

FOCAL POINT

ISSUE No. 399



2014

Ed's Comments

Snowdrops and Valentines – February is a month of promise! By the end of the month the villages will be carpeted with the white of snowdrops and the postman will have been busy.

How many of us in this day and age stay in one place for any length of time? I have lost count of how many times I have moved and yet it would seem that Winthorpe, Langford and Holme are places where many people can say “I was born here and have lived here all my life!” or “I have lived here for over thirty years since my house / bungalow was built!” One of these people is George Mann who will be celebrating his one hundredth birthday on 11th February and about whom his neighbour has written a lovely article in this edition of Focal Point. A very happy birthday to you, George, and thank you, Alex, for your article. We would love to hear more stories from our residents.

The villages are also welcoming to newcomers and I hope that Focal Point plays a part in this welcome and in helping people to find their way around. Before Nick and I moved to Winthorpe (is it really only two and a half years ago?!) one of the first things we did was go to the Village Store and get a copy of Focal Point. Another important article this month is the letter to us all from Martin and Jo at the Village Store. We looked for a village which had certain amenities when we were house hunting and a village shop was one of these.....

I am gazing out of the window at the rain pouring down as I write. All of us feel for those who have been affected by the weather this winter. Let us hope that it is flowers and not the other white stuff that February holds in store for us! **Annie Purday**

Closing date for the February issue is **Friday 21st February**. Deliver to Annie and Nick 18, Hargon Lane or email nickwynne@virginmedia.com

Dear Villagers,

HELP US SAVE YOUR VILLAGE STORE!

For the last 5 years like thousands of others, this store has been in rapid decline. We have struggled merely to keep sales stable but alas this is not happening. Over the last few years, our customer base has been substantially reduced as people have moved away or died and shopping habits have changed.



The underlying question here is what does your village store mean to **you**? Do you value being able to just stroll down the road when you have a parcel to post or when you need a jar of coffee or a pint of milk? Do you like to pop down the road when you want to get some money before you set off somewhere instead of nipping to town or walk down the road when you have a bill to pay? These are things that people expect to be able to do in a village and rightly so, but a village store cannot survive when used merely for these purposes.

There are other things that your village store is useful for e.g. notifying each other of functions and events, helping to find lost pets or re-unite any lost properties (sometimes valuable) with the owner. It can provide a laugh for those of you who, outside their shop, see no one else. It gives additional value to your home. (If you were looking at two villages to move to and one had a village store, which would you choose?). A village store is a fundamental part of village life.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The answer is so simple and costs so little and we feel is best to tell you **now** rather than after the shop is closed, when you will all say “We wish you’d told us!”

Do a £10 - £20 shop, once a week on the essentials that you use week in, week out. Let me demonstrate how easy it is.

Here is a sample shopping list taken from customers who shop here:
6 eggs 99p, sausages 1.89, toilet rolls 1.99, large milk 1.79,

bacon 1.99, bottle of best quality wine 5.49, Fairy liquid 1.29
Total so far- just £15.93

(Compare that to just purchasing a daily paper).

The best way of doing this is to set a fixed weekly order with us to collect once a week. By doing it this way we all gain. You know what you are buying locally and we know exactly what to stock to meet your needs. If we can all pull together and set this method of shopping in motion then, we can guarantee that the future for your shop will be bright at virtually no financial cost to you but, more importantly it need never be lost.

**Why not come to our open day Saturday 15th February
from 12.0 clock to 1.30pm and sample some of our
products. Wine and nibbles will be served!**

**ENOUGH VILLAGE STORES HAVE BEEN LOST. PLEASE
DON'T LET YOURS BE ONE OF THEM!**

Martin and Jo



Winthorpe Summer Festival 2014

The Festival Committee are planning to hold the Summer Festival on **Saturday 5th July**, at the Community Centre. We have for a number of years followed the same format. Perhaps it's time for a change? We will be holding the usual public meeting at 7.30pm in the Community Centre on **Wednesday 26th February**. We would like to discuss the festival, its format and contributions with representatives from all village organisations and individuals. If you have any ideas or suggestions for us, even if you have not been involved in the past, then please come along and be part of what should be a whole village event!

