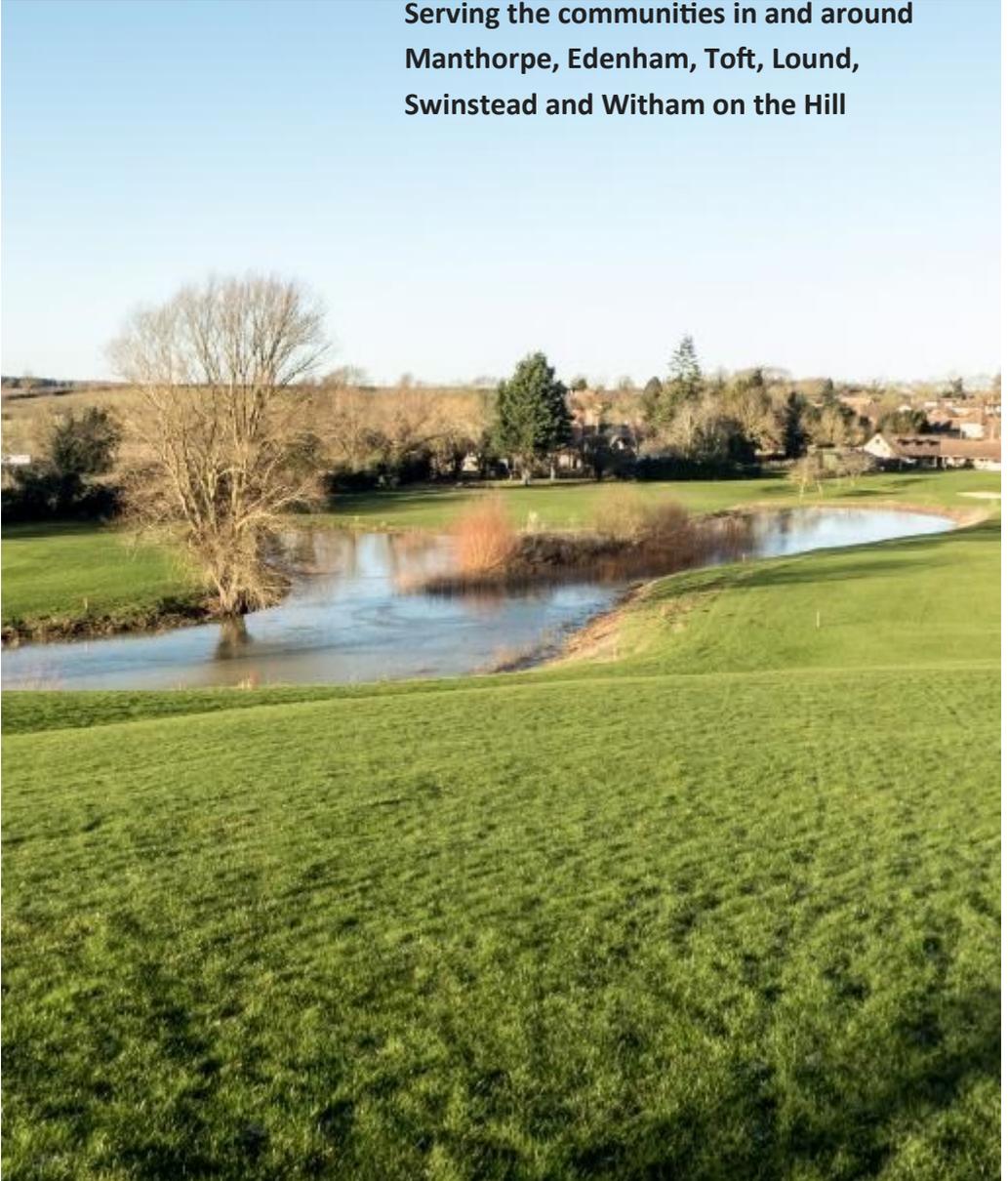


The Three Towers

February 2024

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



Edenham & Grimsthorpe Parish Council

Vacancy for Parish Clerk/RFO Edenham

Vacancy: The Parish Council is seeking a person with an interest in the local community for the post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Working hours: The post is part-time, working hours vary from week to week but average around 1.5 hour per week.

Skillset: Applicants should possess excellent administrative, organisational and IT skills, as well as a flexible approach to working and be prepared to work from home. The position requires attendance at Parish Council Meetings held bi-monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm Edenham Village Hall.

Duties include:

Overall administration of the Parish Council's business – preparation of papers for Council Meetings, taking and production of accurate minutes, dealing with correspondence, monitoring Council's policies, advising Councillors regarding legal and good practice requirements and implementing Council decisions.

Maintenance of accurate and up-to-date financial records of the Parish Council, placing orders, preparing invoices for payment, receiving and banking income.

Preparation of the annual budget, completing the annual audit and liaising with internal and external auditors

Salary: The salary is in line with National Association of Local Councils (NALC) pay scales.

More info: For more information please contact the current Clerk. (see below) To apply for the position please send a letter with accompanying Curriculum Vitae by post or email.

