

WOMBLING FREE...

Readers of a 'certain' age will recall the original 1970s TV series featuring an enterprising bunch of furry creatures, the Wombles, who lived underground on Wimbledon Common, collecting and recycling human rubbish. Their activities were laudable as, even at that time, it was evident that the flotsam of society needed controlling and that, perhaps a sublime message could be transmitted to the programme's impressionable young viewers.



Roll forward almost 50 years and the word 'womble' and more poignantly, 'wombing' have gone into the national lexicon and nowadays are likely to refer to the action of clearing litter from public places.

South Leicestershire Litter Wombles is a local group dedicated to clearing our roadside verges and open spaces of the detritus of modern living, and has been active over the past couple of years. Coordinated largely, and having grown from a social media group, the volunteers plough their lonely furrow, often unnoticed and unacknowledged.

Locally we have an active 'cell' of the group, led by the two Heathers - Heather Lydall and Heather O'Connor, sometimes assisted by a small bunch of environmentally aware parents and children, who you will probably have spotted deep in the undergrowth somewhere. If you do see them, or any litter pickers across south Leicestershire, give them a cheery wave and a toot to show your appreciation... and then maybe consider joining them!

Make litter-picking a project for your family exercise time - and where it is safe to do so, get the kids involved; it's their world that you will be helping to save, after all! Go to the South Leicestershire Litter Wombles *Facebook* page or speak to the Heathers about what equipment you may need. Take a look at the treasures that other Womble groups have unearthed on their forays and sense the pride they have in their local environment.

If you don't feel like committing yourself, do the simplest litter-pick of all - just make yourself a challenge to pick up one piece of litter and put it in a bin every time you go out walking... Simple!

CENSUS 2021

The importance of Census Day, March 21st 2021

Information gathered in these censuses is used by government and other authorities and agencies to manage social, cultural and demographic decision-making and has been invaluable in directing healthcare and logistical needs during the past year.

The census is led by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Conducting the census during the on-going pandemic adds another dimension to the work of the ONS and we want everyone to be safely counted. To do this, we're making sure that our plans are always in line with the latest government safety guidelines.

Census 2021 is a digital-first census, which means that we will be encouraging people to respond online if they can. You will be able to complete the census using any device, including your mobile phone or tablet.

If you need help, we've got it covered. We will have an online help area on our website at: www.census.gov.uk, and also offer help by phone, web chat, email, social media or text message. We're also encouraging people to get help from friends and family to complete their census. If it's safe and within government guidelines, we will also be opening Census Support Centres to help people fill in their online questionnaire.

After Census Day, and into April, our census field officers will be visiting households from which we've not received a completed census form. They will encourage people to complete the census and help you to access further help if you need it.

DON'T FORGET... CLOCKS GO *FORWARD* on Sunday March 28th

BUGLE POSTBAG

From Robert Constable-Maxwell, Bosworth Hall

St. Mary's Church was built in 1873 and has served the local Catholic Community since that time, with the congregation coming from the surrounding villages as well as Market Harborough and Lutterworth. Described by Leicestershire Churches *Ride & Stride* as a 'Victorian Gem', the church remains essentially unaltered since that time. The Catholic tradition was a continuation of the time when, during The Reformation, mass was said in the adjacent Bosworth Old Hall where a priest's hiding hole was incorporated into the building. Tragically, it is now proving impossible to conform to legislation introduced to combat the pandemic, in particular requirements regarding social distancing and these requirements will doubtless have lasting effects on our viability. Our previous Parish Priest Fr. Owen retired in the autumn and discussions with his successor, Fr. Chris O'Connor, indicate many constraints on his time, due to the great shortage of Catholic priests.

A combination of these factors means that regular services will no longer be possible at St. Mary's. It is however intended to use our very best endeavours to maintain a truly historic church - possibly, for instance, by using it more widely for weddings.

In whatever way, we will greatly appreciate the continuing support of the community.

From Ben and Leah Jacques (Complete Car Care)

We would like to reassure customers of *Complete Car Care* that, although we are moving home, the business will continue to trade from The Oaks, Theddingworth. We will be driving through Bosworth, on a daily basis, to get to work and to take the boys to school, so will still be able to offer to pick up and deliver vehicles back to customers, as we have always done. It's business as usual at *Complete Car Care*! Thank you for your continued support.

