggesting that people aren't acting sensibly if they make a personal choice to absent themselves. But what I do believe is that Churches *should* remain open for prayer and worship and the clergy available wherever possible. The availability of the Church corresponds to our need for God



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and, when our need for God is greatest, we cannot simply bolt the doors and retreat to the internet. Since the pandemic first began, I have provided hundreds of pre-recorded and livestreamed services via Facebook and YouTube. I could easily spend all my time carefully crafting and recording online worship without ever stepping foot outside the Vicarage or having any meaningful interaction with another soul. As it is, our online services are, on occasion, a little rough and ready but I'm determined to keep them that way for that very reason.

In Chapter Three of St Mark's Gospel, Jesus was challenged by a group of lawyers as to whether it was appropriate or not to heal a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath day (the day of rest). The lawyers agreed that it was okay to act in order to save life on the Sabbath but to perform a non-urgent healing seemed legally unjustifiable. Jesus responded by reminding those present that the Sabbath was instituted by God in order to provide rest for individuals and families, together with the opportunity to engage in worship. The good of humanity needed to be provided for week-in, week-out. It couldn't be put off for another time or restricted to a three-week block in the summer. In

the end, Jesus asked the man to stretch out his hand and he found it to be miraculously healed. Having a withered hand may not appear to have been a life-or-death situation but, in some sense, all of Jesus' miracles reveal something of the redemptive and life-saving power of the Kingdom of God. All of his actions are life-giving and life-saving in one sense because they awaken us to the generous provision that God has made for us in sending Jesus to die and to rise again so that we may inherit eternal life.

In this third period of lockdown there are some in the Church press who have argued that we are doing more harm than good in being open for worship and private prayer. I have a great deal of sympathy for their stance and yet wherever the LORD is praised, the Word of God preached and the Sacraments celebrated, there will always be an inherent good; there will always be life-saving, life-giving grace at work. The primary task of the Church is to save lives and by praising God and offering his forgiveness through the atoning sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross I believe we are doing just that.

I was greatly encouraged by the ways in which our communities managed to gather safely for a limited pattern



of worship at Christmas. The outdoor Readings and Carols were a wonderful, if a rather chilly highlight. Whatever your perspective or individual circumstances, I do hope that we can continue to provide for you in some way. Our buildings remain open for private prayer and you'll find votive candles to light in all three Churches. Our Sunday services will continue as normal. In addition, you can access three online services (Morning / Evening Prayer and the Eucharist) each day from Tuesday to Saturday via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/edenhamregionalhouse>) and from 24<sup>th</sup> January we will also be providing a pre-recorded Sunday service for those who are shielding or remaining at home. Links will be available from the Regional House Facebook page and other Church / village pages. You can also access pre-recorded material from our YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7c4xzZQMujwi0uwOR9T9AQ>) where you'll find seasonal reflections and older content (including our only wedding of last summer, which is still a joy to watch!). If you need help, support or just a friendly chat I'm available by phone / in person or a video call can be arranged (we have Zoom and WhatsApp available).

With the assurance of my prayers and best wishes,

Fr Edward

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# **CURIOUS CHARACTERS, HISTORICAL EVENTS AND THE ORIGIN OF COMMON EXPRESSIONS – HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BRITAIN’S FASCINATING PAST AND PRESENT?**

**Thanks to Richard Stephenson for these ditties.**

## **CHURCHILL AND THE WITCH**

In the last year of the war Churchill became involved in the last witchcraft trial in Britain. Spiritualist Helen Duncan revealed the sinking of the battleship HMS Barham before it was announced. Contrary to Churchill’s wishes she was prosecuted in 1944 under the 1735 Witchcraft Act for talking to spirits and spent eight months in prison.

## **SPEND A PENNY**

We owe this common euphemism to Victorian businessman George Jennings, who in 1851 agreed to install his toilets in the Crystal Palace, home of the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, provided he could charge a penny per person.

## **THE YORKSHIRE GUILLOTINE**

This infamous device was invented to ensure that beheading caused a swift death. Although usually attributed to the French Dr Joseph Guillotin (1738-1814), and associated with the French Revolution in 1789, it had many predecessors. The Halifax Gibbet, recorded in the Yorkshire town in the late 13th century, remained in use until 1650.

## **MEN OF STRAW**

Some expressions commonly used in English have quite sinister origins. ‘Money for old rope,’ for instance, derives from the hangmen’s practice of supplementing their incomes by selling ropes used for executions, a shilling an inch being the going rate. ‘Men of straw’ refers to 18th-century men who would stand outside law courts with pieces of straw protruding from their pockets or shoes to indicate that they were prepared to give evidence for whichever party would pay them.



