

The Three Towers

June 2023

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



Parish News

CONDOLENCES to family, friends and neighbours of David Ewles who passed away suddenly in April. He had worked at Mill Farm butchers for many years, and was well known to all for his cheerful disposition.

CONDOLENCES to Sue Nicholls of Bourne on the loss of her husband, Brian. Sue is the benefice's wonderful choir master.

CONDOLENCES to family and friends on the loss of Fay Bower, who passed away on 13 April. Fay was daughter of Ann, now living in Bourne, and the late Trevor Thompson.

CONGRATULATIONS to Harry and Charlotte Cooke on the birth of Felix on 23 April. The first grandchild for Wendy and Adam Cooke.

THANKS to Dave Haydon for his work clearing the boules pitch in Witham, ready to play at the Coronation picnic, and to Valentino Calabrese for his sterling work painting the benches. Thanks too, to the 4 ladies who did a litter pick around Toft laybys, along the road to Manthorpe and towards Thurlby, as their contribution to "The Big Help Out". Thank you all, for your community service – King Charles III would be very pleased!

WITHAM'S CORONATION PICNIC was a very jolly event, with about 40 people turning up to enjoy the sunshine, share their picnics, and play Boules and Jenga. Many people out walking stopped for a chat. Thank you to Frances Plummer for the delicious Coronation chocolate cake! The afternoon finished with the ringing of Church bells by 7 ringers – Kings and Queens were rung; and it was followed by a service of Thanksgiving Evensong, led by Father Edward Martin. Thanks to Witham Hall School for offering the use of their sports hall for the picnic, in the event of inclement weather. Despite forecast of a wet day all week, we were blessed with a glorious warm sunny afternoon. Certainly, a weekend to remember!

Cover photos: Top right and bottom the Jubilee Playing Field in Manthorpe
Top left the street party in Swinstead

TOFT CUM LOUND AND MANTHORPE'S "STREET PARTY" was another great community get-together! A very BIG THANK YOU to the working party who put on such a fantastic day for everyone to enjoy. There are too many people to mention but you know who you are. The day kicked off in style with Anne's Quartet who opened the day with a fanfare and the National Anthem before going on to play two great sessions. The sun shone and the cakes in the competition tent came close to melting! Throughout the day, children and adults alike enjoyed face-painting, mural painting, hobby-horse racing, mini-tractor rides, patriotic space-hopper racing, splat the rat, the obligatory egg throwing competition and more. Once again, we were lucky to have enticed Smuggler Jack back to entertain us for a couple of hours - dancing and air guitar playing were compulsory!



SWINSTEAD CELEBRATIONS - Swinstead enjoyed the Coronation celebrations with a traditional Street Party and Celebratory Toast to our new King & Queen. The sun shone down all afternoon making for a fun day with some great outfits celebrating all things British. We even got a visit from Charles himself!

After 36 years and 24 years respectively, Mr Clive Lunn and Mr Bryan Lynch are stepping away from the Swinstead Parish Council. A huge heartfelt thank you from everyone in the village for their contribution and time given over the years. As well, a huge Congratulations to Mr Bryan Lynch, Corby Glen Fire Brigade Watch Manager, who also received a British Empire Medal from Toby Dennis, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire. A lovely afternoon was celebrated in the village hall with guests, family and friends.



Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 7 & 21 June, 10.30am-noon, Coffee Mornings, Swinstead Village Hall. Everyone is welcome. Meet some new friends and old and enjoy some banter accompanied with coffee, tea, freshly baked cakes and a raffle.

Saturday 17 June 7.30pm, Vanbrugh Hall, Grimsthorpe Castle - St Peter's Singers in concert. Faire is the Heaven - a concert for peace. Tickets £15 (includes interval fizz and canapés) from Clare Carter caheath45@gmail.com or online at <http://www.stpeterssingors.org.uk/>

Saturday 1 July 8.30am – 10.00am BIG BREKKIE St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. All welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.

Saturday 15 July, Table Top Sale, Swinstead Village Hall. Swinstead is hosting a Table Top Sale selling clothes, shoes, bric-a-brac, toys, jewellery, arts and crafts etc. Space will be limited, so reserve your £5 table asap at villagehallswinstead@gmail.com. If you just fancy a shop and browse along with a cake and brew, the Village Hall café will be open. Lots of great bargains and a huge array of goodies will be on sale, so please bring lots of cash. Selling starts from 10am – 1pm. Ample parking available.