Closing date for applications: Friday 8 March 2024 - the Parish Clerk, Mrs Carole Sands, 14 Scottlethorpe Road, Edenham, PE10 0LN - email: Edenham.pc@gmail.com

SKDC Paper and Card Recycling Latest News

Separate paper and card collections will start from 5 February onwards. These will alternate every 2 weeks with the “silver bin” collection. This means: black bin - purple bin - black bin - silver bin - black bin - purple bin

Link: [Black, Silver & Purple Lid bin Collection Calendar 2023-24.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#)

BIG CHANGE: From 5 February, the Council **will NOT take** any additional **material**, including cardboard, **placed next to any of our bins** - whether it is in bags or not. We will have to take any excess to the tip or store it for another 4 weeks.

We are asked to start now to place our dry, clean, waste paper and cardboard into our new purple-lidded wheeled bins ahead of the first collection during the week beginning Monday 5 February. **Please note that shredded paper cannot be recycled and needs to go into the black bin.**

The rest of our **clean, dry recycling** (glass bottles, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, metal tins and cans) should be put loose in the silver bin as usual. We are asked **NOT** to put this waste in plastic bags in the bin.

SKDC states that it will not empty any bin that contains even just one incorrect item - such a bin will be tagged to let you know

Under the new system, clean, dry paper and cardboard will be sent directly to a dedicated paper mill which can recycle it into paper-based products. SKDC claims that if every person in the country recycled just 10% more paper it would save approximately five million trees each year.

You can visit www.southkesteven.gov.uk/recyclinglist for information on how to cut down on the waste.



CLEAN AND CLEAR CHIMNEYS

www.cleanandclearchimneys.co.uk

Professionally trained clean and friendly sweep service

Full brush and vacuum cleaning, also bird & nest removal

Industry standard certificate of sweeping supplied

Flexible flue liners supplied & fitted

Bird guards, rain guards, caps & cowls supplied & fitted

Replacement pots & minor chimney repair work

Wood burning/Multifuel stoves supplied and fitted

Hetas registered installer

Covered by full public liability insurance

Call Paul on Tel: 01406 702005

Mobile: 07766886417



Kiely Electrical

Established 1986

Time Served, Part P Approved Contractor

Experienced in all aspects of
domestic and light-industrial wiring

Inspection, testing and certification

Local authority Notifications

All work to the BS7671 and guaranteed

Fault finding a speciality

For friendly, reliable advice and service,
please contact Toby

01476 585309

07941 684225



We now sell fruit & veg

Farm Shop

Opening times:

Thursday: 9am till 5pm

Friday: 9am till 5pm

Saturday: 9am till 5pm

Sunday: 10am till 2 pm

(Closed Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)

**Red Tractor Farm Assured
All from our farm**

**Lincoln Red Beef, Berkshire Pork
& Jacob Lamb**

**Dry aged beef & homemade ready meals
Farm fresh eggs, local milk, cheese, honey & much more**

Parish News

WELCOME to Philip Drury, Bridget Yardley and Philip's mum who have moved into The Barn in Manthorpe. We hope that you will enjoy living in our community.

BAPTISM baby Felix Cooke, son of Harry and Charlotte Cooke; and first grandchild of Wendy and Adam Cooke, at St Andrew's Witham on the Hill on 3 December.

BIRTH CONGRATULATIONS to Hannah and David Paige, on the birth of Ellis Richard Paige on 27 December. The first grandchild for Gene and Jo Plews of Witham on the Hill.

CONDOLENCES to Mr James Scarborough (husband) Rachel (daughter), family, friends and neighbours on the loss of Diane Scarborough of Witham on the Hill, who passed away in December.

MANTHORPE CAROL SINGING: Some 18 residents of Manthorpe made up a merry band of carol singers and braved the chill on Thursday 21 December to sing their hearts out throughout the village. They raised £157.10, all of which was donated to 'Don't Lose Hope' in Bourne. Thank you to all who donated money and served the never-ending trays of mince pies, sausage rolls and, of course, plenty of very welcome liquid refreshments.

WITHAM ON THE HILL CAROL SINGING raised an amazing £210.85. Many thanks to all our most generous residents, for the mulled wine and mince pies; and to the customers at the Six Bells who paid us well to sing 3 carols for them! And very special thanks to our wonderful singers Julie and Paul from Castle Bytham!

SWINSTEAD ACHIEVEMENTS: Throughout 2023, Swinstead Village held events fundraising for some great charitable causes. In September, the annual coffee morning raised **£561** towards vital funds for '**Macmillan Cancer Research**'; in October the annual Darts Marathon raised £2,101.50 with the Village Hall donating £248.50 bringing a total of **£2,350**, donated to '**Don't**

G PLEWS
GARDENING SERVICES

- *Hedge & bush cutting*
- *Mowing*
- *Pruning*
- *Bed planting & advice*
- *Small-medium trees felled*

Offering a personal service
No job too small
RHS trained
Fully insured
Ring **01778 590579** evening
Or **07999 649824** day



*Music lessons
on the Internet
or in Haconby, south of Sleaford*
VIOLIN
GUITAR, acoustic, electric, bass
UKULELE
MANDOLIN
TENOR BANJO
BUTTON ACCORDION

Pete Shaw
01778 571563
pete@peteshaw.co.uk

Learn at your own pace,
to read music or chords,
or by ear. Adults-Children

PAINTER AND DECORATOR

OVER 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

REFERENCES AVAILABLE

JASON KENDALL
01778 426 409

T.R. CARLTON
INDEPENDENT FAMILY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Giving a complete 24 hour
personal service by
caring and dedicated staff

PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST
TEL Bourne: 01778 422240

**Too dearly
loved to be
forgotten . . .**



Special Memorials for Special People

Tel: **01778-421680**
www.setinstonememorials.co.uk

Set-in-Stone
MEMORIALS

Office & Showroom:
2 PINFOLD ROAD, BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE, LN40 3PU

LITES PC



mention this 3 towers ad for 10%
discount on labour charges

IT Support,
Sales &
Training for
home & small
businesses

Service, Repairs,
Training and Sales for...

