

The Three Towers

August/September 2022

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*When you call 112 or 999, tell the operator that you will be using the public access defibrillator and need the **code number** to open the box.*

2. Start CPR—heart compressions

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PLEASE IGNORE the instruction on the Manthorpe and Toft boxes to give the operator the box number; they do not have numbers. **Instead, simply state that you are in Manthorpe or Toft near Bourne. If you have called from a mobile on 112, the operator will already have your exact location.**

Type the link below into your favourite web browser and spend a really worthwhile 6 minutes finding out why you should use 112 in preference to 999 when dialling the Emergency Services from your mobile.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPZv_8dABfU

Here's hoping you never have to use the devices

Parish News

LAST CHANCE - OUR PARISH BOOKLET Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe

REQUEST TO ALL RESIDENTS

All Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe residents **are invited to send a short** (or long) **note of their life in our parish**. This can be as simple as **listing your name, address and stating the date that you arrived in the parish**. Or you can write a piece explaining your experience of living here - and, where appropriate, what brought you here in the first place. In fact, you can write anything you like - as long as it does not break the law or embarrass anyone Please put some thought to this and send your input to the Editor at the3towers1@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS to Bonnie (nee Kirkwood) and Jim Head on the birth of Annie Lilian Daisy Kirkwood Head on 1st July. A sister for Lachlan, and another grandchild for Janet and Ian Kirkwood of Witham on the Hill.

CONGRATULATIONS to Annabel Cooke (daughter of Wendy and Adam Cooke) and Oliver Ison on their marriage at St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill on 23 July.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOE BOXES You should receive a leaflet with this magazine showing you how to fill a shoebox with supplies and gifts, to go to a child in need in countries where war or disaster has occurred. This year it is likely shoe boxes will probably go to Ukraine or Sri Lanka. Anything you can give would be greatly appreciated – toiletries, pencils writing books, etc. Boxes are taken to various collection points in November. I know it is a long way off, but it gives you time to collect the items. If you would like to help by donating things to fill a shoe box, or need a box, contact Jane Clark, Copse View Witham on the Hill tel 01778 590232. Thank you in anticipation of your kindness.

PLEASE RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBOUR - Please respect your neighbours when playing your music - you may like it turned up but a neighbour might not.

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 3 August (and every fortnight later), 10.30am to 12 noon - Coffee Morning in the **Swinstead** Village Hall.

Saturday 6 August - Swinstead Village Hall. Come and have some fun and test your knowledge at **Quiz Night with a Cheese & Biscuits Supper** and a glass of wine – all for just £10 per head. Tables of 4 – reserve your tickets Markwoodruff911@btinternet.com

Sunday 28 August, 2pm onwards - rounders and petanque on the **Witham on the Hill** village green. Bring your own picnic and chairs, all welcome whether to watch or play!

Monday 29 August, 2pm to 5 pm - St Mary's Summer Fayre - Swinstead Hall Gardens. Our summer fayre is back! Bring the family along to an afternoon of traditional fun on the Bank Holiday weekend. Lots of outdoor games, bouncy castle, stalls, raffle prizes, cakes and bakes.

Saturday 2 September, 8.30am to 10 am - BIG BREKKIE - St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. All welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.

Saturday 24 September, Race Night - Swinstead Village Hall. As our last Race Night was such a winner, we are doing it again! £10 includes horse racing and a fish & chip supper. Giddy up and book your ticket: Markwoodruff911@btinternet.com

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The Vicar Writes

Dancing can be tremendous fun. When I was young, I was first in line at school discos. There were disco lights, strobes and even a dry-ice machine (it was much later that we discovered that the smoke was cancerogenic). There is, I maintain, something wonderful about young people jumping around, throwing shapes and having a good time, free from inhibition, worry and care.

Notice that I said, 'young people'. When it comes to adults dancing (and men in particular), it's a whole other story. Inhibition-free spontaneous dancing in young people is one thing but when it's your dad or husband it's something else entirely. Delve into the Second Book of Samuel and you'll find that bad dancing even proved to be a dealbreaker for David and his wife Michal.

