

## **TOM CHILDS MEMORIAL AWARD 2023**

This was included as part of the Annual Open Evening, which was held at Belmont School in September 2023. This years winner was Annette Doran who was nominated for her fundraising efforts over a number of years.

During the year she had done several things to raise funds including running in the Great North Run. At the time of the Awards she had raised well over £1000 for St Barnabas Hospice Grantham which is where she donated her Tom Childs Award money.

She also received a framed certificate. These donations are made annually via our S137 budget.

Looking forward to our 2024 Awards. the Sixteenth;-

**Who do you know who deserves some recognition?**

**There must be numerous people out there who have done great things for our community during these most uncertain of times, please let us know about them! The Council prefers the nominations to come from you the residents rather than a member of the council so please let's all celebrate the great work being done.** Qualifying criteria states that whatever they have been doing must have benefitted more than one person and have some involvement within the parish.

**Do you know someone in the Parish who deserves recognition for doing good deeds outside of their regular work? They may run a club, do charity work or many other things that benefit our Community?**

**Nominations for 2024 should be submitted by the 1st July 2024.**

For further details please contact the Clerk Pete Armstrong on **07929321426** or at [Clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk) or any councillor on their email as per this Newsletter.

This Award was set up in the memory of the late Tom Childs the Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council Clerk for over 27years. We wish to give credit to someone who has gone out of their way to help others in the Parish, much in the way that Tom himself did during his lifetime.



**In Training for the Great North Run**



## LONDONTHORPE & HARROWBY WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

**No 18. FEB 24**

### Chairperson's Message

Hi All,

I am Carol Markwell, Chair of your Parish Council. I live in Londonthorpe – some of you may have seen me litter picking while I 'exercise' around Londonthorpe village and Newgate Lane!

Welcome to your spring Newsletter with an update on your Parish Council activities. I hope you find it both interesting and informative. Winter is generally a quiet time, as it is too cold, windy, or snowy for outdoor work. However, your Parish Council has been very active this winter with issues relating to planning applications especially around solar farms. There are articles covering these issues later in the newsletter.

You may or may not have heard of the latest reports of Anti-Social Behaviour which has worrying undertones with risk to life and limb. Over the last couple of months cars passing the Harrowby Lane Playing Field have been shot with what appears to be a BB gun, this resulting with broken windows reported. This could of course cause a driver to lose control of the vehicle, it could also cause injury to the driver and passengers. Some of these have been reported to the police by the affected parties, others not! We have reported it to the local beat team. If you hear of any further incidents, please let us and the police know.

The Parish Open Evening was held in September 2023 (on page 10). I am sorry I was unable to attend, but I hear it was a great success. This was an opportunity for your Parish Councillors to showcase activities undertaken this past year and present the Best Kept Gardens and the Tom Childs Awards.

We have not managed to carry out as many Community Speed Watch sessions this last six months, due to a shortage of volunteers. Why not come and have a go? It's fun and sociable, as well as satisfying when either we catch people doing 40 or 50 mph in our 30 zones – or even if we don't catch anyone as it's because they are driving under 30! Contact me or the Clerk if you are interested. You receive simple training and then get a chance to have a go.

We had another active Councillor resign his year, my predecessor Roland Wright. We thank him very much for his knowledgeable input. However, that means we have another vacancy on the council. Have you ever thought about joining us? There is a lot of support from the other councillors and LALC, we get to tour the parish with the Clerk so that we are aware of our boundaries and responsibilities. This makes for a better understanding when matters are discussed about any area of the parish.

**Stay safe and well**

**Best Regards Carol Markwell, Chairperson**

## Your Councillors at March 2024

### Londonthorpe & Harrowby Villages

Chair; Cllr Carol Markwell 07733 300742  
[cllrmarkwell@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrmarkwell@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

### Sunningdale Estate

Vice-Chair Cllr Alan Bowling 07710 039495  
[cllrabowling@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrabowling@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr Paul Bakker 01476 567246 Home  
[cllrpbakker@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrpbakker@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr Paul Bavin 07976 792398 Mob

[cllrpbavin@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrpbavin@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

### Harrowby Lane & Alma Park Area

Cllr Geoff Parnham 01476 401873

[cllrgparnham@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrgparnham@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr Avril Gregory 01476 568392

[cllragregory@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllragregory@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr Richard Keeler 07779 955128

[cllrkeeler@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrkeeler@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr Paul Nesbitt 07803 133000

[cllrpnesebitt@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrpnesebitt@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr Elvis Stooke 07288 320003

[cllrestooke@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrestooke@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr Darren Thorpe

[cllrdthorpe@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdthorpe@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

### Londonthorpe & Harrowby Villages

Cllr Yolanda Martin 07796 848676

[Yolanda.martin@btinternet.com](mailto:Yolanda.martin@btinternet.com)

### Your Lincolnshire County Councillors

Belmont LCC Councillor Linda Wootten

The Burgage 141 Manthorpe Road Grantham NG31 8DH Home Phone: 01476

400183 - 07534 778090 Email: [cllrl.wootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrl.wootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

St Vincent's Ward LCC Cllr Adam Stokes 18 New Beacon Lane

Grantham NG31 9JR home 01476 591142 Mob 07974 342648

[CllrA.Stokes@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:CllrA.Stokes@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

South Kesteven Councillors:

Cllr Elvis Stooke [Elvis.Stooke@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Elvis.Stooke@southkesteven.gov.uk)

Cllr Phil Gadd [Phil.Gadd@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Phil.Gadd@southkesteven.gov.uk)

### Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council

Clerk Mr Peter Armstrong; 27 Belton Avenue ,  
Grantham, Lincs, NG31 9JE Tel 07929 321426  
[clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk)

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throughout the home



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E: [sales@a1-interiors.co.uk](mailto:sales@a1-interiors.co.uk)

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## Community Speed Watch Team

Last years Community Speed Watch activity was some what less than we would have liked due to the loss of members and some unavailability. We have had one person interested in joining the team but unfortunately we have been unable to arrange a training session unless we get more volunteers!

