



Ed's Comments

March already! With the first day of spring on the 20th and our clocks going forward on the 27th, we can hopefully say goodbye to the worst of the winter weather. (My fingers are crossed!!)

It was in this month last year that I reported on the formation of the Winthorpe Allotment Association; now with a plot identified I wonder when I will be showing a picture of the first 'row of beans'.

Also in the issue last march, I mentioned the lack of a volunteer for a church warden at All Saints Winthorpe, alas Ann Stone makes the same request again this year.

'This is a big challenge for us all' is a statement made in the Church Notices. I cannot help but wonder what would happen if Ann herself was unable to undertake her tasks. She does have one or two unofficial helpers who do a valiant job but where does the future lay? Do you think if we all thought positive thoughts that might do it? Methinks positive action might be better!! Who is out there willing to help??

There is a lovely descriptive article in this month's editon from Lynne Shapley describing the homeward leg of their narrow boat 'odyssey'.

I think it fits in nicely this month with spring on the way.

I notice on the School website that there is to be a 'Numberthon' on the 30th of this month. *'The numberthon is a chance for the children to sharpen their number skills, while at the same time raising funds for the PTA'*. The children will be seeking sponsorship, they have been discouraged from knocking on doors on their own, so perhaps you may like to ask the children themselves should you wish to support them.

Cliff Newbold

Closing date for the April issue is the **21st March**.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

LUNCH CLUB

The next lunch will be at 12.30pm on **Monday, 7th March**. The menu will be:

Chicken Breast with Cranberry Stuffing

or

Fish Pie with Mixed Herb Topping

with

New Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables

-x-

Lemon Tart with Ice Cream

£7 including a glass of wine. Please ring Jean & Peter Foden (**704241**) to reserve your place and give your choice of menu.

The number attending the lunch is steadily increasing. The kitchen can only reasonably cope with sixty meals of the standard produced. So far this number has not quite been reached but if all those who usually come turned up at the same time it would be. Therefore we have decided that it is necessary to introduce a limit of sixty people. The only way to handle this limit is on a first come first served basis. We are very pleased that the lunches are so popular but we hope you will understand the position. The lunches are well advertised and the dates are fixed and published well in advance. We will start a waiting list if necessary so if you have booked a place and cannot come please let us know **as soon as possible**.

QUIZ NIGHT

The Quiz Night on Saturday, 5th February was again a great success thanks to David Barthorpe and his team of helpers and everyone who attended. The event raised **£525** towards the upkeep of the Centre.

This year the winning team was “Holme Aloners” who have now won the David Jackson Shield a record four times. Congratulations to them!

Frances Kelly, Chairman



Garden Club

It was a full house for the meeting given by Frank Feest, Talk Services Speaker of the National Trust East Midlands Region. Accompanied by his wife Barbara, Frank's talk, along with a slide show, was The Development of English Gardens of the National Trust, from the Tudor period of King Henry V111 to the present day.

The gardens of large houses in the Tudor period were formal and constructed on a level surface, knot gardens, using clipped hedging of box, making intricate designs. To give the gardens height, conical shapes of yew each of equal height and size, gave them a pleasing and symmetrical pattern. Herbs were grown for their medicinal uses. Fish were bred in ponds, well away from the house, for food.

During the 17th Century many rich owners, always wanting to have a better garden than their neighbours, went for several months on the Grand Tour of Europe. They brought back many ideas which were incorporated into their gardens. Water features were one of the ideas

The 18th Century saw the English landscape architect, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown; make his mark on the scenery. His style was to have a lake surrounded by large parklands. This idea can still be seen today in many of the National Trust properties.

The 20th Century brought walled kitchen gardens, orangeries and auricular theatres.

It was a very pleasant evening, enjoyed by all.

The next meeting is on **March 16th** :-

'The Making of a Gold Award Chelsea Garden' by Sue Haywood.

Pat Finn.