Festival Committee

**GUITAR TEACHER WANTED To teach guitar to children on
Mondays from 3.20 pm for an hour during term time. Must be CRB
checked or willing to be. Please contact Caron Emerton on 01636
680060 Peter Bateson (School Governor)**

George Mann – 100 years old on 11th February 2014.

George and his wife Annie moved into their newly-built bungalow in Pocklington Crescent in 1978. George had recently retired from his job with British Gas. Prior to the move he and his wife had lived in Chigwell, Essex for many years although he was born in Hackney, London. Being born within the sound of Bow Bells and therefore a true



cockney by definition, he never adopted the cockney way of speaking.

At the start of WW2, George, having started his career as an apprentice with British Gas, had gained promotion and was now in charge of an outside working team. With this much-needed expertise, he and his team were transferred to Birmingham to deal with the often hazardous job of repairing bomb-damaged gas mains etc. Whilst in Birmingham, as part of his need for some form of relaxation between “call outs”, he was encouraged to join a theatre group and he duly became one of the troupe which he greatly enjoyed.

When the war ended George and his wife returned to London and resumed their married life together.

The two became keen tandem cyclists and cycled as far afield as Cornwall, Yorkshire (where Annie’s family lived) and Kent staying overnight



when necessary in B. & B’s. Those were the days long before motorways and road traffic was very much lighter. Cycling was therefore a pleasant and economical way of travel. He and his wife had many happy times and many interesting tales to tell from their cycling trips around England. He attributes much of his long and mainly healthy life to his regular cycling over many years – plus his wife’s good cooking!

George eventually graduated to acquiring a car and caravan which in turn broadened their horizons of places to visit and enjoy and they took full advantage of this facility. In London, George helped with the St John’s Ambulance group and being an amateur musician, able to play both the organ and the piano, his talents were in demand by the groups he and his wife socialized with. A unique experience at this time for

George was to be called upon to serve as a juror at the Old Bailey in Central London.

Regretfully, George lost his wife, Annie, some ten years ago but whilst she was alive they both helped their near neighbours in a variety of ways. This is now reciprocated by Daphne James, a former neighbour currently living in Woodhall Spa, who keeps in contact with him by telephone and also visits him personally by car at intervals each month. Additionally, George and Carol Wright live opposite George's bungalow and their kitchen window overlooks his which permit them to monitor his movements daily- and to help out whenever necessary. Finally, George has enjoyed a long, varied and interesting life. He is a very resilient and independent person and his firm resolve to continue to look after himself at home during his twilight years is to be applauded. With the continuing help from his friends and neighbours we pray that he will continue to be with us for several years to come.

Happy Birthday George!

Alex Gilmour





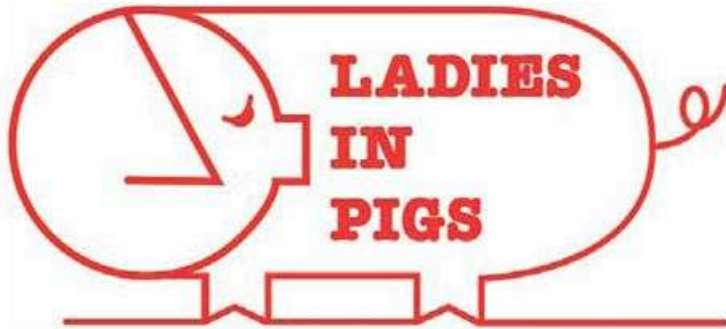
GARDEN CLUB

Our social evening was once again a great success, the convivial atmosphere doubtless helped by the varied and generous food contributions, washed down with an equally varied selection of drinks.

The assembled company was in good spirits and enjoyed a number of Pat Finn's brain teasers plus the now customary bingo. Our thanks once again to Pat for the time and effort he puts into this. Not only that, he also provides the prizes.

During the evening we were able to vote on the venue for our June outing. The clear winner was Newby Hall and Gardens.

Our next meeting on **19th February** will hear from the RSPB's **Paul Bennett on Gardening on a Large Scale.**



'Ladies in Pigs' supports the pig industry by working to increase awareness and therefore consumption of Red Tractor pork, bacon, ham and sausages.

For over 20 years, they have been passionately spreading the word about how tasty, versatile and wholesome pork is.