### **Is this something you could assist with for a few hours per year?**

Again we have visited most of the locations in which we are licensed to operate. These are all around the Parish in Londonthorpe, Belton Lane, and Harrowby Lane. Sunningdale and Alma Park Road. We feel that these sites we have been given do not enable us to work efficiently, and will try and get these changed. Again the results disturb us as at times, vehicles are travelling at nearly twice the speed limit for the area!

We report all drivers caught breaking the speed limit to the CSW Admin team who then write to the driver/owner or in the case of a business vehicle the company it is registered to. If a driver receives three of these letters' police action may follow.

Our eleven trained volunteers took it in turns to make up the operating teams of three. All members have done at least one session this year. We thank them on your behalf for generously giving up their time to try and make the parish a safer place to live.

## Section 137 Monies:

Under Section 137, expenses that may be incurred by a parish council include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ **Donations to Charities:** The council might decide to make a donation to a local charity that provides services benefiting the local community.
- ✓ **Grants for Local Clubs:** Supporting local youth clubs, senior citizen clubs, or other community groups that offer beneficial services or activities to residents.
- ✓ **Awards and Prizes:** For local competitions, perhaps to encourage community spirit, art, or environmental awareness.  
**Examples** where Section 137 cannot be used.
- ✗ **Unrestricted Specific Statutory Power:** Where the Council has a specific power to spend, that is not restricted.
- ✗ **Statutory Prohibition:** Where there is a statutory prohibition on the Council carrying out a particular function.
- ✗ **Benefit of One:** S137 cannot be used to benefit a single individual. We can, however, provide a donation to a charity of which the individual belongs, as the benefit will be to "some" of the community.

**Your Parish Council has a pot of monies set aside for aiding good causes within the parish and are explained above.**

**In 2023-24 this has been used to assist St Barnabas Hospice, Grantham Foodbank and the Ark Project. In 2022-23 St Barnabas Hospice, Childrens Bereavement Society and the Sunningdale Festival all received Donations.**

## Parish Council Calendar 2024-25

17<sup>th</sup> Feb 9:00 am Volunteer Working Party @ Blessed Hugh More Site  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 9:30 am Woodland Trust Working Party (Meet Five Gates carpark)  
13<sup>th</sup> March 7:00pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School

March Defibrillator Training Session

2<sup>nd</sup> May Police Commissioner Elections

**8<sup>th</sup> May 7:00 pm Annual Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School**

1<sup>st</sup> July Tom Childs Awards Nominations Close.

**8<sup>th</sup> July Best Kept Gardens Judging Starts**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 7.00 pm Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School**

**August Best Kept Gardens Judging Continues**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sept Best Kept Gardens Judging Ends.**

**11<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.00pm @ Belmont School "Open Evening" to include Best Kept Gardens Awards**

**13<sup>th</sup> Oct 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party (Provisional)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party (Provisional)**

**13<sup>th</sup> Nov 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting**

**1<sup>st</sup> Dec 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party (Provisional)**

**2025 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School**

**12<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party (Provisional)**

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party (Provisional)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party (Provisional)**

**12<sup>th</sup> March 7:00pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School**

## **TAILORED HAIR**

**Unisex Hair Salon**

**Sunningdale**

**For Appointments**

**Please Ring**

**01476 568021**

**Hours of Business**

**Tue 9.00am to 6.00pm**

**Wed 9.00am to 7.00pm**

**Thurs 9.00am to 5.00pm**

**Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm**

**Sat 8.00am to 2.00pm**

**Belmont Community Primary School**  
Harrowby Lane, Grantham,  
NG31 9LR. 01476 567939

[www.belmontprimary.com](http://www.belmontprimary.com)

**Head Teacher: Jamie Allsopp**

**'Achieving excellence Putting children first'**  
Belmont is a welcoming and aspirational school, with a learning environment that promotes independent learners and encourages children to achieve their full potential.

*Ofsted say 'Team Belmont' values resonate throughout the school.*

*Leaders have established a culture of high aspirations' and 'Leaders ensure that pupils receive a broad, rich and engaging curriculum. The provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is strong.'*

**They offer a breakfast club and a wide range of extracurricular activities and much, much more.**

**Contact the school for further information.**

### Parish Council Precept 2024-25

The parish council's total precept this coming year will again remain at £33,000.

Fortunately, we have again with careful money management been able to remain stable this year. There will be a minimal decrease in what you the parishioner pays (0.50% per annum). This is due to a slight increase in the average number of Band D properties calculated for the parish.

The councillors who are guided by the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), have in most cases managed to remain within their set budgets for all areas.