Saturday 15 July 3-5pm, Edenham Church Garden Fete. The fete will be held in the lovely Edenham Vicarage gardens with traditional garden games, stalls and homemade teas to enjoy. Hope you will save the date!

Saturday 22 July 3-5pm, Afternoon Tea in Edenham Vicarage garden in aid of St Barnabas Hospice, Grantham. Come and browse some craft stalls and enjoy some homemade cake with a cuppa and a chat and help raise some money for a very worthy charity who helped look after Mr Geg Atter. Hopefully, the weather will be kind and the garden games will still be there from the garden fete. Another one to put in your diary!

Saturday 9 September, Steam Action 47th Annual Produce Show - see details on "pull-out" pages 17 to 20.

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The Vicar Writes

It's been interesting to hear what people's reactions to the Coronation Service and especially what their favourite moments were. A good number have said that the crowning itself was the centrepiece, whereas others enjoyed the Gospel Choir. For me, the epicentre of the Coronation was the anointing. The tradition of anointing Kings pre-dates any thoughts of crowns, tiaras or any other such regalia. It takes us right back to the Old Testament to King Saul who, following God's instructions, was anointed as monarch by the Prophet Samuel to rule over God's people Israel. After Saul fell out of favour with God, the Prophet Samuel was again dispatched to anoint his successor, David, still very young at the time and just-in from watching over his father Jesse's flocks! Then, finally, we get to King Solomon, who at the behest of his father David, was anointed and enthroned, King David said, "Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint Solomon

king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' You shall then come up after him and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah." (1 Kings 1.35-37)

So, that's how traditionally, someone is made a king. First, they were anointed and, later, enthroned. No mention of crowns yet but we do begin to see common elements that also featured in the Coronation. When it came to the anointing of King Charles, you may have glimpsed the oldest instrument or apparatus of the Coronation ceremony still in use today. Any guesses? It was the anointing spoon! Most of the original Royal Regalia was, sadly, destroyed during the time of the Commonwealth of England (1649 to 1660, when England was a republic) but the one piece that survived was the spoon into which the Holy Oil (the perfumed Oil of Chrism) is poured so that the Archbishop can then dip his thumb in the oil and anoint the King on the head, hands,

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arms, breast and shoulder blades (which is why the whole thing happened behind the fabulous screen as a great deal of the monarch has to be exposed in order for it to happen).

Just as when a Priest is ordained and his hands are anointed, so the hands of the King became holy through this anointing. Right through to the beginning of the 18th century those royal holy hands were made available for the purposes of healing and restoration, after the example of Christ himself. There was a tradition on Maundy Thursday for the monarch to pray and lay hands on those who were suffering from scrofula (a disease of the lymph glands also known as The King's Evil). It took place in a service known as 'Touching for the King's Evil' which can still be found in some Prayer Books of the time. It was done away with by William of Orange and then brought back by Queen Anne before, eventually, being discontinued in favour of giving out money (the Royal Maundy) on Maudy Thursday.

The anointing of the monarch brings with it a real sense of the King as

being divinely ordained (which is where the 'Divine Right of Kings' came from and which got Charles I into so much trouble). Most historians think that, if we'd *continued* along those lines, we'd have ended up with either an absolute monarchy or, like the French, with no monarchy at all.

So, what changed? How did we, eventually, avoid all that? Well, what balanced it out was the introduction of what we might call 'Coronation conditions'. On the one hand we have the anointing that signifies that the monarch is King or Queen by the 'grace of God' (as stated on our coins) and, on the other, this is balanced out by the swearing of oaths where the King is only accepted as King after having sworn several oaths. The oaths began in the form of three questions, dating back to 973AD:

- i) Will you keep peace between the Church and the people?
- ii) Will you repress rapacity and iniquity?
- iii) Will you do justice in mercy and peace / equity?



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In 1308, a further addition was made for Edward II (who many suspected would be a problematic king), so they added “You will promise to rule according to the laws which shall be chosen by the community of your realm.” In other words, you rule according to the laws which your people choose. Here we see the origins of the Royal Assent; essentially the Commons, Lords (noble and spiritual) and King all working together which is what gives power and authority to our laws – people and King working as one. Sadly, it didn’t work out for Edward II (he didn’t keep his promise and was dethroned).