From Melanie Nash, Cheney Court

LOCK-DOWN

Lockdown again as we start this new year

Our lives, once again, seem robbed of all cheer

Covid cases rising fill us with fear

Knowing we'll lose ones we all hold so dear

Do not despair, we got through it before

Our spirit's not broken, we can do more

We'll care for others, we will do our bit

Now is the time we will show our true grit.

POLICE FILE



POLICE CONTACT

You can now report crimes or criminal activity to Leicestershire Police online at www.leics.police.uk. Reports are assessed, given a crime number and dealt with as they would do if they were reported over the phone.

SPEED WHEELS

The Leicestershire Road Safety Partnership has recently released speed camera data for 2020 and the camera located at Station Road, North Kilworth, which, with almost 2,000 activations, had the second highest record of speeders in the county. The average speed cameras in Walcote recorded over 1,300 activations.



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THE BUGLE TEAM

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COPY DEADLINE
15th OF THE MONTH
PRECEDING PUBLICATION

POLICE FILE

Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team:

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BOSWORTH IN FOCUS

WILD ABOUT BOSWORTH

Cleavers or Goosegrass *Galium Aparine*

Cleavers are annual plants which grow along the ground and use hooked, hairy stems and leaves to clamber over vegetation.

The bi-nominal name *Galium Aparine* comes from the Greek 'Gala Aparine' meaning 'milk clinging.' 'Milk' because it's used to promote curdling in cheese production, Dioscorides noted, "Shepherds use bundles of the hairy stems to sieve hairs out of milk if any remain therein."

It's a popular food of geese and poultry, as noted in a fifteenth-century tome, "an erb that is cald clyvers that yonge gese eten", hence Goosegrass.

Mattresses were stuffed with cleaver stalks, as their branches stick together, which helps the bedding maintain its shape, hence another name - Bedstraw.

The ancient Greeks called it Philanthron, 'man-loving' due to its clinging nature. Some of its other appellations are: everlasting friendship, sticky bob, robin-run-the-hedge, sticky willy, claggy meggies and bobby buttons. Recently, it's been christened the Velcro plant, although the inventor of the hook and loop fastener, George de Mestral, was inspired by the burrs of burdock seeds.

Galium aparine is edible, but their hooks make swallowing raw leaves problematic, though young plants are palatable if they are boiled for ten or so minutes. Try serving them with warm butter or olive oil, and salt and pepper, or add them to salads or omelettes.

In common with coffee plants, goosegrass is a member of the *Rubiaceae* family. So, it's unsurprising its slow-roasted seeds can be used as a coffee substitute. [I'll give my verdict on this recipe later this year!]

Herbalists list dozens of conditions that benefit from its use, including scurvy, urinary infections, piles, skin disease and ulcers.

Lastly, some children find it amusing to surreptitiously attach sprigs of the plant on friends' clothes. Not that your author would have ever been so mischievous!

Mike Chanter



HEALTHY BODY AND SOUL

Since my last article, I have become a qualified mental health first-aider. Your mental health is as important as your physical health (in fact mental health and physical health are intertwined).



February has also been the month to celebrate all things LOVE and any love must begin with looking after ourselves, mentally and physically and paying attention to our own body. So often we ignore niggles, low-level pain and recurring aches, but we shouldn't! These small signals are intentional - they are the way your body communicates.

Even subtle warning signs need a little attention and nurturing. Can you fit a few stretches into your daily routine? Can you stop for 5 minutes to stand outside and breathe fresh air? Meet with a friend for a socially distanced walk - and

take a break from your desk. Equally, if there are more persistent concerns then talk to your GP or give Kibworth Osteopaths a call.

Thankfully spring is around the corner and with this comes a sense of hope of new beginnings, longer days and sunshine - all of which is good for our bodies. Sunshine helps with the production of vitamin D, which is good for bones and muscles, for all ages.

For those who have a garden, my top tips are to ensure you warm up and stretch, take regular breaks to rehydrate and to have a physical break... and use a kneeling pad. Remember: movement is medicine!

Emily Coombes, kibworthostetopath@outlook.com

MORE WILD...

Copies of Mike Chanter's booklet, *Wild About Bosworth*, based on his regular articles to the *Bugle* are still available from Mike at £3 per copy.

From *Aesculus hippocastanum*¹ and *muntiacus reevesi*² to *urtica dioica*³, Mike draws our attention to the wide variety of fauna and fauna that surrounds us

in the countryside right on our doorstep...

