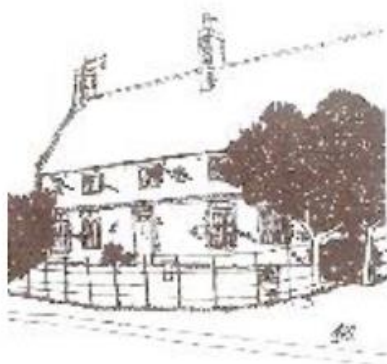




FOCAL POINT



December 2023

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Season's Greetings to all our advertisers

**Thank you for supporting Focal Point
throughout 2023.**

**Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and
a happy and prosperous New Year.**

By advertising in Focal Point, and reaching out to the local community, you are part of a fantastic team of people, who are working for the benefit of everyone in Winthorpe, Langford and Holme. Without the income generated from your adverts, Focal Point could not survive and the villagers would lose a valuable resource.

If you are involved in a local business or enterprise, please consider placing an advert in Focal Point – even if you aren't looking to increase your business. Simply look upon it as a contribution to your community.

If you value your community, support local businesses who advertise in Focal Point. Let's help each other.

FOCAL POINT DISTRIBUTION TEAM

We have a fantastic team of volunteers, who deliver Focal Point in all weathers to residences, churches, local businesses and our primary school, within the three villages of Winthorpe Langford and Holme. Thanks go to every one of them and especially to Les Murray, who organises the whole operation.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!



A blue abstract graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes, primarily triangles and quadrilaterals, creating a layered, mountain-like effect. The colors range from a deep blue to a lighter, almost white blue.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The clocks have gone back, the days have grown shorter and the weather is becoming somewhat 'nippy'. Welcome to December and winter. Christmas preparations are underway and by mid-December many of us will be tired of hearing Christmas jingly music in shops and pubs and restaurants. We may well wonder if it's all worth it and if Christmas has simply become too commercialised – if the true spirit of Christmas has become lost in all the hustle and bustle of modern life.

Christmas is a Christian festival, of course; some would say it's the most important of all Christian festivals. But Christmas also has meaning for many non-Christian people. Christmas is a time of giving and of goodwill; it's a time to have fun and to get together with family and friends we wish we could see more often. It's also a time to be considerate of those people who, for whatever reason, don't look forward to Christmas. Many charities depend on our generosity at Christmas so that they can continue their good work throughout the year. We can't support every one of them but maybe we can give something to the ones closest to our hearts, whichever they may be.

Within our villages, there are groups and individuals giving their time and effort to organise fundraising events and activities for the benefit of local people. If you can join in with at least one of these, maybe give your time and skills to help, then you will be spreading the spirit of Christmas within your community – and you will feel the warmth of Christmas within yourself.

Sending my warmest Christmas wishes to you all

Please remember that the deadline for items for January 2024's edition is **11th December**, to enable the printers and Focal Point's Distribution Team to get that to you on time!

Julie Johnson-Hill (01636 676079)

NEXT MONTH'S DEADLINE IS 11TH DECEMBER

winthorpefocalpoint@outlook.com

December Calendar

When	What	Where
Fri 1 st	Green bin	L'ford/Holme
Sat 2 nd	Baby & children's market	Winthorpe
Sat 2 nd	Christmas craft market	Winthorpe
Mon 4 th	Silver bin	Winthorpe
Mon 4 th	Brown bin	All
Mon 4 th	Line Dancing	Winthorpe
Tue 5 th	Community Cuppa	Winthorpe
Thur 7 th	WI Christmas coffee morning	Winthorpe
Fri 8 th	Silver bin	L'ford/ Holme
Sat 9 th	70s Disco Nite	Winthorpe
Mon 11 th	Green bin	Winthorpe
Mon 11 th	Mobile Library	All
Mon 11 th	Line Dancing	Winthorpe
Tue 12 th	Community Cuppa	Winthorpe
Wed 13 th	WI Christmas party	Winthorpe
Fri 15 th	Green bin	L'ford/ Holme
Mon 18 th	Silver bin	Winthorpe
Mon 18 th	Line Dancing	Winthorpe
Tue 19 th	Community Cuppa	Winthorpe
Thur 21 st	Parish Council Meeting	Winthorpe
Fri 22 nd	Silver bin	L'ford/ Holme
Sat 23 rd	Green bin	Winthorpe
Sun 24 th	Christmas Eve	
Mon 25 th	Christmas Day	
Tue 26 th	Boxing Day	
Sat 30 th	Green bin	L'ford/ Holme
Sun 31 st	New Year's Eve	