What all of this reminds us of is that King Charles III, our chosen and anointed monarch, needs us to play our part in order that he might carry out his divinely ordained duties and keep his oaths. He needs us to play our part in shaping our laws, in guiding society to make the very best use of the ‘instrument of monarchy’ given to us by God. That is why, as part of the Coronation service there was a moment where “All who so

desire, in the Abbey and elsewhere, were invited to say together: **I swear that I will pay true allegiance to Your Majesty and to your heirs and successors according to law. So help me God.**”

That was our moment to show our commitment in upholding the balance of power so that, exercising his divine mandate, we may be Godly and quietly governed. But if you missed it, don’t worry! Every time we play our part in shaping our local and national life, upholding our laws, taking part in elections etc. we make it possible for king and country to work together for the good and benefit of all. May his reign be long and happy and may we rise to the challenge of making it so, and may God save the King! Fr Edward

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(maximum 5litres per vehicle)

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Mixed glass bottles and jars

Mixed textiles and clothes

Mobile phones

Paint tins, Paper, Plastics, Printer cartridges

Scrap metal

Small appliances

TVs and monitors

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Excess general household waste



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The Essendine Earthworks

Anyone motoring through Essendine in Rutland cannot fail to have noticed the small and delightful church of St. Mary's on the corner when leaving the village on the A6121 going towards Bourne. A mixture of Saxon, early Norman and mid-Victorian, the church occupies a substantial plot with a graveyard on the right, a field with many sheep to the front, and an extensive area of earthworks behind.

The earthworks, surprisingly, are nearly a thousand years old, starting life as a ringwork and bailey raised in the last half of the 11th century by the Norman invaders. A ringwork was a basic structure consisting of a raised earth rampart surmounted by a palisade fence protected by a surrounding ditch. The bailey was a separate enclosure also with rampart and ditch, either encircling or separated from the ringwork.



Soon after the conquest, the Normans were faced with rebellions all over England. In response they built castles to suppress the native Saxon population. In the early years of the occupation, such castles were not massive stone towers but simple defensive earthworks and Essendine could have been one of these.

A hundred years later the entire site was redeveloped into a defended manorial estate either by William de Bussey, Lord of Essendine from 1159, or his successor Robert de Vipont. The completed estate consisted of a central square platform upon which was built a manor house, surrounded by a moat. To the south was a bailey which is still partly occupied by St Mary's Church, taken over as the estate's chapel. A further enclosure to the north served as a fishpond, an important source of food in the medieval household, and there were additional ponds to the south of the church, although these were filled in during the 19th century. The estate occupied a low-lying site with the moats and ponds fed from the River West Glen that runs north to south on the east of the site. An earth bank separated the estate and the river.

The estate passed through the hands of numerous families during the medieval period. In 1296 it was owned by Robert de Clifford, in 1318 it was held by John de Cromwell and from 1336 by the Despenser family. In 1447 it passed to Cecily Duchess of Warwick and thereafter it remained in the hands of the Earls of Warwick until taken into Crown ownership by King Henry VII in 1499. Queen Elizabeth I later granted the estate to Sir William Cecil, the Lord Treasurer. It fell into disrepair sometime during the seventeenth century, eventually being dismantled. No remains of any buildings are visible today.

The whole site is over 5 acres in extent. In 1951 the site was designated a scheduled ancient monument by Historic England. St. Mary's Church is of late Saxon or Norman origin, itself listed grade II* in 1961, and the structure is excluded from the scheduling of the manorial estate, although the ground beneath the church is included. The modern burial area alongside the church

is totally excluded.

Access to the earthworks themselves is not possible as the entire area is fenced off and occupies private land used for grazing sheep. At least the landowner, or his flock, do a good job of keeping the earthworks reasonably clear of dense undergrowth allowing their full grandeur to be seen. The only views of the earthworks are obtained from the graveyard at the east end of the church and from the small area alongside the west end. Views of the remains of the fishponds to the north or any views across the river from the east are completely blocked off by a thick line of trees immediately west of the river going north from the parapet of the bridge carrying the A6121.

Parking is available on the grassy area alongside the track to the church and is used by members of the congregation attending services. The entrance to the track is from the main A6121 road through the village going towards Bourne, immediately after the bungalows on the left. The entrance is rather abrupt, so care must be taken. But a visit to the church and a close sight of the ancient earthworks is most rewarding and makes taking this very minor risk well worthwhile.

Dick Mundy.



