



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

It was Harold Wilson who said that a week is a long time in politics - one can only wonder then what he would have made of the past year...

In these unprecedented times it's scary to think that the NHS, the first and last line of our defence today in our fight against the covid threat, has itself been threatened both politically and financially since its earliest days.

The 1946 National Health Service Act laid down that: "The services so provided shall be free of charge, except where... this Act expressly provides for the making and recovery of charges." The 1951 Labour government forced through a proposal that brought in prescription charges and fees for dental and optical care, ostensibly to help pay for the recent war in Korea. On principle, Aneurin Bevan, the 'father' of the NHS, John Freeman and Harold Wilson, the future prime minister, resigned from Attlee's cabinet in protest.

Surely, after we emerge from this 'unconditional war' against the smallest of enemies, future government will see that our enemies are changing and it is perhaps the NHS, rather than our military services, that should be recognised as our first line of national defence.

Looking back at the headlining of the February 2020 issue of the Bugle it's hard, in the light of what transpired, to imagine the enthusiasm that was evident in our plans for the forthcoming year...

After such a monumental set-back to our plans for last year, it is difficult to muster any sort of enthusiasm in print for planning events in the coming year, even with the prospect maybe of a saviour vaccine. Certainly, in the climate of uncertainty that prevails at present, it would take a Very Wise Man to predict if the likes of the Bosworth Festival, Welford Canal Festival, or even the Horticultural Show and Conkers in the autumn, will be able to go ahead. A whole raft of similar community cohesive events went by the board in 2020.

Thankfully though, by necessity the community has found new and innovative ways to fill some of the social gaps... Hopefully we will look back on 2021 as a good year, and quietly consign 2020 to a dark corner!

HOTHORPE HALL

The economic strife brought on us by the pandemic strikes close to home with the fall of Hothorpe Hall.

The Methodist Guild Hotels group, which runs the local wedding, Christian conference centre and corporate hospitality venue near Theddingworth, recently called in administrators after struggling during the year with cash-flow problems caused by the enforced lockdowns and subsequent loss of revenue.

The 55 bed hotel employs 30 members of staff, most of whom are currently furloughed under the government's jobs retention scheme. The venue offered open-air woodland weddings and luxurious log cabin and tree house accommodation and administrators are hoping that a number of the existing bookings can be honoured by the company, subject to lockdown restrictions, whilst the future of the venue is being reassessed.

Hothorpe House was built in 1801 on the site of an earlier Tudor manor. The medieval village of Hothorpe was depopulated and the inhabitants rehoused in Theddingworth and ornamental parkland was laid out to surround the house. The house was requisitioned to house evacuee children from the east end of London during World War II. After the war the estate was broken up and the house was scheduled for demolition but was saved by The Lutheran Council of Great Britain for use as a conference centre.



WALKS ABOUT BOSWORTH

One activity in which we are allowed to participate is exercise, although in limited forms. At present, we are expected to stay 'local', or risk high dudgeon if we happen to stray...

So, this might be as good a time as any to flag up a series of local self-guided walks that we have posted up on the village website.

The walks are local, start and end within the parish and lead walkers on public rights of way and permissive paths. Along the way they point out, in a lightly written format, a veritable fund of social, heritage and historical information about the various features that are encountered.

Each of the walks has an outline map to guide you and general details about the length and duration of the walk, the terrain and advice on the likely walking conditions. The walks are produced in an Adobe .pdf format, which can be downloaded to carry with you as a guide to the various features mentioned.

Go to: www.husbandsbosworth.info/local-information/walks-about-bosworth

BUGLE POSTBAG

From Robert Constable-Maxwell, Bosworth Hall

Despite severe restrictions on gatherings, Remembrance Services were held in some form at all the churches within our branch area. The format of these Remembrance Services necessarily required us to conform to national advice which, among other issues, allowed no outside buglers and strict limitations on the numbers of people attending.

Notwithstanding these constraints, excellent displays were arranged at the war memorials particularly at North Kilworth and Husbands Bosworth, and memorial wreaths laid.