**This month, the mobile library will call at our villages
on Monday 11th December**

Mobile Library Routes and Timetable 2023 for Winthorpe, Langford and Holme*				
Stop No.	Village	Location	Arrive	Depart
1	Winthorpe	The Spinney	9.50am	10.10am
2	Winthorpe	junction of Pocklington Crescent and Branston Close	10.15am	10.35am
3	Winthorpe	junction of Gainsborough Road and Woodlands	10.40am	10.50am
4	Langford	Langford Hall Farm	10.55am	11.10am
5	Holme	Snaefell, Langford Lane	11.20am	11.30am
6	Holme	Southview Farm	11.35am	11.55am

*Information taken from inspireculture.org.uk

Don't forget to contact the editor about any events or activities happening in Winthorpe, Langford or Holme, so that they can be included in Focal Point.

Email: winthorpefocalpoint@outlook.com

Tel: 01636 676079



COLLINGHAM MEDICAL CENTRE

High Street
Collingham
Newark NG23 7LB
Tel: 01636 892156

Email: collingham.medicalcentre@nhs.net

SURGERY OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday 8.00am - 6.15pm

For Appointments telephone: 8.00am – 6.15pm

For Prescriptions telephone: 10.00am – 12.00pm

CHRISTMAS 2023

Monday 25 December 2023 – CLOSED

Tuesday 26 December 2023 – CLOSED

Monday 1 January 2024 – CLOSED

(Normal opening hours all other days)

The Collingham Medical Centre team would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Our communication with patients relies on current information. If your personal details change, including telephone numbers, please let the practice know. Thank you.

Out of Hours Service is provided from 111 when the surgery is closed.

Website: www.collinghammedicalcentre.co.uk



COLLINGHAM PHARMACY

High Street
Collingham
Newark NG23 7LB
Tel: 01636 893038

Email: collingham.pharmacy@nhs.net

CHRISTMAS 2023

Saturday 23 December – Open 9 am – 12.30 pm

Monday 25 December – CLOSED

Tuesday 26 December – CLOSED

Saturday 30 December – Open 9 am – 12.30 pm

Monday 1 January 2023 – CLOSED

(Normal opening hours all other days. Closed between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm every day)

The Collingham Pharmacy team would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

When this Pharmacy is closed, if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation contact NHS 111.

Information can also be accessed at www.nhs.uk

Website: www.collinghammedicalcentre.co.uk

News from Collingham Medical Centre and the Patient Participation Group

All of us here at the Collingham Medical Centre would like to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year, and share the following winter 2023/2024 update:

NHS App: Have you downloaded the 'NHS App' yet? It has multiple functions: you can book and cancel appointments, order repeat prescriptions, even see your recent consultations since 1st November.

We held a digital hub on the 8th Nov at the practice, which was very useful for patients who were interested in learning how to download and use the NHS App. Keep an eye out for the next date, if this is something you feel you would like help with.

Christmas Information: Details of the surgery opening times over Christmas and New Year are shown on the page facing this article. If you are unwell whilst the practice is closed, please call 111, or 999 in an emergency.

Re-calibration of Blood Pressure Monitors: A big thank you to our Patient Participation Group, not only for funding the re-calibration of patients' home blood pressure monitors, but also for taking time out of their days to ensure monitors were labelled and given back out to patients. It was a huge success, with lots of you bringing along your blood pressure monitors. In total over 110 monitors were re-calibrated, ensuring that your monitors are still working correctly!

NHS 'Friends and Family Test', patient feedback: We welcome all patient feedback; this can be done via the Friend and Family Test feedback slips, available in the waiting room area.

Thinking 'Green': We're pleased to share that we now have a 'bra bank' located in the foyer of the Medical Centre, so any bras old or new, please feel free to drop them off for collection.

We're also committed to making more environmentally friendly decisions and are carrying out some green initiatives, such as having a meadow in the grass area of the practice. Donations of wildflower seeds are most welcome!