'Ladies in Pigs' will be presenting an evening of cookery demonstrations and tastings of great British pork dishes.

Venue: Winthorpe Community Centre
Date: Wednesday 12th February 2014, 7.30pm
Tickets: £3.00 in advance, or £3.50 on the door (includes a glass of wine).

For further details and tickets please contact:
Sheila – 01636 679960
Vivien – 01636 659631

All proceeds to Winthorpe & District WI

W.I. DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to the Winthorpe and District Women's Institute which is sixty years old this month. It was formed on the 2nd of February 1954 with 37 members and Mrs Sheldon as President.

Each February the W.I. has held an anniversary birthday party in the Village Hall, until 1993 when the hall was completely frozen up. It was then decided to move the party to the warmer month of April, where it has remained. The next big party will be the Platinum. **Pat Finn.**





RSPB Langford Lowfields news for January 2014

As winter advances here at RSPB Langford Lowfields the unseasonably mild weather has provided some

gloriously sunny days, nicely rounded off with spectacular sunsets - ideal conditions for both the December and January volunteer work groups. The December work party spent a rewarding day clearing scrub in a bid to increase the amount of light getting through to the ground below which will eventually increase floral diversity. This should also increase the diversity of invertebrates which will, in turn, increase the diversity and numbers of insectivorous mammals and birds, therefore a positive outcome all round. The January team was clearing patches of scrub running alongside the reedbed and hopefully enabling windows of opportunity for keen wildlife watchers to spot some of the rarer, shyer wildlife such as bitterns or even bearded tits.

The mild winter weather appears to be having a strange effect on the wildlife on the reserve with some plant species coming into bloom already. Jenny, our warden has spotted a common mallow flower, more usually flowering between June and September as well as cowslips, common ragwort and yarrow. Other unusual sightings for this time of year include records of a peacock butterfly flying near our office as well as a common frog seen by volunteer Julie Straw and a common toad, another sign of the mild winter weather.

The starling murmurations have been spectacular of late, especially with the backdrop of some stunning sunsets. The numbers did not quite reach last year's dizzy heights of up to 40,000 individuals but we have had flocks of up to 9,000 birds providing amazing synchronized aerobatic displays. Unfortunately the starlings now appear to have dispersed and moved on, a little earlier than usual, possibly due to the weather, but we can't be sure. Keeping with the theme of spectacular displays, there have also been regular sightings of two peregrine falcons interacting with each other, calling and stooping and diving at each other.



It is most likely the milder weather is responsible for this year's drop in winter migrant numbers. The wintering wildfowl that we do have, however, is beautiful with a male goldeneye regularly spotted displaying for his harem of four females and good numbers of shoveler ducks. There have also been three whooper swans regularly roosting on one of the silt lagoons. With the opening of the reserve imminent, there is still chance to get a sneak preview by joining one of our monthly guided walks.

Discover Langford Lowfields Sunday 9 February 10-12.30pm. Please book by calling the office on 01636 893611 and certainly bring weatherproof clothing and good footwear! For further information and regular updates on our work here at Langford Lowfields, please have a look at our website at www.rspb.org.uk/langfordlowfields

Collingham Ramblers walks February and March

Sundays

Date	Leader	Start	Distance	Contact
Feb 2nd	Chris	Collingham	4 miles	07817975993
Feb 16th	Dave	Dukes Wood	6miles	07989655258
Mar 2nd	Anne	Wansford	8 miles	07872451856
Mar 16 th	Bob	Aslockton	6 miles	07761221064
Mar 30 th	Keith	Grimsthorpe	8 miles	07850143572

Start time usually 10.30am

Wednesdays

Feb 19 th	Peter	Elkersley	5 miles
Mar 19th	Sam	Skellingthorpe	4.5 mile

Start time usually 10am and followed by optional pub lunch



Contact for all the Wednesday walks is Nina 678419

All walks can be changed so always phone to check if you want to join the walks

LUNCH CLUB

The next lunch will be at 12.30pm on **Monday, 3rd February**. The menu will be:

Steak in Ale Pie

or

Fisherman's Pie

with

Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables

-x-

Apple Crumble & Custard



£8 including a glass of wine. Contact Jean & Peter Foden (704241) to reserve your place and give your choice of menu. Please remember the places are limited and make contact as soon as possible.