Despite massively slimmed down activities, including no house-to-house collections, this year's Poppy Day raised £1,700.44, almost half of the £3,664.55 we raised in 2019. Collections, by collection box, were allowed only in static commercial premises, so in Theddingworth for example where our only 'outlet', Hothorpe Hall, was closed at Remembrance time, we didn't raise anything, whereas we collected £220 in 2019.

So, I hope that *Bugle* readers will view our final total as a positive result - given the circumstances! Their support is greatly appreciated. All our regular Poppy Day collectors received a personal letter assuring them they remained 'loved & wanted', and will be needed again next year!

From a grateful Causeway Charity recipient

On behalf of all the happy recipients, I would like to thank the Causeway group organisers for the lovely Mini-Hamper that we received for Christmas. The contents were so thoughtful and the non-consumable items will no doubt be most useful in the coming year! Grateful thanks to Jackie, Heather, Frances and all the team for their sterling work throughout the year - it is much appreciated.

From Janice Staples, Honeygot Lane

Just before Christmas I tumbled off my bike in Welford and was helped by fisherman Carl from Corby. I've not been able to trace him to thank him for his much needed assistance. I was subsequently taken to the trauma ward at The Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham, suffering from broken ribs and massive bruising.

I'm pleased to say that after a few days in hospital I'm slowly recovering at home. I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all who have enquired after me and the many friends and neighbours who have sent cards, made phone calls, offered help and shown many acts of kindness. To think I was cycling for my health!!

From Jill Ribton, Hunters Close

Many thanks to all friends for their efforts knitting Angels and Snowmen to help in fund raising for All Saints Church and thanks to all who bought them and helped to raise £100 towards church funds and £115 to the Lutterworth food bank.

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COPY DEADLINE

15th OF THE MONTH

PRECEDING PUBLICATION

POLICE FILE

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ON ANY CRIMINAL ACTIVITY CALL MARKET HARBOROUGH POLICE on 101

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Stephen Bilbie

stephenbilbie@btinternet.com

NW Community Scheme No. 2123

Eastern Counties Policing Team

PC 1261 Andy Cooper

PCSO 6569 Peter Willson

PCSO 6573 Steve Adams

PCSO 6008 Laura Bolton

Voicemail Service 0116 2485675

CRIMESTOPPERS

FREEPHONE 0800 555111

ACTION FRAUD

www.actionfraud.police.uk

0300 123 2040

POLICE FILE



Action Fraud are reporting a number of reports of text messages claiming to be from the NHS, offering an opportunity to pay a fee for priority coronavirus vaccinations. The texts ask the recipient to click on a link, which takes them to an online form, which looks very convincing, where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. Action Fraud reminds us that the vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. **REMEMBER** you will only be contacted directly by the NHS, your employer, a local GP surgery or pharmacy, to receive your vaccination.

Springfields



Spotted a **suspicious** text message?

Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to 7726. This enables you to investigate the origin of the text and take action, if found to be malicious.

7726

BOSWORTH IN FOCUS

WILD ABOUT BOSWORTH

House and Tree Sparrows *Passer Domesticus & Passer Montanus*

Two species of sparrow live in the Bosworth area: house and tree sparrows. House sparrows are the ones that come into our gardens. Tree sparrows are rarer, rural, and more secretive. Both belong to the family known as 'old world sparrows'. They are similar in appearance, but there are distinguishing features that aid identification. The house sparrow is larger, and the males sport a noticeable grey 'beret' which, as an aide-mémoire, I liken it to a grey slate roof. Females and juveniles are the typical little brown birds.

On the other hand, tree sparrows can be recognized by their white cheeks which have a central black splotch.

Though we commonly see them taking seeds from our bird feeders, their numbers have suffered a dramatic decline over the last half a century - over seventy percent since 1977. However, there's a suggestion their numbers are increasing, albeit very slowly.