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## **COWS IN SOHO**

As London's population grew, so too did the demand for milk. In 1798 there were 8,500 cows in the city, many kept in squalid conditions, such as in the basement of Golden Square, Soho. Dairy men would carry milk out in open buckets, where it was enriched by bird droppings, flakes of soot and general street dirt. Fortunately, from 1840 the coming of the railways ensured a ready supply of fresh milk from the countryside.

## **GOLF**

Golf was invented in Scotland, and can be traced back to 1457. However, it was outlawed for a while by King James II of Scotland, as it detracted from the army's training! Meanwhile, the old golf course at St Andrews Links in Fife, Scotland is the oldest golf course in the world. There's an historic charter dating back to 1552 which mentions people can continue the "playing at golf, futball, schuting at all gamis, with all uther maner of pastyme as ever thai plais."

## **SPEEDING TICKET**

Can you believe the British invented speeding tickets? The very first speeding ticket was issued to a driver named Walter Arnold in Kent in 1896, after he was caught going four times the speed limit. As the speed limit was only 2mph, he was fined for reaching a top speed of 8 mph!

## **SWANS**

Among Queen Elizabeth II's more bizarre titles is 'Seigneur of the Swans'. Officially, the reigning monarch owns any unmarked mute swan in open water in both England and Wales... so most of the swans in Britain. To go with this unusual title is the census that takes place on the Thames each year in July, called Swan Upping. Killing swans was made illegal in the 1980s. If you're caught, you'll face prosecution. It's thought only The Queen would be exempt from being penalised... so she could kill one and have it for dinner if she really wanted!



## PASTIES TO YOU

One of England's famous foods, the Cornish pasty, was invented for tin miners in Cornwall to eat on their shifts. There's a thick pastry crust which was used to hold the pasty, so that the miners didn't contaminate their meal with their hands. Often, they had a savoury filling at one end and a sweet filling at the other, so it was like a main course and dessert in one! The chant 'oggie, oogie, oogie, oi, oi, oi' also has its roots in Cornish pasties too. Apparently, 'oggie' comes from hoggan, the Cornish word for pasty, and it was shouted when the pasties were ready. The tin miners shouted 'oi, oi, oi' to say thank you!

## DICTIONARY

Shakespeare has been credited by the Oxford English Dictionary for increasing the number of words in the English language. It's thought that his vocabulary contained over 20,000 words, and around 3,000 of these were added to our language. Words attributed to Shakespeare include: gossip (The Comedy of Errors), rant (Hamlet), zany (Love's Labour's Lost) and alligator (Romeo and Juliet). How's that for an interesting fact about Great Britain?

## BRITISH PASSPORTS

The Queen is also the only person from Great Britain who doesn't need to possess a British passport in order to travel. The royal family website states, "as a British passport is issued in the name of Her Majesty, it is unnecessary for The Queen to possess one. All other members of the Royal Family, including The Duke of Edinburgh and The Prince of Wales, have passports."



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# Toft cum Lound & Manthorpe Parish Council

A second virtual meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November with one member of the public.

Highways was again a concern with a request for a warning sign at Toft at the Golf Club entrance, weight restriction at Manthorpe, replacement of village sign at Toft.

Cllr Dawson declared a prejudicial interest in regards to planning application at The Old Bakehouse. Application for extraction of gravel at Greatford, Councillors were concerned about the HGV routing agreement and width of highway along King Street.

Clerk reported that all the rents had been received. Thanks to everyone who participated in the scarecrow festival. It was agreed that the council would again set a zero parish precept for 2021/22.

Councillors were disappointed that the annual fireworks had to be cancelled. The council is still looking for public support for the for new play equipment at the playing field. The Council had purchased the BT Kiosk for one pound and would welcome any ideas for its use. With the help of Lincolnshire County Council, the clerk has been busy trying to learn how to use the new parish website, please be patient as it is not the easiest programme.

County Councillor Robert Reid reported on adult and children social care: the registrars are open by appointment, the badger damage between Thurlby and Manthorpe. Cllr Reid to chase up the Witham on the Hill lines, Traffic Regulations Order at Manthorpe and routing agreement in regards to planning application at Greatford.

Date of next meeting to be arranged.

# Witham on the Hill WI

The December meeting was a Zoom Christmas party. Each member was given a goody-bag containing a Christmas card, chocolate treats, balloons, whistles, tea lights, baubles, pens, a potted hyacinth, a raffle ticket and a quiz. The raffle winner was Anne Marie Lilly. There was lots of chat and jollity and members spoke of what they had been doing during lockdown. It was all very different to our usual December meeting – no bring and share supper, no gifts from Santa’s sack but it was fun all the same.