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**at Newark Showground
9th and 16th December 2023**

**£38.50 per person
BOOK YOUR PLACES NOW!**

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Email: xmas@newarkshowground.com

www.newarkshowground.com



Acts of Remembrance and Kindness

Thank you to whoever was responsible for the knitted poppies on the Gainsborough Road, Winthorpe, post box, and also on the nearby bench. Thank you for your hard work in planning, knitting and attaching the items. It has been very meaningful to see them every morning, and I am sure many other people have also appreciated them. Thank you.

Jane White

Winthorpe Summer Festival 2024

The date for next year's festival is Saturday 22nd June. Please make sure to put it in your diaries – hopefully you've got one for 2024 by now! There will be notices in Focal Point in the coming months, outlining the content of the festival. This early notice is a call out for volunteers to help in any way they can, including setting up on the day, marshalling the traffic and especially helping with parking. So, if you feel that you would like to support the village in some way, this is a great opportunity to get involved!

Also, if anyone has any ideas of what they would like to see/do at the event, please contact me by email, text or phone.

Thank you,

Sue Masheder

Festival Committee suemasheder@hotmail.co.uk mob: 07714548561

Defibrillator codes for Winthorpe

Community Centre: C159X

Village Hall: CY543

Defibrillator code for Holme

Phone Box at junction of Langford Lane and High Steeet. No code needed, as the lock was removed some time ago, for good reasons.

Please contact the editor with the defibrillator code for Langford, if you would like it to be included in future editions of Focal Point.



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FAREWELL to MANDY and PHIL



East Trent Group of Churches: Besthorpe, Clifton, Collingham,
Girton, Harby, Holme, Langford, South Scarle, Thorney and
Winthorpe.

Saturday 27th January 2024
1pm to 4pm at the **Memorial Hall, Collingham.**
with
Cheese & Wine
Tea & Coffee

Everyone is invited to come and say their personal goodbyes

Sunday 28th January 2024 at 11am
United Holy Communion
St. John the Baptist Church, Collingham

This will be Revd. Mandy's last Sunday service
in the East Trent Group of Churches

There will be a retiring collection for Mandy & Phil's choice of charity



Children outgrown their clothes?

Toys gathering dust?

Want to save 183 million items of children's clothing
from going to landfill each year?

On the hunt for preloved Christmas presents?

Winthorpe is hosting a Baby & Childrens Market
on Saturday 2nd December from 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Winthorpe Community Centre

Wanting to sell? Text 07792160180 or message 'Winthorpe with Langford Parish Council' on Facebook

Wanting to buy? Just turn up. £1 entry. Kids Free

Pop-Up Café with Teas, Coffees and Cake

Profit for Winthorpe playpark improvements through Winthorpe with Langford Parish Council



Winthorpe and District WI

Christmas

Coffee Morning

***A warm
Welcome
to Everyone
for some Festive
Christmas Cheer***



**Entry: £3.50 including
Coffee / Tea and Cake
Soft drinks for Children**

***Come and enjoy the
singing by the Children of
Winthorpe School***



**Venue: Winthorpe Community Centre
Woodlands, Winthorpe, Newark, NG24 2NL
Date Thursday 7th December 2023
Time: 10.30 - 12.00**

It's back...The 70's Disco Nite
WINTHORPE COMMUNITY CENTRE
Saturday 9th December 2023, 7:30pm



Pie and Peas included in admission price.

Bar run by The Lord Nelson

Tickets £10, available from:

Michele:07951728079, Jane:07546649934,

Leane:07792160180 and The Lord Nelson



Dancing to 1970's Smash hits! Wear your 70's disco gear!

Bar open until 11.30pm



Winthorpe Community Centre Charity

100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100

Winners for November

1st	£49.80	Sammy Allen
2nd	£24.90	Rob Wilkinson
3rd	£8.30	David Barthorpe

**100
Club**

**Congratulations
to our winners.**

The Winthorpe Community Centre Charity 100-Club is an opportunity for you to support your local Community Centre, whilst enjoying a small flutter! Every month, 3 winners share 50% of the 100-Club subscriptions, with the remainder going to the Charity for the development and maintenance of the Community Centre. Please contact Nina Adams if you would like to join the 100 Club: ninjab71@gmail.com
Thank You!

WINTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

At the AGM, which was held on Thursday 9th November, the following Trustees were re-elected:

Bob McClymont - Chairman

Susie Conning - Secretary

Joan Lord - Treasurer

Paul Smith – Ex-officio member (representing Winthorpe with Langford PC)

Lee Cammack - Trustee

I am very pleased to announce that Julie Johnson-Hill, having expressed an interest in becoming a Trustee, was duly elected and subsequently agreed to be our bookings secretary.

We now have a very strong team and I would like to thank every one of them for all their hard work to make the Village Hall a welcoming space for village activities. We are now getting more bookings and the Community Cuppa on Tuesday afternoons is doing well: 15 people came together on 7th November. Please continue to support us if you can. With winter approaching, we are happy to offer to collect by car anyone who would like to attend the Community Cuppa but finds it difficult to walk to the Village Hall.

The prices for using the Village Hall were discussed and it was agreed that, from January 2024, the charges (per hour) will be:

- one-off charity/fundraising events for the benefit of the village: free
- regular charity/fundraising events: £8.50
- use of the hall by residents or village groups: £8.50
- all other users: £10

There will be a Village Hall stall with Tombola and Famous Grouse Treasure Hunt at the Christmas Market on 2nd December at the Lord Nelson. We look forward to seeing you there.

With very best wishes for the Christmas season,



Bob McClymont

WINTHORPE GARDEN CLUB

At our meeting on 15th November, we welcomed our guest speaker, Peter Snowden. We had visited his Garden Rooms at Thorney on a damp evening in late June. Now he came to tell us more about the forty years of thought, design and hard work it had taken to achieve.

But before this, he briefly outlined changes in gardening fashion down the centuries from Roman formality, through the open landscapes as practised by Capability Brown, and the influence of Gertrude Jekyll amongst others. Always drawn to the notion of varied compartments or rooms, he described how he had taken inspiration from the layout at Hidcote in particular. He also 'nicked' as he put it, ideas from elsewhere; he cited as one example the oblong pond with surrounding path, which was part of a Chris Beardshaw garden at RHS Chelsea.

When Peter and Jill bought the house in the 1980s, the surrounding land was neglected, with grass, nettles and resident horse. From a blank canvas, aided by their daughters, they set about realising their dream. Peter had always kept chickens so they and a vegetable plot were the first priority. Rooms were formed, gradually working away from the house, by various types of hedging including beech. These rooms contain many unusual plants, some of which are colour themed. A large wildlife pond was created; a building which had once housed pigs was rebuilt as Peter's pottery, incorporating elements of the Arts and Crafts movement as seen elsewhere in the garden. The most recent addition to the garden is an area of woodland, providing a peaceful walk at the extremity of the garden.

Just a reminder, there is no meeting in December but we start the New Year with our annual social event on Wednesday 17th January at 7.30pm. Please remember to bring your food contribution. If in doubt, Julie Parker has the list.

Finally, may I wish everyone a peaceful, joyful Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Ian Wilson



WINTHORPE WI

Book Club

The Book Club met on Thursday, 19th October at the Lord Nelson. It was nice to see the pub so busy, as it seemed that every group in the area had chosen to hold a meeting there on that day.

We discussed *Lost Man of Bombay* by Vaseem Khan, a crime story set in India in the 1950s. The main character, Persis, is the only female detective in the Indian Police Force. The book was very informative about the division of India and the feelings of the Indian population. It also touched on the Indian caste system and the place of women in Indian Society.

At our next meeting on Thursday, 16th November we will discuss *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell; the critique of this will be included in next month's article. The Book Club is open to all members of the WI.

Meeting 7th November

A hive of activity greeted members when they walked into the Community Centre for our meeting on 9th November. Guests and visitors were welcomed; our President/Secretary made a very good job of remembering everyone's name – I sometimes can't remember the names of people I do know!

Two birthdays were celebrated before the master class in wreath making given by Kathryn Proctor got underway. Members had pre-paid for materials, which were already distributed on the tables. Even those who didn't participate had a good time, as members got into the Christmas spirit. So, now we will all know who belongs to the WI by the beautiful Christmas wreath hanging on their door! Apologies to the cleaner at the Community Centre – we did our best to clean up the mess afterwards.