At this Lunch we will be celebrating with George Mann his imminent 100th birthday.

Peter Foden

TUESDAY CLUB

Both meetings in February will be in the Village Hall.

Tuesday, 11th February. 10.30am Morning coffee.

Tuesday, 25th February. 2.30pm

Jean Foden.



Temporary extended opening hours at Collingham Library

As you may be aware, Newark Library closed temporarily on Monday 23 December 2013 and will reopen on Thursday 1 May 2014. As a result, Balderton, Collingham and Southwell libraries are temporarily extending their opening hours to accommodate more library users. The new opening times are:



- **Collingham Library** (from January 9 – April 17):
Monday 2pm – 5pm, Tuesday 9.30am – 12.30pm, Thursday 9.30am – 12.30pm & 2pm – 6pm, Friday 9.30am – 1pm & 2pm – 6pm, Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm
- **Balderton Library** (from 2 January - 30 April)
Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm and Saturday 9am – 12.30pm
- **Southwell Library** (from 2 January - 30 April)
Monday to Friday 9.30am - 6pm, Saturday 9am – 3pm and Sunday 12pm – 4pm

You can keep up to date on developments and find more information on any Nottinghamshire County Council library online:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries

FEBRUARY MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

The New Year doesn't seem quite so new now. In Church February gets under way with Candlemas, when we remember Mary and Joseph keeping the rules by presenting the infant Jesus at the temple. While there they were watched by two old people, Simeon and Anna who, just like the Wise Men at the Epiphany, recognised in that baby the coming of God, present with them. Simeon and Anna both gave thanks in humility and with wonder, old people who'd been around for a long time, and yet excited. Who says its only young people who can see things with wonder and excitement?



In the East Trent Group of Churches we see similar wonder. At St Helena's Church, South Scarle this is expressed with the completion of the project to throw open the church to the community. A similar project is nearing completion at Holy Trinity Church, Besthorpe, and similar thinking and preparation is going on at a number of the other churches in the Group.

And now we've been joined by The Revd Phil Smith. Phil is a recently ordained priest who is a SSM (Self Supporting Minister), who has been working as Curate in training in Farndon. Phil will spend some time developing complementary working patterns with me as we explore with others, ordained and lay, the sharing of ministry in East Trent. Phil is married to Charlotte and they live in Coddington. He works as a Support Worker based at Grantham Hospital. He is limited in the time and energy he can give to East Trent but will grow, with our help, into sharing in ministry across the Group.

So Christmas is done, and yet it isn't. The Wise Men together with Simeon and Anna show us the importance of continuing to see and follow that baby and to continue to live in the mystery of love, with all its excitement and challenge, especially during building developments and changes in personnel as we and they build the lives of our communities.

David Yabbacome Rector East Trent Group of Churches

Head Teacher: Miss
PGCE
Thoroughfare Lane,
Nottinghamshire,
Telephone/Fax: 01636



Caron Ementon BA (Hons)

Winthorpe, Newark,
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school.office@winthorpe.notts.sch.uk

www.winthorpe.notts.sch.uk

Happy New Year Everyone!!

We had a lovely run up to Christmas (thank you to all of you who came and supported our carol concerts and Christmas productions). It was especially nice to see people from Winthorpe Hall at Church and they appreciated parents making sure they could find a seat and could see. We are of course indebted to Rev David Yabbacome who not only hosted our Church service but also set us off on our around the village carol singing - again thank you to those who came and stood on their drives or opened their front doors so the children knew they had an audience

Our local community is important to us and we were very grateful to the villagers who joined us on our Vision setting day on the 6th January. Whilst the children enjoyed an extra day tagged onto their Christmas holidays for our INSET training, Governors, parents, grandparents, teachers, dinner ladies, teacher assistants, students, volunteers, office managers and members of the local community gathered together to write a statement that truly encapsulated what we want for our pupils here at Winthorpe Primary School. We are now in the process of tweaking this and I promise we will send it through to the next Focal Point so you can see it for yourselves. One of the points that was brought up at that meeting too was that it might be nice to look at inviting villagers to come for a school lunch on a termly basis – we are looking into arranging this. Another new idea for our school is that we are considering lowering our admissions age. This would mean that 3 year olds would be able to come to us from the autumn term. We have consulted with parents who have young children at our school already to see whether this would be a welcome facility for their little brothers and sisters and find that the option would be well received. We are currently discussing it as a staff and governing body and have begun to liaise with Notts County Council to see if it is possible. Let us know if you know of a family that might be pleased to take advantage of earlier education with us.