On 5 January we held an additional Zoom meeting, (we don’t usually meet in January) with a speaker, Lorraine Appleton, from Grantham talking about her career in the fashion industry and the problems of cheap poor-quality clothing, often employing child labour in Third world countries. She told us that too much clothing is thrown away and that we should all upcycle items and try not to buy new clothes for a year! Lorraine showed pictures of her daughter modelling clothes that Lorraine had made from old shirts and dresses, shoulder bags made

from denim jeans, patchwork quilts made from fabric scraps and bowls made from coils of fabric waste. It is hoped that our WI can do a workshop on making the bowls later in the year. During social time members spoke of the Zoom courses they had been enjoying; of carols on the village green on Christmas Eve and the Advent windows.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting (by Zoom) on 2 February. For more information on the WI contact Jane Clark tel 01778 5909232.



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# LOCAL LOCKDOWN WALKS

One of the good things to come out of Lockdown has been to see more and more people out walking. From the vantage of my home office window, I have seen loads of families, couples and individuals taking advantage of this free way to keep fit. This first in the series of walks starts and ends at the telephone box in Manthorpe. Of course, it can be started anywhere along the route or modified to start from a point outside of Manthorpe.

The great thing about walking in our local area is that it is accessible without driving for miles and there is no need for any specialist gear. Although, a pair of boots will give you better protection and support than trainers, a sturdy pair of shoes or good wellies will suffice. Of course, it is always a good idea to cater for a change in the weather and so a couple of layers is better than one thick one and a waterproof jacket is pretty well a must on most days.

## **Naismith's Rule: How to estimate the time needed for a walk**

William Naismith was a Victorian mountaineer who gave his name to an easy and dependable way to calculate the time for any walk. Today Naismith's original rule is slightly modified to state that the average adult walking speed over flat easy ground is around 5 kph (3 mph) plus 10 minutes for every ascent of 100m (this equates to an additional one minute for each contour line on an OS map). We do not subtract time for walking down hills.

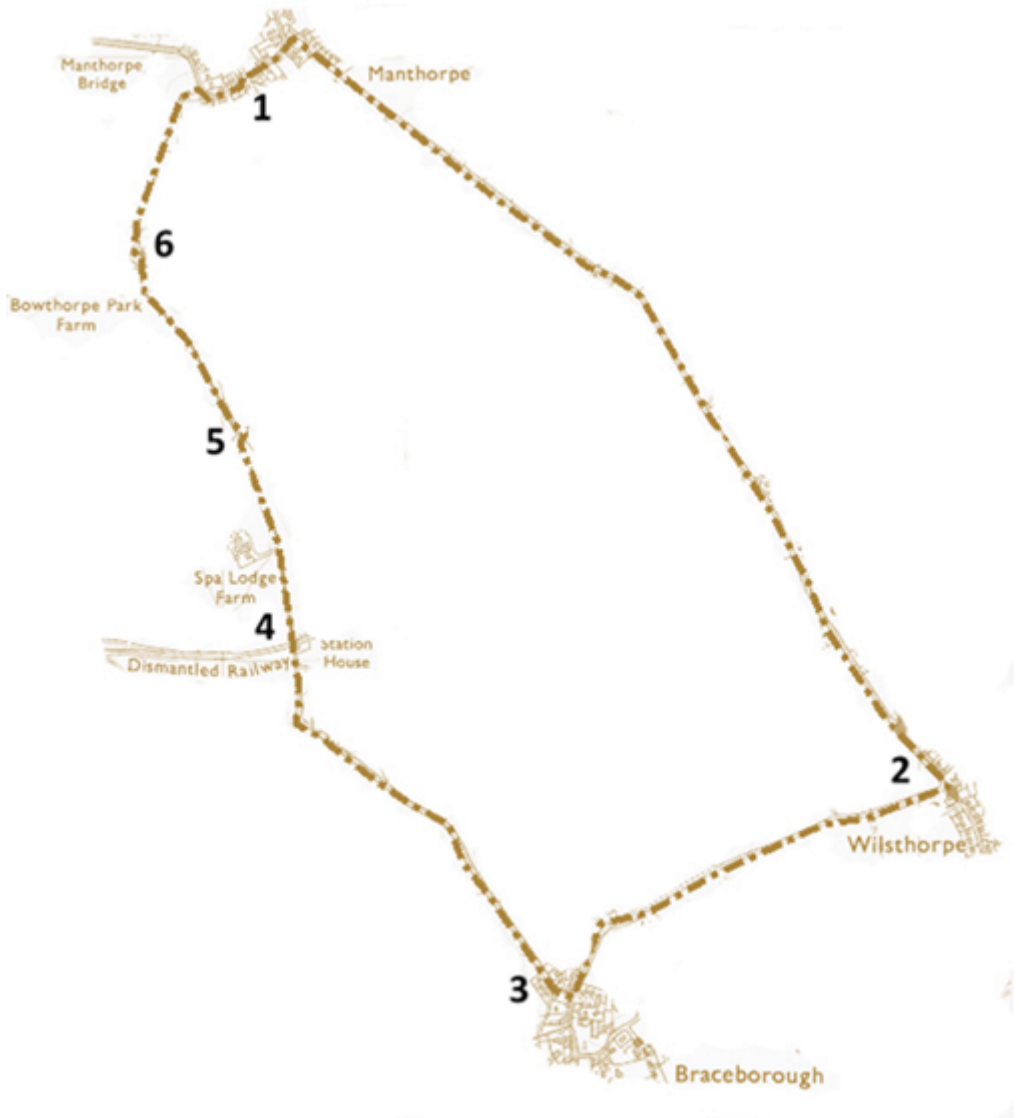
Of course, Naismith did not take stopping to enjoy the views and the wildlife, fields knee-deep in heavy mud and clay, letting the children explore or chatting to other walkers into account when setting out his rule. But using his rule is a good starting point.