W.I. REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

Mrs Pat Nelson welcomed members to the meeting. The hall was packed for this month's meeting.

Mrs Brenda Tinsley was halfway through reading the minutes, when the door opened and our guest speaker appeared. WOW! What a big man was the thought on everyone's mind, because our speaker was Mr. Geoff Capes, Britain's former Olympic shot put champion and also the British and World's strongest man. He was quite happy to sit and listen to all the business, which he thought quite interesting.

Mrs Nelson then introduced him to members and he commenced to tell us a quick outline of his life. He was born on a farm in Holbeach the youngest of nine children.

They were all big babies at birth, himself weighing twelve pounds nine ounces and one set of twins weighing over twelve pounds each. Both parents were over six feet tall and weighed over twenty stone. As he grew up he worked on the farm lifting heavy weights, sacks of potatoes and straw bales etc., and so this became part of his normal daily life. He was a "lad" and did not use his strength other than for work, until someone who saw him decided to teach him to channel this energy into athletics.

Thus he started going to the gym and track until eventually after winning various trophies in his sport he was chosen to represent Great Britain in the Olympic games. He took part in four different Olympics and then decided to try something different.

He had heard about the Highland games and decided to give it a go. However he felt just a little of an outsider up there over the Border as the old diehards did not openly welcome a foreigner in their midst. It was a hard learning curve when he tossed his first caber, but he quickly mastered the technique and won several times.

On one occasion, the Braemar Games, he won a trophy and it was presented by the Queen who was wearing white gloves and when shaking hands, which he had not had chance to wash, her glove stuck to his hand, because of the resin and gunge he had used.

Then he heard about the Strongest Man competition he decided he could do that, and he did, being World champion twice.

He also, all through his life has kept budgerigars and now has over three hundred which he breeds and shows. It was an amusing and interesting talk and everyone enjoyed it Afterwards we were urged to ask questions and there were many.

Mrs. Rose Dickinson gave the vote of thanks saying what an amusing and informative talk it had been.

Mr Capes then demanded his cup of tea, saying he was waiting. You do not argue with that big man!

Our next meeting is **March 10th**, in the Village Hall which will be our Annual General Meeting.

There will be a Flower Arranging demonstration by Mesdames S.Lloyd and M.Stewart. The hostesses are Mesdames S.Leigh and J.Lord.

Daphne Marshall.



n.b. Mulberry Coming Home

Just after breakfast we cast off our lines from the towpath near the Castle Marina in the centre of Nottingham. We set off at a gentle pace past the back of offices and the law courts before arriving at Meadow Lane Lock. Here the canal ends and we drop down through the lock onto the mighty River Trent. On the opposite bank we are ignored by rowers preparing for an hours exercise in the shadow of Nottingham Forest Stadium. The river current takes us as soon as our mooring lines are released and we reach speeds never achieved on the canals. On the flooded River Thames a few years back we were amazed to see a narrow boat breaking the river speed limit when travelling downstream. On our leisurely journey we are happy with six M.P.H. on the river as we are gently swept towards Holme Pierrepont water park past derelict commercial properties, fancy new riverside apartments and the sea cadet station on the left bank.

Holme Lock is the first manned lock we encounter on our 23 mile journey to Newark. It is very long and deep; the twelve-foot drop saving us from the canoe slalom alongside. The passage, providing there is no waiting, takes less than 30 minutes and we are soon on our way past Colwick where a sharp right-hand bend in the river steers us under the red sandstone cliffs at Radcliffe on Trent and into Stoke Lock in the shadow of Gibbet Hill.

We are now aware of the countryside on both banks and we hold our noses as we cruise past Stoke Bardolph amused by the swans who are enjoying the warmed waters near the outfall.

Quietly we cruise past Burton Joyce where walkers are out with their children and dogs enjoying the fresh air and sleepy cows populate the pastures. It is now coffee time; already the car drivers who left Nottingham at the same time as us should be back home in Winthorpe.