One increase that we have allowed for in 2024-25 is the Grass Cutting Contract as we are expecting their operating costs to have risen and it is not a fixed contract. When moving the contract last year, we found that our new contractors were much cheaper than any of their competitors and this remains so. We expect that other bought in services especially the Insurance, Salaries and Newsletter printing will also increase. The extra charges we had from HSBC during 2022-23 have been reduced by approx. 80% plus we are getting much more interest as we have moved all our accounts to NatWest. This included closing the Melton Mowbray Account.

Other smaller pots of income come from a grant from SKDC towards the cost of our Community Cleaner and Donations. This year we received a grant of £6000 from the UKSPF fund (See Leisure & Outdoor & Bridge End Grove reports).

We believe this precept will enable us to meet our normal expenditure on services and allow us to continue with all the projects already in the pipeline. Parish councillors are keen to provide all the services that they are required to at the best possible rate. As you will continually see throughout this newsletter, we have several responsibilities that require resources annually.

Our forward planning for the years 2025/26 and 2026/27 indicates that although we cannot predict accurately what increases that will be needed during that period, some increase will be required. In these uncertain times we would still endeavour to keep any increases to a minimum.

Things we have highlighted before about how the government is expecting the parish to grow, means we are still not fully able to assess the effects on our budgets. With the major building work planned for the Spitalgate Heath area still not started, it is difficult to assess the impact this will have on us.

We are keen to continue with all the projects outlined in this Newsletter, and you will see where some of the precept has been spent this year.

Our Parish Clerk/RFO Pete Armstrong always keeps a close eye on our spending and councillors receive a detailed update at each meeting which is then agreed and signed off by the councillors. This of course enables the budgets to be adhered to.

### Appreciation

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our generous Sponsors/Advertisers for their continued support.**

**A special mention for the ongoing assistance given by Tailored Hair to enable the Defibrillator to be sited on their building. We must also say a big thank you to East Midland Electronics who continue to accommodate the one on Alma Park.**

**We would ask you to consider them when making an appropriate purchase.**

### How do you get highways problems fixed in your street?

Firstly, it's important to understand who fixes things in our part of Lincolnshire. By far and away the majority of road related issues are maintained by Lincolnshire County Council. It's a huge task as Lincolnshire is the 2nd biggest county by area but the 18<sup>th</sup> by population which means that it has one of the biggest challenges in England to both pay for and keep up with things.

Being the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest county area means that inspecting things is a mammoth task (some areas may only be inspected every 3 years) .....so this is where the help of the public is very much needed. By reporting defects LCC can focus on what needs immediate action. Defining the priority for things to be done due to the finance challenges is always a risk based decision. So when you report issues for repair always state what might happen if it is not fixed. Will it cause an accident? Will it cause damage? Is it on a bend in the road? Will it cause damage to properties?

So how do you report things? The best solution is to visit the fix my street website. <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> or to use their app that can be downloaded onto your phone or tablet. Using a mobile phone is great because you can include a photo. And if you register an account (which is just your name and your email address) they will email you updates when action takes place.

It is also possible to phone problems in to the Customer Service Centre - 01522 782155 (Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 6.00pm, except public holidays) but the Fix My Street method makes it very easy to highlight exactly where it is.

### Councillor Vacancies.

We at present have two vacancies on the Parish Council, these we can fill by co-option unless at least ten electors request an Election. We would of course hope that doesn't happen as that would cost us well over a £1000.

**What do you need to be a councillor?** Well, that's quite an easy question, as all you really need is to want to help make our parish a better place to live by having the will to improve our environment etc.

This of course must be done within the rules of what the council can legally do.

*To be a councillor you must be over 18 years old , live or work within 3km of the parish and not be disqualified for any reason such as being bankrupt!*

The council can make decisions on the provision and upkeep of play areas, amenity areas. We can make comments, suggestions, or objections to planning applications to SKDC planning. We are a consultee on all applications within our parish, from small household additions, up to things like the Solar Farms as mentioned with in this newsletter. We liaise with the local and county authorities on matters concerning them, usually through our own elected councillors.

We have two district and two county councillors that we work with on a regular basis.

We hold at least six full meetings each year plus some Planning and Leisure and Outdoor working groups.

All meetings are usually held on Wednesday evenings. There are some working parties that the more able members are involved in such as the H & H and BHMS sites, you would of course be welcome to join in with those.

For further information contact the Clerk at

[clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk) or ring 07929-321426



### Turnor Road

Following complaints from the residents, we would like to remind you that Turnor Road is classed as a restricted byway and not a public road. This means that no motor vehicles are allowed, except for access to the properties. The residents themselves pay for the upkeep as Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) only needs to maintain it to a standard suitable for non-motor vehicles. Please do not use this as a through route between Hall Lane, Harrowby, and the High Dyke (B6403) using any type of vehicle with an engine is illegal. It is therefore also illegal to drive to the corner, by the emergency access gate to the rear of the Barracks, and park your vehicle to walk or exercise dogs in the area, including to the Hills & Hollows. The police are aware of the situation and are increasing patrols in the area as they are responsible for enforcement. The Parish Council has no powers to add any signs or take any other action but LCC are currently investigating to see if additional signage can be added to make the status of the byway clearer.

### Grantham Town Council

As you will have surely heard a new town council has been approved for Grantham with residents promised it was a “historic moment” that gives them chance to be “masters of their own destiny”.  
At a South Kesteven District full council meeting in November, councillors approved a proposal for Grantham to have a town council for the first time in nearly 50 years. This was cross party working decision on a long running saga. The chairman of the Community Governance Review Working Group discussing the proposal said: “When I started as a councillor there was no statutory voice for Grantham. “It’s time to elect people who are responsible for these decisions. The new town council is set to have 22 members – and these will be elected in May 2024.  
**None of our parish is included in the Grantham Town Constituency.**

### Planning Update

Councillors have been kept busy dealing with planning applications of various descriptions, including extensions, change of use applications, industrial new builds, work on trees with preservation orders etc. which have been notified to us for our comments by SKDC Planning.