**If you have a route that you would like to share then please send it to me, the Editor (email address below),** for a future edition of The Three Towers. Please do not worry about drawing a map. As long as you send the route instructions to me, I have the software to produce the appropriate maps.

This easy 5 mile/8 km round walk takes you through the edge of Wilsthorpe, into Braceborough and eventually cross-country through Bowthorpe Farm back into Manthorpe. It does not require any real navigational skills and, except for one section that can be pretty muddy when wet, it is largely good underfoot.

## MANTHORPE 8KM ROUND WALK

The route is pretty easy to follow in either direction. This description is clockwise starting and ending at the Manthorpe telephone box.



Map based on OS



**1.** Leave the phone box on your right and walk along the pavement through the village keeping the main road on your left. As the main road turns sharp left, go straight ahead following the road as it bends to the right towards Wilsthorpe.

**2.** On entering Wilsthorpe, take the road on your right towards Braceborough.

**3.** Follow the road into Braceborough and take the first road on your right, signposted Spa Road. It is a “No-through road”.

**4.** Walk along this pleasant and mostly vehicle-free road until you reach the “Private Spa House Farm” road sign. Do not be confused by this sign. Our route is straight ahead onto the track aiming to the right of the farm ahead.

Keep the fence line and the farm on your left. At the end of the fence line, head straight ahead on towards the top of the field. This is the only point in the walk that, when wet, you can find yourself picking up a couple of kilos of mud on your boots.

**5.** At the top of the field, cross the footbridge on your right then turn back left again to continue on the track now keeping the hedge line on your right.

At the end of this track you will see a metal gate leading into an enclosed field at Bowthorpe Farm. Go through the gate and head diagonally left across the field leaving the field at the far left corner through another metal gate.

Descend the track into Bowthorpe farmyard, go between the sheds and turn left.

**6.** Look for the gate on your right opposite the middle shed that leads down towards the footbridge over the river. This gate is normally secured with a length of baler band. Untie the gate and pass through. Please remember to fasten it properly again behind you.

Carefully walk down the slope keeping the fence on your right. Cross the footbridge and head up the hill, generally heading slightly to the right.

At the top of the hill, keep close to the fence on your right and leave the field at the style. You are now back in Manthorpe.

Turn right and walk back to the telephone box.- YOU HAVE DONE IT!

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Once again, all schools have been asked to adapt to the position we now find ourselves in and it makes me very proud to look at how our school community and others have done just that. Teachers at Edenham CofE Primary School are doing a wonderful job to ensure quality provision for those at home and also for those who are in school. By using various platforms, staff are able to deliver lessons virtually to ensure we maintain our broad curriculum, ensuring all children can access all subjects. Not only this but daily catch ups have enabled the children and us to remain connected with one another, which is so important in times like this. We are also able to continue weekly Collective Worship sessions with both Father Ed, and Anthony Andrews (our Bishop's Visitor) which is wonderful.

It has been nothing short of amazing to see how well our children and families have coped with the changes that were implemented overnight. Once again, I can't stress how proud this makes me of our whole school community. Although we are working slightly differently, as always, we are keen to work with and talk to people throughout the community. Please feel free to contact us if you feel you can support us or we can support you in any way at all.

Mr Pasqualino Head of School

## The Mallard

Just beyond the boundary of our group of parishes, a record was set over eighty years ago which still stands today. The world speed record for steam locomotives at 125.88 mph was achieved on 3 July 1938 on the East Coast Main Line. The exact spot is between Aunby and Carlby, at milepost 90¼ on the up line towards London.