Email Mike at mail@mrc112.plus.com

¹ Horse chestnut

² Muntjac deer

³ Stinging nettle

Wild About Bosworth paperback 104pp



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SCHOOL REPORT

HUSBANDS BOSWORTH C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL Head Teacher Alan Eathorne

Husbands Bosworth school, as part of the south Leicestershire Learn Academies Trust has been given laptop computers by the Leicester-based Sir Thomas White Loan Charity to enable children without access to one to learn remotely during lockdown.

Learn Academies Trust was founded in 2016 and has 11 member primary schools in south Leicestershire, including Lubenham All Saints CE Primary School, St Andrew's CE Primary School, North Kilworth, South Kilworth CE Primary School and Husbands Bosworth CE Primary School.

The Leicester-based Sir Thomas White Loan Charity has been in existence since 1542 and was founded by one of the city's most generous benefactors, Sir Thomas White. Although he never actually set foot in Leicester, Sir Thomas is honoured by being included as one of the four statues around the Clock Tower in Leicester city centre. The charity focuses on providing grants and loans to younger people for educational purposes.

FOBS NEWS

Bags2School

FOBS recent *Bags2School* collection amassed a total of 304 bags of clothing items, amounting to over 1100kg in weight! Due to Covid restrictions it wasn't possible to collect directly from homes in the village, so it was great that so many were able to bring their bags to the central collection point in Butt Lane. The fantastic collection raised a whopping £356.40 for Husbands Bosworth CE Primary School funds.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who donated and also to the FOBS team for posting bags through doors.... Great team effort!!



BYGONE BOSWORTH

Images from the Historical Society's Archive Collection

The Historical Society subscribes to the British Library Newspaper Archive, a monumental project that has seen the digitalisation of over 60 million pages of national and local newspapers dating back to the mid 1700s.

Whilst idly 'surfing' through the fund of social and historic content in the Archive relating to Husbands Bosworth we came across this snippet relating to a farm fire, as reported in the Northampton-based *Mercury & Herald* in August 1954. A little digging revealed that the farm, Holloway Farm, on the Bosworth Hall Estate, was farmed at the time by Aneurin (Taffy) Owen's family, and he even had a photograph of the aftermath of the disaster.



Taff, who was living in School Lane at the time, recalls that he was roused at about midnight by P.C. George Gilbert [whom we met in last month's article!]. By

the time they got to the farm, the buildings were well alight and the fire brigade spent a long night raking out the fire and dousing the flames. In the light of day the remains of a camp fire were discovered and it was assumed that a tramp had been there and his fire had got out of control, igniting the hay and straw in the barn.

As well as the loss of hay and straw the fire also claimed Taff's prized Minneapolis Moline tractor - a special row-crop model that he used for cultivating his potatoes, swedes and

mangels - which had been imported during the war under the Anglo-American Lend-Lease scheme.

Although the buildings were gutted and the roofs destroyed, the brick walls survived and Jack Knight, the Bosworth carpenter, re-roofed them in the cheap and then novel, asbestos sheeting, which Taff believes is still there today.



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MORE BOSWORTH IN FOCUS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Stand up and be counted...

Every ten years since 1801, (except in 1941, when the population was unnaturally displaced and had other things on their minds!) a full census of the population has been taken in England and Wales. Initially this was to ensure that all tax paying individuals could be accounted for at a time when the nation's financial coffers were drained as a consequence of the prolonged conflict with Napoleon's France and also to assess the nation's manhood for conscription.

Unfortunately the censuses for 1801 to 1831 were for statistical purposes only, contained no social information and were largely destroyed after use. The 1841 census was of far more use to the family historian and included names of all individuals (including guests) residing at each abode on the night of the census. It noted the relationship of everyone present to the head of the household and the householder's trade or profession. Also noted was the age of each person, although the enumerator, perhaps to enable him to make his own assessment of the subject's age and thus avoid too much doorstep aggravation, was allowed to round down the age of adults to the nearest whole five or ten years. From 1851 the place of birth of the principal adults was included, the ages were deemed to be accurate and some social information creeps in. The census taken in 1871 includes the addresses of households, although this refinement tends to be very patchy in rural villages, especially away from the village nucleus. By the time we get to the 1881 census a veritable feast of information is on hand.

It should be noted that, in the earlier years when few people within the community could read or write the onus was on the enumerator to spell the information only to his own satisfaction. Quite often his only reference would be from the bearer of the name, whose pronunciation the scribe would endeavour to reproduce. Obviously, if the informant himself could neither read nor write he wouldn't be in a favourable position to suggest corrections...