Our next meeting is our Christmas Party on **Wednesday 13th December**; this will be a catered meal with entertainment provided by the Collingham Singers. **Please note the start time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm and let the Secretary know your choice of meal.** It was decided not have a Secret Santa, but to donate money to a charity, yet to be decided. This is a members only event.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our first meeting of 2024 on Wednesday **10th January**, when the subject will be 'Rejuvenate'. The first meeting is free, subsequent meetings incur a £5.00 charge.

Please come along to support our stall at the Lord Nelson Christmas Market on **2nd December**, as well as our coffee morning at the Community Centre on **7th December**, with singing by the children of Winthorpe School. We are also participating in the Christmas Tree Festival at Newark Parish Church, which runs from 2nd until 10th December.

On behalf of Winthorpe WI I would like to wish everyone a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

Pauline Lockwood

My Christmas message to readers of Focal Point

I understand the challenges that the last few months have posed, after the worry and disruption caused by the recent flooding during storm Babet. I've witnessed incredible resilience within our community and I extend my gratitude to flood wardens, parish councils, and the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue services. There are certainly lessons to be learnt and I have met with Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency to ask them to investigate what happened and how we can proceed.

As we embrace the festive season, I am excited to see the villages adorned with festive lights and decorations. I hope that the spirit of Christmas brings joy to your families. Let's also remember and appreciate the dedication of our NHS, police, and public service workers, who will be working throughout the winter season to keep us safe.

Representing our area in Parliament is a privilege. If I can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with health and happiness,

Robert Jenrick MP





Winthorpe with Langford Parish Council

The meeting of the Parish Council, held in the Village Hall on Thursday 16th November, was attended by District Councillor Linda Dales, in addition to members of the Parish Council.

Good news this Month! We now have confirmation of funding for the Coronation Bank Project behind the Community Centre. We have worked with Severn Trent Water on this and they have now paid the funding we applied for into the Parish Council's account. We also hope to have support from the Thomas Brewer Charity; in addition, the project will be supported by the Parish Council. Some of you may know Miles Harriman, Chair of the Allotment Association; Miles and I will be overseeing the project.

The Coronation Bank Project is, of course, part of other work which we are undertaking on Jubilee Meadow and, to this end, we have established a Project Group to oversee all the work. The group first met on Wednesday 22nd November and an update on the discussions in the group will be included in next month's Focal Point. The group is made up of representatives of all relevant village groups, members of the Parish Council and some interested residents. If anybody would like to get involved in the Project Group, please let me know.

We are looking to start the tree planting on Jubilee Meadow in February 2024 and the re-working of the Coronation Bank will follow in March, so it's hoped to have both projects finished for the Spring for all residents of the Parish to enjoy. Although we are still relatively early in the planning process, we will be looking for people to get involved and lend a hand with digging/planting etc. We anticipate that children from Winthorpe Primary School will get involved with the design of a nature walk, which will include a bug hotel as well as other interesting features. We are also pleased to say that we have secured additional funding to create a 'Community Orchard', which will be made up of approximately ten trees and be integrated into the planting design.

Ahead of possible poor winter weather, the grit bins have been topped up and five bags of grit stored separately at the Village Hall and the Community Centre – let's hope that we don't need to use them!

At the end of November, during Road Safety Week, a project led by Parish Councillor Leane Cutts, covering road safety, speeding, parking etc, was held at

Winthorpe Primary School. The children and staff were heavily involved and it included visits from the Police, PCSO's and our County Councillor Debbie Darby. Our hope is that, through the School working with Parents and Governors, this will help to improve road safety in Winthorpe and in particular parking outside the school. We also hope that this may become a model for other schools in the area.

As I'm sure you will all remember, we were subjected to heavy rain at the end of October; on one particular Friday this severely affected our friends in Holme and for several days effectively meant that the village was cut off. In Winthorpe, we also had a situation which could have become a lot worse if not for the support of Parish Councillors. The grid in The Fleet at the side of the Lord Nelson became blocked and, due to the enormous water flow, the river began to rise rapidly. After a couple of phone calls, the Internal Drainage Board attended site within 20 minutes and cleared the blockage. Newark & Sherwood District Council staff also attended site to remove all the rubbish, which was dredged out of the river.