Desktop PC
Laptop PC
Tablet PC
Tablets
Wireless Networks
Wired Networks
Smart Phones
Smart TVs

Design, Management,
Setup & Training for:

Web Design
Website Admin
eCommerce
Blogging
Social Media
Backups
Cloud Storage
Email

Help and assistance with managing your email, data and
IT across multiple devices and networks.

01476 550604 / 07894 659479

www.litespc.co.uk info@litespc.co.uk

Lose Hope Mental Health Charity' which offers a professional counselling service for all members of the community from age 4 upwards; and in November, an Open Mic & Chilli night with an evening of poetry, music and comedy raising a total of **£340** for '**Movember Men's Health Charity'**, raising monies for groundbreaking health projects across mental health and suicide prevention, prostate and testicular cancer. Swinstead in total raised a whopping **£3,251** in **charitable donations**, with 2024 set to be another bumper year of fundraising. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and got involved in making it all possible, and to those who supported and donated.

A reminder of the **winter opening hours** at the **Swinstead Village Hall Bar - Friday & Saturday 7pm to 11pm**. We have a pool table, a dart board, and an electronic score board, along with a great mix of low background music. Our volunteer bar staff will be sure to greet you with a nice cold beverage, or you may like to try on-tap beers, Tiger, Amstel & Moretti (subject to change).

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 3 February, Swinstead Village Hall – Games Night. Come and join us for a free night of entertainment, open for all ages and families.

Participation is required with games available, Rummikub, SkyJo, Dominoes, card games, Bananagrams and many, many more, including Jenga and Connect 4 for the kids. Bar opens from 7pm.

Friday 23 February, 8pm, Swinstead Village Hall – Valentines Quiz Night.

Are you a romantic at heart, known to enjoy a good Mills & Boon or perhaps you're more 50 Shades of Grey? Swinstead is hosting a quiz covering all things romance – music, books, favourite romcoms and famous 'Don Juans'. Maximum 6 in a team. £2.00 per head. Village Hall Bar opens 7pm.

CHARITY CAR BOOT SALE

Sat 2nd March 9am till 2pm

in aid of a-Sisterhood & OCD-UK

Book now for the Danish Invader, Empingham Rd, Stamford PE9 2SX

All private sellers welcome: £8 outside pitch £10 inside table. There will be a nearly new clothes sale. Clothes second-hand but good quality from £5 upwards each garment.

Tombola stall and a stall with homemade cakes to buy.

We are looking for any donations, clothes nearly new, very good condition, hardly worn for people to buy. Good shoes hardly worn.

Donations For the Tombola any tins, dry goods, or bottles in the back of your cupboard would be most acceptable. Any unwanted Christmas presents that you think someone else would enjoy.

Manthorpe and Toft residents are invited to leave any donated items bagged at the end of your driveway for collection on Sunday 11 February.

Email for any car boot bookings:

alison.whitehead45@btinternet.com Tel 01778 590347

Last year we managed to raise £1000 for OCD & Cancer UK with your help. As part of Jodie's ongoing pageant work, this year we would like to raise even more for these Charities.

Many thanks from Jodie & Alison Whitehead



14 & 28 February, 10.30am to noon, Swinstead Village Hall – Wednesday Social Coffee Mornings. Come and meet some new friends and enjoy some company, accompanied with coffee, tea, scones, cakes and bakes, and a chance to win a prize with one free raffle ticket, all for £3.00.

Saturday 2 March, 9am to 2pm, Charity Car Boot Sale. See advert on page 8 for details.

Saturday 9 March, 7pm, - Steam Action Quiz Night. See advert on page 10 for details.

Saturday 23 March, Swinstead Village Hall Race Night – 1st race starts 7.30pm. Giddy-up and place your bets. Tickets £10 include fish or sausage & chips, and £1 free bet. Book your ticket in advance as numbers are limited in the Village Hall, via villagehallswinstead@gmail.com or purchase at the bar.

Saturday 4 May, Swinstead Village Hall - Swinstead Second Cider & Sausage Festival - save the date. Presenting lively ciders and snags, and an even livelier line up of live bands and music. More details to come.

Sunday 9 June, Witham on the Hill - Open Gardens. Contact Richard Burbidge on 07885 496385 if you would like to open your garden - a few more gardens are needed please!



W.H. Munton and Son
Mill Farm Butchers

A wide range of home fed and locally sourced meat, poultry and other produce

E: orders-millfarm@hotmail.co.uk
T: 01778 590 263

Careby Garage

Motorcycle & Car MOT testing
Air conditioning & tyres
car servicing & repairs
Stamford Road, Careby
Stamford, Lincs, PE9 4EA

01780 410703

IN SUPPORT OF STEAM ACTION
COME AND JOIN US
FOR OUR FUN

QUIZ

NIGHT

**Edenham
Village Hall**

7pm

**Saturday
9th March 2024**

**Prizes for
1st & Last
Place**

**Teams can be up to 6 people
(£8 per person)**

**Price includes Jacket Potato and Chilli Meal
(Veggie options available)**

**Please call Ian on 07802 360190, after
5th January 2024, to book your tickets.**

**BRING YOUR
OWN DRINKS**

RAFFLE TO BE HELD ON THE NIGHT

Who are “Steam Action”?