Michal was King Saul's daughter (Saul being the first King of all Israel). David had initially worried about being worthy to marry the King's daughter. So, King Saul decreed that

David could earn the right to Michal's hand by delivering to him one hundred Philistine foreskins. Not content with a mere hundred David, delivered two hundred Philistine foreskins to the King and that sealed the deal.

However, David and Michal were two individuals caught up in a difficult situation with tensions rising between Saul and his would-be successor David (with Saul having lost the support and assistance of the LORD for disobeying him). But, despite all this, we learn that "Michal loved David" (1 Samuel 18.28).

Things did seem to be blossoming between David and Michal until one day we read that "David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. So, David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn. As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart." (2 Samuel



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6.14-16)

Just so you know, a linen ephod is essentially an apron. So, David was dancing around in an apron (a bit like someone dad-dancing whilst barbequing).

Next, we hear that “Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, ‘How the king of Israel honoured himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants’ female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!’” (2 Samuel 6.20)

Not content with dad dancing in an apron, it seems that King David was dad dancing in just an apron (not recommended for barbequing).

On the off chance that you ever hear a sermon about this episode, it’s likely that the preacher will suggest that Michal was being unreasonable in her objections to David’s dancing (prudish even). Embarrassing your children at a wedding or family party is one thing, dancing without inhibition before the LORD must be something else (I’ll let you decide!).

However, what I would say is that

each of us, regardless of our prowess on the dancefloor, has the tendency to judge people when we see or hear them doing something in a way that we don’t appreciate or approve of. We may not say it out loud but we judge them just the same. It could be someone’s cooking, singing, artwork, fashion sense, what they do or don’t do in Church, etc. We may not articulate it but, nevertheless, we look down from the window (as Michal did) and we judge. We encourage people to follow their pursuits, passions and interests (and for having the courage to do so) and then we judge them when they don’t live up to our perceived standards or tastes.

The ‘David dancing incident’ ended a once-loving relationship. David and Michal never recovered from the fall-out. Bad dad-dancing (in an apron or otherwise) maybe embarrassing or even cringe-worthy but I hope that it wouldn’t bring about the end of a relationship or friendship with someone you really care about.

Sometimes we need to protect the ones we love from the unfair

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prejudices that we carry. Sometimes we need to give others permission to follow their dreams (or maybe just show off their moves) even if it isn't what we would have chosen. One of my favourite phrases speaks about giving ourselves (and others) a bit of 'wiggle-room'. There are times when we need to do just that.

Enjoy your summer (and don't forget that apron when barbecuing).

Fr Edward

Monthly Quiz - Things found In the Kitchen. (Answers on page 25)

(2) = 2 words

1. Shiwk
2. Meatres
3. Dealt
4. Pillorngin (2)
5. Grifnnyap (2)
6. Lowbs
7. Bbangi (2)
8. Lunefn
9. Restinar
10. Tregra.
11. Crapheo
12. Drabekream (2)

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Notes for the Edenham, Grimsthorpe & Scottlethorpe Parish Council Meeting 12th July 2022

Attendees - Parish Councillors Mr Wilson, Mrs Marshall, Mrs Treacy, Mr Hawes, and Mrs Sands (Parish Clerk). The meeting was Chaired by Councillor Wilson.

Apologies - Mr Clarke (Chairman), Mrs Cranfield (Vice Chairman) & Mrs Avis.

Archers Report March 2022 - The Parish Clerk received a copy of the Archers Report (Monitoring Dates 23/03/22 to 29/03/22) from Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. The report states that the results of the survey together with an analysis of the collision data show that the criteria required for either fixed or mobile speed camera enforcement is not met. Analysis of the speed data showed that the average speed of vehicles was 34.9mph. The speed data showed evidence that some vehicles were exceeding the speed limit at a speed that would make the driver liable to action or prosecution by the Police. The full details of the report and the data sent is available on the Parish Council website.

Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting - The Parish Councillors voted against the planting of a tree, several factors influenced this decision, e.g., weather conditions/survival rate, location of planting and costs to purchase and maintain.

Platinum Jubilee Village Photograph - Mr & Mrs M Smith have very kindly donated the photograph taken as part of the celebrations at the Village Hall. The Parish Council have agreed to pay for the framing and the commemorative wording in line with the other photographs on display in the Village Hall internal entrance hall.

Play Area Inspections

Internal Inspection - Councillor Treacy reported that soil is being disturbed near the small swings; however, it is not confirmed what is causing this.

External Inspection - The Parish Clerk confirmed that ROSPA have been booked for this year's inspection.

Planning Matters

New Applications - No new applications have been received.

Planning Appeals - The Parish Council have received notification that the Planning Inspectorate have agreed that the 20m monopole and supporting equipment can be installed on the grass verge on Main Street, Edenham.

Financial Matters

Receipts

SKDC Community Street Cleaning Grant - £463.32

HMRC VAT Refund £366.05

Expenditure

VAT Form Postage costs £1.49

HMRC 1st Qtr Payment £45.20

Community Street Cleaning 1st Qtr Salary £181.52

Parish Clerk 1st Qtr Salary £171.00

Bank Account Reconciliation

Treasurers Account £3202.10

Business Account £3440.66

Correspondence

Grimsthorpe & Drummond Castle Trust Limited - Letter received thanking the Parish Council for time allocated at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2022 in relation to the proposed developments on Main Street and School Lane Edenham.

Next Meeting Date – 13th September, Edenham Village Hall at 19:30 hours.



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Edenham Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Some of our readers may wonder why we failed to publish anything showing Edenham celebrating the Platinum Jubilee last month. It appears that an article was sent but to the wrong address. An easy mistake - as the sender omitted the "1" in my address (thethreetowers1@gmail.com). So, here is the report and some photographs.

A big thank you to everyone who helped or attended Edenham parish picnic at the village hall, to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. We enjoyed a glass or 2 of Pimms, played stick the jewel on the crown, egg catching, village hall games and plenty of party food and cake were eaten. We also got to sing Happy birthday to Rosemary Wilson and gave her a small cake with a candle on. Several photos were also taken to capture the day's events.

We started off outside on the playing field but soon the British weather persuaded us to move indoors. Thank you to Edenham Village Hall Committee for providing the venue free of charge.

Steam Action Committee



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www.lincolnshirechurchestrust.org.uk

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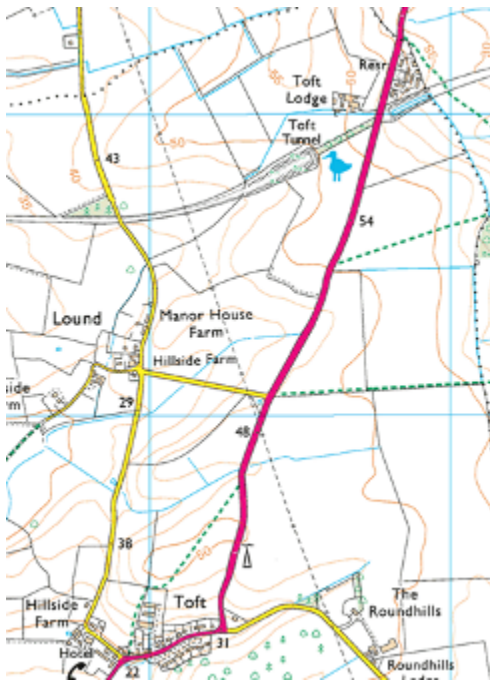
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Toft Tunnel

Our Victorian forebears were great railway builders and constructed many imposing bridges, tunnels, embankments and stations all over the country, many of which are still in use today. But when the local railway lines in our area were closed over sixty years ago the bridges and tunnels were simply abandoned, probably because they were too expensive to demolish. The Victorians built well, for these structures are all in surprisingly good condition. One of the finest, but least accessible, is Toft Tunnel beneath the A6121 just south west of Bourne.