The river flows on northwards past Shelford Manor and under the fine road bridge at Gunthorpe. We pull in alongside the river wall looking out for expensive cruisers and other narrow boaters all enjoying the midday good weather. We can see the weir strung with a protective necklace of marker buoys to prevent us from going the wrong way. We wait for the traffic lights to indicate our turn for the lock, then the gates open to disgorge the upstream traffic before we take its place. The lock is big enough for nine or more boats our size, a remnant of the historical

industrial role of the river. We chat to the lock keeper, giving him details of our licence and destination. He drops the water level and opens the gates automatically so that we can continue on our way.

The countryside here is beautiful. Hoveringham sand pits nature reserve and green fields to the left and wooded cliffs on the right-hand side before we reach our next stop at Hazelford Lock. Although the river has gently snaked its way so far it now begins to weave in great sweeps to the left and right, firstly marked by the high piled walls at Fiskerton, then back to Gawburn Holt, through Farndon, sweeping along by Farndon Harbour and Baggarley Rack, then past Staythorpe Power Station and Averham Weir.

As we turn the next bend Newark is in sight but we are still almost an hour away. Our anticipation at being home makes this an exciting stretch and we watch out for familiar faces on the boats and riverbank: down past the Maltings and Newark Marina.

In our first year of boating it was on this bend that we met a Trent sand barge manoeuvring quickly around the bend and leaving us the shallow inside line hoping not to be overwhelmed by his wake.

Newark Church spire has been visible for some time and we now recognise other landmarks from the now familiar perspective of the river. On, past the horses on the left bank, avoiding the weir that sweeps the Trent and Devon around Parnham's Island and into Newark Town Lock. Passing the majestic walls of Newark Castle we realise that we have made good time, not quite 6 hours!

Lynne Shapley



WINTHORPE VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

At a committee meeting in July 2009 the Trustees decided to seek advice on the possibility of installing a toilet for the disabled, upgrading the kitchen and existing toilets, estimate the likely costs involved and to seek advice on possible grant applications.

I pursued this, taking advice from Nottinghamshire Association of Village and Community Halls (NAVACH), and drew up draft drawings and details which were submitted for discussion with Newark & Sherwood DC Planning Department. Whilst generally supportive, the Building Control Officers required a significant alteration to the plans which involved removing the existing separate male and female toilets and replacing them with a single toilet (incorporating part of the passage) for use by both able-bodied and disabled users of both sexes.

A new scheme was drawn up and submitted to Building Control on the 5th of May 2010 and approved shortly after. At a Committee meeting on the 25th of May 2010 the Trustees confirmed that up to £2000 be taken from Village Hall funds to assist in obtaining a grant for the works.

Enquiries were sent to local builders for quotations to carry out the works and three were returned which were £12067, £12340 and (surprisingly) £21744 all plus VAT.

Taking advice from Newark & Sherwood DC and NAVACH we approached Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN) and with considerable help from NAVACH, in particular Katie Wilson, we completed the application forms, using the right terminology, and submitted this on the 26th of August 2010 in the sum of £14788.40. WREN responded requiring more evidence of village support including financial. A coffee morning was hastily organised and village organisations and hall user groups gave us valuable support. We thank them all.

We were awarded a grant of £147288.00 and a contractor, Carmalor Construction from Eakring, has been appointed and, all being well, the works will be underway by the time you read this and hopefully completed by the 5th of March.

We would like to thank all the villagers, organisations and users who have been so helpful and the Trustees will be arranging an Open Day to celebrate the scheme when the works are done.

My thanks, personally, to John and Barbara Nelson for their congratulations in February's Focal Point.

David R Woodcock. Treasurer, Winthorpe Village Hall Trustees



WINTHORPE & DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

COME AND JOIN US TO SEE THE CALENDAR GIRLS SHOW

On **Tuesday the 5th of July** the Womens Institute are going to the Theatre Royal Nottingham to see a performance of the Calendar Girls.



