

## TOM CHILDS MEMORIAL AWARD 2019

This year's "Tom Childs' Award", which was the twelfth, was held in September. This was as usual in the special functions room at the Officers Mess, Prince William of Gloucester Barracks. This year we had two nominations both very deserving of recognition. The Award Committee met and unanimously decided on the winner for the year, this was a very deserving lady Mickey Stokes. She works tirelessly for the Grantham Disabled Children's Society (GDCS). She is instrumental in many fund-raising events for the charity including her stall which you may have seen on Harrowby Lane. She also helps organising things that the children get to do through the funds raised, you will have seen many reports of these in the Grantham Journal during the last year. Mickey was proposed by a SKDC Councillor Annie Mason who attended the Awards Luncheon, along with Mickey's guest who just happens to be the mother of one of the children who benefit from the Society. (We have purposely kept her name anonymous.) She did though give a very moving account of the benefits of all the work done by Mickey and how her child and many others had received a tremendous amount of help and friendship. During the luncheon a presentation was made to Mickey of a certificate marking her achievement and a cheque for £200 for GDCS funds. The Clerk Pete Armstrong, a friend of the Childs family for over 40 years, said that, speaking on their behalf. Tom would have been delighted with this choice of Charity as he had been involved in helping with similar situations during his lifetime.

The Award was set up in the memory of the late Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council Clerk Tom Childs, 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 this during his lifetime.

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

**Nominations for 2020 should be submitted by the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020.**



**For full details please contact the Parish Clerk on 07929 321426 or email: [londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com](mailto:londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com)**



# LONDONTHORPE & HARROWBY WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER No 14 Mar 2020

## Chairperson's Message

A belated Happy New Year to all Parishioners from myself and my fellow Councillors. This Newsletter aims to provide an update on all the Parish Council's activities this past year and I hope you find it interesting and informative.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Councillors for their enthusiasm and commitment in voluntarily giving up their time on your behalf to ensure the Parish remains a safe and attractive environment to live in. I was elected Chairperson in May 2019 after serving as Vice-Chair for the previous two years. However, I will have served as a Parish Councillor for some twenty-five years this coming May.

On behalf of myself and fellow Councillors I wish to thank the previous Chairperson Councillor Paul Bakker for his excellent leadership during his two-year spell and for his excellent practical skills which have saved the Parish budget considerable expense with regards to repairs and maintenance.

The newly elected Vice-Chair is Councillor Roland Wright. Also, I extend a warm welcome to our two new Councillors Janie Lee and Carol Markwell. Carol has introduced herself inside this Newsletter. Thanks must also go to our Parish Community Cleaner Tony Parker who continues to keep the Parish tidy. I must mention both him and his wife for their much-appreciated endeavours in keeping the Millennium Garden on the corner of Kenilworth Road such a colourful and attractive asset for the Parish. Thank you to our Parish Working Party volunteers for all their essential voluntary work. The Parish Council also appreciates the help we readily receive from our County Council and SKDC representatives, Linda Wootten, Adam Stokes and Councillor George Chivers. They have all regularly pursued issues that have arisen in the Parish on our behalf, particularly the flooding problems we have witnessed and other highway matters.

The Parish Council have again had a busy year dealing with a wide variety of issues affecting the Parish. Planning applications for proposed developments in the Parish referred to the Parish Council by the SKDC Planning Department for our consultation and comment have increasingly become a major area of activity for the Council, as have been seeking practical remedies for the problems of speeding traffic and flooding issues in the Parish.

All of the above items are covered in much more detail inside this Newsletter.

The Parish Council was delighted to welcome so many Parishioners at last September's Parish Open Evening at the Belmont School, which was a great success. It's the opportunity for the Council to showcase our activities during the year and for Parishioners to meet and discuss any issues with their Councillors in a relaxed and informal manner. We would love to see even more of you this September, so come along and have a cuppa and a chat. Of course, you do not have to wait till September to contact us and we welcome any comments and ideas for improvements in the Parish. We may not always be aware of an issue that affects Parishioners and contact details for the Parish Clerk and Councillors can be found inside.

Last but not least, every Parish Council relies on their Parish Clerk to provide guidance and utilise their organisational, financial and administrative skills in the Parish interests. In Pete Armstrong we are lucky to have someone who goes that extra mile to ensure the Council's projects are run efficiently and budgets are managed wisely as well as providing practical assistance as a leader of the Parish Working Party. On behalf of all the Councillors and Parishioners I thank him for his continuing dedication for service to the Parish.