So, just from the censuses it is easy for family history researchers to build up a picture of our ancestors, their relationships to each other, social background and trace their whereabouts, especially when the sequence of the censuses is followed.

Curiously, although Government secrets are generally protected by a 25-year disclosure rule, national census details are not released into the public domain until 100 years have elapsed (The 100-Year Rule). Presumably parliamentary secret information is of a less sensitive nature than the intimate personal details of the public! Consequently the most up-to-date census information presently available is from the 1911 census.

All the existing census returns have been digitally copied and are free to view at main libraries, county records offices or the National Records Office, or as downloadable images via various on-line ancestry websites.

SHOW TIME

Book the date! August 29th

Last year saw the cancellation of the village's popular Horticulture Show, but with everything crossed and the potential positive outcomes from the latest COVID lockdown and vaccines, we are pleased that a date has been earmarked for the 2021 Show.

The Village Hall has been booked and the Judges are on standby. For newcomers to the village, this is an event to look forward to and absolutely anyone can join in, whatever your age or ability... it really doesn't matter!

For those who did well in the 2019 show and won various cups and awards in recognition of their talent, please get ready to dust them off, polish them up and return them as soon as the current restrictions have been lifted.

Hopefully this year will see a return to normality and we can gather and celebrate a village tradition that has been running for over 140 years.

To give you a 'flavour' of what the show is about...

The show is not about making money - although any surplus does go to various local good causes - but about the community entering into the spirit of light hearted competition, admiring the different exhibits, winning on the tombola or simply enjoying a cup of tea and a homemade cake and catching up on village gossip!

Our Judges are provided by the Leicester and Leicestershire Horticultural Judges Guild, who carefully assessing the exhibits - in 2019 we had 52 entrants and a total of 217 exhibits... carefully examining displays and crafts, measure the length or size of vegetables, taste cakes, jams and home-brews before making their final decision, and remain at the show to answer any questions.

There will be regular updates and reminders and a programme of the various classes / categories will be available from around June time. So lots of time to start planning, start planting and practice your baking skills or flower arranging... and don't forget to add the date to your calendar!

If you have any suggestions or questions, please forward them to: kide.1962@gmail.com

Karen Roffe

MILLENNIUM WOOD

Hopefully 2021 will be a much better one for everyone and we can meet up at the Woodland in some form this coming year. One or two volunteers have taken the opportunity to get our allowed exercise in the fresh air and tried to keep things going down there.

Obviously whilst Covid is still rearing its ugly head, we will have to provide our own refreshments and gloves but it should be possible for our work-parties to work at a socially distanced distance from each other if you care to come down.

The next work-party will be on Saturday, March 20th, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.



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FLOWERS BY HEATHER

Husbands Bosworth

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Report of the Parish Council Meeting held virtually on Tuesday, February 2nd 2021.

Present: *Four Council members, no members of the public.*

Minutes of the previous meeting, having been read were approved.

Matters Arising

- Conversion work to the Pavilion garage was referred forward to the March meeting to allow for quotations to be obtained.

- Clerk confirmed that Pavilion electrical work had now been completed

Finance

- Bank Statements and Cashbook overview for December and January were presented and approved.

Plans and Planning

- Planning applications summary of submissions for December and January was presented and approved.

Caretaker

- The caretaker's post was confirmed as permanent following a 3 month review.

Allotments

- After discussion it was agreed that the 2021/22 Allotment rent will remain at £20.00.

It was agreed that allotment holders should be advised that an increase should be expected in 2022/23.

Village Verges & Greens

- Council reviewed service levels for the 2021 growing season, set against the allocated Precept funding.

Pathways

- Three overgrown roadside footways were identified as requiring clearing. Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for this work as a possible alternative to waiting for LCC Highways to carry out the work.

Hedges & Ditches

- Council had received no further information from the developers of the Welford Road site regarding work on the ditch adjacent to the cemetery or that adjacent to the Playing Field. Council agreed to assess the situation at a site meeting, to be arranged. Council noted that the developers had formally requested permission to remove one overhanging tree, which had previously been granted.

RoSPA Report

- The annual safety report on the play equipment and skatepark identified no outstanding safety issues.

A number of advisory issues would be carried out by a qualified contractor and the village caretaker.

- It was noted that parts of the Skate Park equipment were becoming beyond economical repair and it was agreed to seek quotations for replacement or complete refurbishment.

Traffic Issues

- Council discussed the village Speed Indicator Device (SID). It was agreed that due to the age of SID (10 years) and as technology had moved on significantly, it is not worth upgrading this present device.

