



NORTON • CUCKNEY • HOLBECK and WELBECK

PARISH COUNCIL

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please contact the editor; 07967632617
cllr.nancy.wright@nortoncuckneyholbeckwelbeckparishcouncil.gov.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

March / April 2024

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Spring is here and firstly a farewell to our Clerk, Mary Welch. She previously worked for the separate Norton and Cuckney and Holbeck and Welbeck Parish Councils and stayed on when these two merged. We wish her all the best for the future. We will be recruiting for a new Clerk in due course.

The Parish Council has a fantastic new logo, thanks to *Dave Slaney*. I'd like to thank him on behalf of the Parish Council for all his hard work and the extra effort he has gone to to assist us with additional requirements. I still owe him a pint! *Cllr. Matt Evans* has written an article, introducing our new website whose striking new banner was also designed by Mr Slaney.

Cllr. Evans has also written an article explaining the considerations regarding the Parish Council's finances and setting of the precept.

A new defibrillator has arrived in Holbeck, sited at the Post Office. Please find time to read the excellent article by recently appointed *Cllr. Gemma Palmer*, which gives an introduction to defibrillators and the good they do in saving lives in the community. Gemma has included a 'cut out and keep' guide about what to do should the worst happen and you need to use a one. The Council is continuing to investigate the possibility of having a defibrillator in Norton and will keep you updated as this progresses.

The Council has received a number of concerned enquiries from residents regarding fly-tipping and dog fouling. These are both criminal offences. The parish council has undertaken to work with residents and with other local authorities to deter potential offenders. *Cllr. James Palmer* is leading this project.

Maintenance is being carried out on the playpark in Cuckney. *Cllr. Conor Marples* has written an article for our Local Focus page to tell you about the work being done and requesting community input into the choice of new equipment.

And speaking of new equipment, a new bench, provided by the Parish Council, has been placed by the telephone box on Holbeck Lane. Hopefully it will provide some respite both for members of the community and for walkers coming over from Creswell Craggs.

Thanks finally to Vanessa Morris for her fascinating article about her garden and the perils of feeding the pheasants!

Cllr. Nancy Wright. Chair, Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck and Welbeck Parish Council

AFTERNOON TEA AT HOME

Thank you tea box supporters (and helpers) one and all! We hope you enjoyed celebrating Burns Night with your Afternoon Tea boxes and our nod to Rabbe Burns and all things Scottish. *Recipes for two of the items featured can be found on page 11.* Your generosity has enabled us to send £400 to Aurora, the cancer support charity in Worksop.

The **provisional** date for the next tea boxes in Thursday 23rd May when we will have summery menus to tempt you. A confirmatory reminder will be sent nearer the time, but if you have not had a tea box before, and might be interested, please get in touch (cathy.hp@btinternet.com or 07773 282734) so that I can make sure you receive any updates.

Cathy Brown

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BASSETLAW SPRING CLEAN EVENT

The Bassetlaw Spring Clean will be returning on Sunday, 24 March.

- Cllr. Helen Reynolds will be administering the event in Norton. Equipment can be collected from - and equipment and black bags returned to - the playpark in Norton from 10am.
 - Cllr. Gemma Palmer will be overseeing things in Holbeck. Equipment can be collected from - and equipment and black bags returned - to the grass verge in front of no. 8 High Holbeck.
 - Cllr. Nancy Wright will be at the Community Garden in Cuckney from 10am and the litterpick will be run from there.
- Contact details can be found on the back page of the newsletter.

We would be grateful if you could let us know if you are attending the event as Bassetlaw has informed us that their supplies on the middle Sunday are limited, so we will have to distribute what we are given accordingly.

If you are unable to make the morning round, please liaise with the organiser in your village and they will assist you in making other arrangements. Please be aware that we are not permitted to litterpick on the verges of 'A' roads. Litter pickers, hi-viz jackets, gloves and black bags will be provided but be aware that we must return all this equipment to Bassetlaw, so please make sure that everything you take out is returned back.