Their conical bills are designed for seed-eating, but they are not averse to juicy insects. A point dramatically demonstrated during the 'Four Pests Campaign' in China in the 1950s. The populous was instructed to exterminate sparrows because they depleted the grain harvest, and tens of millions of birds were killed. In the following years plagues of insects devastated the crops and millions of people starved.

Besides hanging out feeders, you can help these little creatures by providing birdbaths. Any shallow container will suffice but regular disinfecting is important to prevent the spread of avian diseases. Bathing is crucial to keeping a sparrow's plumage healthy. Their care regime, including preening, when they straighten and oil their feathers, waterproofs and inhibits bacterial and fungal infections. At times, if there's a suitable shallow pool, a group of birds will bathe together and enjoy a communal singsong afterwards!



Mike Chanter

FLY TIPPED

Despite the confines of the various lockdowns fly-tipping incidents are still occurring and a number of reports have been followed up by Harborough District Council's dedicated environmental team. Much of the tipped rubbish turns out to be domestic waste - mainly demolition, renovation or household material. Recently the environment team have been installing CCTV cameras at local hotspots and have had some success in tracing and prosecuting offenders. Householders are reminded that waste disposed of illegally, which can be traced back to a specific site remains their responsibility and waste tracked back to them will result in a prosecution. The team's CCTV coverage has been successful in recording vehicle registration numbers and a number of vehicle keepers have been prosecuted, even if they have not themselves tipped the waste. If you come across any fly-tipping incidents you can report them easily on HDC's dedicated hot-line at: www.harborough.gov.uk/tip-off

SCOUTING IN BOSWORTH

With the start of the new term, 1st Kilworth Scout Group is continuing to meet online in order to keep both the children and our leaders safe. All being well, we are hoping to start meeting again in person in the summer term. During the autumn term, all three sections - Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts - met regularly with quizzes, games, activities like cooking and virtual hikes, special guests and seasonal parties. As always, we thank parents and carers for their support and for encouraging the children to continue being a part of Scouting and 1st Kilworth.

The end of 2020 marked the end of an era for 1st Kilworth Scout Group as our Beavers Leader, Beth Rogers, stepped down after running the section for over 30 years. Beavers sections started forming in UK Scout groups in 1986, and Beth said that when she started 1st Kilworth's in the autumn of 1989, there were only two Beavers; by Christmas they had 20!

Beth has had such an impact on so many children's lives in our community that often much older teenagers and young adults will greet her with 'Hi, Badger!' when she's out shopping or walking. We will miss Beth and all that she's done for our group.

But now it's time to pass the torch: we are looking for adult volunteers, hopefully from parents of current Beavers, to keep the section running. Our other Beaver leaders will also be stepping away in the coming months, so the sooner we are able to get new help the better. Otherwise, we will have to close the section, which we don't want to do. We know everyone leads busy lives - our leaders know this especially - but to volunteer a few hours a week makes a big difference in these young people's lives. The group will offer full support and training for those kindly stepping up to take on the role. If you're interested, please get in contact: kilworth@southleics-scouts.org.uk.

Charles Lauder Jr.

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BYGONE BOSWORTH

Images from the Historical Society's Archive Collection

Perhaps we should be thankful that Bosworth is generally a low crime area, so police presence in Bosworth today is usually just a flitting flash of a 'blue-light' run along High Street. At the time that this picture was taken, in the early 1950s, the police presence was much more tangible, when the village had its very own police force! P.C. George Gilbert lived in the police house, with the notice board, on Berridges Lane and his shiny Ford 'squad' car, purchased new before the war for £95, parked outside. George's was only the second motor car on Berridges Lane - the other belonged to Mrs. Mills of Bosworth House, and both cars would usually be garaged at Butlers Cottage on Mowsley Road, where the Mills' chauffeur lived. Living in the village gave the local bobby an advantage and one dark night during the blackout period early in the war P.C. Gilbert caught Arthur Johnson with a sack of wheat on his shoulder, stolen from his employer, Brigadier Mackeson, who lived at what is now Brook House.