- Council noted that the Bosworth Traffic Action Group (BTAG) were progressing an application for an average speed camera system for the village.

Council agreed to support BTAG in further traffic calming measures.

Dog Walk

- It was proposed to plant some mature trees into the Dog Walk. Clerk was asked to seek options and costs.

Millennium Wood

- Council discussed projects to install a boardwalk into the Millennium Wood and repairs to the walkway steps. It was agreed to obtain costings for these projects and seek grant options. These projects will be considered amongst others for Parish Council funding at the March meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

- It is anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum will take place on Thursday, May 6th.

Covid Fund Projects

- It was agreed to present eligible community related projects for consideration at the March meeting.

Any Other Business

- Council noted that the Pavilion clock has been refurbished and returned to its position.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, held virtually on Tuesday, March 2nd.

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 westbound

Period: 20.01.21 - 27.01.21

Vehicle movements: 8079 Av./day: 1154

Average speed: 22.81mph

Highest recorded speed: 46mph

High Street westbound

Period: 27.01.21 - 03.02.21

Vehicle movements: 9108 Av./day: 1301

Average speed: 22.05mph

Highest recorded speed: mph

Welford Road

Period: 03.02.21 - 10.02.21

Vehicle movements: 6095 Av./day: 871

Average speed: 26.91mph

Highest recorded speed: 60mph

Welford Road

Period: 10.02.21 - 17.02.21

Vehicle movements: 6218 Av./day: 888

Average speed: 27.14mph

Highest recorded speed: 60mph

LOCAL OFFICERS

Husbands Bosworth Parish Council:

Councillors

Patricia Hobson (Chair)

William Fletcher

Melvyn Forman

Jackie Fletcher

Laura Meridith

James Bolter

Parish Clerk

Derek Watson

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CHURCH NEWS

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

FROM THE RECTORY

I don't know how you feel about the snow we have had recently. I know some have relished the opportunity to get out there with a sledge and have fun on the hills and slopes that are around the village. Snowmen have appeared and snowball fights enjoyed. For others it may be that snow is just a nuisance, making life more difficult with slippery paths and wet boots. Some may have enjoyed its beauty in the sunshine as it sparkled and glistened on our lawns but for some it will have felt like another layer of lockdown, confining you to home and keeping you in.

What I have noticed with both of the two episodes of snow we have had so far, is how that when the snow finally thaws and disappears, underneath the snow there has been activity and growth. While the snow was their blanket the snowdrops have taken on more white and the flowers are ready to burst out in the sunshine, the bulbs, crocuses and daffodils have put up more green, showing the activity beneath the soil and there is promise of beauty to come as the weeks progress.

Many things in life can hem us in or pin us down. Lockdown is a ready example of that, but difficult times of any sort can have a similar effect. Bereavement and the grief you feel is one, financial hardship, unemployment, sickness... the list goes on. The closure of a place of worship might be another and in recent years we have seen both the closure of the Methodist Chapel and now the end of regular services at St Mary's. There can be so many things which restrict our flourishing and our enjoyment of life.

But in all things, eventually the thaw comes, and the blanket of difficulties melts away. After that has happened we will find the new life was emerging through it even while the difficulties were happening, and life and beauty is ready to sustain our lives in times to come. Whatever difficulties you are facing at this present time, take hope that beneath what you can see, in your life you are being prepared for what is to come and that new growth and loveliness will once more abound.

My prayer for us all is that God will strengthen us as we endure difficulties and bring us through them to a better place. Every blessing.

Liz †

Parish Notices

Vida Patricia Olivia Lord

Of Bell Lane

Died January 7th 2021

Aged 85

Hilda May Carter

formerly of Lammas Close

Died January 18th 2021

Aged 95 years

R.I.P.



LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

- This morning I saw my neighbour talking to her cat. She obviously thought that her cat understood her. When I got home I told my goldfish - didn't we laugh!
- Who would have thought that the comment 'I wouldn't touch them with a six-foot pole' would become a national policy?

† CHURCH SERVICES †

Hexagon Benefice

BENEFICE SERVICES

Benefice Services subject to change depending on Covid news and Government restrictions.