Cllr. Nancy Wright

FLY-TIPPING & DOG FOULING

The parish has, like many rural areas, been historically targeted by fly tippers and issues of drive-by littering and has localised dog fouling hotspots. The Parish Council recognises that Bassetlaw District Council is the lead authority in investigating, prosecuting and the cleaning of environmental crime. This is specifically governed by the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and since Jul 2023 by way of statutory instrument they have been able to issue fixed penalty notices (FPN) of up to £1000 for fly tipping and £650 for duty of care offences.

The parish and specifically Holbeck has seen an increase in large fly tips. This has been raised by councillors at several recent meetings and the local district councillor is aware of our concerns. It is the opinion of councillors that the district council is very good at removing the waste and conducting retrospective investigations, however it is felt that the district council does not offer a proactive service to try and prevent incidents of fly tipping, littering and dog fouling within our parish.

Whilst the parish council recognises it does not have specific powers to formally investigate or prosecute offenders of environmental crime, we are of the opinion that we have a duty to A) liaise with the district council and lobby them. B) are able to assist in the evidence gathering process and C) provide public information to both educate members of the public and act as a deterrent to potential offenders.

At the last Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that we would liaise with relevant authorities with regard to placement of signage and the deployment of monitoring equipment in fly-tipping hotspots.

The Bassetlaw Dog Warden has been contacted in order that the dog-fouling hotspots can be included in the local patrol. Stickers and posters will be put up appropriately to remind inconsiderate dog-walkers of the fines that can be levied and the Parish Council will seek to monitor areas that receive heavy fouling, especially the verge on Norton Lane, opposite Cuckney Church.

Cllr. James Palmer

PARISH PRECEPT & BUDGET 2024/2025

The Parish Council, at its Full Council meeting at the Education Room in Welbeck, met to agree on the Annual Budget for the forthcoming year and the level of Precept to be levied.

In order to set both a balanced and sustainable budget for the forthcoming year as required by law, the Council has elected to raise its element of the Council Tax called the Parish Precept by £4.51 for the 2024/2025 fiscal year in order to meet its total budget requirement – details overpage:

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Total Budgeted Expenditure: £19,247.00

Total Requested Precept: £15,960.00 (+£1,000.00)

Impact on Parish Council Taxpayer (Band D): £54.00 (+£4.51)

The Council is very much aware that news of a further Council Tax rise for residents, especially in Holbeck and Welbeck, will come as a disappointment. However, the Council is required to present a balanced budget, which for the past year has been met by taking funds out of the Council's reserves; this practice is not sustainable in the long run, and as a consequence, the Council felt best that in order to close the gap between total expenditure and revenue, a gradual rise was necessary.

For comparison, the Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck and Welbeck Parish Council remains the second cheapest local Parish to live within despite the increase in the level of Council Tax.

The Council is keen to address some of the key concerns that may arise as a result of this news:

Why has the Council been using its reserves?

Prior to the creation of the Parish Council, the shadow Council consisting of members of the former Norton & Cuckney Parish Council and the Holbeck and Welbeck Parish Council, along with Bassetlaw District Council, set a level of Precept which averaged between the two former Councils. This was primarily done to protect residents in Holbeck and Welbeck from an exponential rise in the level of precept, which was previously above £90.

Unfortunately, this level of Precept is insufficient to meet the fiscal demands of the Council's existing services, the majority of which the Council has a legal duty to provide, leaving little room for broad spectrum cuts. So, in order to meet the Council's expenditure for the previous fiscal year, the Council has had to use funds from its reserves to meet day-to-day expenditure.