There is a lot more of interest in this picture of tranquillity. Note the electric street light, a feature of that period. Note also the wartime 'blackout' bands on the electricity pole - essential dark night aids! (Look out for a pole in Bell Lane, which still has these bands on!).

Before electric street lighting was installed by the East Midlands Electricity Board in 1949 the village was lit by twenty paraffin lamps obtained from America by Mr. R.H.P. Hutchinson of Bosworth House. Rufus Scrimshire of High Street was responsible for their maintenance and lighting, at a salary of 2^d per lamp each night, including wicks, paraffin and maintenance. On a windy night it often took as many as two boxes of matches to light them all!

Aneurin Owen tells us that Sylvia Bale lived at the first cottage with her mother. Sylvia worked at the Post Office and drapers shop, which was run by the Peabodys. The Spellers, evacuees from London, lived in the next cottage. The last house of the terrace was occupied by George Scrimshire and his wife, who had a general store on the High Street.

The two council houses were built before the war to replace three cottages on Butt Lane that had been condemned as insanitary and demolished under Market Harborough Rural District Council's slum clearance scheme. The Sutton family occupied both houses. Mr. Sutton had a barrel organ and used to walk or hitch a lift to London where he earned his living playing his instrument outside the West End theatres.

Interestingly, a police presence was maintained in the village into fairly recent times and a new police house, now number 14, a private residence, was built in the 1950s on Bell Lane.



GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

Harborough District Council has approved an increase in the fees for collecting garden waste (green bins) to ensure the full costs are met by those receiving the service. The new subscription charge will be £55 per year per bin, which is £3.05 per collection.

The fortnightly green bin scheme can be used to dispose of loose green waste, grass cuttings, leaves, flowers, weeds, clippings, twigs and small branches (cut into small pieces!). Soil, rubble or hard waste cannot be accepted.

To sign up for the 2021 subscription service go to the council website, or contact the Council's Customer Services on 828282. Find out more about the garden waste collection service at www.harborough.gov.uk/green-bin

BOSWORTH TRAFFIC ACTION

Bosworth Traffic Action Group (BTAG) are looking into the possibility of obtaining funding for speed guns and training, which we can use to produce evidence to put before the Road Safety Team. Based on the numerous comments of speeding vehicles and the desperate need for us to make our village safer, it would be great to see how many people would like to spend a few hours a week recording speeding drivers. If you would like to support this community-led initiative please register in the poll on the Husbands Bosworth Facebook page or call/text Marc Rowley on 07976 183625.

Thanking you in advance for being involved and making a difference!

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MORE BOSWORTH IN FOCUS

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

A very big thank you to everyone who entered our Festive Quiz (especially our first time entrants). We hope that the quiz provided a little enjoyment during our enforced lockdown. We received some very well presented and inventive entries (and even entries from outside the village!).

The overall winners were the Burford and McKenzie family who scored an unbeatable 100%. They were very closely followed by Phil and Becky Swales and regular contributors, Jane and Dave Hall and Mike and Beryl Pennington following up.

Well done to everyone who entered. The answers will soon be available on our online archive at www.husbandsbosworth.info and prizes will be delivered once the lockdown eases a little.

LOCKDOWN LEARNING

Ergonomics for our Children

Most children are used to working with, or using, technology, but virtual schooling is completely new. Where possible we can help our children do this in the safest and healthiest way possible. One of the ways is by considering the set-up of their learning environment... I am passionate about looking after our bodies and I want to provide some useful 'top tips' to help you check your child's workspace and make the best of whatever you have available. The bones of growing children are not fused until puberty, so we need to make sure we encourage and support good posture, as well as ensuring they have regular breaks.

Firstly, when using computers, make sure they are not reaching for the mouse and keyboard - bring it towards them so that their elbows are on the table. You may need to bring the chair in towards the table. Younger or smaller children may need to sit on a cushion to bring their eyes level with the screen, you may find a foot-rest is helpful, and make sure your child sits square-on to the screen. Similarly, when using laptops they need to sit at a table or desk. When using a tablet, *I-pad* or smartphone use a stand or a prop of books - try not to have the device flat on the table as this will place pressure though the neck.