We also continue to refer cases where appropriate to the Enforcement Officer at SKDC when we consider conditions imposed on planning applications have not been adhered to.

However, much time has been taken recently with consultation meetings with three solar farm companies, namely Ash Tree Solar Farm, Welby Solar Farm and Church Lane Welby Solar Farm; all of which propose to install solar farms close to the parish off the High Dyke with the cabling entering our parish to the sub-station on Newgate Lane, Londonthorpe.

The Ash Tree proposal would have the greatest impact on the conservation village of Londonthorpe and Councillors have therefore consulted parishioners in the village to gather their thoughts to assist us in our comments which we have now submitted for consideration by SKDC.

There is an article on pages 12 &13 in this Newsletter with much more detailed information on this particular subject.

The Council continue to receive regular updates on the Grantham Southern Relief Road development. The Clerk and three Councillors have received an official tour of the site, this was led by the project team manger allowing us to view the work in progress. Unfortunately, the problems with the unstable ground have necessitated an extension of the length of the bridge over the river and railway which has also extended the completion date considerably.

There appears to have been no progress at present with the proposed 250 home development application on the land below the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks off Somerby Hill. We were involved in consultations with the developers before their application was submitted and we have raised several issues for consideration by SKDC Planning.

We were pleased that the National Trust took the Councils and parishioners concerns into account when reversing the decision to submit plans to re-direct traffic through the Lion Gates entrance and the Council continues to seek consultation meetings with management at Belton House to review progress on their car park and visitor improvements and to maintain public walking access at the Lion Gates.

We encourage parishioners to submit their own personal comments and concerns on any plans they think may adversely affect them or the wider community by contacting SKDC Planning in writing or on-line on their website under ‘Planning’.

Cllr G Parnham. *G Parnham*

**Grantham Southern Relief Road:** work continues on this and if viewed from Spittlegate Level you can see the bridge section being built ready for sliding into place. This will be quite a feat when it happens.



**ALMA PARK FISH BAR**

**Opening Hours:**  
TUE: 16:30 - 19:00  
WED - THU: 11:30 - 14:00  
WED - THU: 16:30 - 19:00  
FRI: 11:30 - 14:00  
FRI: 16:30 - 20:00  
SAT: 11:30 - 14:00  
SAT: 16:30 - 19:00

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13 ALMA PARK ROAD  
GRANTHAM  
NG31 9SX

## Leisure & Outdoor Committee

The purpose of this small number of councillors is to scrutinise the whole of the outdoor space that we as a parish Council provide. They do the groundwork for the parish council, so when the bi-monthly council meetings are held it does not take too much of their time. Many of this committee undertake volunteering tasks as well as attend the meetings so they have the hands-on knowledge of the items needing attention. This could mean new or replacement equipment for play areas, works required for the safety of all or just general repairs.

As stated, the results and details of these are then passed on to the full council for further discussions and hopefully acceptance.

At the hub of all this I am gratefully thankful of the work done by our Clerk to the Council Mr. Pete Armstrong who manages the arranging and finalising of all this. As you will see within this

newsletter, we have many different areas under our control. These include five play-areas, plus our ever-popular Nature Reserve at the Hills & Hollows, the land just south of the Blessed Hugh More Site dedicated the Late Queens Diamond Jubilee. We also have management of half of the old school site under a ACV.

*Work pending & work done:*

Soon our team of volunteers will be cutting back the overhanging leylandii hedging at

Londonthorpe play area. This will give us back a three metre strip of land at present unusable.

By the time you read this, the replacement of the equipment at Bridge End Grove should be completed weather permitting. This is part of our ongoing replacement scheme to take out all our old past its best wooden equipment. I would like to offer a personal thank you to Tony Parker for the splendid work done in keeping the hedges in check at the H&H. As usual he's done this out of the goodness of his heart. I would also like to thank Cllr R Keeler who has taken on the task of removing some of the unwanted hawthorn seedlings.

The planting up and upkeep of the Millennium Garden in conjunction with the pupils of the Belmont School Gardening Club was educational for them and good fun to do and witness. This will continue again in 2024.

You will find more detail about the items I mention within the main articles in this Newsletter. Finally I would like to thank all the councillors and volunteers who have made this possible. Thank You. Kind regards **Cllr Paul Bakker**



The Millennium Garden last summer with the planting done by the Belmont Gardening Club.

## Storms

I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel like I am living in a world gone mad. Whilst powerful storms batter our own nation, the storms of war seem to be intensifying around the globe. This can leave us feeling disoriented, anxious, and afraid, battling our own inner storms.

Sometimes finding a place of calm can be like a healing balm. For this reason St John the Baptist's, in the beautiful and peaceful village of Londonthorpe, is open every day from 9am-4pm as a refuge from these storms. Why not come along and enjoy the peace and quiet of the church, along with the tranquillity of the churchyard and its stunning views over the surrounding countryside? You can also light a candle if you wish. Recently we have started partnering with Belton House to provide free guided walks through the fields and woodland finishing with homemade refreshments at Londonthorpe church.