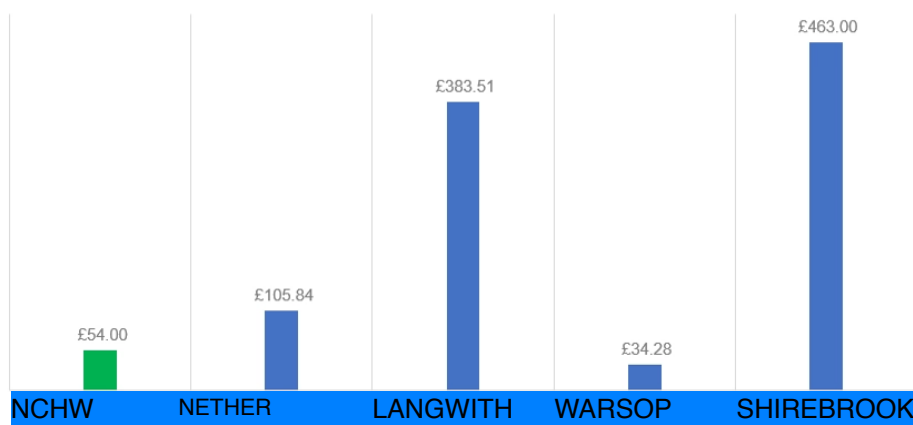
Why is the Council spending more money than last year?

Like most families and businesses, the Parish Council has seen an increase in its day-to-day costs as a result of inflation, but in addition to this, the Council has been required to meet rises in both the National Living Wage and a rise in the rate of pay agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services which has created a large increase in the Parish Council's wage bill.

What steps is the Council taking to balance the books?

The Council is taking steps to review its existing spending and is looking to find efficiency savings in its current services before taking on new projects. The Council is determined to only use Council Tax rises as a last resort if efficiencies cannot be found in existing expenditure. The majority of the Council's budget is ringfenced to pay for the Council's staffing bill, which consists of the salaries of both the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and the Parish Lengthsman. While the actual cost of the administration of the Council is fairly minor in comparison. Ultimately, the Parish Council would like to reassure residents that the Council does take the issue of Council Tax rises seriously and that it is taking active steps to achieve value for money and to find efficiencies wherever and whenever they arise. It is the Council's aim to be able to present a long-term fiscal plan to the Parish over the coming financial year. Should you have any questions regarding the Parish Council's budget for the next financial year please do feel free to get in touch with the Clerk.

LOCAL BAND-D PRECEPT CHARGES



Cllr. Matthew Evans

PRESENTING THE MUSIC OF ABBA IN A DYNAMIC SHOW SPECTACULAR

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★★★★★
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HALL, HOLBECK**

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event!

☆☆ Due to popular
request we have decided
to open this event up to
the whole family! ☆☆☆

The Villages of Welbeck
Association presents a
groovy night of dancing
and singing along to the
spectacular ABBA
Tribute Band, Sensation.
The evening will be held
at Lady Margaret Hall,
Holbeck, Worksop.

Get ready to put on your
dancing shoes and dress
up if you fancy. **Thank
us for the music** as you
boogie the night away.
Be sure to bring all of
your family & friends for
a **Mamma Mia** time!
Children aged 10+ are
welcome to join us too!

Whether you're a
Dancing Queen or a
Super Trooper, this
event is sure to be a
blast.

Your ticket includes a
welcome glass of fizz &
a full night of live band
entertainment.

Take a chance on our raffle & buy your drinks from the licensed bar with our signature ABBA inspired cocktail on sale too!

All proceeds will go towards the fund raising for the much needed Cuckney School car park.
Tickets are £20 plus booking fee when booked online from Eventbrite or tickets are now on sale in Jac's
Cafe in Cuckney, cash only.

Email Steffi on swilsonvwa1@gmail.com with any enquiries.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ladies-abba-night-tickets-787655738517>

Steffi Wilson & Katie Shaw, Event Co-ordinators, The Villages of Welbeck Association

The Villages of Welbeck Association

Plant & Craft Fair

Lady Margaret Hall

Holbeck, Worksop S80 3NB

Saturday 27th April 2024
from 11.00 am to 3 pm

Lady Margaret Hall can be found on the A60 between the Dukeries Garden Centre and Cuckney

The Plant and Craft Fair returns in 2024 on Saturday, 27th April and will be held at the Lady Margaret Hall. Entry is free.

There is a wonderful array of crafts on sale as well as the chance to buy some fantastic spring plants for a great price. Take your chance on the tombola or lucky dip and then treat yourself to a cuppa and something sweet from the wonderful cake ladies.

All the stalls are already booked but if you are interested in being on the waiting list, please contact me on 07761556164 .