Eye strain - if your child is complaining of headaches, or you feel they are straining to see the screen, opticians remain open and able to help or advise you further.

Free Time - move away from technology! Put on some music - dance and exercise - enjoy being together... Be silly and make each other laugh! Remember, walking is therapy for the mind and soul, so try to go out and look for some signs of the season changing, they are there! If you have any questions, or need any further advice please get in touch with the practice:

Emily Coombes (Registered Osteopath) kibworthosteopath@outlook.com

MILLENNIUM WOOD

Outdoor volunteering work is one of the officially sanctioned activities that we can do during lockdown so why not join the Woodland group for a couple of hours working at the village's community woodland? All activities can be carried out in a suitably social-distanced and covid safe manner. The work is usually limited to light maintenance work, clearing the pathways and cutting overgrowth... nothing too taxing, but a good work-out in the fresh air nonetheless.

Woodland workparty days are usually on the third Saturday of each month and the next will be on Saturday, February 20th. Come along and you will be assured a warm welcome. All you need is suitable workwear and boundless enthusiasm for our own small part of the environment! More information about the Woodland, the flora and fauna and future Workparty dates are posted in the noticeboard.

For more information please call Jackie on 880910 or just turn up!

FOBS BAGS2SCHOOL

There's still time to donate unwanted items to FOBS collection. We accept the following 'good quality' clean and reusable items:

Men's, ladies' & children's clothing

Paired shoes

Haberdashery items

Jewellery

Leather goods

Soft toys

Linen, bedding, towels & curtains

We cannot accept:

Carpets, rugs or mats

School uniforms or workwear

Unfortunately, due to covid restrictions we are unable to collect your donations this year and ask that you deliver the bagged items to the rear of 44 High Street (off Butt Lane) by Tuesday, February 2nd.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Interest group meetings are not possible at present but thankfully we can still promote the background work of the Historical Society through our *Bugle* presence and access to our Archive for researchers.

But, without formal meetings it is a concern that the impetus of the Society, and other groups for that matter, could be lost with the enforced prolonged lay-offs. Even if the vaccine does offset some of the effects of the virus it won't by all accounts prevent transmissions. So, there will be little confidence in group gatherings, especially in confined spaces for some time to come.

The Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society and some other groups have managed to move to on-line talks and Welford & Sulby Historical Society has a Facebook page, which they use regularly to keep their group's 'ball in the air'...

A simple way to get your historical 'fix' are the myriad of podcasts and *YouTube* channels on the internet. If you are interested in narrowboats and canal life The Alternative Living Podcast *02 Life on a Narrowboat* with *YouTube's Cruising the Cut* presenter, David Johns, is a great introduction.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Report of the Parish Council Meeting held virtually on Tuesday, December 1st 2020.
In attendance, full Council and no members of the public.

Minutes

The minutes of the virtual Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, November 3rd 2020 and the Precept Meeting held on Tuesday, November 24th were approved.

Finance

- October and November bank statements were presented for noting.
- Clerk advised that at the next Parish Council meeting, reports downloaded from the DOSH Cashbook financial reporting system will be available for review.

Planning

- Clerk presented the November planning application summary. It was agreed that this was an accurate representation of the Parish Council's responses during the period.

Causeway Charity

- The impact of the pandemic on the activities of the Causeway Charity was outlined. The charity had received no donations from Bosworth Festival or the Conkers Event in 2020. As there would be no Christmas lunch this year the Causeway Committee wished to distribute mini hampers instead to recipients and requested a donation towards the cost from Council, which was agreed.

Bowbridge-Snowdon Homes

- The issue of the boundary between the cemetery and the Bowbridge development on Welford Road remains unresolved. There has been no further communication since the last site meeting at the beginning of November. After discussion it was agreed to draft a letter outlining options that would be considered. Clerk confirmed that no formal request has yet been received from Bowbridge regarding an overhanging tree.