For those who prefer the company of others, the Wellbeing Café in the Ascension Church Hall on Edinburgh Road is a warm and welcoming place to come every Monday from 10am-12noon. Hot drinks, homemade cake, table games, crafts, friendly company and a listening ear are all free with voluntary donations and are meant to provide a safe space where it's okay not to be okay. Whatever you may be going through, you are not alone. As your parish church, we are here for you.

If you'd like to know more about the services and community activities of your local church, including baptisms, weddings and funerals, feel free to call me on: 01476 574145 or email me at [rev.samparsons@gmail.com](mailto:rev.samparsons@gmail.com).

Rev. Samantha Parsons, Vicar of the Church of the Ascension and St John the Baptist's Londonthorpe

**Service Times:**

**Church of the Ascension, Edinburgh Rd**

1st Sunday of month	10am Holy Communion
2nd Sunday of month	10am Sunday Worship with Sunday Club for children
3rd Sunday on month	10am All Age Family Service
4th Sunday of month	10am Holy Communion
5th Sunday of month	10am Holy Communion

All services followed by refreshments

**St John the Baptist's, Londonthorpe**

2nd Sunday of month	4pm Holy Communion
4th Sunday of month	4pm Hymns of Praise

All services followed by refreshments

Rev. Samantha Parsons, Vicar of the Church of the Ascension and St John the Baptist's Londonthorpe.

I can be contacted for information about Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals on: Tel: 01476 574145 or email: [rev.samparsons@gmail.com](mailto:rev.samparsons@gmail.com)

By *REV SAM PARSONS*





## Reconnecting Grantham to its historic landscape.

### What's new and coming up!

#### Bellmount Tower and car park upgrade

This year, the restoration of Bellmount Tower and upgrade of Bellmount car park will take place. The tower will go through conservation work to look after our bat friends, and preserve the historic war graffiti. The car park will be resurfaced to help reduce the uneven ground.

#### Upcoming events

We have lots of free activities running throughout the year, from a cycle to the woods event and guided walks to family nature days. We also run a photo competition every month with the winners artwork showcased at our photo exhibition in September. Keep an eye out on Reconnecting Grantham's Facebook page for more information.



To stay up to date with events, Scan the QR code to join the Reconnecting Grantham Facebook page.



Nest building at Family nature day

Orientation panel at Londonthorpe Woods



#### New orientation boards

Our orientation boards have been installed at Londonthorpe Woods and Alma Park entrances with marked out trails of recommended walks, their distance and how easy they are.

#### Easy access path

Although not quite new, the Londonthorpe Woods easy access path is a 1 mile loop to explore the outside in spring without getting muddy. The wide, flat path makes it easy for pushchairs and wheelchairs too. Dogs are also welcome with lots of open areas to run around.

To find out more information on the Reconnecting Grantham project, scan the QR code below or email: [ReconnectingGrantham@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:ReconnectingGrantham@woodlandtrust.org.uk)



Working together



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## Hills & Hollows

The trees and hedges in this area continue to grow well despite the various challenging weather events experienced over the last year. This autumn a volunteer working party group cut down some self-set sycamore from the northern end of the site and strimmed back brambles encroaching onto the public right of way. Tony Parker has once again cut the hedges for us, and we thank him for giving up many hours of his time to do this. Cllr Richard Keeler has also been volunteering his time to cut down self-set hawthorn & brambles threatening to take over the trees planted in the autumn of 2012 between the hedge (also planted at that time) and the original Hills & Hollows area. He noted at being surprised by how many species of grass and other small flowering plants there were growing at the southern end, where there were no or very few brambles. It is hoped by clearing the denser bramble patches at the northern end it will encourage this diversity of flora to spread.

Another continuing issue is the illegal use of motorbikes along the paths of the parish owned section and neighbouring sites. They have really churned up the grass this winter making it very muddy and difficult to walk on. The police are aware and should be increasing their presence in the area including using drones. Other instances of anti-social behaviour have been the fires being lit in the hollows. This was in the dry spells last summer which is always a worry. Please report any motorbikes using the area to the non-emergency 101 number if you feel safe to do so. We normally hold 1 or 2 working parties per year, so if you are interested in helping out, please contact the Parish Clerk. By Cllr R Keeler & Clerk P Armstrong



The Hills and Hollows Plantation after the clearing work done by both Tony Parker & Richard Keeler

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Fri-Sat 11:30-2:00pm & 4:00-9:00pm



### Woodland Trust Working Party Group

This winter season we have again been working in the old Alma Park Wood clearing sycamore ahead of replanting with native beech & hornbeam along with dogwood (which is a lower growing shrub like tree) in early March. The beech and oak we set last spring, following the clearance of sycamore, established well and it will be interesting to see how they fair in their second growing season.

In January some members assisted with the planting of the new hedge around Thorpe Fields as part of the Reconnecting Grantham project, this was in conjunction with the National Trust. This included thousands of hawthorns at five per metre and oak saplings at six metre spacings. This is the field on the eastern side of Five Gates Lane between the Woodland Trust car park and the Belmont Tower car park. In February the work was around the Five Gates carpark area maintaining the hedge planted in 2023, planting a small hedge by the toilet block and again we were removing diseased ash. **We are always looking for new volunteers, if you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk.**

The working party meets one Sunday per month October to March from 9.30am till about 12.30 pm, although there is no obligation to stay for the full 3 hours. There are sometimes additional dates between April and September if suitable tasks are found. We use loppers and handsaws to remove brambles, hawthorn & blackthorn and the lower branches of more mature trees as well as felling some trees as described above. Full training is provided, along with all tools, gloves, knee pads and all important mid-morning coffee and biscuits!