We will be departing from the village at **6pm** in time to attend the 7.30pm performance.

The price per ticket, including the bus fare is **£33**.

We have a few extra tickets, so if you and your partner or friend would like to join us you are very welcome.

Please telephone either:- **Viv Clarkson 659631** or **Sheila Palmer 679960**

Before the 17th March 2011

Beaumont House



Beaumont House are proud to announce the opening of our “Resource & Information Centre” last month, in what is one of our biggest expansions to support the local community since opening the blue doors of the hospice in 1992.

In talking to our patients, the general public and to Health Care Professionals, the need for a resource centre was apparent. The centre aims to empower people to find out more about their illness, benefits or other concerns that they or their carer may have. Support will be offered to either patients or carers on a one-to-one basis and bereavement support is also available.

At the core of the centre, based on Stodman Street, is Christine Smith. Christine, our former Executive Care Manager, has worked at the hospice for 17 years driving its evolution. As the new Macmillan Information & Support Specialist, Christine has immense experience in what both patients and carers need and living in the local area, has a tight grip on the resources available for patients of cancer & other life limiting illnesses, along with their carers.

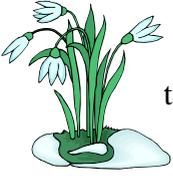
Christine says “Throughout my time at Beaumont House I have gained a good local knowledge of the both the area and the services that are available. I have also built up good relationships with Health Care Professionals and the local community and I am aware of the need for everyone to work together to achieve the best outcome for the patient and their family. The resource centre will develop in time and we are confident that it will be considered the best place to obtain information and advice in the area.”

The centre is the place where information, support and advice are available for patients, families and carers. The service will also be available to Health Care Professionals and we will be able to signpost some enquiries to appropriate areas.

Anyone requiring information or support about cancer or other life limiting illnesses are invited to drop into the Stodman Street centre without an appointment, at any time between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday or can call 01636 610 556 and book an appointment in advance.

The Centre was generously funded in full by a Department of Health grant. The position of Information and Support Specialist has been kindly funded by a grant from Macmillan Cancer Support.

RSPB Langford Lowfields Update



Spring is on the way, and the signs are starting to be visible here on the reserve. The snowdrops are through in the wood with their usual resilient cheer. On the less windy mornings, bird song is rife and if you walk through the woodland on the footpath that circumnavigates the site you may hear a **duncock**, **great tit**, **chaffinch** and **song thrush** all singing away.

The **Sunday volunteer work party** was again a great success and had a recycling theme. Reed panicles (seed heads) were collected to be stored away for the summer when they will be sown in the poly-tunnel and scattered on the reserve where they should germinate well to extend our current reedbed habitat.

The volunteers were also busy making fish shelters, these consist of a wooden frame made from wood reclaimed from our other site **Beckingham Marshes** near Gainsborough, encased in chicken wire and stuffed with willow brash. These are important for the reserves ecosystem and give smaller fish a refuge from predators: larger fish and birds including cormorants.

As always if you know of a local group that would like to visit the site or you are interested in volunteering here at Langford please give the office a call on 01636 893611.

Nicola Craven, (RSPB Langford Lowfields)

TUESDAY CLUB

Both meetings in March will be in the Village Hall.

Tuesday, 8th March. 10.30am. Morning coffee.



Tuesday, 22nd March. 2.30pm. Slide show of a holiday in Scotland – this was due to happen last month but had to be postponed due to the building work in the Village Hall. We visited the Elite Restaurant for a fish and chip lunch instead.

Jean Foden.

Laxton Walks

Stuart Rose's programme of public walks round Laxton resume on Sunday March 13th. The first walk looks at Laxton after winter, meeting at the Visitor Centre at 10am to view the film introducing Laxton's unique three field system with its Court Leet and Jury.