Ditches Review and Action Plan

- Council uncertainty as to whether Bowbridge will undertake any remedial work on the boundary between their development and the Playing Field, which is their responsibility. Council agreed to arrange a site meeting in the spring to look at the layout and options available to improve the drainage of the Playing Field.

Parish Council Office

- Clerk was asked to seek confirmation of the status with the lease for the Parish Office in Mowsley Road and the planning approval, which was initially consented for a fixed period.
- Council discussed at length options for converting the garage/storeroom at the Sports Pavilion into an office and for other community uses. Council felt that there could be grants available to help to fund this project.

Bagging Operation at Quarry

- Council understands that the bagging operation at the quarry is due to end on December 31st 2020 - 12 months after extraction ended. Council agreed to request clarification with Leicestershire County Council planners.

Any Other Business

- Clerk agreed to accept an offer from LCC to disinfect the bus shelters, funded by a Covid grant.
- Clerk has been contacted by a parishioner in relation to unsightly rubbish in an area of the village. It was agreed to contact the property owner.
- Clerk was asked to bring to the attention of the site manager incidents of inconsiderate parking of Snowdon site vehicles in the cemetery lay by, limiting pedestrian passage.
- Council agreed to work for upgrading the extractor fans and work relating to health and safety at the Sports Pavilion.
- Council noted excessive fouling on the road through the village from the quarry landfill site. It was agreed to bring this to the attention of LCC planners as a breach of conditions for the site.
- Concerns were raised about the fascia and barge boarding on the front of the Sports Pavilion. It was agreed to accept an earlier quotation to enable this work to be carried out as soon as possible.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, to be held as a virtual meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd 2021 at 7.30pm. This is a public meeting - for more information about attending the meeting please contact the Clerk on 881190 or clerk@husbandsbosworthpc.org.uk

A full copy of the Minutes can be viewed or downloaded at: www.husbandsbosworthpc.org.uk or by request to the Parish Clerk.

SID REPORT

Readings from the Speed Indicator Device

High Street
 Period: 13.01.21 - 20.01.21
 Vehicle movements: 9930 Av./day: 1419
 Average speed: 25.02mph
 Highest recorded speed: 76mph

High Street
 Period: 06.01.21 - 13.01.21
 Vehicle movements: 10158 Av./day: 1451
 Average speed: 25.19mph
 Highest recorded speed: 57mph

Leicester Road
 Period: 30.12.20 - 06.01.21
 Vehicle movements: 3554 Av./day: 508
 Average speed: 32.61mph
 Highest recorded speed: 55mph

Leicester Road
 Period: 23.12.20 - 30.12.20
 Vehicle movements: 3284 Av./day: 469
 Average speed: 32.57mph
 Highest recorded speed: 55mph

Bell Lane
 Period: 17.12.20 - 23.12.20
 Vehicle movements: 7069 Av./day: 1010
 Average speed: 26.61mph
 Highest recorded speed: 44mph

Bell Lane
 Period: 10.12.20 - 17.12.20
 Vehicle movements: 8050 Av./day: 1150
 Average speed: 26.74mph
 Highest recorded speed: 44mph

Theddingworth Road inbound
 Period: 03.12.20 - 10.11.20
 Vehicle movements: 9864 Av./day: 1409
 Average speed: 29.72mph
 Highest recorded speed: 63mph

Theddingworth Road inbound
 Period: 26.10.20 - 03.11.20
 Vehicle movements: 9680 Av./day: 1383
 Average speed: 30.19mph
 Highest recorded speed: 58mph

District of Harborough

Bin Calendar 2020 / 21



Green bins recommence
March 5th

Mar-21					Apr-21					May-21				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
1	2	3	4	5	1	2				10	11	12	13	14
8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	17	18	19	20	21
15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	24	25	26	27	28
22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	31				
29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30					

Jun-21					Jul-21					Aug-21				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
1	2	3	4		1	2				2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	30	31			