Tommy Plummer

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Steam Action 47th Annual Produce Show

Saturday 9th Sept 2023 at Edenham Village Hall

Open to residents of Edenham, Swinstead, Manthorpe, Lound, Toft and Witham, relatives of those who live in Edenham parish, eligible members of Steam Action, pupils of Edenham School, Edenham Pre-School and Pillarwood Farm Pre-School.



(Pull out and keep the schedule handy)

SECTION A – FLOWERS (Grown by the exhibitor for at least 2 months)

- 1 One rose (any variety)
- 2 Vase of six roses (any variety)
- 3 Vase of mixed flowers cut from open border (any variety)
- 4 Tallest Sunflower (judged on premises)
- 5 Flowering pot plant
- 6 Vase of five dahlias
- 7 Vase of five chrysanthemums
- 8 Foliage pot plant
- 9 Hanging basket (judged on premises)
- 10 Cactus or Succulent

SECTION B – DECORATIVE (Completed in the last 12 months)

- 11 Arrangement of flowers (not to exceed 24" overall)
- 12 Button hole used for a wedding (man or woman)
- 13 Decorative acrostic poem titled "Steam Action" (size A5)
- 14 A flower or foliage arrangement in an unusual container
- 15 Arrangement of flowers, fruit or vegetable not to exceed 12" overall
- 16 Arrangement of garden materials (no purchased blooms)
- 17 One vegetable and one bloom (open to any interpretation)
- 18 Greenery arrangement not to exceed 18" overall

SECTION C –FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (Grown by the exhibitor for at least two months)

- 19 Box of mixed vegetables (maximum box size 18" x 12")
- 20 Cucumber
- 21 Three potatoes any colour
- 22 Three quality carrots with 3" tops
- 23 Pepper (any variety)
- 24 Three onion sets (cut and tied)
- 25 One large onion (cut and tied)
- 26 Three greenhouse tomatoes
- 27 Three pods of runner beans
- 28 Unusual shaped, or sized, fruit or veg
- 29 Pair of marrows, courgettes, squash or pumpkins
- 30 Five shallots
- 31 Three beetroot with 3" tops
- 32 Tied bunch of three herbs
- 33 Three dessert apples
- 34 Three cooking apples
- 35 Bowl of dessert fruit

SECTION D – HOMEMADE (Completed in the last 12 months, wrapped in Clingfilm)

- 36 Homemade beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic)
- 37 Jar of curd any flavour (must have cellophane top)
- 38 Jar of jam any flavour (must have cellophane top)
- 39 Jar of marmalade any variety (must have cellophane top)
- 40 Jar of chutney any variety (must have cellophane top)
- 41 Three scotch eggs
- 42 Victoria sponge (jam filled, sprinkled with castor sugar)
- 43 Victoria sponge baked by a man (jam filled, sprinkled with castor sugar)
- 44 Six squares of flapjack
- 45 Showstopper (baked item with WOW factor)
- 46 Four fruit scones
- 47 One rich fruit cake
- 48 Savoury quiche in foil container
- 49 Apple pie in foil container
- 50 Loaf of bread
- 51 Decorated chocolate cake
- 52 Millionaire's Shortbread "Bake off cake" (see recipe on next page)

“Bake off cake” recipe:

Shortbread

250g plain flour

75g castor sugar

175g butter, softened

40g cocoa powder

Caramel

100g butter or margarine

100g light muscovado sugar

397g condensed milk

Topping

200g plain or milk chocolate

- 53 Five pieces of shortbread
- 54 Five decorated cupcakes
- 55 Five pieces of lemon tray bake
- 56 Six sausage rolls

SECTION E – HANDICRAFTS (Completed in the last 12 months)

- 57 Drawing or Painting (oil or watercolour)
- 58 Sewing machine item
- 59 Wood crafted item
- 60 Hand knitted or crocheted item
- 61 Item of patchwork
- 62 Wind chime
- 63 Article of embroidery or cross stitch
- 64 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)
- 65 Upcycled/recycled item (include the item origin and what it is now)
- 66 Item of paper craft

SECTION F – CHILDREN UNDER 7 YEARS (Key Stage 1)

- 67 Item of cookery
- 68 Vegetable model
- 69 Drawing or painting “Coronation of King Charles III” (A4 max)
- 70 Miniature Garden (maximum size 12” x 18”. Traditional or modern.)
- 71 Home grown fruit, flower or vegetable
- 72 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)

SECTION F - CHILDREN 7–15 YEARS (Key Stage 2 and 3)