Best Wishes, **Caron Ementon**

COLLINGHAM BOWLS CLUB

Venue Dale Field - Bowls Club House

Contacts Club Secretary Graham Eaton 01636 893895
Chairman Bob Williams 01636 893307

SIGN UP FOR THE 2014 SEASON!

Collingham Bowls Club is a friendly club who are always pleased to welcome new members both male and female, whether experienced, intermediate or beginners.

We have teams in three Lincoln leagues, the Lincoln City Evening, the Lincoln City Afternoon and the Lincoln & District. We also play in the Newark District League.

Registration for current and NEW MEMBERS will take place at a coffee morning in the Mayfield Room, Collingham on Saturday 15th March, 2014 between 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Please come and see us for coffee, raffle and a chat about the Club.

**AFTERNOON TEA
And Piano Recital
At WINTHORPE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
Tickets £4 per person
THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2013
2.00PM – 4.00PM
Raffle and Cake Stall**



**Please come and support Sophie
Tickets from the post office or Frank and Maggie 01636 61208**



COLLINGHAM MEDICAL CENTRE

High Street
Collingham
Newark NG23 7LB
General Enquiries/Emergencies: 01636 892156
Fax: 01636 893391

Drs Terrill, Clarke, Saha & Li

**Monday 8.15am-7.00pm
Tuesday - Friday 8.15am-6.00pm**

**For Appointments telephone: 01636 893956 8.15am – 5.30pm
For Prescriptions telephone: 01636 892210 8.30am – 12.30pm**

*In addition to our normal medical services, we can offer:
Child and Adult Immunisations, Well Person Health Checks, Travel Advice,
Minor Injuries, Joint Injections and Minor Ops (including cryotherapy)*

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 CNCS Ltd when the surgery is closed. This service can be accessed by dialling our General Enquiries/Emergencies Number.

Website: www.collinghammedicalcentre.co.uk

WINTHORPE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

QUIZ NIGHT

(NO "VILLAGE QUIZ" THIS YEAR)

**SATURDAY 1ST MARCH at WINTHORPE COMMUNITY
CENTRE: 7pm FOR 7.30pm START**

TRIVIA / GENERAL KNOWLEDGE / SPORT / MUSIC / FILM
/ JUST ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT QUESTIONS ON
GROWING VEGETABLES!

TEAMS OF (UP TO) 6 PEOPLE

TICKETS £8 PER PERSON

AVAILABLE FROM THE VILLAGE STORE FROM 3RD
FEBRUARY (PLEASE PURCHASE BY THURSDAY 27TH
FEBRUARY TO HELP US ARRANGE CATERING)

PIE & PEA SUPPER INCLUDED WITH VEGETARIAN
OPTION AVAILABLE (please make clear when purchasing
tickets)

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & GLASSES AND DON'T
FORGET A PEN!

PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM

Winthorpe with Langford Parish Council

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the village hall on Thursday 16th January at 7.30pm. For minutes of the meeting see the Village Website.

Matters arising from the December meeting were discussed including quarterly accounts, website updates, the submission of the Precept for 2014-15 to NSDC and a local tree issue.

Matters under discussion included permission given to remove certain trees within the conservation area of Gainsborough Road.

Documents received included a Draft Wind Energy Supplementary Planning document. Mr Aldridge will attend the consultation meeting on this as

Winthorpe's representative. He will also attend the liaison meetings on the southern extensions to Langford Quarry.



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Correspondence received included an invitation to join The Best Kept Village Award, details of a Community Spirit Good Neighbour Scheme, information about a better broadband programme for Notts, an invitation to an update at the Showground and matters relating to the future of the Youth Club and better signage to the school.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 20th February at 7.30 in the Village Hall, Winthorpe.

Details supplied by Sarah Tomlinson, Clerk to The Parish Council

Winthorpe Youth Club meeting

Winthorpe Youth Club committee are having a meeting at the Community Centre on Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm with Lyndsey Woolmore (Youth Services) to further discuss the proposed closure of the Youth Club and what actions we can take to prevent this from happening. We

cordially invite all prospective volunteers and interested parties.