Many members of this team also work on the parishes own woodlands like the Hills & Hollows.

P Armstrong  
&  
Cllr R Keeler



Some of our excellent volunteers finishing up after a successful morning removing diseased ash saplings.

### Useful Numbers

Anglia Water 0845 7145145  
Gas 0800 111999  
NHS Direct 08454647  
NHS non emergency 111  
Power Cuts Emergency 105  
Electricity 0800 0568090  
Grantham Hospital 014767 565232.

### Local Policing

Police non emergency 101  
Police Station 0300 111300

### Our Grantham East team

Senette-Crofts, Jennifer  
email Jennifer.Senette-  
Crofts@lincs.police.uk  
SKDC Switchboard 01476 406080  
For Dog Fouling-Abandoned Vehicles,  
Fly Tipping etc 01476 406279  
For Collection of Refuse-Recycling-  
Green Waste Etc. 01476 406360  
Lincs C.C. 01522 552222

### customerservices @lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lighting etc 01522 582070  
E-mail- www.Fixmystreet.com

### Benefits Agency

To Claim Benefits is 0800 055 6688  
Benefit Enquiries is 0800 169 0310  
Local Jobcentre is 0800 169 0190  
Tax Credits Helpline 0345 300 3900  
Universal Credit Enquiries 0800 328 9344  
Pension Credit Apps 0800 99 1234  
Pension Centres 0800 731 0469  
Childline 0800 11 11

Citizens Advice 08444 994199

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

### Public Transport

Centrebus 01164 105050  
Call Connect 03452-343344  
National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950  
Traveline 0871 2002233

### Millennium Garden

In 2023 the Millennium Garden on Kenilworth Road/Harrowby Lane junction, was taken on as Community Project by the children of Belmont School Gardening Club.

They have worked with our Clerk Pete Armstrong to plan and provide for both the summer and autumn planting. Two teachers Mrs Pallier & Mrs Eggleston run the club which has anywhere between 4 & 10 attendees each week. In November after the half term break,

they planted the Wallflowers and Sweet Williams they had grown from seed. Before planting they cleared the garden of the summer bedding and removed it to their compost heap. On the planting and clearing days, the clerk is ably assisted by Cllrs Bakker & Parnham. All plants/seeds/compost etc are supplied through the Parish Council so no cost to the school.



The Belmont Children with Councillor G Parnham assisting with the planting of the summer display.



## How does the Parish Council work with Lincolnshire Police on the issues most raised for the Parish?

Firstly we should say that over the course of Parish Council meetings coupled with input from parishioners the council compiles its list of the important areas that the council passes each year to Lincolnshire Police.

Secondly we should say that Lincolnshire Police have to act on the areas that are presenting the biggest issues so on top of what is fed to them from Parish councils they also compile lists of incidents that occur and use this to focus resources. This is what drives their priorities.

It should be obvious but it is worth repeating here that they can only work on things that they are informed about.....to report things you can use this link but if it is a crime happening right now, the suspect is still at the scene, or anyone is seriously injured or in immediate danger then ring 999 straight away.

<https://www.lincs.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Don't feel pressurised to not report incidents, any threat to a person reporting incidents is covered by an s4 public order Act 1986 offence of which 73% are prosecuted and sentenced. To maintain and improve community standards the community needs to work together.

Recently the Parish Council has been having regular meetings with the Community Police Officer that has responsibility for our area, and walked the areas around the Parish. In addition to Parish Councillors, your SKDC councillors have also been taking part to give a fully joined up approach. In addition Lincolnshire Police held their first Local Policing Review with all the parish councils in South Kesteven and North Kesteven taking part.

Superintendent Phil Baker introduced his community policing team and reviewed the activities of the teams and their key objectives.

For our parish they reported on speeding and increased presence to support the Community Speed Watch Team, on Belton lane and Harrowby Lane. They discussed what needed to be done to tackle night-time speeding. They also spoke about anti-social behaviour especially linked to motor cycles, and described action being taken and dedicated patrols set up in the relevant areas. Cllr A Bowling

## Blessed Hugh More School Site Feb 24

Our hardy volunteers have again tackled work on these areas around the Blessed Hugh More School Site, including the Jubilee Mount Area. Both of the footpath improvements have been completed but on occasions the southern one has struggled to cope with the extremely wet periods at the end of 2023, some slight modifications have been made which have helped to some degree.

Tasks for the next Working Party on the 17th Feb will include cutting side channels leading away from the footpath at the top of the hill. This we hope will ease the pressure lower down the slope. Other tasks include planting some more summer flowering bulbs and perennials on the lower slope.



We are also still seeing fly tipping at the rear of the homes on Sandringham Drive.

The picture shown here is the mess made by the illegal motorcycles using the Rights of Way footpath, they are also damaging the farmers field.

We again would ask that you report any illegal activities via 101.

## **Volunteers**

We are very lucky that several parishioners volunteer around the parish. Some people are involved in more than one activity, and we are very grateful for that. Areas where we have volunteers, are the working groups at the Hills & Hollows, Blessed Hugh More School/Jubilee Mount site, plus the Withambrook and Londonthorpe amenity areas. We also have some of our parishioners involved with the "Reconnecting Grantham Project". This is aligned to the long running Woodland Trust Working Party, which has been going for over 15yrs.