- 73 Item of cookery
- 74 Vegetable model
- 75 Drawing or painting “Coronation of King Charles III” (A4 max)
- 76 Miniature Garden (maximum size 12” x 18”. Traditional or modern.)
- 77 Home grown fruit, flower or vegetable
- 78 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)

SECTION G – PHOTOGRAPHY (Taken after March 2020 with the exception of class 82) (Maximum size of photo 7" x 5")

- 79 Recreated photo (include old and new photo – see rules for example)
- 80 Bridges
- 81 Sunrise or sunset
- 82 Farming
- 83 Hexagons
- 84 King Charles III Coronation Celebration

SECTION H – DISASTER

- 85 Planned entry that ended in disaster

Show Rules

1. Children may enter any class but this must be clearly stated at the time of entry.
2. The organisers reserve the right to alter or omit any class.
3. Care will be taken to safeguard exhibits, but the organisers cannot be responsible for loss or damage, or for exhibits left after 3.30pm on the day of the show.
4. “Not for sale” cards are available on request and should be placed with any item entered but not for the auction.
5. The judge’s decision is final.
6. Recreated photo example; photo of a couple standing in church on their wedding day in 1962, and a second photo of the same couple standing in the same church in 2023. Please enter both photos and try to recreate the old photo as best you can.
7. Bunting in E64, F72 and F78 is to be kept and hung at future shows.

Stamford Stitchers

Exhibition



at Rutland County Museum
20th May - 14th June 2023

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**Parish Council of Edenham, Grimsthorpe, Elsthorpe &
Scottlethorpe**
Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
16 May 2023 - Clerk's Notes

Annual Parish Meeting

There were no members of the public present.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Attendees: Parish Councillors Mr T Clarke, Mr A Wilson, Mrs M Marshall, Mrs A Treacy, Mr D Hawes, Mrs M Avis, Mrs P Cranfield & Mrs C Sands (Parish Clerk).

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest forms: Following the recent uncontested election, Councillors completed and signed the forms.

Election of Officers: Councillor Mr T Clarke and Mrs P Cranfield were elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

Request for dispensation and Declaration of interest: None requested.

Parish Clerk and Councillors update from previous meeting:

Community Street Cleaning Grant: SKDC has confirmed payment for April 2023 to September 2023.

TRS Building Grimsthorpe: Parish Clerk has continued to try to make contact via telephone and email; however, there has been no response with regard to the works to shape the conifer trees.

Christmas Tree & Carol Singing: Following much discussion with regard to the future of the event which has seen a decline in numbers of attendees in recent years, the Parish Council agreed to continue with this for December 2023. The exact date be agreed at the next meeting in July.

Passive 30 Miles Signs: The Parish Clerk has received six signs from Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, the signs will be fixed in place in Edenham.

New meeting Matters:

Parish Clerk Position: Currently there have been no applications for the position of Parish Clerk; this will now be advertised via LALC website.

Play Area Information: Councillor Treacy has identified a number of posts and ground areas which are showing signs of wear. The Parish Clerk has carried out remedial repairs around some exposed matting/concrete. Parish Clerk to get quotes for required works in preparation for discussion at the July meeting.

Planning Matters: Planning Query: S22/1360 Randall's Farm: The Parish Council is still waiting a response from SKDC Planning team.

Financial Matters:

Receipts: Annual precept £2975.00 **Street Cleaning Grant** £463.32

Expenditure:

LALC Membership & Training Fee (agreed March meeting) Total Paid £194.22

Zurich Insurance Policy £345.95 (Due 1st June 23)

Street Cleaning Salaries 1st Qtr (Due End June 23)

Parish Clerk 1st Qtr (Due End June 23)

HMRC PAYE 1st Qtr (Due End June 23)

Bank Reconciliation Report (End March 2023)

Treasurers Account £1631.33 **Business Account** £3447.07

Annual Accounts/Internal Audit: The internal auditor confirmed that the accounts were all in order.

AGAR Exemption Certificate: All forms completed during the meeting. The AGAR forms are available on the Parish Council website along with the Notice of Public Rights & Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return (EXEMPT AUTHORITY).

Next Meeting Date: 11th July 2023 at 19:30hours

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Stamford Lincolnshire

Edenham & Grimsthorpe Parish Council Vacancy for Parish Clerk/RFO Edenham

Parish Council is seeking a person with an interest in the local community for the post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council. The post is part-time, working hours vary from week to week but average around 1.5 hour per week. 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 and advising Councillors regarding legal and good practice requirements.