*Cllr. Georgina Smith
Chair, The Villages of Welbeck Association*



patch & stitch
CLOTHING ALTERNATIONS & REPAIRS

Send a photo and description to Linda
07889123933



or contact
linda.fowles.smith on social media



DIARY DATES (for church service dates, please see Page 15)

Organisation	Date / Time	Subject / Venue
The History Society	Monday, 11th March at 7.30 pm	The History of Boots the Chemist <i>Chris Weir, Cuckney Cricket Club.</i> <i>Please see Pg. 14 for further details</i>
Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck and Welbeck Parish Council	Thursday, 14th March at 7.00 pm	Harley Education Room, Welbeck Minutes of previous meetings can be found on the Parish Council's website
Villages of Welbeck Association	Saturday, 16th March from 7.00 pm	Abba Tribute Night, Lady Margaret Hall - Ticketed event.
Villagers Social Group	Wednesday, 20th March at 2.00 pm	Cuckney Cricket Club £3 entry
The History Society	Monday, 8th April at 7.30 pm	Katherine Swynford, The Scandalous Duchess, <i>Maggie Watkins, Cuckney Cricket Club</i> <i>Please see Pg. 14 for further details</i>
Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck and Welbeck Parish Council	Thursday, 11th April at 7.00 pm	Harley Education Room, Welbeck
Villagers Social Group	Wednesday, 17th April at 2.00 pm	Cuckney Cricket Club £3 entry
Villages of Welbeck Association	Saturday, 27th April from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm	Plant and Craft Fair, Lady Margaret Hall

WEDNESDAY WALKS

I have a passion for fitness, I love walking, solo and/ or in groups. I would like to invite anyone along on a Wednesday evening from 6pm, meeting place will be discussed on the day. In winter, walks usually range from 5-7 miles and are done at a brisk pace. Longer routes will be arranged around the lighter nights during the summer months. Routes can be tailored for individual need, just message me on our 'Wednesday Walks' Whatsapp group.

Dogs are welcome, as long as they remain on the lead and are respectful of others. You are responsible for your own health and safety on these walks. Dress for the weather, bring torches and hi-vis, as well as snacks and drinks if you so wish. Toilets, at the moment, don't appear on these routes so be prepared if nature calls.

This is my number should you have any problems or would like a chat 07305832402. Happy walking!

Cllr. Gemma Palmer

DEFIBRILLATORS *Cllr. Gemma Palmer*

You might hear it called as a defib, a PAD (public access defibrillator), and/or an AED (automated external defibrillator). It is a device that gives a high energy electrical charge shock to the heart when it stops suddenly, known as a cardiac arrest.

Cardiac arrest can happen to anybody, regardless of age, gender or ethnicity. Victims will likely die unless a defibrillator is used straightaway.

FACTS

East Midlands (Cat 1) 999 ambulance response times to life-threatening situations are aimed at 7 minutes. In 2023 however, they averaged between 7 to 15 minutes.

A defib is most effective when administered in the 1st minute, with a 90% chance of survival when used in conjunction with CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation).

Used within 3 to 5 minutes alongside CPR, there is a 75-79% chance of survival, showing that having this equipment close by really does give you the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest!



The new defib at Holbeck Woodhouse



WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

1. When someone loses consciousness and stops breathing, help them by first calling 999. The emergency services will talk you through how to perform CPR while they are sending medical assistance.
2. Meanwhile, they will establish if another person is able to locate the nearest Defib, the emergency services have access to registered locations and access key codes for you to be able to open the equipment's casing where it is stored.
3. All Defibs have easy to follow pictures and information of how to remove clothing, and where to place the two electrical pads.
4. The device speaks with clear instructions, so you know when to press the 'shock' button, when to keep clear, when to stop and/or resume CPR. All the while the pads are assessing the heartbeats rhythm.
5. This should be continued until the person shows signs of life, and/or until the emergency services arrive to take over.

Thankfully, defibrillators allow members of the public to become lifesavers when it is most unexpected.