Just a reminder to dog walkers that as it's now out of the Cricket Season, the Cricket Pitch can be used to exercise dogs until the season begins again. We will give ample warning of when this is, in a future Focal Point. Sadly, there have been recent instances of 'poo bags' being left in areas around the parish, including in Holme Parish towards and around Winthorpe Lakes. Thankfully, these have been spotted by responsible dog owners and placed in the red bins provided.

In Planning, only one application had been received since the last edition of Focal Point. This was for the replacement of a communications mast near to the old Friendly Farmer, where there is already a mast in place. Given that it is replacing an existing mast, the Parish Council had no objection. It may even provide better 5G coverage to the Parish than we already have.

The next meeting of The Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 21st December, starting at 7.30pm; in the meantime, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact me at the following:
paul@bridgfordss.co.uk

Paul Smith

Chair, Winthorpe with Langford Parish Council



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

Do you have 15 days a year and would like to help out?

We're seeking volunteers on an ongoing basis to join our pool of independent admission appeals panel members.

Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible for hearing appeals for many of the primary schools and academies across Nottinghamshire when children have been refused a place at a school.

The panel members are independent of Nottinghamshire County Council and schools. Full training is provided so no experience is needed, nor will any experience in an education setting adversely affect your application.

If you are interested in joining the panel or have any further questions, please email us at: education.appeals@nottscc.gov.uk

Our Panel members come from all walks of life and bring a wide range of experience and perspectives.

There is no closing date for applications and all training is offered by the Education Appeals team at Nottinghamshire County Council.

For more information about school appeals, visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/appeal-a-school-admission-decision



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

THINK AGAIN



The Winthorpe Residents' A46 Consultation Group

The group is still awaiting a further discussion with National Highways but has received no further direct communication from them. It is assumed that this is due to the planning process delay reported last month. Archaeological surveys continue to be undertaken and more are expected on the land adjacent to the Showground roundabout before Christmas.

The core working group will meet in mid-December and would welcome any views or input from residents of the village. If you have any specific questions or concerns about the scheme, please contact Think Again. The dedicated Think Again website is available as a single point of information and communication for the village. It can be found by following the link:

<https://a46thinkagain.org.uk> A46WinthorpeVillage@outlook.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ThinkAgainA46Newark>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ThinkAgainA46>



Langford Lowfields Update 20th November 2023

The reserve is still closed to the public, due to the on-going flooding situation. The public car park and the public footpath that follows the outer perimeter of the site are open but it may well be the case that not all the birds counted on the Wetland Bird Survey are viewable.

At the peak of the flooding, water levels were about 4 metres higher than normal winter levels and the reserve essentially became a colder version of the Mediterranean, with lots of water, a glossy ibis and up to 4 cattle egrets and 10 great white egrets thrown in for good measure.

There is still no firm idea of when the reserve will be re-opened, with the Trent needing to drop a bit more to allow the release of water still sitting on the Visitor Trail. Whilst the reserve remains closed, if you're feeling adventurous the 4 mile walk around the perimeter is worth doing, with recent sightings of great white egrets, cattle egret, pintail, marsh harriers and stonechat along the route.

COLLINGHAM BOWLS CLUB

SEASON 2023

Collingham Bowls Club has completed another season of competitive and social bowling. During the season we have welcomed new bowlers and have organised our activities to cater for all abilities and experience.

The club has taken part in 4 local leagues, 3 in Lincoln and District and 1 in the Newark and Sherwood Area. Alongside these regular weekly matches the club has competed in several knockout cup competitions. By and large, the results have been rewarding, the club winning 1 Lincoln league and 2 cup competitions. Thanks to all the captains for organising the teams and to all the players for their efforts.

Monthly internal events have also taken place during the season, as well as the popular weekly Friday Night League. A friendly match against Woodhall Spa was a great success. We hope to travel to Woodhall Spa next season for a return fixture and then make this a permanent event in future years .

We ran an Open Trips Competition on 4th June. 16 teams from Collingham and Local Clubs took part. All teams played initially in 3 pool matches, followed by 2 semi-finals and a final. A team from Bottesford were victorious and went away with handsome monetary prizes. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Coaching sessions, run by one of our experienced bowlers, have run on a weekly basis. We have also offered 'have a go' sessions for a group from Collingham U3A .We worked in conjunction with Collingham Cricket Club on 7th May, in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles.