Walkers will set off about 10.30am for a walk of around 4 miles. This will visit all three fields, seeing the winter sown crops emerging, the stakes positioned by the Jury in November and the new fallow field with its overwinter stubble. Under this stewardship scheme, the stubble has to be disturbed by 20th March to create a suitable habitat for ground nesting birds such as the skylark. Radio Nottingham have just announced their spring Big Day Out campaign, when museums and other attractions will be opening free of charge and welcoming visitors from far and wide.

There will be a walk leaving the Visitor centre at 10.30am that day and including a visit to the heritage Museum. The second walk in the series takes place on Saturday 2nd April, also starting at 10am and focusing on the Mediaeval Landscape. These walks are free of charge and open to residents, friends and visitors alike.

We all know how easy it is to visit interesting places on holiday but to never see what is on the doorstep, so if you have been in Laxton awhile and never taken a walk round the fields, why not come along.

Joy Allison

Winter Wonderland continued.....



This picture was taken by Howard Morgan from Holme, looking across the river toward Muskhams. See the website for its true colour.

You think English is easy???

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Ed.



Dear All,

This letter is a thank you to all who have made my time in The East Trent Group so enjoyable and memorable. We are all living through a period of extraordinary change. I'm sure that within a short time The East Trent Group will have established itself further making it an even more attractive prospect for any future incumbent, whoever they may be. I wish them well as the group begins another stage in its development.

My last weekend was an amazing conclusion to my ministry with the East Trent Group. The farewell gift of a lamp was lovely. The cheque for £1,800.00 was phenomenal.

Both the social time on Saturday and the worship on Sunday will be particular treasured memories for us both as long as we have breath to remember.

Kristina and I are overwhelmed by the generosity and love of so many.

Thank you.

David



During the farewell reception for David, the East Trent Group Choir sang a lovely tribute to him written by Nick Narracott. For those who were not there to enjoy the singing, I print the words below so that you may at least enjoy the sentiments. **Ed**

The East Trent Group Choir :-

David's Farewell - January 2011

1:

The Church's one foundation
Was David Milner, Priest
He kept us all in order
And celebrated Feasts
And now he's moving onwards
To Farndon pastures new
What will we do without him
We must not cry Boo-Hoo

3:

A lesser man would have a fit
But David he did muse
And recognised the potential
Of people in the pews
And soon we had the volunteers
In teams working for free
It turned out rather well we think
To use the laity

2:

When David came to Collingham
We were a group of four
But Winthorpe, Holme and Langford
Made us somewhat more
And then when Ken retired
Oh my, another three
With Clifton, Harby, Thorney
All joining in with glee.

4:

So David Milner's leaving us
But we are not down hearted
For what he's taught us makes us
strong
To continue what he started
And so in saying our goodbyes
To you and Tina too
We ask God's Blessing on you both
AND WILL NOT CRY BOO-HOO

Nick Narracott - January 2011

Church Notices

2011 has already made its mark in the village. Mrs Joan Roach with her family and friends celebrated her 90th birthday in the Village Hall - another memorable occasion.

On Saturday 29th January a farewell celebration was held in the Memorial Hall Collingham for Revd. David Milner & Kristina as they embark on their journey around the parishes of Farndon and his work with the Area Dean.

He was presented with a cheque donated by the East Trent Group of churches and a lamp which was made locally. His final service was held at All Saints Church Collingham on 30th January. This was supported well by all the churches. His Installation will be held in Hawton Church on **March 1st** and there will be representatives present from each of our churches. The Benefice choir have been asked to join the Farndon choir to lead the service.

Life without David must go on so we are very grateful to the retired priests who will take some of services and members of our congregation who will take some other services. Our link with the other churches in the group will be through Marion Collins the Administrator in the office at Collingham.

THIS IS A BIG CHALLENGE FOR US ALL

Both the church & Mr Steven Jackson's gardens will be open on **Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th April.**

As the National Garden Scheme has only advertised the event for the Sunday it has been suggested that people who live in the area might prefer to visit Saturday as being the quieter day.