To learn CPR, and or read more about this or about defibrillators visit:

www.bhf.org.uk

WHERE IS THE NEAREST DEFIBRILLATOR?

These are all available for use 24/7.

HOLBECK The Post Office at Holbeck Woodhouse

CUCKNEY The Greendale Oak
The Cricket Club (If the white barrier is down, climb the barrier to gain access to the defib)

NORTON The Greendale Oak

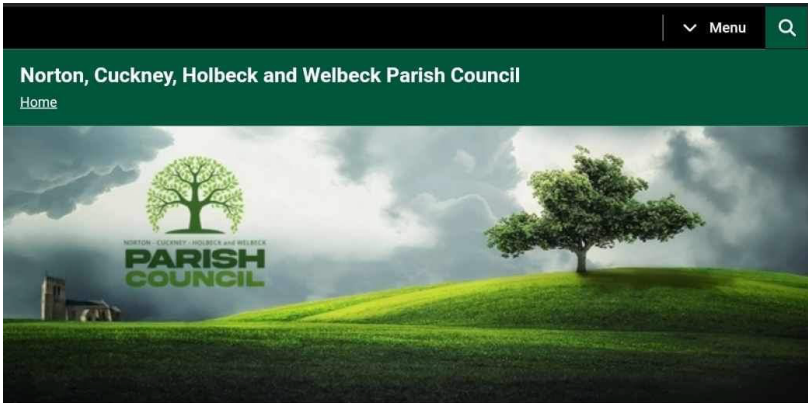


Is your defib registered? Go to <https://www.defibshop.co.uk/register-your-defibrillator> to register your defib with the Emergency Services

INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEBSITE *Cllr. Matthew Evans*

If you haven't noticed already from the front of the newsletter, the Parish Council has officially adopted a logo to represent the new Parish of Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck and Welbeck. This logo was designed and created by local resident Dave Slaney following our competition last year.

It was important to the Parish Council that the new logo be created by a resident within our newly merged Parish because the logo is a visual representation of our shared values, heritage, and the vibrant spirit of our community. We would once again like to thank Dave for this work and contribution to the Parish.



A new logo isn't the only visual change the Parish Council has embarked upon recently as well, because as part of our continuous efforts to enhance communication and accessibility, we are excited to announce the development of our new Parish Council website.

Previously the two former Parish Council's operated separate sites to manage their information, Holbeck and Welbeck's was maintained by Bassetlaw District Council, while Norton and Cuckney maintained their own site with the invaluable and greatly appreciated assistance of local resident Jessica Morton.

Following the merger of our Parish, and the requirement for local government bodies to adopt .GOV.UK domains, our new online platform, created in collaboration with Parish Online, aims to be the central hub for all local information, updates, and resources.

Welcome to Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck & Welbeck

Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck & Welbeck is an English civil parish within the district of Bassetlaw and the county of Nottinghamshire

Welcome to Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck & Welbeck Parish Council Website. Our Parish consists of our four main villages of Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck and Welbeck. We are located in North Nottinghamshire and are situated on the historic Welbeck Estate. The Parish Council was created following the merger of the prior Parish Council's of Norton & Cuckney and Holbeck & Welbeck in 2023. The Council is served by 12 councillors and two members of staff.

Contact Us

- ☎ [01909 533533](tel:01909533533)
- @ clerk@nortoncuckneyholbeckwelbeckparishcouncil.gov.uk
- 📘 [Facebook](#)
- 🏠 C/O Norton, Cuckney, Holbeck and Welbeck Parish Council, 20 Stonebridge Lane, Warsop, Nottinghamshire, NG20 0DS

The website will serve as a valuable resource for residents, providing easy access to important documents, meeting minutes, and announcements. You will also find details about local events, community initiatives, and a platform to voice your opinions on matters that impact our Parish. With the website, we hope to strengthen our connection with residents and foster a sense of community engagement. It will be a dynamic space where you can stay informed about the latest developments, participate in discussions, and contribute to the betterment of our community.