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 & External Auditors.

The salary will be in line with National Association of Local Councils (NALC) pay scales.

For more information please contact the current Clerk. To apply for the position please send a letter with accompanying Curriculum Vitae by post or email.

Closing date for applications: Friday 7th July 2023 Parish Clerk: Mrs Carole Sands, 14 Scottlethorpe Road, Edenham, Lincs. PE10 0LN - email:

Edenham.pc@gmail.com



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Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council AGM

Held in St Andrew's Parish Hall on 18 May 2023

[Editor's Note]

The new Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Councillors held their AGM and presented themselves to the public for the first time at 7pm on 18 May in the St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. The new Council members are: Mr Richard Stephenson (appointed as Chair), Mr James Brown (appointed as Deputy Chair), Mrs Sue Renner and Mr Richard Hartley. The Parish Councillors continue to be guided and supported by our Clerk, Mrs Rosemary Trollope-Bellew.

The Parish Council is still looking to co-opt a 5th member. Currently, there is one applicant; however, he is yet to meet the eligibility criteria to stand as a councillor. It is expected that this will be resolved on 1 July. In the meantime, the position remains vacant should any other member of the parish wish to put their name forward.

In addition to our newly re-elected District Councillor, Mrs Penny Robins, it was good to see a larger than normal number of parishioners at the meeting, many of whom were keen to join in on the debate.

Mrs Penny Robins specifically asked that we all make a point of reporting any fly-tipping or other litter that we see in the laybys and on the roadside. This can best be done online through the fly-tipping page of the SKDC website:

<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11225>

Or search for ***Fly-tipping SKDC*** in your favourite browser.

The Clerk's full notes will be published in the next edition of The Three Towers. It is sufficient to note for the moment that the Chairman thanked the 2 outgoing councillors, Mr Simon Lawton and Mr Jeremy Dawson, for their work and support over the past 4 years and that the Parish Council finances remain sound.

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A record year for scholarships at Witham Hall

Witham Hall is proud to celebrate the 2023 Leavers who have secured a record 19 scholarships and awards to senior schools out of a cohort of 38 leavers. Year 8 pupils have earned the following awards:

- Gresham's School - two Sports Awards
- Oakham School - one Academic Scholarship and one Sports Scholarship
- Oundle School - one Academic Scholarship, one Oundle Scholarship and one Sports Exhibition
- Rugby School - one Academic Scholarship, one Art Scholarship, one Music Scholarship and one Sport Scholarship
- Stamford School - one Art Scholarship and one Sport Scholarship
- Uppingham School - one Academic Scholarship, one Art Scholarship and four Sport Scholarships

Well done Withamians!



WITHAM ON THE HILL WI - MAY 2023

This year's national resolution, "Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife", was presented by Jane Clark with emphasis on getting rivers designated as bathing areas in order that water quality can be monitored. It needs co-operation between swimming groups, community groups and the local authority to ensure safe entry to water, car parking, toilets and changing rooms. Water authorities would have to increase prices to cover cost. Vote: majority in favour. Plans were finalised for "The Big Help Out", a litter pick in the local area, on Monday 8 May at 1pm with a reward of tea and cake afterwards!

Deirdre Dunne, our very own member, spoke on "The Coming Age of Food Insecurity". The food systems are fragile and dysfunctional. The Ukraine war has resulted in major food distribution difficulties and shortages. Food prices have increased because of increased energy costs. Covid has also been a factor in food poverty globally. Poor diet has caused 20% of deaths worldwide. 3 billion people cannot afford healthy food – cheap food is high in fat, sugar and salt, the cause of much illness. What can we do? Reduce waste, shop locally, eat less meat, improve refrigeration, make jams and chutneys with surplus produce, grow fruit and veg in allotments and window boxes, better Home Economics education in schools. Bees are important for pollination, leave a patch of nettles in your garden for the butterflies. Britain has the highest quality food production standards in the world. Farmers are doing their best to conserve the environment with government incentives to preserve hedgerows and verges but are paid primarily to produce food. We must embrace change for long term gain in the future; so consumers need to do their own research to decide what is best. Members made comments and asked questions afterwards. Jane Clark thanked Deirdre for her talk, full of food for thought! Instead of the usual competition members donated 24 items of tinned food for the Foodbank.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6 June at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, when Jennifer Ishikawa will tell us the History of the Kimono. New members and visitors are always most welcome. For further information, contact Jane Clark tel 01778 590232.