Upholders of community spirit and village traditions!

Steam Action began back in 1972 by a group of local teenagers. By 1974, we were handing out birthday cards, organising dances, coffee mornings and 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 cater for 90 and our pantomime has become so well known that we hold a further two performances for the public!

Are you 60 years of age or over (or have a birthday approaching), living in Edenham Parish and want to get involved with the local community? Please get in touch!

We provide birthday and Christmas gifts, an afternoon tea, flowers/card following illness or a stay in hospital, dances, summer fetes, quiz nights, raffles, the annual Vegetable and Produce Show and a Christmas party followed by a pantomime!

We'd like to say a big thank you to our members and the community for their continued support. Without this, we would not be able to organise such wonderful events!

If you would like to join this friendly community group and help at events, please also get in touch!

Lucie VonCarthy (Chair) 07715843387 | Luciejwilson@hotmail.com

Lynda Wilson (Deputy) 01778 591309 | Lyndawilson738@gmail.com

Steam Action – “To Foster a Community Spirit”

The Vicar Writes

I don't know about you but I have occasional bursts of being organised (just for the editor of this magazine!). I try to plan ahead, to cover all the bases and very occasionally it works. But for the most part, I just muddle along.

Planning is a big part of all our lives. From planning our families to taking out a pre-paid funeral plan, we plan our way from cradle to grave. But do we ever worry that there's a danger we're becoming over-prepared? What do we do when things don't go according to plan? Are we still able to cope with something unpredictable, something that we can't plan or prepare for?

We often think of God as being constant and never changing, so it may come as a surprise to find Jesus apparently changing his mind in chapter six of St Mark's Gospel. Jesus steps ashore in search of some much-needed time-off, but instead, he finds himself surrounded by crowds of people hungry for his message. So, rather than following his intended plan and heading off for some much-needed retreat time, Jesus takes pity on the people. He changes his plans and he preaches to them (and at some length too). Unprepared for this encounter and carried along on a wave of enthusiasm, the crowds haven't brought enough to eat and find themselves a long way from home. But Jesus steps in and provides enough food for all who are there.

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand sees God blessing the little that we have in order to provide for many. But it's also about Jesus finding that extra spiritual strength and determination to meet the demands of those around him. Just when he felt that he needed to take a break and recharge his batteries, he somehow found the strength to nourish and transform thousands of lives.

God doesn't always follow neat and tidy plans – and this is something we might consider as 2024 progresses. No doubt all of us will, in some way, be planning for the new situations, challenges and expectations that stretch out before us. But, as we do that, it's worth remembering that even when our meticulous and well-intended plans don't work out quite how we'd hoped, God will always be there to provide us with what we truly need.

Even if we only have what appears to be limited resources at our disposal, God can still transform what seems like a little and turn it into a lot. Even if

what we end up with isn't 'what', or 'who', we expected it would be, we should know and trust that God is in charge and that the same spiritual determination and resourcefulness that was at work in Jesus can also be at work in us through the gift of his Holy Spirit.

With every blessing for 2024.

Fr Edward

Do you need the support of a Carer/Home help?

Experienced NVQ qualified carer available for work including short term live-in DBS checked, excellent references Liability Care insurance

Contact: Debbie

Tel: 01780 481356 Mobile: 07716 719329 Email: debswelton@yahoo.com

**Do you want the fairies to clean your oven?
Or would you rather do it yourself?**

Prices start from just
£42.00

- Your ovens cleaned like new
- Family owned business
- Ovens, Ranges, Agas, Hobs, Extractors, Microwaves, Fridges, Freezers, Dishwashers & BBQs
- No mess, odour or toxic products used in your home so the oven can be used straight after cleaning
- Fully equipped & insured specialist vehicles with dedicated cleaning equipment for removal of grease, fat and burnt on carbon.
- Appointments to suit you **24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

**01572 767678
07785 987112**

www.ovenfairy.co.uk (book online)



Go on, call the fairies and treat your oven

RBL Decorators

For all of your interior and exterior decorating needs, from one room to a whole house, our team can help.

Domestic / Commercial /
New Builds / Wood
restoration and repairs

Fully insured with 35
years of experience.

We can transform your
space cleanly and efficiently

For all enquires

call Richard on 07759250424
or email

RBLdecorators@gmail.com



K GOLDSMITH PAINTER AND DECORATOR

All aspects of interior and exterior painting for the home and business

NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL

Free no obligation quotes. Fully insured & registered.

References/Testimonials available



01778 704072



07951 579167

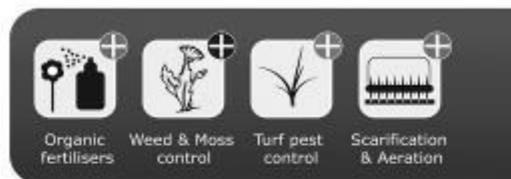
www.kgpainting.co.uk

CUSTOMLAWNCARE
PROFESSIONAL LAWN TREATMENT

Spring & Summer,
Autumn & Winter
Treatments for your
lawn at a price that
doesn't cost the earth.