The record was obtained by No. 4468 Mallard, a Class A4 locomotive, designed by Sir Nigel Gresley, chief engineer of the London and North Eastern Railway. Mallard and its tender, painted in garter blue, was pulling seven carriages weighing in all 240 tons. The attempt was rather hush-hush, it was made on a Sunday, under the pretext of a trial of a new quick-acting brake, and no fare-paying passengers were carried.



Crewed by driver Joe Duddington and fireman Tommy Bray, Mallard's streamlined design and some clever engineering powered it to the record. The train rocked so violently that dining car crockery smashed, and red-hot bullet-like cinders from the locomotive broke windows at Little Bytham. Mallard's big-end bearings

were running so hot that it had to slow down considerably to avoid them melting. In fact Mallard had to be detached from the train at Peterborough for repairs and the journey back to King's Cross continued with a standby engine.



Mallard retired from regular service in 1963 after covering almost 1.5 million miles, was fully restored to working order in the 1980s, and is now preserved at the National Railway Museum in York.



Nigel Gresley was born in 1876, knighted in 1936 and died in 1941. He was responsible for designing many famous steam locomotives including The Flying Scotsman. The Gresley Society was founded in 1963 to commemorate the work of the great man.

On 29 July 1998 the society installed a large sign beside the East Coast Main Line to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the event. It is sited at the precise point where the highest speed was reached. The cost was funded partly by the society, by individuals and railway companies.

The Mallard sign can be seen either by buying a railway ticket, and hoping that the train will not be going too fast, or from the B1176 going from Ryhall towards Little Bytham. Past the turn off to Carlby, the road ascends to Barbers Hill and at the top just past the farm house on the right is a gated field entrance from which the sign can be viewed. Parking is risky. Either on the narrow verge, or at the field entrance, or another on the left slightly further on. However, the sign is a long way from the road. You will need: clear weather, good eyesight, good binoculars, and a telephoto lens for photography. The railway authorities, or possibly the landowner, have very helpfully cut back the tree growth allowing a better view of the sign from the road.

All this is old news to railway enthusiasts, among whom I do not include myself. I just love history that I can go and see. And this is one instance where the lockdown does not stop us.

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## **A Message from Ray, Kim, Alex & Dorothy Biggs**

To all members of the Edenham and Grimsthorpe community.

It is with some relief that I am writing you this thank you message, rather than standing in front of you making a speech. Most of you will know that I am not usually lost for words - after all it was part of my job to be able to find the right things to say in a variety of circumstances. When Kim and I opened the present Lucie left us for Christmas Day, it took me about ten seconds to lose the power of speech, with accompanying tears welling up in my eyes. It was so moving to read the kind words written by so many of you, complemented by a wonderful selection of photographs. The Steam Action archive must be comprehensive and far-ranging. (And Lucie - you are a star for putting it all together!).

We both knew that leaving a place that has been our home and workplace for over 22 years was going to be an emotional wrench. Experiences and memories help inform us and contribute to make us the people we are. The shared experiences with others in the community have covered a broad spectrum with the vast majority of them demonstrating the value of having a feeling of belonging. Over the years we have been fortunate to have brought Alex up in a safe, caring environment with Edenham Primary School giving him a great start in life. My mum was able to enjoy her last years in the village and I feel blessed to have been able to see her every day she was living here. And since 2012, Kim's mum, Dorothy, has enjoyed the interaction with people who were generous with their time and affection. It is impossible to put a value on such things but we have been fortunate to enjoy the company of good people - you.

I consider myself fortunate to have been given the opportunity to join the team at Grimsthorpe and the place certainly got under my skin. The years flew by and I did my best to ensure that both staff and visitors could discover the delights of the place that were apparent to me.

Becoming involved in village life seemed a natural development from working at the estate and added to the feeling of belonging. However, change is inevitable, no matter how much we may wish for constancy and we are now embarking upon the next chapter. I will take many happy memories with me and the book to which you have all contributed will be a cherished record of your memories of Kim and me. To say it is a special thing is a serious understatement. Maybe everyone should leave Edenham and Grimsthorpe at least once if they can be guaranteed such a parting gift!

We are moving a mere 236 miles north. Northumberland is a great place to explore. Should you find yourselves heading in this direction be sure to let us know - we'd love to show you around.

Thank you once again for your words and photos. It's people that make the place and you are the people.



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## **Witham on the Hill Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of Jan 2021 held remotely via video link**

Present: Cllrs Charles Henriques (Chair), Janet Kirkwood, Sue Pennant-Jones, Lynne O'Hara.