Should you have any suggestions of what could be included on the website please do not hesitate to get in touch:

cllr.matthew.evans@nortoncuckneyholbeckwelbeckparishcouncil.gov.uk

RECIPES *with thanks this month to Cathy Brown*

Pork, Cranberry & Apricot Terrine

Servings: 8

INGREDIENTS

For the terrine

onion 1 medium
butter 30g
thyme leaves 2 tsp
rosemary leaves 1 tsp
smoked bacon 250g
minced pork 400g
ground mace ½ tsp
juniper berries 12
dried apricots 80g
fresh cranberries 60g
marsala or brandy 2 tbsp

To finish

bacon 2 rashers
bay leaves 4
juniper berries 12
cranberries 6

DIRECTIONS

You will need 2 small (500ml) ovenproof preserving jars or a suitable earthenware terrine.

Preheat the oven to 160C fan/gas mark 4. Peel and finely chop the onion. Melt the butter in a deep pan over a low to moderate heat, then add the chopped onion and leave to soften, stirring from time to time. Chop the thyme and rosemary, and stir into the softening onion.

Remove the rind from the bacon, then chop the rashers finely. Put the pork mince in a mixing bowl and add the bacon. Remove the pan from the heat, then add the cooked onion to the minced pork. Season with the ground mace, ½ tsp of salt and plenty of black pepper. Crush the juniper berries using a pestle and mortar. Chop the dried apricots then mix into the pork together with the crushed juniper berries, the fresh cranberries and the marsala or brandy. Check all is mixed well then push into the jars or terrine.

Cover the surface of the mixture with the bacon rashers, tucking them down the side of the jars, then press the bay leaves, juniper berries and cranberries into the surface. Cover loosely with the lid (do not seal with the metal clip) or cover the top with baking parchment, secure with string or a rubber band, then tin foil.

If you wish to submit a recipe for the next edition, please email it to cllr.nancy.wright@nortoncuckneyholbeckwelbeckparishcouncil.gov.uk

Half fill a roasting tin with hot water, place the jars or terrine into the water so it comes halfway up the sides. Bake for 1 hour and 20 minutes. Leave to cool in the switched-off oven, then remove and refrigerate overnight.



Raspberry Cranachan

Prep Time: 15 mins **Cook Time:** 5 mins **Servings:** 4

INGREDIENTS

2 tbsp medium oatmeal
300g fresh British raspberries
a little caster sugar
350ml double cream
2 tbsp heather honey
2-3 tbsp whisky, to taste

DIRECTIONS

To toast the oatmeal, spread it out on a baking sheet and grill until it smells rich and nutty. It will not darken quickly, so use your sense of smell to tell you when it is nutty enough. Cool the oatmeal.

Make a raspberry purée by crushing half the fruit and sieving. Sweeten this to taste with a little caster sugar. Whisk the double cream until just set, and stir in the honey and whisky, trying not to over-whip the cream. Taste the mix and add more of either if you feel the need.

Stir in the oatmeal and whisk lightly until the mixture is just firm. Alternate layers of the cream with the remaining whole raspberries and purée in 4 serving dishes. Allow to chill slightly before eating.

LOCAL FOCUS - THE PLAYPARK IN CUCKNEY

The playpark in Cuckney has received some much needed care and attention recently, with further improvements planned in the future.

Potholes aren't just a blight on our roads, one has also formed in the safety surface of the roundabout, causing a significant safety hazard. The surface will soon be restored, which means the Parish Council will soon have filled one more pothole in the area than the County Council have this year!

There is also restoration work planned for the climbing equipment. The guarantees on these items allowed us to have this work completed for a significantly discounted price, hopefully extending the equipment's lifespan long into the future. The bark chipping around the equipment is also being reviewed, as we are looking for a long term permanent surface, rather than buying costly replacement stock each year.

You may have noticed that one of the picnic benches has been damaged by, and I can't believe I'm writing this, a visitor using it as a surface for their disposable barbeque. We have applied for grant funding from our District Councillor Charles Adams to replace it. The replacement will be made from 100% recycled plastic, similar to the one in the Village Garden. In appearance it will look wooden, but the materials used make these benches more durable to the elements and anti-social behaviour.