We also have the volunteers who look after the planters at Londonthorpe, planting them up spring and autumn. Then there are the people who organise events for the good of the parish, like Sunnifest and celebrations like the Coronation.

We know who all these people are, and we thank them sincerely.

There are others we don't know because they are not part of any of our parish organised events, these are those people who go out litter picking! So, without naming anyone, you know who you are, the councillors would like to say a big THANK YOU!

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### Bridge End Grove UKSPF

As we stated in the autumn newsletter, we have been lucky enough to secure a £6000 grant from the **South Kesteven share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)**. This is linked to the improvements to the playing/amenity field at Bridge End Grove. We are match funding this, so up to £12000 will be spent renovating and improving.

So far, this project has been dogged by delays, we had hoped to have everything installed by the end of 2023, but due to an administration error at the suppliers the manufacturers never received the order until after Christmas. This means the install won't be done until the end of February. Our installers, local firm Vale Sport and Leisure are ready to go as soon as it arrives. It is a multifunctional unit consisting of items to test climbing, balance, and

strength skills. As we also stated last year the old wooden equipment will go and be replaced by this. Vale have gifted us another piece of equipment called a Springy, this is especially for the toddlers to use as it improves their early balancing skills.



### Open Evening

Last years Open Evening in September was again a successful and enjoyable event for the councillors. This Open Evening gives your parish councillors the chance to answer any queries that you the residents have about the projects and work that they do in a relaxed non formal atmosphere. All the projects and ongoing works are displayed for all to see.

It also is a chance to celebrate all of the good things happening in the parish like the awarding of the prizes and certificates for the Tom Childs Award and the Best Kept Gardens Competition. You can read about these the articles in this newsletter.

This year the Vice Chair Cllr A Bowling presented the prizes in the absence of the Chair Cllr C Markwell, with prize winners being introduced by Pete Armstrong the Parish Clerk.

If we had been aware of the Solar Farm proposals at that time it would have been an item we would have displayed and discussed, but unfortunately the information came to us after the event.

### Grantham East County Councillor Report

Once again it's been a busy time for the Parish Council especially trying to keep up with controversial planning applications, we successfully got our message across by calling in the plan to use the Lion Gate entrance for the redevelopment work to take place at Belton House which resulted in it being withdrawn by the National Trust.

Now there are several Solar Farm planning applications locally which are the remit of the Parish and District Councillors to deal with. NSIP - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are determined by the Secretary of State following the management of the process by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and the legislative framework for these decisions are based in planning legislation, policy, and law. LCC is a consultee to any application but the decision making is not down to them.

Recent continuous rainfall and a cold snap caused problems not only in the Parish but throughout the town. I put in several reports about Harrowby Lane after the gully jetting didn't clear the problem, and on further inspection damaged pipework is some of the problem which is yet to be programmed in for the repair/replacement work to take place. Due to the ice that formed on the water overflow warning signs were put out, and we have been allocated a grit bin to be placed near 257 Harrowby Lane for self-help, which hopefully the more able-bodied residents can distribute some grit if future problems occur.

Alma Park Road is now down for reconstruction so it's good the funding is Secured, but we await the date of the work to take place which should be this summer.

The Southern Relief Road is progressing well, and you can follow its progress through the LCC website. After all these years of waiting 2025 should see its completion.

Due to the weather more potholes have appeared, and the public are doing a great job in reporting them on FixMyStreet.

The majority are being done by the sawcut hotbox method which is a better and permanent fix. Lincolnshire has been badly hit by the various storms we have encountered, and the County are dealing with record, into the hundreds, of section 19 flood reports.

Devolution is a major item being discussed by Councils now, and the consultation in Lincolnshire has just ended with over 4000 responses. The general consensus is positive towards a devolution deal with reservations of having a Mayor, although we await a detailed analysis of the results which will be discussed at Lincolnshire County Council in due course.

As always, it's been my privilege to be your County representative, so please don't hesitate to contact me with your queries and questions, as I am ready and willing to help in any way I can. Thank you.

Best wishes. Cllr. Linda Wootten.

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## SKDC COUNCILLORS REPORT: Elvis Stooke & Phil Gadd

We were delighted to be elected as your new Belmont Ward representatives in the May elections. Since being elected, we have continued to attend Parish Council meetings providing advice and support on issues highlighted within the ward. We have also arranged meetings within the Belmont Ward with:

- Police Community Support Officer.
- Leader of SKDC to introduce him to the Belmont Ward & ongoing issues.
- Rhea Rayside, Cabinet member for People & Communities

These meetings were related to reports of anti-social behaviour including:

- Illegal motorcycles around Harrowby Hall, the Hills & Hollows, Sunningdale & Alma Park Wood
- Ongoing dog fouling issues
- Noise and environmental reports
- Speeding on Sunningdale & Harrowby Lane

We also work to ensure the Parish Council is informed of any new initiatives proposed by SKDC or new funding opportunities. We have recently attended meetings with residents about the proposed Solar Farms around Londonthorpe & Welby. The proposals were 'called in' to ensure they will be reviewed & scrutinised by the Planning Committee at SKDC. We are both independent Councillors, but we talk or meet at least twice a week to discuss constituency issues that have been reported to us. We also work in liaison with the local LCC Councillor to ensure that highways and similar issues are reported.