Others: Bernard Champness (Clerk), Cllr Bob Adams, LCC.

Residents: Frances Plummer

Open Forum: Frances Plummer enquired if the Parish Council would be taking the offer of free trees supplied by the Woodland Trust as she was intending to apply for some to plant in the Churchyard. Cllr Lynne O'Hara had looked into the matter but the minimum order needed to be between 30 and 105 saplings. Orders could be placed for the coming autumn with the choice of hedge or copse. Frances Concluded: She will place the information in Three Towers Magazine so anyone interested could take up the offer.

Frances Plummer also raised the issue of overgrowth around the Bywells, in particular, overhanging willow and laurel encroaching on the footpath. Cllr Henriques said these would be trimmed back as soon as weather permitting.

Mole activity on the Village Green was discussed, it was agreed to consider what steps could be taken to

prevent this from happening.

The Clerk confirmed that he had placed an advertisement in the notice board, advising that Andrew Greenwood had resigned from the Council and that Parishioners had until the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to request an election, after which the council could co-opt at the March Meeting.

The minutes of the November meeting were correct, agreed by all.

Matters to Report: The Clerk reported the old council website was now closed and a new site opened with the help of LCC. The new web address for future Parish Council Minutes is:

<https://witham-hill.Parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

Cllr O'Hara confirmed the new seats for the roundabout on the Green were ready and SKDC would be in touch regarding installation. It's hoped we might be able to paint the seats before fitting. Improvements to the Tower slide will be discussed in a future site visit.

Cllr Kirkwood said that flooding was still occurring by Black Dog Cottages and causing problems. Cllr Henriques noted the road sweeper had been through recently to clear gullies and drains, however, if the flooding is still occurring it will be reported to 'Fix My Street'.

## Cllr Adams Report:

A conservative candidate had been selected for the By Election, no date yet.

Many Officers and staff are still working from home due to the pandemic.

Both councils had sorted their budgets for 2021/2022 due to pandemic, County Council were likely to have a large deficit at the end of this financial year.

## Approved Planning Applications:

S20/1898 & S20/1929 Tree works & removal at the Preparatory School.

Cllr O'Hara has been in touch with Historic England who confirmed the Stocks are Grade II Listed.

Maintenance to the Bywells for the future will be looked into.

After comparing prices for defibrillators, Cllr O'Hara found that due to the pandemic, many charities were no longer offering grants, it was decided that Wel Medical would provide WOTH's defibrillator at a cost of £1,235 + vat. Upon clarification of the Listed Building consent for Village Hall mount.

Cllr Charles Henriques reported he'd been in touch with Linc's Road Safety Partnership, who were in favour of reactive speed signs as a deterrent

for speeding. Each device would cost Approx. £2,500 with an initial site survey of £40; the model proposed will also collect speed data.

A candidate has been found for the position of Internal Auditor and upon references will start a.s.a.p.

Budgets and precept sets for 2021/2022 were discussed, with an approximate increase of 3%.

**Next meeting Date will be held at 7pm via video conference (Zoom) Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

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**PARISH COUNCIL OF EDENHAM,  
GRIMSTHORPE, ELSTHORPE &  
SCOTTLETHORPE MEETING 12  
JANUARY 2021 - CLERK'S NOTES**

**LCC Councillor Hill:** The Highways Department is continuing to patch the potholes on Scottlethorpe Rd. The pothole repairs on Church Lane are also planned to take place. Please report potholes using the website link **FixMyStreet** ([lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://lincolnshire.gov.uk)); this link is available on the Parish Council website. The damaged signs between Bourne Wood, Edenham and Grimsthorpe have been reported to Highways and replacement/repairs are awaiting completion. COVID vaccinations are going well and the priority order is being followed for the roll out in the area.

**SKDC:** Councillor Robins is in contact with Highways department to ensure that the debris on the road side following the road traffic accident on A151 near the Toft/Lound turn is cleared.

**Steam Action Coronavirus Support Update:** Following the introduction of the new lockdown, the team members have contacted people to ensure that they are OK and to ask if there is any support that they might need. Christmas hampers were delivered to eligible people in the parishes, there have been many

positive messages received from the recipients.

**Community Street Cleaning:** There is an increase in the amount of litter on the lanes and roads around the parishes. The grass verge near Copy Lawn Farm Edenham continues to be used as an area for HGV parking and human excrement is still a problem in this area.

**Speed Indicator Display** was moved on Sunday 10th January and is now opposite the Church in Edenham.

**HGV's** drivers passing through the traffic lights are driving up and along pavements. This poses a danger and damages the pavement edge kerb stones. The Parish Clerk will raise this issue with Highways.