Sep-21					Oct-21					Nov-21				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
1	2	3			1					1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29	29	30			

CHURCH NEWS

All Saints Parish Church & St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

FROM THE RECTORY

One of my acquaintances on Facebook this year wished everyone a hopeful new year rather than a happy new year. I understood the sentiment, though I do think we need happiness too. Last year was such a difficult year for everyone, requiring us to navigate a way of living that none of us have been prepared for and leaving us with numerous losses. We may have been fortunate not to have any friends and family to Covid 19, but there are still losses in other respects - jobs, routines, freedom, peace of mind. It is a good thing to recognise and name the things we mourn - to lament the passing of the way of life we formerly enjoyed. When the people of Israel were taken into captivity in Babylon back in the 6th century BC, the psalmist says that '...by the rivers of Babylon we sat and cried when we remembered Jerusalem'. Their captors wanted them to sing happy songs, but they said how can we sing happy songs or love songs in a foreign land. While we are in the middle of difficult times it is hard to find happiness and somehow this present lockdown is harder than before. Maybe we are all weary with what has gone before and wonder how long this will go on for. It is not wrong to feel sad and shed a few tears.

But we do need hope too - and we have it in the form of the vaccine and in the prospect of better weather to come which will cheer us and maybe allow us more freedom of movement as it did last summer. While in our hearts we might be asking how much longer will this go on, we have at the same time to take courage for each day and keep on keeping on.

The need for patience and the ability to persevere were probably not on anyone's Christmas list, but that is what we have now at the start of 2021. Good times will eventually return, glimpses of light will shine in the darkness that is now, and God's help is available to help us through these times if we will trust in him. Hold on to hope and be strong and bold. In other psalms it says 'Lord, my Rock, I call out to you for help. Do not be deaf to me... Hear the sound of my prayer when I cry out to you for help. I raise my hands towards your Most Holy Place.' And, 'I truly believe I will live to see the Lord's goodness. Wait for the Lord's help'. Tell God how you feel about things and you will find the strength you need for each day as you need it.

Here's hoping 2021 will contain much joy and many blessings for you all.

Liz †

PLOUGH SUNDAY

The restrictions and uncertainties of worship meant that we were unable to celebrate Plough Sunday on January 10th this year. The Christian observance of Plough Sunday was traditionally associated with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas. The celebration looks forward to sowing time and the promise of a harvest to come, and a plough would traditionally be brought into church to be blessed. These days the celebration represents all cultivation and production - by farmers, stock-keepers, allotment holders and gardeners.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless, oh Lord, the ploughs, tractors, drills, cultivators, harvesters, spades and forks and all tools and machinery.

God speed the plough, the ploughmen, the farms, the farmers, the gardens, the allotments, the gardens and the animals.

God speed the plough in fair weather and foul, in success and disappointment, in rain and wind, in frost and sunshine.

God speed the plough. Amen

Parish Notices

Norman Grant

of Lammas Close

Died December 22nd 2020

Aged 85 years

R.I.P.

†CHURCH SERVICES †

Hexagon Benefice

BENEFICE SERVICES

February

7th 10.30am Comm. Shearsby

14th 10.30am Comm. Arnesby

17th ASH WEDNESDAY

10.30am Comm. HB

21st 10.30am Comm. Thedd.

28th 2.00pm Comm. Mowsley

Contact:

Rector

Rev. Liz Bickley 880351

Churchwarden

Diana Jones 880741

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Contact:

Robert Constable-Maxwell 880361

Canon Chris O'Connor 462359

HEXAGON SERVICES

While we are not currently mandated to close the church doors for public worship but we are reviewing the situation week by week and it may be that some services will not go ahead due to the rise in covid numbers, or local situations.