The Parish Council took the difficult decision to remove the zipwire in February. I think I speak for many when I say this was a brilliant piece of equipment when it was first installed, but the cost of maintaining it would have drained our limited funds and led to other items also falling into disrepair. We all want to make sure that funds are spent wisely and I hope this article shows that the Parish Council are making long term investments in our community areas.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Parish Council would like to inform residents who usually use Cuckney Village Hall as their local Polling Station for elections that Bassetlaw District Council has moved the Polling Station to the Greendale Oak. Residents should be informed of this change when Poll Cards are issued before local elections.

The Parish Council will work with Bassetlaw District Council as the local Elections Authority to ensure that local residents are not adversely affected.

This also provides an opportunity for everyone to help choose some new equipment. The Parish Council have started looking at an adventure trail for the unoccupied space, made up of monkey bars, log walks, stilts and steppers, to name but a few of our ideas. We aim to fill the space with equipment which provides variety and can be used by more than one person at a time, a limitation of the zipwire. Depending on funding, this may be built in stages and expanded as time goes on.

The Parish Council would like to hear from all ages about their ideas for the playpark, whether it is new equipment or improvements to other areas, as well as the other community areas we all cherish

Cllr. Conor Marples

THE AWAKENING GARDEN *Vanessa Morris, Norton*

After the dark days of winter with the many storms, high winds and heavy rain it's so good to see the evenings are gradually getting lighter and the garden is slowly beginning to awaken. After looking through the seed/plant catalogues it's so hard to choose what to grow. My idea of heaven on a bleak winters day is sitting in front of a log fire with a coffee, a bar of chocolate and the Sarah Raven catalogue. My flower seed list could go on and on but I must be firm with myself and only grow what I have the room for plus I'm trying to make the garden more "low maintenance" although somehow that hasn't worked yet !

Nearly all my flowers are grown in raised beds now. Years ago I started off by cutting large wooden packing cases in two and lining them with empty compost bags to make small raised beds. A few of these are still holding together (just !) after 15 years. Then my husband made some proper raised beds for me. These are quite a few years old now and one or two need repairing. My husband's heart sinks when I say those magic words, "can you just" It really does make it so much easier tending plants in the raised beds.

I have two raised beds with dahlias which I love. I leave the plants in all year and at the moment they are still tucked up under a layer of straw and covered with large plastic cloches. This keeps them warm and dry. I would think the biggest risk to dahlia tubers in the ground over the winter this year will have been the risk of rotting off with the wet soil.

My bargain buy of the autumn was a bale of hay from Dobbies. Quite randomly the farm shop had about 10 bales of hay outside for sale at £5 each. My eyes lit up. A kind salesman put one in a trolley for me and helped me to put it in my car boot. He asked if I had a horse but I said, "no, it's for my dahlias". Needless to say, months later, my car boot is still covered in straw.

The snowdrops will have been in flower for quite a while now and coming to an end. This is the time to split and replant the snowdrops while they are still "in the green" as they say. The crocuses should also have produced a good show with the daffodils having taken over now followed by the tulips.

As we put food out for the birds each day the pheasants have quickly spotted this and we can have up to a dozen pheasants in the garden each morning waiting to be fed. I love to see them but the down side is that they have taken a shine to my crocuses and dianthus. They have eaten all the tips from the dianthus and are now trying to snack on the crocus. I have covered the ones in pots with chicken wire but the ones in the garden just have to take their chance.

Hopefully the ground will have been able to dry out by now so that we are able to begin work in the garden. At this time of year one of my main jobs is cutting down all the perennial flower stems that I have left in place over winter as food and cover for the birds. This is when you are able to see all the tiny new green shoots which have been protected under the old stems.

Cont.../



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RACHEL AT:
07743728430**

I spotted the new shoots on the clematis in mid January and trimmed them back to encourage new growth and avoid straggly plants.