### Defibrillator Training

Over the last few years there has been a significant growth in the number of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) within our communities. Whilst this offers reassurance to help in an emergency, some in the community did express a concern that they had no experience of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or how to use an AED – especially as it's likely to be an extremely stressful situation when it's needed.

Leisure SK is keen to engage and support our communities and are running some training courses with the public. Their team of trainers are already in place at the leisure centres, and they've been able to help by delivering a number of sessions in the community based on the Royal Lifesaving Society "Save a Life" scheme.

These are free 2.5-3hrs sessions that cover some basic first aid skills, resuscitation and using a defibrillator. The sessions are offered for awareness and practise/ experience and are not a qualification. The sessions have been well received though with feedback from those attending the sessions feeling more confident in how the devices work and how they can respond in an emergency. All training equipment is provided. - Maximum 12-14 individuals per session. The sessions are delivered free of charge but those taking part may like to make a voluntary donation to the RLSS. The Venue will be Belmont School Time 6.30pm Date Tuesday 19th March. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the Clerk ASAP as places are limited and it will be first come first served.

### Best Kept Gardens Competition

The winners of this were presented with their awards at our Annual Open Evening in September. Once again, we the judges saw some excellent gardens despite the very unhelpful drought conditions over the judging period. It appeared that the many people who took up doing more in their gardens during lockdown have continued with them. Once again though the regulars presented shining examples to us all, making the Past Winners Section very competitive. The judging process for 2023 was the same as usual with three Councillors and the Clerk selecting the winners through a points system over the months July to September. This is after your local councillors travelled around their areas and put forward nominations to the judging panel. The 2024 competition will start in July It will run through to September, so plan carefully!

Last year's winners were: In West Sunningdale: it was won by, Mr & Mrs Storey, East Sunningdale: Mrs J Warren, East Harrowby Lane: Mrs J Clarke, West Harrowby Lane: Mr & Mrs E Lane. In Somerby Hill we had joint winners Mr W Atkinson and Mr & Mrs D Baker, Villages Mr & Mrs B Bradley, and the Containers Section by Mr & Mrs Corcoran. Past Winners Section was won again by Mr & Mrs A Parker whose garden is the highlight of Kenilworth Road.



Mr & Mrs Bradley Winners of the Villages Section with Vice Chairman A Bowling

### **Sunnifest 24"**

**Following the last two successful events held on the estate, the 2024 edition is now booked for Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Berkshire Drive Green.**

**This is a show of community spirit organised by a small number of residents, and you are welcome you to join them in a fun afternoon/evening.**

**It is an event where you bring your family/party to the Party!  
Further details will be available shortly.**

## Major Planning Applications for solar photovoltaic farms (commonly known as Solar Farms).

Currently the Parish Council has been made aware of 3 potential Solar Farms (proposed by 3 separate companies) which will all impact the Parish. These represent in total some 600 acres of panels (approximately 300,000) and associated equipment. These are as follows (with the SKDC application numbers so you can look them up online if you wish to):



1. Ash Tree Solar Farm (S23/2199 Construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm with battery storage and associated infrastructure including electrical cable route corridor)

2. Welby North Solar Farm (S23/1845 Request for an EIA Screening Opinion for the installation and operation of a 46MW ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm with battery storage, grid connection and supporting infrastructure)

3. Church Lane Welby Solar Farm (S23/0587 Request for an EIA Screening Opinion for the installation and operation of solar farm with associated Infrastructure)

To date only Ash Tree has submitted a full application plus a late EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment request). An EIA is a request for the company applying to understand any major concerns before the application is submitted (in this case it came in just a few days before the application was received).

Welby has submitted its EIA request but we do not know when an application will be received, and Church Lane has submitted its EIA request and intends to submit its application by the end of February.

In all these cases the Parish Council has met face to face with these companies to ask questions and clarify their positions on many aspects of their proposals. The size of these sites prompted the Parish Council to arrange a meeting with the Londonthorpe residents in St Johns Church as soon as the planning application for Ash Tree was received. This allowed the residents to come together to express their concerns. The fundamental concerns at this time were all around the Ash Tree potential site. The Parish Council have used some of the information gained at this meeting within their objections to SKDC Planning.

Following these meetings, the Parish Councils Planning Committee met, discussed the issues raised with us and all agreed that an objection should be placed on Ash Tree based on 4 categories...EN1: Landscape Character, EN2: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity, EN3: Green Infrastructure and EN4: Pollution Control. We also have concerns with the lack of depth and quality of the application presented by this particular company. It must also be stated at this point that the Parish Council is not against renewable energy plans but we feel very strongly that the location of Ash Tree and its closeness to our Conservation areas and impact on the National Trust and Woodland Trust areas along with cable routing directly through Londonthorpe village is not acceptable. Simply put it's the right thing to do but proposed in an inappropriate location. You can see the full Parish Council objection on the SKDC website.

We are aware that the residents of Londonthorpe have also been campaigning to get their voices heard, and have lodged numerous public objection letters with SKDC planning (around 50 representations to date).



A photo, by kind permission of the Grantham Journal, is included here of some of the villagers.

If you wish to comment on these applications you can do so online at <https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/planning-building->

So what happens next? There will be a planning committee meeting held at SKDC in the coming weeks (date yet to be announced) to review plans submitted, objections and comments and decide on the progress of the application [control/planning-development-management/search-planning-applications](https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/control/planning-development-management/search-planning-applications)