The members have enjoyed using the newly refurbished clubhouse and are thankful to Tarmac and The Parish Council for the grants which facilitated these improvements. The club would also like to thank all local businesses who have provided generous prizes for our Finals Day, namely: Collingham Chemist, One Stop, J.D Nicholson, The Kings Head, Village Fish Bar, The Post Office, Gusto's, Walker Electronics, The Royal Oak and Hayley Jane Beauty Retreat.

The green has played well and is kept in tip-top condition by our green-keepers. Because of the excellent quality of our playing surface and the hospitality we offer, we were asked again to host one of the Finals Days for the Lincoln and District League. This is a prestigious event and again was a successful day of bowls for all those concerned. Thanks to all those who worked hard behind the scenes and contributed to the success of the event.

We are now in the process of planning the 2024 season, which will start next April. We hope to build on the successes of this past season, developing the programme of activities for our membership and new bowlers .

Further details regarding our new season will be issued in March 2024.

Collingham Bowls Club Committee

NEWARK FOODBANK



Donations to the Foodbank come in steadily. Thank you to everyone who contributes. Since last writing, there have been two deliveries of 69.2kg and 35.2kg. With the expense of Christmas on the horizon, plus higher heating bills, now that the weather is colder, please remember all those who really struggle with the cost of living.

Especially needed now are: coffee, long life fruit juice, UHT milk, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, instant mash, sponge puddings (both tinned and microwaveable), and shampoo. Always needed are: breakfast cereal, sugar, biscuits, cereal bars, toilet rolls, jam, toiletries, savoury rice packets.

Winthorpe collection points are:

- **The Lord Nelson, new location:** through the front door, turn left into the main area. To your left is the Foodbank collection box
- The swing bin at 11 Gainsborough Road, available 24/7
- The church porch, Sun 10am-12noon, Thurs 1.30-3.30p

Alternatively, if you would like to donate through your bank, the details for the Foodbank are: NatWest, sort code 54 10 23, a/c no. 19405812

Jane White

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07789175957

Pauldewison771@gmail.com

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Christmas Market: Saturday 2nd December, 10am-4pm

Lots of lovely stalls selling home made gifts, cards etc.

This year we have a visit from Santa Claus, and the Collingham Singers

Village Lunch: Tuesday 5th December, two courses for £14.00
Pop in or call the pub for menu options

Quiz Night: Tuesday 12th December, £1.00 per person entry fee
Booking essential. Why not add dinner for £8.00?

Set Menu every Tuesday and Wednesday
Lunchtime and Evening (excluding Quiz Night)
2 courses £17.95 3 courses £21.95

Open Mic Night: Monday 18th December
Fancy yourself as the next Harry Styles or Becky Hill? Come down and join in!

We are now taking bookings for Christmas and New Year

Don't forget that we still have the onsite shop, newspapers
and Fish and Chip Takeaway
Post Office every Thursday from 9am until 12 noon

Thanks from Emma and the Team





DECEMBER'S REFLECTIONS



Dear Friends,

I'd like to wish you a very happy Christmas and I look forward to celebrating Christmas with you in Winthorpe, Holme and Langford. Seven years ago, when I arrived, I quickly discovered the fun, variety and inventiveness of country Christmases! Imagine my delight when Christmas carol services began early in December, involved an auction of goods, beautifully decorated churches, delicious treats, children reading and singing solos, and candlelight processions; to say nothing about the freezing cold so that we could see every note we sang!

Well, those first children have grown up a lot; our Christmas services have grown; we've opened up all our churches for quiet Christmas thoughts; taken our carol singing to Winthorpe streets; reached out to all our neighbours and eaten countless mince pies. This year, I look forward to spending my last Christmas with you all here – make sure you come to our services and events.

When I arrived, I said that my favourite Christmas carol is this:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine.
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angel gave the sign.



I love those words. This is why I celebrate Christmas. Jesus was born to show us who God is and what God is like. Jesus shows us how to live and love. May all our village life reflect that love.