March

7th 10.30am All Saints HB

14th **MOTHERING SUNDAY**
10.30am Bruntingthorpe

21st 10.30am Shearsby

24th 2.00pm HC Arnesby

28th **PALM SUNDAY**
10.30am HC Arnesby

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Contact:

Robert Constable-Maxwell 880361

Canon Chris O'Connor 462359

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

It is a sad reflection on the effects of the pandemic that the congregation have not now had a service at St. Mary's Roman Catholic church for almost a full year, except for one baptism, a funeral and a wedding, and these under extremely restricted conditions.

It is also clear that once out of this situation, church leaders will be under great pressure to maintain services even in Market Harborough, with a shortage of available priests and with the new Priest, Fr. Chris O'Connor, supporting parishes elsewhere. His previous parish in Lincolnshire is now without a priest, as his successor there is now in hospital. The Diocese cannot therefore make a commitment to continue to provide a regular weekend Mass or support other activities at St. Mary's.

Meanwhile repair and maintenance continues, and some £10,000 is currently being spent on urgent roof repairs.

Robert Constable-Maxwell

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday March 2nd Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm
(This meeting will be conducted as a virtual meeting - see Parish Council website for details)
- Saturday March 20th Millennium Wood work-party, 9.30am
- Sunday, August 29th Husbands Bosworth Horticultural Show 2021

LOCAL PLANNING NEWS

The following applications have been submitted to Harborough District Council:

- 21/00093/TCA Works to trees, The Coppice, Mowsley Road
- 21/00150/LBC Installation of two replacement windows to the front elevation, 11 Church Street
- 21/00167/FUL Erection of stables, removal of 3 timber stables and re-siting of lunge pen, Lavender Lakes, Leicester Road
- 21/00216/FUL Erection of a two storey side extension and external alterations, 13 Butt Lane
- 21/00220/TCA Works to trees, 54 Bell Lane

Recently determined applications:

- 20/01819/FUL (Approved) Erection of 2 storey side and rear extensions and single storey rear extension (revised scheme of 15/02023/FUL) (part retrospective), Woodside Farm, Theddingworth Road
- 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 be viewed on-line at www.harboroughonline.co.uk**

LUTTERWORTH EAST

At their recent meeting members of the Welford Action Group expressed their disappointment at the Secretary of State's decision not to reappraise Harborough planners' approval of the 2,750 home and commercial development to the east of Lutterworth.

Concerns had been raised about the increase in traffic that could impact on the villages along the A4304 and A5199 corridors and accessing the A14 at Welford. A survey of Lutterworth residents, whilst generally supportive of the provision of more housing locally, showed that there was strong feeling that the development didn't address specific aspects, such as creating a dedicated eastern relief road. Now that the final legal obstacles have been resolved work on the 550 acre site, much of which is owned by Leicestershire County Council, is now likely to commence as soon as possible with the first phases of housing and social infrastructure, including two primary schools and a community hub, due to be completed by 2030.

CAR PARKING CHARGES

Parking charges at all Harborough District Council-controlled car parks throughout the district will rise from April.

During the past year the coronavirus lockdowns and reduced travel generally has resulted in a significant loss of revenue and the increases are necessary to enable on-going costs relating to the provision of car parking in the district and to help offset a budget gap of around £4 million. It will be the first time parking charges have increased in Harborough since 2017.

In Market Harborough, parking charges will rise from £1 to £1.50 to park for up to two hours, from £1.50 to £2 for up to three hours, from £2.50 to £3 for up to four hours, and from £6 to £7.50 for over four hours.

In Lutterworth, charges will increase from 60p to £1 for up to one hour, from £1 to £1.50 for up to two hours, from £1.50 to £2 for up to three hours, from £2.50 to £3 for up to four hours, and from £4 to £5 for over four hours.

Long stay car parks, in Market Harborough, will increase from the current fee of £2 for up to four hours to £2.50, and from £4 to £5 for over four hours.

New Pay & Display machines, with improved payment options, including contactless and card payment and Pay By Phone, which allows users to top up their stay without returning to their vehicle, have been purchased. Additional electric vehicle charging points have also been introduced to some of its car parks.

MOBILE LIBRARY

We're back! Calling on the third Friday of each month.

The mobile library has returned but not in the usual format. Borrowers will need to notify the library service in advance what sort of books are required and a selection of that subject will be packed in a carrier bag, already booked out to you, for you to collect. Returned books will be dropped off in a box outside the van.

For help with the service or if you have any questions, please call 0116 305 2695 or email libraries@leics.gov.uk

STOPS & TIMES

School, Welford Road:	10.25am - 11.25am
Berridges Lane:	11.30am - 12.10pm
Butt Lane:	12.15pm - 12.50pm

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