**Speeding:** A resident on Scottlethorpe Rd reported a near miss with a delivery van speeding in the 30mph area. The Parish Clerk will contact the Highways department to make them aware of the near miss and seek advice on additional safety road sign measures.

**Gigabyte Voucher Scheme** for rural areas: Openreach has not responded. This will remain on the agenda for the next meeting 9th March.

**BT Exchange in Grimsthorpe:** The company who look after the grounds

on behalf of Openreach are still awaiting a decision on the work to repair the damaged wall and to deal with the trees. This will remain on the agenda for the next meeting 9th March.

**Flower Beds in the village:** It was suggested to use tractor tyres as an alternative to a wooden or other hard structure for village flower beds. The Parish Clerk will submit the necessary planning applications for the grass verge by Copy Lawn Farm and the wide grass verge on A151 near the Grimsthorpe sign prior to the start of the Symphonic Gardens from Edenham direction. Councillor Bradley will host any site visits with Highways. This will remain on the agenda for the next meeting 9 March.

**The new Parish Website** is now live. There are some areas which are currently still under development. As part of the process for implementation the Parish Clerk received training support from a volunteer. Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils has asked if any Parish Councils would like to make a donation to a Charity for the support that has been offered by the volunteer, it was resolved by the Parish Council that a donation of £15 be made via LALC. The Parish Council website address and link is: <https://edenham.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

**Play area** external and internal inspection reports: Following receipt of the external inspection by Wicksteed Leisure, Councillor Hawes has looked at the hedgerow and has confirmed that this has no plants/trees that could seriously harm a child. The main source of any berries would be hawthorn. The trees along the path are Crab apple trees. They again are not dangerous apart from the seeds of the crab apple. Children would need to consume a lot of these seeds to become unwell. Councillor Hawes volunteered to recheck the hedgerow again in March and also to clear the path in Autumn when the fruits drop from the tree to prevent the path from becoming slippery. Councillor Hawes advised that several play areas have signs near the entrance which display any risk when using the play area. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk contact other Councils to see if they have signage in place. This will remain on the agenda for the next meeting 9th March.

Councillor Treacy, inspected the play area on 27.12.2020 and reported that there was no evidence of dog fouling around the play area, one of the wooden posts on the low balance beam has a very slight flex in it; however, it is not loose. There is a cap missing on one of the swing chain steps, this is not impacting on safety

it is a concern that ice and/or water can ingress into the area. Councillor Cranfield agreed to look at this to see if the cap can be purchased locally.

### **Christmas Celebrations:**

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold the annual Christmas Carol singing this year due to COVID.

However, we were pleased to have the Christmas tree in the field. We would like to thank Grimsthorpe Estate for donating the tree and to Heath Cranfield for use of the field.

**Village Hall:** A temporary treasurer is now in place. However, to ensure the long-term future of the village hall, additional support is still very much required. It was confirmed that the village hall is a Parish Council asset, which the village hall committee run on behalf of the Parish Council. Going forward, the village hall management committee will have an agenda item on future Parish Council meetings. The Parish Clerk was asked to confirm the legal requirements that must be reported as part of the agenda item.

**Planning Application:** S20/1400-Home Farm Grimsthorpe was conditionally approved.

### **Financial Matters:**

**Receipts** - PAYE Tax Refund has been received from HMRC, this is due to the Parish Clerk.

**Expenditure** - Parish Council Admin costs £26.10 (envelopes £6.60, printer Ink £19.50). Christmas tree lights batteries £14.36

**Bank Reconciliation Report** (as of 11.01.21) - Treasurers Account Balance £1,754.78; Business Account Balance £3,440.09.

**Precept** proposal for 2021/22 – no increase, remains £2,950.00.

**Finance audit** - the Parish Council accounts were audited in December 2020 by the appointed independent auditor. The accounts were confirmed to be in order.

### **Correspondence:**

**Christmas Vouchers** - Following the delivery of the vouchers by Edenham Consolidated Charities a number of 'Thank you' cards have been received from the recipients.

No cold calling scheme - the Parish Clerk has received telephone calls to thank the Parish Council for progressing this throughout the Parishes.

**Next meeting** date -Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 19.30 hour. Venue or Zoom information to be confirmed.

## **Hello! A warm welcome to Edenham Parish**

We are “Steam Action”. Upholders of community spirit and village traditions. Steam Action began back in 1972 when a group of Edenham teenagers decided to provide entertainment and dances at the Village Hall. In that first year £50 was raised and, after an initial donation to the church, every elderly resident was given a present to the value of £1.

By 1974 we were handing out birthday cards, organising quizzes, dances and coffee mornings, even arranging coach trips to stately homes and theatres. On the last Sunday in November logs were delivered to each household, along with an invitation to the event of the year... the Christmas Party with lunch and a show! A tradition that continues today, only instead of 35 people, we now cater for 90. Our pantomime has become so well known that we hold a further two performances for the public!