God bless you all,

Rev. Mandy

Tel. 01636 361657

email: revdmand@hotmail.com





All Saints' Church, Winthorpe

How can this year have passed by so quickly! It really is frightening.

It was lovely to welcome Rory into the Church Family last month. It was also good to hold our two Special Services: the All Saints' Day Songs of Praise and the Remembrance Service.

We look forward this month to many more special events, starting with the Christingle, at Winthorpe School on **Monday 4th December** at 2.30pm, to which villagers are invited. The Carol Service follows on **Sunday 17th December**, where we will happily be joined by the Hungate Singers. Please do make sure that you stay for refreshments afterwards. At the Lord Nelson on **Wednesday 20th December** there will be Carol Singing out in the garden, followed by mulled wine/mince pies etc. Finally, we shall hold our **Christmas Eve Communion Service** at 7pm.

This is the first notification of an event to celebrate the retirement of Mandy as Vicar. It is taking the form of a meal (£16-18 approx. for two Courses) at the Lord Nelson on Wednesday 24th January 2024. Anyone in the village is very welcome to attend. There will be more information in January's Focal Point. Meanwhile, do contact me to show your interest. Please note the other Farewell Events on page 9 of this edition of Focal Point.

On behalf of the PCC may I wish everyone a Happy Christmas. We remember in our prayers all those who are hospitalised, coping with health issues or facing a bereavement at this time.

Tish Applewhite (Churchwarden)
tishapplewhite@msn.com 643763 07896821414

Church Flower Ladies: the church will be open from 1.30pm on Friday 15th December to receive your Christmas flower arrangements, with removal from 2pm on Tuesday 2nd January. Thank you very much.

Church Cleaners- Mrs J Lord and Mrs C Hasman





St. Giles Church, Holme

Hello from St Giles Church, Holme.

We're now in December and busy preparing for the Christmas celebrations.

This year, Advent Sunday will be on **3rd December**; happily, on that day we will have our usual first Sunday of the month service at 9am.

A few days later, you will see the illuminated tree put in place in front of the church, together with the floodlighting. Mr Alan Bradley has kindly offered to donate a Christmas tree to go inside the church. This will be in place in time for the Holme Carol Service to be held at 6pm on **Sunday 17th December** and we look forward to welcoming many of you again for this popular annual village event.

Finally, on Christmas Day we will hold our **Festive Family Communion Service with Carols**.

These occasions will sadly be the last time that Rev Mandy will lead these particular services at Holme, before her retirement at the end of January.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas,

Nigel and Doreen

Nigel Priestley and Doreen Hallam.

Phone, 01636 892020,

email: nigel.priestley10@gmail.com





St Bartholomew's Church, Langford

It is not long now until we will share carols together again in our beautiful church.

Decorating the church for Advent will take place over two days: on **Friday 8th December** the church will be open from 10pm until 12noon, and on **Saturday 9th December** from 1pm until 3pm. All welcome to help put up decorations. Holly and ivy out of gardens always very welcome!

Our service of carols with Rev. Mandy will be on **Sunday 10th December** – warm mulled wine and mince pies at 3pm, followed by carols around the piano. There will be a memory tree again; please bring something to hang on our memory tree this Christmas or light a candle.



This will be Mandy's last Christmas service with us before she retires in 2024; let us give her a festive service to remember.

During the winter months the church will be opened for shorter hours, between 10am and 3pm, on days we are available to unlock. Please let our keyholders know if you would like church to be open on a specific day.



Jerry Steele - Churchwarden
01636893143
John and Becky - Keyholders
07753117530

Church Services for December 2023



Sunday December 3rd	9.00am	Holy Communion	Holme
Sunday 10th (2 nd of Advent)	10.30am 3.00pm	Holy Communion Carol Service	Winthorpe Langford
Sunday 17th (4 th of Advent)	4.30pm 6.00pm	Carol Service Carol Service	Winthorpe Holme
Sunday 24th (Christmas Eve)	7.00pm	Holy Communion	Winthorpe
Monday 25th (Christmas Day)	10.15am	Holy Communion	Holme



Every Thursday	1.30 – 3.30pm	Open Church	Winthorpe
Every Day	10.00 – 4.00pm	Open Church	Holme

For more information please visit the East Trent Churches website:
www.easttrentchurches.org.uk

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