FOR A FREE QUOTATION
CALL US ON:

07734 693253



- Weed and moss control
- Scarification
- Hollowtine aeration
- Fertilisation

*Your local professional
lawn treatment service.*

Andrew Carr

T: 07734 693253 E: andy@customlawncare.co.uk

www.customlawncare.co.uk |

Stamford Lincolnshire



SECOND TO NONE PEST CONTROL

RATS
MICE
MOLES
WASPS
BEES
SQUIRRELS
FLEAS

COMPLETE PEST CONTROL SERVICES
FAST EFFICIENT AND FRIENDLY
FOR FREE QUOTES AND CONSULTATIONS
MATTHEW AVISON

01778 369192 07880558687

stnpestcontrol@gmail.com

ANTS
PIGEONS
MOTHS
WOODWORM
FOX CONTROL
BIRDPROOFING
BEDBUGS

Notes from Toft cum Lound & Manthorpe Parish Council held on 11th January 2024

Cllr Brett reported that he had contacted the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) and Baston Parish Council to discuss re-active speed cameras after the parish received the results from the Toft traffic survey. It was agreed that the Council would arrange for installation of a mounting pole and agree site location in conjunction with the LRSP and purchase a camera when finances allow. It was also agreed to accept the offer of 1 tonne sand and 100 sand bags from SKDC. It was noted that Manthorpe experienced sewerage problems during the flooding in early January. It was proposed that residents should think about the need to flush toilets and generally put more waste into the drainage system, if flooding occurred again.

Councillors accepted Penny Dawson's offer to take the lead in planting 5 trees along the Wilsthorpe Road.

Councillors agreed to set a nil parish

precept for 2024/25 and close the Melton Mowbray Building Society, transferring the money to another account.

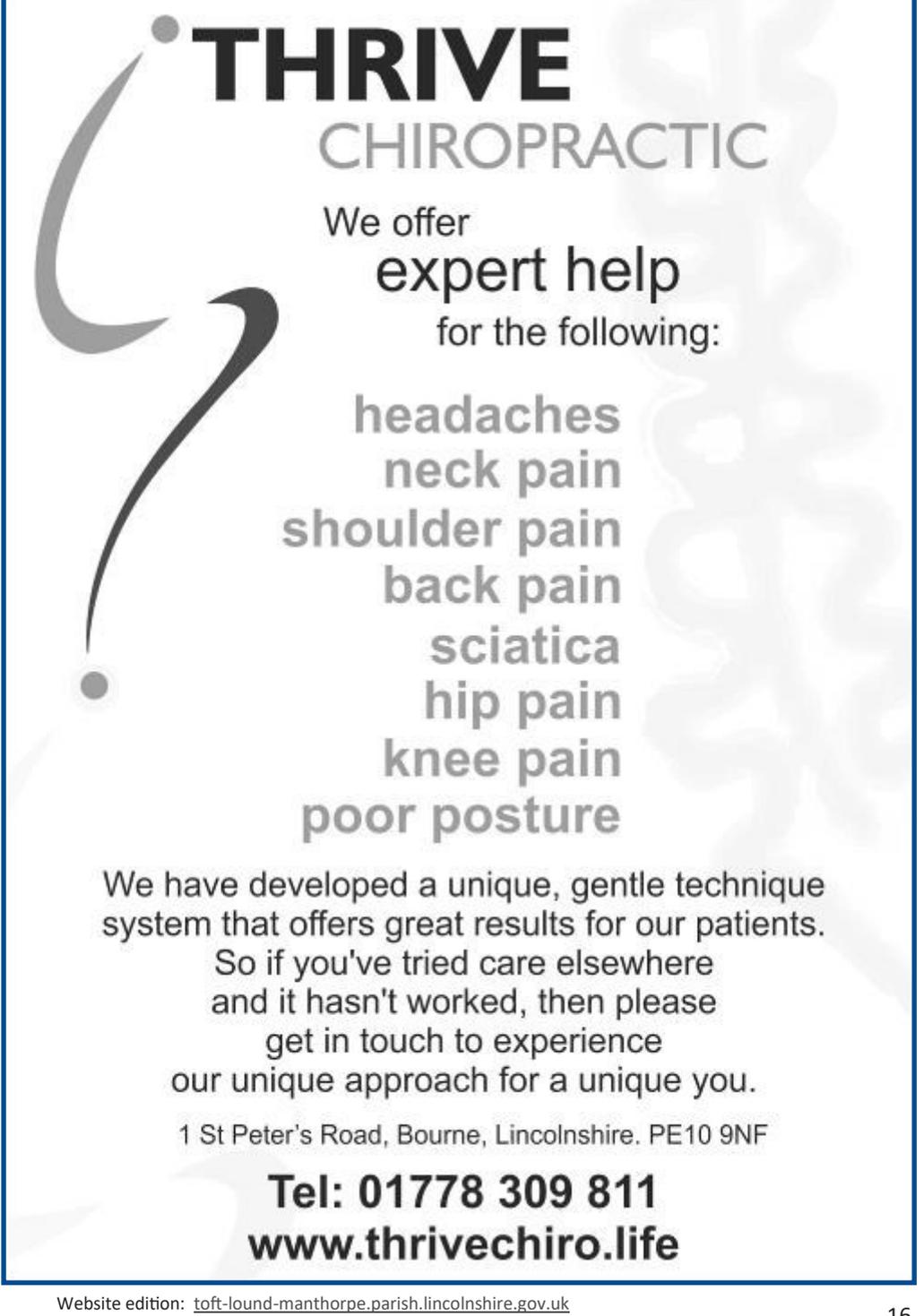
Simon Lawton, who has the lead role to install a defibrillator at Lound, is still awaiting an electrician's quotation. LeisureSK had invited residents to attend a free adult CPR/Defibrillator training session between February and March.