If you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact Denise Day. Tel 708727





ALL SAINTS

WINTHORPE

CHURCH NOTICES

Hi there,

Here I am again sat in my favourite chair trying to draw my thoughts together after a short stay in hospital.

First of all my sincere thanks for all the cards and good wishes I have received but also thank you so much for the support and help you have given to my Sylvia; and Nigel thank you so much for taking the service for me on the 19th.

You will recall in the last Focal Point I referred to the Carol Service and Christmas Communion which had yet to come – I can now safely say they have been and what a joy the Carol Service was, telling the story of Christmas in word and song. The Christmas Communion was equally as nice setting us all up ready for Christmas and of course a visit from Santa Claus - the most significant part being for me, that young man walking towards the Altar to place the communion rail and remove it when required – he is now back at his University desk studying hard having just returned from Ascension Island.

And what do we have in store this month – on the 31 January 2014 – as no doubt you know (and if not why not!) there is an RAF Concert in the Church in aid of the Church Organ Fund and the RAF Benevolent Fund. Want to come and not got a ticket? Try the Church door on the night – if there's room we'll willingly sell you one. The concert starts at 7.30 pm.

In addition, if you have any suggestions for charity fundraising don't forget to let me know, new ideas are always welcome.

Keith

On behalf of the PCC

(Battered but not beaten & still by the fireside keeping warm)

CHURCH SERVICES



Sunday 2nd

(Candlemas)

9.00 am

Holy Communion

Holme

Sunday 9th

(4th before Lent)

10.15am

Holy Communion

Winthorpe

5.00 pm

Holy Communion

Langford

Sunday 16th

(3rd before Lent)

10.15 am

Morning Worship

Winthorpe

Thursday 20th

(BCP)

10.00 am

Holy Communion

Winthorpe

Sunday 23rd

(2nd before Lent)

10.15 am

Morning Worship

Holme

5.00 pm

Evensong

Winthorpe

The Church Bells will be rung on:-

Sunday 9th, 16th and 23rd February 2014. Please note the bells will also be rung on Thursday evenings for practice between 7 pm and 9 pm.

CHURCH FLOWER LADIES

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas flower arrangements. The services were well attended and your efforts were much admired. A good New Year to you all!

Sylvia Lloyd

Church Cleaning:

24th

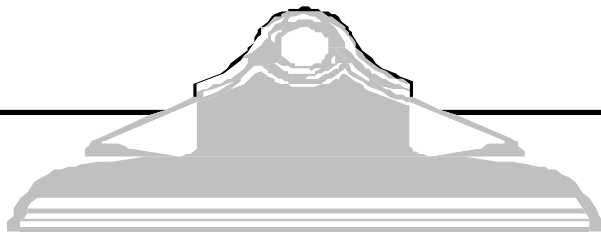
Mrs Lloyd & Mrs Nelson

Brass Cleaning:

February

Mrs Burton & Mrs Bark

(For entry to the Church please ring 703271)



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Monday 3rd	Green Bin Lunch Club 12.30 Com. Centre
Sunday 9 th	Walk at Langford Lowfields 10am-12.30
Monday 10 th	Silver Bin
Tuesday 11 th	Tuesday Club Morning Coffee 10.30 Village Hall
Wednesday 12 th	W.I "Ladies in Pigs" 7.30pm Com. Centre
Saturday 15 th	Wine and Nibbles at the Village Store 12.00 -1.30pm
Monday 17 th	Green Bin Mobile Library
Wednesday 19 th	Garden Club 7.30pm Community Centre
Thursday 20 th	Tea and Piano Recital 2-4.30pm Com. Centre Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Monday 24 th	Silver Bin
Tuesday 25 th	Tuesday Club 2.30pm Village Hall
Wed 26 th	Summer Festival Meeting 7.30pm Com. Centre
Sat 1 st March	Allotment Association Quiz Night 7pm Com. C

‘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



**THE LORD NELSON at
WINTHORPE**

Valentine's Night

Friday 14th February 2014

Let us spoil you and your loved one this Valentine's day
with a romantic meal for £25 per person 01636 703578