Recently, we wanted to involve the wider community, whilst still holding up those traditional values. Therefore, instead of retirement age, we lowered our member’s age to 60 for whom we provide birthday and Christmas gifts, an afternoon tea, flowers/card following illness or a stay in hospital and a Christmas party followed by a pantomime.

As well as this, we hold fundraisers for the local community, such as dances, summer fetes, quiz nights, raffles and a produce show.

Although we could not hold events in 2020, we did stay in contact with our members over the phone, carried out weekly shops and delivered 98 Christmas hampers!

A massive thank you to our members and the community for their continued support. Without this, we would not be able to organise such wonderful events!

### **WE NEED YOU!**

We do not want anyone to miss out, so please get in touch if you are 60 or over or have a birthday approaching.

Lucie VonCarthy (Chair Person) 07715843387 | [Luciejwilson@hotmail.com](mailto:Luciejwilson@hotmail.com)

Lynda Wilson (Deputy) 01778 591309 | [Lyndawilson738@gmail.com](mailto:Lyndawilson738@gmail.com)

**Steam Action – “To Foster a Community Spirit”**

# A LIGHT FOR OUR TIMES

I have a light that shines from within  
You have the same light that nothing can dim.  
Magnificent strings of bright shining pearls  
Like fireflies flickering all around the world.  
A galaxy of starlight, reflecting us all  
Everyone precious, no one too small.  
Shadows may threaten, but cannot destroy  
Our radiance, our courage, our love and our joy.

I don't know you, you don't know me  
But nothing divides us, not mountains nor sea.  
The life that unites us has just one embrace  
For gender and colour, age, culture and race.  
The dreams that inspire us, the fears in the dawn  
The children we cherish, the losses we mourn  
We all have in common. For each other let's strive  
The better to prosper, the better to thrive.

So twinkle, twinkle, brave little light  
If we twinkle together we'll conquer this night.  
No one need struggle alone in the dark  
Our lustre a magnet to each other's spark.  
No matter who or wherever you are  
How great or how lowly, how near or how far  
Come brothers and sisters, come sparkle with grace  
Light beacons of hope for the whole human race.

***M R Mayo***

# 100 years ago this month

(From entries made by the Rev L H Cooley into the Parish Magazine—reproduced by kind permission of The Witham on the Hill Historical Society)

## February 1921

**The Bronze Tablet** is now fixed in the church porch, an enduring record of our valiant dead.

**The Testimonials** to those men of the Parish who served in the War will, it is hoped, be ready for distribution at Easter, when we suggest that they be publicly presented at a social gathering. They are handsomely framed in oak, and record the gratitude and esteem of the parishioners. An opportunity will be given to all to subscribe to the cost of the testimonials, as we feel sure that everyone will desire to associate themselves with the gift.





# Jane's seasonal recipe

*Tahini is sesame paste (similar is texture to peanut butter) – sold in jars in health food shops. These tasty little biscuits are quick to make; and very moreish!*

## **Tahini cookies**

*115g butter*

*50g brown sugar*

*100g caster sugar*

*80g tahini*

*2 tablespoons honey*

*210g plain flour*

*1 teaspoon baking powder*

*20g sesame seeds*

*2 tablespoons brown sugar*

Beat butter & sugars until smooth & creamy. Add honey & tahini, mix well. Stir in flour & baking powder until blended & forms a soft dough. Roll 1 tablespoon dough into balls. Mix sesame seeds & 2 tablespoons brown sugar on a saucer. Roll the balls in the seed mixture. Place on baking tray & flatten slightly. Bake 180c for 12-14 mins until light brown. DO NOT OVERCOOK. Leave on the tray to cool completely.

**Make approximately 20 biscuits**

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## PARISH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2021

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
31 <sup>st</sup> January <i>The Presentation</i> <i>(Candlemas)</i>		10.30am Benefice Eucharist	4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
7 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Second Sunday before Lent</i>	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
14 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
17 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Ash Wednesday*</i>		7pm Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	
21 <sup>st</sup> February <i>Lent 1</i>	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
28 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Lent 2</i>	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)

\* A pre-recorded service will also be made available

For Baptisms, Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Confessions or any other pastoral or spiritual need contact:

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Associate Priest: The Revd Fr Peter Lister SSC 01778 423730 - [pwr.lister@btinternet.com](mailto:pwr.lister@btinternet.com)

Licensed Reader: Mrs Heather Lee 01778 591338 - [beltislobelle@btinternet.com](mailto:beltislobelle@btinternet.com)