Councillors still want to know what residents would like the Manthorpe BT Kiosk be used for. Any ideas please contact a councillor or the clerk – tlampc2@gmail.com

D Cllr, Penny Robins, reported that residents would be using the purple lidded bins from 5th February for paper and cardboard. If you are unsure what goes into the new bin please look at the parish website.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish & Parish Council Meeting on 28 March at 7pm in the St Andrews Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. All welcome.

Rosemary Trollope-Bellew – Clerk to the Council.



THRIVE

CHIROPRACTIC

We offer

expert help

for the following:

headaches
neck pain
shoulder pain
back pain
sciatica
hip pain
knee pain
poor posture

We have developed a unique, gentle technique system that offers great results for our patients.

So if you've tried care elsewhere and it hasn't worked, then please get in touch to experience our unique approach for a unique you.

1 St Peter's Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. PE10 9NF

Tel: 01778 309 811
www.thrivechiro.life

WITHAM HALL

INVITATION TO HAVE FUN

Children aged one to six are invited to the Witham Hall Charity Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 16th March from 10-12pm. This event is open to the public. Families will follow the bunny trail through Witham Hall's historic grounds, collecting clues along the way to earn a sweet treat at the end of the adventure.

Families can enjoy coffee and cake in the pop-up café - cash and card accepted. Tickets - £3 per child, adults are free.

Please visit Withamhall.com to purchase your tickets. All proceeds support children's cancer charity, Tommy's Arc. For enquiries, please contact community@withamhall.com.



The poster features a light teal background with a white rabbit in the center, holding a carrot and a basket. The rabbit is surrounded by various Easter-themed items like carrots, flowers, and a beehive. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout. A QR code is located in the top right corner.


WITHAM HALL

**Saturday 16th
March 2024
10am - 12 noon**

For children aged one to six
Please visit Withamhall.com
to book, tickets £3 per child

All proceeds to support children's
cancer charity, Tommy's Arc

Witham Hall School, Witham on the Hill, PE10 0JJ





**EASTER
EGG HUNT**



TommyPlummer

TREE SERVICES

TREE CARE Pruning, Felling, Dismantling, Planting

CONSULTANCY Reports, Hazard Assessment, BS5837

City & Guilds
NPTC
Qualified

01780 460 111 • 07958 648 883

www.tpts.co.uk



wedding breakfast • vintage teas



barbecues • cocktail parties • picnics



Jeeves Catering

Specialists in Wedding, Corporate & Private Catering

With over 22 years of experience, Jeeves Catering create fantastic canapés, dinners and buffets to suit your requirements as well as design and organise beautiful weddings, corporate events and private parties.

Our dedicated, highly skilled team will deliver a first-class service and our chefs are passionate about using the best produce and top quality seasonal ingredients which are locally sourced.

At Jeeves we offer a personal touch for every occasion. Our menus can be found online for ideas and inspiration for your special day including barbecues, vintage afternoon tea and picnics.

Please contact Susan at Jeeves or view our menus & prices online

01778 349 512 • info@jeevescatering.com

Witham on the Hill WI

December 2023

Our Christmas meeting was a very festive affair with entertainment by Swayfield Hand Bell Ringers who rang carols and Christmas tunes. Mulled wine, buffet supper and gifts from Santa's Sack added to the festivities. Winners for the best decorated gifts were: Juliette Renner, Kaye Mundy and Delia Holland Jones. Raffle winners were: Helen Baxter, Sue Renner, Dorothy Stewart and Bev Haydon.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 6 February in St Andrew's Parish Hall at 7.30pm. New members and visitors are always most welcome. For further information contact Jane Clark - Tel 01778 590232.

WI 2024 Speaker Programme

MARCH: Tim Stubbs "Reflections of Life"

APRIL: Dorothy Wood "At the Drop of a Hat"

MAY: Paul Smith "Thomas Cook, the Origins of Popular Tourism"

JUNE: National Trust, Stoneywell

JULY: Melody Flyte, vintage singer

AUGUST: Summer games and supper

SEPTEMBER: Jane E James, Essendine author

OCTOBER: Horace Liberty "Family Firm and Fashion"

NOVEMBER: Rosemary Sneath, Norland Nanny

DECEMBER: Christmas party

LUXURY LODGE TO LET

Haveringland Country Park

Set in rural Norfolk - 20 minutes from Norwich and the Norfolk coast

2 bedrooms-
1 double with en suite,
1 twin and separate bathroom

Fully equipped kitchen,
large open plan sitting & dining area

Smart TV & Wifi

Outside deck area with
garden furniture & BBQ

Pets welcome

Contact Susan Fenner at
info@jeevescatering.com
or telephone 01778 349512

Witham on the Hill

Parish Council

Notes of the Parish Council meeting 8 January 2024

Planning application: A major part of the meeting was spent discussing Planning Application S23/1876 - change of use for agriculture land to a car park including creation of hard standing to serve as a car park to The Six Bells, Main Street, Witham on the Hill.