An Act of Parliament of 1888 authorised the construction of a railway line from Bourne to Saxby, 4 miles east of Melton Mowbray, as part of a connection between the industrial Midlands and the East Coast ports, primarily for freight traffic. The Eastern & Midlands Railway Company built the line west from Bourne whilst the Midland Railway pushed eastwards from Saxby. The two railways met head-on at Little Bytham.

The Chief Engineer on the Bourne to Little Bytham section of the line was one George MacDonald who supervised the work of contractor William Mousley of Eccleshall, Staffordshire. This was the most challenging section of the overall route and involved penetrating a ridge to the west of Bourne through which the 330-yard Toft Tunnel had to be driven. Preliminary work got underway in November 1890, four months prior to the main tunnelling operations. An

initial workforce of 100 navvies soon increased to about 400. Work on the tunnel proved difficult and demanded the excavation of 300,000 cubic yards of shale. Much of the spoil was taken to Spalding where it formed the embankment for a new loop line. It was the spring of 1893 before the tunnel was completed, with around 2.5 million Staffordshire blue brindle bricks being needed for the lining. By this time the Eastern and Midlands Railway, along with many smaller local lines, became the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway (MGN). Built for two tracks, Toft was the only tunnel on the MGN joint system. The first goods train to use the line departed from Leicester on 4th June 1893. An absence of facilities delayed the introduction of passenger traffic until 1st May 1894.

In the face of vigorous local opposition, both passenger and goods services on the Bourne to Saxby line ended on 28th February 1959, despite the route being heavily trafficked during the summer months. Work to remove the tracks started in 1962. Like most of our local lines, much of the old trackbed, after the rails and sleepers were removed, is still there and make useful paths for walking and riding.

The land on both sides of the tunnel was subsequently bought by Bourne Urban District Council and a section on the eastern side used for rubbish dumping. When the authority was superseded by South Kesteven District Council in 1974 it was planned to extend refuse disposal throughout the site but the proposal was shelved.

Then in 1993 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust stepped in to preserve the tunnel and surrounding area as a



nature reserve open to the public. The two deep eastern and western approach cuttings, the land over the tunnel, and the tunnel itself now form the Toft Tunnel Nature Reserve, managed by the Trust. The reserve consists mainly of open grassland with dense Hawthorn and Blackthorn scrub and some woodland, attracting many bird and butterfly species. Bats hibernate in the bore of the tunnel.

The tunnel was closed in the autumn of 2006 after engineers ruled that it was unsafe, and that visitors would be in danger from falling masonry. Decades of soot had taken their toll on the interior brickwork which had started to crumble and fall in some places. Metal palisade fencing was erected across both ends thus isolating the surrounding nature reserve.

I distinctly recall walking along the reserve in the late 1990s. Although by no means a birdwatcher, I spotted many Jays in the west cutting. There were even a few wooden seats for visitors to take their ease. No railings blocked off the tunnel at the time and I walked through. I try very hard not to be a wimp but I found it extremely spooky and was glad to get to the other end. There was evidence of old camp fires, perhaps people sleeping rough or having impromptu parties. On a few subsequent visits I remember fighting my way through waist high nettles and weeds to get to the west portal.

Toft Tunnel can be approached either from the east or west. There are wide verges for parking on the side of the narrow road from Lound to Edenham immediately after the severely humped back railway bridge just past Lound. A longish walk through the foliage of the nature reserve reaches the west portal of the tunnel which is heavily overgrown. On the east side of the tunnel there is parking in a small lay-by on the A6121 on the left coming from Bourne opposite Toft Lodge. Down a short flight of steps there is a narrow path through a small wood until another flight of wooden steps appears on the left. The steps are steep and winding down the side of the embankment and in wet weather can be slippery. There is no handrail just convenient tree

branches close by, so care must be taken when descending. If a visitor is reasonably fit, the view of the east portal (pictured) from the path at the bottom is far better than of the west, in my opinion. As with the west portal, railings block off the tunnel entrance with dire warning notices about falling masonry. Some vandal has removed one of them allowing entrance to very thin people, which is highly risky and definitely not recommended.