Willoughby Memorial Trust Gallery

Moreley's Lane, Corby Glen, NG33 4NL
12 – 5 pm. Tuesday – Sunday
ADMISSION FREE

Two exhibitions running from Wed. 14 June until Wed. 5 July.

Hough on the Hill Woodcarving Group



Hough Wood Carving Group consists of 11 people from various backgrounds who all have a love of wood and its qualities. They meet every Saturday in Winter and once a month during Summer, most are self-taught, but help one another should problems arise!

Saturated

Paintings by Ellie Benton



Ellie's paintings are joyful and celebratory explosions of colour depicting wildlife and people. She has exhibited her work in galleries all across the UK and Australia, with many paintings now decorating the homes of people internationally.

www.willoughbygallery.com

Witham on the Hill

Parish Meeting Chairman's Annual Report – 15th May 2023

Firstly, my thanks to all Councillors for their support during the last twelve months and welcome to Duncan Brock who was co-opted last November onto the Parish Council. I would also like to thank Councillors Charlotte Vernon and Penny Robins for their support for our community at County and District levels respectively.

Planning applications that we have been asked to comment on over the last twelve months have as usual mostly related to arboreal work. The only application of significance has been for the construction of a new dwelling and stables between Cleeve Acre and Witham Grange. I am grateful to the applicant, Simon Thompson, for taking the time to attend meetings on two occasions to explain his proposals which were considered in detail by the Council in March. However, the Council resolved to object to the proposal on a number of grounds which were registered with SKDC and their decision is still awaited.

The reactive speed sign continues to provide a helpful reminder to motorists to check their speed through the village. It has also demonstrated that there are relatively few instances of speeding and ,when these do occur, it is often late in the evening or very early morning. This is based on data from its position by East Green; the data from the Witham Hall location has not been downloaded yet.

The Parish Council contributed £650 towards the planting of a tree on the Green and a new bench outside the Parish Hall to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which was celebrated last June, only to be followed by the sad news of her passing in September. We will remember with enormous gratitude her seventy year reign and now look forward to a new era under our new Monarch Charles III.

I represented the Parish Council and laid the wreath at the Remembrance Sunday service in St Andrew's Church last November. My thanks once again to Jo Baines for her help in organising this and putting up the poppies around the village.

The village came third in last year's Best Kept Village competition which is a

testament to residents' efforts to keep things looking nice. My thanks in particular to Valentino Calabrese for painting the benches along the road up the hill. We now have a prize of £200 to go towards something as yet to be decided.

The Parish Council was asked by SKDC if we would consider taking on responsibility for maintaining the Green and the play equipment. This proposal was rejected for a number of reasons, not least being that given the majority of people enjoying these facilities are visitors to the village. It was felt unreasonable that the cost of maintaining this area should become the sole responsibility of the residents.

In January I attended a seminar organised by SKDC on the Local Government Association's model Councillors Code of Conduct which it was subsequently agreed should be adopted by the Parish Council.

I conclude by wishing everyone well and my thanks to Bernard for his help and advice over the last twelve months.

Charles Henriques, Chair; Witham on the Hill Parish Council 15/05/23



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Jane's Seasonal Recipe

This is a delicious cake! Set honey can be used, but for the drizzle melt it in the microwave for 10 seconds or so. Make sure you support local bee keepers!

Honey, spice and orange cake

115g butter

115g runny honey + extra to drizzle

80g golden caster sugar

Grated zest and juice of 1 orange

2 eggs

225g sr flour

1 teaspoon bicarb

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon mixed spice

½ teaspoon ground ginger

50g chopped mixed peel

Cream butter, honey, sugar and orange zest until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in eggs. Mix flour, bicarb and spices. Fold into mixture with peel and orange juice. Spoon into greased and lined 20cm deep round cake tin. Bake for 50 mins until risen and golden; and an inserted skewer comes out clean. While the cake is still warm, prick holes all over the top and drizzle honey evenly over the surface. Leave in tin for 20 mins then transfer to a wire rack to cool.

PARISH SERVICES FOR JUNE 2023

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
4 th June <i>Trinity Sunday</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
11 th June <i>Trinity 1</i>	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
18 th June <i>Trinity 2</i>		10.30am Benefice Confirmation Eucharist	4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
25 th June <i>Trinity 3</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe 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