A number of residents were present to express their views. James Trevor, proprietor of the Six Bells, and Simon Thompson, Farm Manager for JWE Banks Ltd, attended to answer any questions. They wanted to ensure that their plans were sympathetic to the character of the village and they were keen to work with the community.

CLLr Smith (who took part in this discussion as a resident) expressed concern that the proposed site was substantially larger than what he had originally been told and as a result his privacy, as a direct neighbour, would be adversely affected.

Mr Calabrese said that he was also unhappy with the proposal as this would replace an unobstructed rural

outlook from the front of his property with what he considered would be an urban site full of cars. He had many other objections and concerns such as who would police potential noise and litter and any lighting arrangements that would be incorporated.

Mr Plews felt that residents were in a difficult position because, while many would benefit from fewer cars parking on the road near the Pub, the proposal would adversely affect some people and that there would be no compulsion on pub patrons to use the new car park proposed. The question of reversionary use back to agricultural, in the event that the pub ceased to trade, was also discussed.

The Council discussed all these inputs, plus other views from councillors and residents, and agreed to make the recommendations/comments set out below:

1. The Council resolved that additional car parking for patrons of the Six Bells is required to alleviate the high level of on street parking at busy times. This often reduces the traffic to one way only near the pub and there is concern this impedes access for emergency vehicles. It is also highly inconvenient for residents

and other road users, particularly large farm equipment and commercial vehicles.

2. The proposed site is outside the natural curtilage of the village but adjacent to the boundary of the Conservation Area. It is also highly visible on approach to the village from the road leading up the hill from the A6121 crossroads. It was therefore felt that the size of the proposed car park is too large and that a 50% reduction in the area proposed would be more appropriate. As there will be no compulsion on pub patrons to use the facility proposed and street parking will continue, even a small reduction should make an appreciable difference

3. In order to limit the impact on visual amenity consent should be conditional on:

a. The provision of adequate screening with shrubbery and other planting around the boundaries of the proposed site, so that it is not visible from the road or other parts of

the village.

- b. That only natural materials be used to surface the area such as chippings or gravel and there to be no concrete, asphalt or any materials of a permanent nature incorporated.
- c. Any lighting to be at low level and only in use during opening hours.
- d. In order to ensure proper security from improper use, consent should be conditional on the provision of a lockable gate at the entrance, to be kept shut outside opening hours.
- e. In order to protect the site from any further development, consent to be limited to use as a car park for the exclusive benefit of patrons of the Six Bells Pub during opening hours only and in the event that this use ceases for a period of more than two years, then the site is to be reinstated to agricultural use.

Clerk's report: The forms for the 2024-2025 Precept had been completed and acknowledged by

South Kesteven District Council. An email had been received from SKDC regarding the new purple-lidded waste bins and the date for the collection for all bins throughout the year. This information is being communicated by SKDC to all residents.

Bottom Street repairs: Cllr Henriques confirmed that a meeting facilitated by County Cllr Charlotte Vernon took place with Mike Brown, LCC Senior Highways Officer, on 12th December with local residents and Cllr Duncan Brock present in Bottom St to discuss remedial works. Mike Brown had researched the background to the gully pot drainage system which was originally installed to alleviate spring water flowing from Witham Hall School and over the road. Following the meeting he provided an outline plan for works starting with cyclic gully cleansing, although this was not expected to have much effect, followed by jetting to see if this clears any blockages, prior to more substantive investigation of the problem. Meanwhile it was understood initial temporary filling of

the worst potholes would take place this week. The matter is ongoing and updates would be communicated to those residents most affected.

Car speed information: Cllr Henriques confirmed that the reactive sign had been removed from East Green and recorded data downloaded. It has now been reinstated at the other end of the village opposite the entrance to the school. Cllr Brock had prepared another draft report which was circulated, although this suggested no change to average traffic speeds which were comfortably within the speed limit at the pub end of the village. He mentioned that a resident had requested the sign be moved to a location closer to the start of the speed limit at the Little Bytham Rd end of the village as they felt this was particularly affected by speeding traffic, Cllr Henriques said he would investigate options.

Next meeting: Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00 pm at St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill

Bourne Abbey

A jewel in the crown

In feudal England, long ago, the manor was an estate of land with one of the nobility appointed as Lord of the Manor by the King. In Bourne, following the Norman conquest, there were three such manors but these were later consolidated into a single manor granted to Baldwin Fitz Gilbert of the De-Clare family as its Lord.



In the mid to late 11th century William the Conqueror ordered his lords to construct castles all over the country to control the native population. Following this edict, Baldwin set his hand to building an earthwork motte and bailey castle in the south west of Bourne. Situated in what is now Wellhead Gardens, the earthworks were very extensive and formed a castle of an unusual layout. The motte stood inside the bailey surrounded by a

bank and ditch and further encircled by another ditch, in concentric plan.

Having built the castle, the energetic Baldwin turned towards founding a religious house with an abbey replacing an earlier demolished Saxon church located in the south east of Bourne. He invited the Arrouasian branch of the Augustinian Order to provide the religious establishment of the Abbey with a house for up to 14 canons. For financial support, Baldwin granted the house farmland, fishponds and the profits of many other churches. Bourne Abbey was the fourth Arrouasian house to be established in England.