Toft Tunnel from either end is not for the faint-hearted. The Wildlife Trust has lived up to its name and let the reserve grow wild. Great for the birds and butterflies, not so good for the visitor. But it is well worth the effort, just to soak up the eerie atmosphere in the deep cutting, faced with the tall and imposing portal.

Dick Mundy

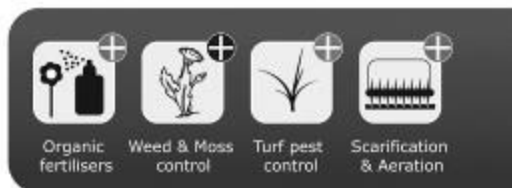
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WITHAM ON THE HILL WI - JULY 2022

This month's meeting on Tuesday 5th July was our annual combined meeting with Carlby WI. 25 WI members and 4 visitors attended and the WI business was swiftly run through by the President of Carlby WI, Margaret Hawkins and our president, Elaine Brock.

Member Jill Lessey reported on the LSFWI meeting and lunch at Belton Woods with speaker Baroness Hogg.

On climate change action, we have requested bins at Toft laybys and plan some activities for Great Big Green Week in September. (It is great to hear of the new whitebeam tree planted on the village green by the Hall Management committee – for the Queen's Green Canopy). The walking group, Poetry & Prose & Plays group, the book group and various outings are all now running on a monthly schedule; glass craft and English paper piece patchwork sessions are planned for autumn too.

Following on, speaker Nigel Lowey talked about the transformation of St Pancras Station. The station originally opened as the London terminus of the Midland railway in 1876, followed by the adjacent Great Midland Hotel, an ornate, gothic-style building, in 1873. It required a graveyard to be cleared and 32,000 people were removed due to house demolitions but it did showcase materials and skills from the Midlands and the iron & glass roof was a bold innovation. In 2002 renovations began, and the magnificent St Pancras International station and the Renaissance Hotel reopened with 68 apartments in the upper levels. Nigel was a really engaging speaker and Margaret Hawkins thanked him for his informative talk.

Meetings: August – 7pm Games on the Green (hall if wet weather)
September - 7.30pm Craft Evening

Visitors and prospective members always welcome. More information on Insta and Facebook at WI Witham on the Hill; or call our Secretary, Jane Clark 01778 - 590232



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Jane's Seasonal Recipe

This is a Mary Berry recipe. Quick and easy to make, they are delicious nibbles!

Cashew cheesy bites

8oz soft margarine

7oz sr flour

4oz semolina

1 teaspoon mustard powder

ground black pepper

8oz mature Cheddar

40 cashew halves

Cream all ingredients, except the nuts, until well blended and smooth. Roll into balls, and place on baking sheets, spaced well apart. Press a nut into the centre of each. Bake 180c for 20 mins until golden brown. Leave on tray for 5 mins, then transfer to a wire rack to cool. Store in airtight tin.

MAKES APPROX 40

Answers to the Quiz

1. Whisk.
2. Steamer
3. Ladle.
4. Rolling Pin.
5. Frying pan
6. Bowls.
7. Bin bag
8. Funnel.
9. Strainer.
10. Grater.
11. Poacher.
12. Bread maker

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PARISH SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2022

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
7 th August Trinity 8		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Castle)
14 th August Assumption BVM	10.30am Patronal Benefice Eucharist		4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Castle)
21 st August Trinity 10		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Castle)
28 th August Trinity 11		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Castle)

PARISH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
4 th September Trinity 12		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Castle)
11 th September Trinity 13	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Castle)
18 th September Trinity 14		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Castle)
25 th September Trinity 15		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong with visiting Choir (Grimsthorpe Castle)
30 th September	6pm Harvest Thanksgiving followed by supper in the Village Hall		

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

Licensed Reader: Mrs Heather Lee 01778 591338 - beltislobelle@btinternet.com