The phormium plants are looking good. They always provide good colour and structure over the winter. After the heatwave of 2022 the leaves were looking brown and crisp last winter and not very attractive. In the spring we thought it would be best to dig them up and start again. As it's a tough job digging those large plants up and as we had plenty of other jobs to do I persuaded my husband to cut the leaves off just above ground level with the hedge trimmer to make them look tidier until we could get around to digging them up. After a few weeks we were surprised to see new leaves coming from the bottom so we gave them a good feed and lo and behold with lots of new growth the plants have made a full recovery. My best successes occur through pure chance and good luck - no skill or knowledge involved.

It's time to begin watering the geraniums and fuchsias in the greenhouse. At the moment they look fairly dead but hopefully with water, a little warmth and more daylight they will begin to shoot. My pots of outdoor succulents are also in the greenhouse until spring. They can cope with the cold but it's the damp that rots them off outside over winter and there has been plenty of that this year.

I will be sowing my tomatoes at the beginning of March. I start them off indoors in a south facing bedroom. Depending on the outside temperature I move them to the greenhouse in April when they are small plants. I like the Sungold cherry tomatoes. They aren't particularly heavy croppers but I just love being able to walk into the greenhouse and eat a few of these sweet orange cherry tomatoes straight from the plant. Although my greenhouse isn't heated I do line it with bubble plastic each autumn which gives a bit of additional protection. I am still using the bubble plastic I bought 6 years ago so it's been worth the outlay. I roll it up and put it in the shed over the summer.

I also start to sow my flower seeds in the greenhouse in early/mid April. My favourites are sunflowers, rudbeckia, calendula and cosmos

Whatever your plans are for your garden - enjoy !

THE HISTORY SOCIETY

The March meeting of the Society will be held at Cuckney Cricket Club on 11th March at 7.30pm with a talk entitled The History of Boots the Chemist to be given by *Chris Weir*.

The April meeting at the Cricket Club on 8th at 7.30pm with a talk given by *Maggie Watkins* entitled Katherine Swynford, the Scandalous Duchess. As usual the charge for both events is £5 to include light refreshments, all guests are welcome.

Richard Bower

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL & MARKET 2024

We are planning to hold a meeting on Saturday March 10th at 10.30am in St Mary's Church, Cuckney.

All are welcome to come along and start planning for this year's event.

Contact Sheila Brailsford 01623 843195
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Margaret Rowson 01623 844661
heatherjazz48@gmail.com

CHURCHYARD 100 CLUB

The winners in December were Daniel Brown (no. 4) and Cathy Harrison (no. 21)

The winners in January were Sheila Worthington (no. 8) and Philip Willison (no. 75)

Congratulations!

The Celebration of Easter at ST. MARY & ST. WINIFRED'S CHURCHES

Sunday Mar 3rd 10.30 am <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	Morning Prayer Book of Common Prayer	St. Winifred's, Holbeck
Sunday Mar 10th 10.30 am <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	Mothering Sunday Morning Prayer	St. Mary's, Cuckney
Sunday Mar 17th 10.30 am <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	Holy Communion	St. Mary's, Cuckney
Sunday Mar 17th 10.30 am <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	Morning Prayer Book of Common Prayer	St. Winifred's, Holbeck
Sunday Mar 24th 10.30 am <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>	Palm Sunday Morning Prayer	St. Mary's, Cuckney
Thursday Mar 28th 7.00 pm <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Holy Communion Joint Benefice Service	St. Mary's, Cuckney
Sunday Mar 31st 10.30 am <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Holy Communion	St. Mary's, Cuckney
Sunday Apr 7th 10.30 am <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>	Morning Prayer Book of Common Prayer	St. Winifred's, Holbeck
Sunday Apr 14th 10.30 am <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	Morning Prayer	St. Mary's, Cuckney
Sunday Apr 21st 10.30 am Fourth Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion Annual Parochial Church Meeting During Service	St. Mary's, Cuckney
Sunday Apr 21st 10.30 am Fourth Sunday of Easter	Morning Prayer Book of Common Prayer	St. Winifred's, Holbeck
Sunday Apr 28th 10.30 am Fifth Sunday of Easter	Morning Prayer	St. Mary's, Cuckney
Sunday May 5th 10.30 am Sixth Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting after Service 11.45 am	St. Winifred's, Holbeck

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Potholes
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Non Emergency Police
101