Unlike monks who spent their time in prayer and study in closed communities, canons led a more interesting life with duties beyond their own enclosures involving preaching and public worship. In those days, monks tended to live in Benedictine foundations, while canons were members of the Augustinian orders. But Benedictine houses were expensive to establish, for their rules required a large number of monks with a subsidiary body of lay brothers to perform the prescribed liturgy. There were no such constraints in the Augustinian orders, and thus much better suited to Baldwin's means.

The Augustinians usually constructed their cloisters and associated buildings to the north of their abbey but in Bourne, sadly, all were knocked down after the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII in 1534. Only the Abbey church remained. Excavations by archaeologists have discovered that the cloisters were indeed on the north side of the church adjoining the nave, and there was an east, north, and west range of buildings surrounding the cloisters which included the chapter house, dormitory, refectory and kitchens. Further digging in 1985 revealed that the north range was a substantial set of stone buildings with walls 5 to 6 feet thick but very limited remains were discovered on the west and east sides.

At the dissolution, the canons appointed one of their number as the parish priest to minister to the spiritual needs of the people and, as a result, the Abbey church itself was not demolished and became the parish church of

Bourne. The area to the north of the church is now taken up with private apartment blocks, the church hall, a care home and a substantial vicarage. In fact, visitors hoping to see the north side of the church must trespass a few yards down the vicarage driveway to get a view (pictured below).

After the Civil War, it seems that the fabric of the Abbey church was allowed to deteriorate. The earliest drawings of the west front indicate that by the early nineteenth century, the incomplete north tower of the west front had lost its roof and the northern door was bricked up. But apparently it was a lot worse than these drawings suggested and it took two major restoration schemes in 1869 and the 1880s to restore the church to something of its pre-Reformation glory. It is now the only Grade 1 listed building in Bourne.

With the demise of the Abbey, the provision for educating the children of the town came to a halt. A new Grammar School was founded in 1636 under the will of one William Trollope whose family had acquired the Abbey buildings in the early 17th century. The school he erected was rebuilt in the early 18th century and is situated in the graveyard to the south of the church, a smallish brick building with surprisingly large windows. It closed in 1904 and now bears a warning notice saying it is in a dangerous state, so viewing must be from afar.

In the same way, the provision of local health care suffered when the Abbey closed. The canons had a hospital in the original part of the building just to the west of the Abbey over the stream which flowed through the Abbey grounds. This house is now known as Bourne Eau House and is probably the oldest in the town.

After the dissolution, the farmlands and fishponds east of the Abbey, which grew vegetables and herbs and provided fresh fish for the canons, became the town's unofficial recreation ground. This arrangement persisted for several centuries. The land was eventually acquired by a syndicate of local businessmen who rented out the rights for cricket and football, but when it

came under threat from housing development in the 1930s, Bourne United Charities stepped in to buy it for the benefit of the town at a cost of £700. Now known as the Abbey Lawns, the large grassy expanse is an area for sport and recreation and the home of the town football club, cricket club, and tennis courts. Its broad acres also cater for a casual kick-about, jogging, strolling, athletics, bowls and petanque. The open-air swimming pool used to be the carp pond for the canons of Bourne Abbey but it was taken over by Bourne United Charities in 1922 and is now greatly enhanced to become one of the few remaining lidos in England. The purchase and laying out of the grounds are commemorated by a plaque on the gate post at the main entrance in Abbey Road. A plaque on the opposite gate post records tree and shrub planting celebrating the silver jubilee of King George V in 1935.

All places mentioned can be visited, with the possible exception of the north side of the church. The church is usually open for a walk around, providing no service is taking place. There is parking in the church hall car park if visiting the church or in Church Lane opposite the west front of the church. It is a short walk to Wellhead Gardens to view the bumps and hollows remaining from the castle. Abbey Lawns has parking next to the wall in Abbey Road but it does fill up early.

Bourne Abbey is one of the most delightful places in Bourne and ease of access makes it more appealing. It truly merits the title “jewel in the crown”, a hackneyed phrase perhaps, but well deserved in this case. It is one of those few places with a combination of attractiveness and a long and fascinating history. Such a rarity must be maintained and cherished.

Dick Mundy

Jane's Seasonal Recipe

Although this is a good way of using up some of your Christmas turkey, it would work just as well with chicken left over from your Sunday roast.

Turkey Toasts

25g butter
25g plain flour
½ pint chicken stock
3 tablespoons cream
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 tablespoon mustard of your choice (optional)
200g cooked turkey
Snipped chives
4 slices crusty bread
115g grated cheese

Melt butter in pan, stir in flour, add stock; bring to boil, stirring continuously. Add cream, mayo, mustard, chives and cubed turkey. Stir well, keep warm. Lightly toast bread on both sides, spread with turkey mixture, sprinkle with cheese. Grill lightly until cheese just melts. Garnish with chives and serve with cranberry sauce.

SERVES 4

PARISH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
4 th February Candlemas		10.30am Benefice Eucharist	4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
11 th February Sunday before Lent	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
14 th February Ash Wednesday		7pm Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	<i>See weekly Pew Sheet for details of a possible morning service</i>
18 th February Lent 1		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
25 th February Lent 2		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)

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

Vicar: The Revd Fr Edward Martin SSC 01778 591358 - Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org

Associate Priest: The Revd Fr Peter Lister SSC 01778 423730 - pwr.lister@btinternet.com