So if you are planning to come to a service do check to see if it is going ahead.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 2 nd	Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm <i>(This meeting will be conducted as a virtual meeting - see Parish Council website for details)</i>
Friday 19 th	Mobile library <i>(subject to possible change due to driver availability)</i>
Saturday 20 th	Millennium Wood work-party, 9.30am - 12.30pm
Thurs., May 6 th	HB Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Day

LOCAL PLANNING NEWS

The following applications have been submitted to Harborough District Council:

- 20/01459/VAC Removal of Condition 16 (GCN) of 18/00056/OUT. Land adj Honeypot Farm, Honeypot Lane
- 20/01738/REM Erection of 9 dwellings; including a new access and public open space (Reserved Matters of 18/00056/OUT. Land adj Honeypot Farm, Honeypot Lane
- 20/01819/FUL Erection of 2 storey side and rear extensions and single storey rear extension (revised scheme of 15/02023/FUL) (retrospective), Woodside Farm, Theddingworth Road
- 20/01831/PCD Discharge of conditions (management plan and lighting) of 18/00056/OUT, Land adj Honeypot Farm, Honeypot Lane
- 20/01913/FUL Proposed change of use of agricultural building to Class E inc.demolition work, insertion of doors and windows and the addition of cladding, Springfield Farm Kilworth Road
- 20/01993/FUL Erection of a conservatory to side elevation, 7 Cherry Tree Close
- 20/01997/FUL Demolition of existing garage and porch and erection of single storey side extension, 5 Hillcrest Lane
- 20/02015/CMA Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 2010/0798/03 to allow restoration works to be completed by 31 October 2021(County Council Identity Number:2020/VOCM/0173/LCC, Husbands Bosworth Quarry, Welford Road
- 20/02044/FUL Agricultural Barns off Sibbertoft Road Change of use of agricultural land for the siting of 25 camping / touring pitches
- 20/02061/VAC Variation of Condition 4 (Permitted Plans) of 18/00056/OUT for relocation of pondage and variation of house types and positions and relocation of car parking spaces. Land adj. Honeypot Farm, Honeypot Lane
- 21/00023/TCA Works to trees (fell), Red Roofs, 39 Berridges Lane

Recently determined applications:

- 20/01490/FUL (*Approved*) Installation of rooflights, hardstanding, new openings, replacement windows & doors, formation of vehicular access and change of use from chapel to a single dwelling (use class C3), Wesleyan Methodist Church, Welford Road
- 20/01539/FUL (*Approved*) Installation of two dormer windows to rear elevation, 3 rooflights to front elevation; conversion of loft space to habitable accommodation, 25 Marsh Drive
- 20/01668/LBC (*Approved*) External alterations including the installation of 1 externally illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation, 1 non-illuminated wall sign to the front elevation, 1 non-illuminated projecting sign to the rear elevation and installation of downlights to front and rear elevations, 27 High Street
- 20/01670/ADV (*Approved*) Installation of 1 externally illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation, 1 non-illuminated wall sign to the front elevation, and 1 non-illuminated projecting sign to the rear elevation, 27 High Street
- 20/01724/FUL (*Approved*) Erection of a single storey rear extension, rear balcony & re-modelling of front porch, 32 Honeypot Lane
- 20/01989/TCA (*Approved*) Works to tree, 14 Mowsley Road

Current applications may be inspected during normal working hours at the Council Offices, The Symington Building, Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough.

Planning applications and other aspects of local government can now be viewed on-line at www.harboroughonline.co.uk

WORKING FROM HOME

If you have worked from home due to coronavirus you may be able to claim up to £125 from HMRC to help with extra expenses that you've incurred such as office equipment, stationery and even broadband and utility bills.

The 'working from home' tax rule means that anyone who has been told to work from home during the pandemic can claim financial relief on extra expenses. The rebate only applies if you've been *told* to work from home by your employer, not if you have chosen to do so.

If you are a sole-trader, you can also claim through 'work expenses' on your next self-assessment. If you're employed, you can claim the rebate from your employer or HMRC directly.

The good news is that if you've been required to work from home even for ONE DAY since 6 April 2020 you could legitimately claim tax relief for any extra costs for the WHOLE YEAR. Any tax relief awarded will be received through your salary or at your next self-assessment. Check out your eligibility at www.gov.uk



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