We do hope you will all support the church Flower Festival and join us for Evensong at 4pm on the Sunday.

It is appropriate that the Priest who will be leading the service used to be a Chaplain to the Queen Mother at Glamis Castle,

Date for your diary - **Saturday 25th June 2011** Bar-B-Q at The Grove, Winthorpe by kind permission of Mrs Margaret Thornhill. Further information later.

On Monday **28th March** 2011 the Annual General Meeting of All Saints Church PCC will be held at 7.15pm in the Village Hall Winthorpe. This meeting is open to all villagers and we would welcome their input, especially any people who have recently moved into the village. We desperately need some younger people to help us and bring new ideas. We are still without a churchwarden so if you are a communicant in the Church of England and would be interested please let me know on **702104** as soon as possible.

We send our best wishes to those who are unwell or in hospital at this time. We do have a group of volunteers in the village who will visit people in their home if required - please do contact me.

Church Bells

They will ring for practices on Thursday evenings from 7.00pm - 9.0pm and possibly for the following-:

Sunday March 13th 10.15am Holy Communion

Sunday March 20th 10.15am Morning Worship

Sunday March 27th 6pm Evensong

Ann Stone, PCC Secretary.

Up-To-date notices of our church services and those of the other church services in the Benefice are displayed outside the church.

You are cordially invited to the exhibition
**‘Life in Nottinghamshire,
Past and Present’**



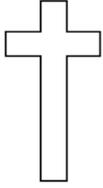
At Thoresby Gallery

**An exhibition of collections and displays
from local history and community groups.**

Until 20th March 2011

There is a programme of free weekend talks when tea, coffee
and biscuits will be available.

For details please see
www.thoresby.com or contact
caroline@thoresby.com 01623 822365



SERVICES FOR MARCH

SUNDAY 6th Next before Lent

9am

Holy Communion, **Holme.**

NO SERVICE IN WINTHORPE

9th ASH WEDNESDAY – Ashing Ceremony

7.30pm

St John Baptist, **Collingham.**

SUNDAY 13th Lent 1

10.15am

Holy Communion, **Winthorpe.**

THURSDAY 17th

10am

Holy Communion, **Winthorpe.**

Said Service (B.C.P.)

SUNDAY 20th Lent 2

10.15am

Morning Worship, **Winthorpe.**

SUNDAY 27th Lent 3

9am

Holy Communion, **Langford.**

6pm

Evensong, **Winthorpe.**

ALL ARE WELCOME

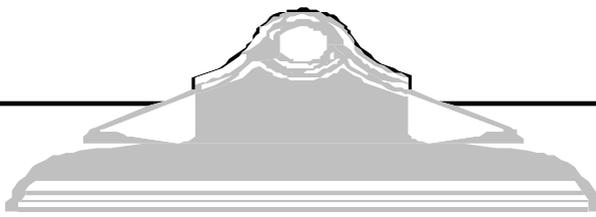
CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

March

25th Miss Applewhite

April

22nd Mrs Foden. Mrs Lloyd



MARCH CALENDAR

Thursday 3 rd	Library Van.
Monday 7 th	Luncheon Club 12.30pm – Comm. Centre. Green Bin
Tuesday 8 th	Tuesday Club Coffee Morn. 10.30am – V.H.
Thursday 10 th	WI AGM 7.30pm – Village Hall.
Monday 14 th	Silver Bin
Wednesday 16 th	Garden Club, 7.30pm – Community Centre.
Thursday 17 th	Library Van.
Monday 21 st	Green Bin
Tuesday 22 nd	Tuesday Club slide show 2.30pm – V.H.
Monday 28 th	Parochial Parish Council AGM 7.15pm - V.H. Silver Bin.
Thursday 31 st	Library Van

‘Village organisations and local bodies – if at any time you would like to get in touch with a village contact, why not try the village website.’

www.winthorpe.org.uk