Kind Regards Geoff Parnham - Chairperson



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## Woodland Trust Working Party

We are now in our eleventh year of operation and we are very lucky that our membership still remains stable, with a mixture of male and female young and old. The age range of our volunteers is from early twenties to late seventies. The working party meets one Sunday per month October to March from 9.30am till about 12.30-1.00pm, although there is no obligation to stay for the full duration. Please see the calendar section for upcoming dates.

This season we have worked on the Londonthorpe side of the woods clearing back diseased ash and other dead specimens that were a possible danger to walkers. This will also have the effect of allowing the other trees to flourish. On the far end of the site we have started to clear rides to help to dry out the muddy terrain that we find at the bottom of the hill. On the two sections of the latest planted trees the time came for removing the tree-guards to allow unrestrained growth. The downside of this is it leaves them open to attack from the deer that roam this wood. During the summer we had a working party just to remove posts left from the original planting on the Belton Park section.

If the future Woodland Trust plans come to fruition we will have some more diverse jobs to do which could mean more summer activities.

(Please see the article below.)  
What work do we undertake? Well we use loppers and small saws to remove brambles, hawthorn and blackthorn and the lower branches of more mature trees. Some tree felling is undertaken under strict safety conditions. Training is provided, along with all tools, gloves and knee pads. As always we are looking for new volunteers, if you are interested please contact the Woodland Trust or the Parish Clerk.



**The Cowslip Meadow in the Spring**

We normally have a couple of breaks during the morning for a chat, hot drink and biscuits, which are provided free of charge. We are a very friendly bunch or so I'm told. Our last event of the season is on Sunday 8th March. We shall be meeting at the Woodland Trust Five Gates Car Park ready for 9.30am start. Article by Pete Armstrong

## Reconnecting Grantham to its Historic Landscape

We hope by now that you are aware of the exciting project between the National Trust and the Woodland Trust at Bellmount and Londonthorpe Woods. The project has reached the end of its development phase and our application for delivery phase funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been submitted. We will hear whether NLHF will fund the project later in the spring. Fingers crossed that we receive a positive response.

If we're successful, the four year delivery phase will see an upgrade of the car park at Londonthorpe Wood, a number of waymarked trails going in across the site and a cycle route linking Londonthorpe Woods to Grantham Town. We'll also be carrying out renovation work on Bellmount Tower which, once this is completed will allow us to open the tower to visitors on a regular basis. There will be a number of interesting volunteering opportunities available for anyone who would like to get involved. These will be listed on the Woodland Trust websites as the roles become available.

Our intention is to keep Londonthorpe Woods and Bellmount as natural as possible while encouraging more people to make use of this fantastic green gem right on their doorstep.

If you'd like any further information about the project, please drop me a line at [heathercook@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:heathercook@woodlandtrust.org.uk). I look forward to hearing from you.

These plans can be seen on the SKDC planning website. No's S19/1760&S19/1979

## **Parish Council Calendar 2020-21**

**8<sup>th</sup> Mar 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party @ Five Gates Lane Car Park**

**11<sup>th</sup> Mar 7.00pm Parish Annual Meeting followed by the Parish Council Meeting.**

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

**20<sup>th</sup> May 7.00pm Annual Parish Council Meeting *Note revised date.***

**1<sup>st</sup> July Best Kept Gardens Nominations Start**

**8<sup>th</sup> July 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting**

**August Best Kept Gardens Judging Continues**

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

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 7.00pm "Open Evening" to include Best Kept Gardens Awards**

**@ Belmont School**

**11<sup>th</sup> Oct 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party**

**1<sup>st</sup> Nov 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party**

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

**6<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party**

**2021**

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

**10<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party**

**7<sup>th</sup> Feb 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party**

**7<sup>th</sup> Mar 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party**

**10<sup>th</sup> Mar 7.00pm Parish Annual Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting**

## Useful Numbers

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**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**

**PC Pete Nettleton**

**097825100365**

**Pete.nettleton@lincs.pnn.police.uk**

**PCSO Jackie Fulker**

**07939996336**

**Jackie.fulker@lincs.pnn.police.uk**

**SKDC Switchboard 01476 406080**

**For Dog Fouling-Abandoned Vehicles,**

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**National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950**

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**Parish Clerk 07929 321426**

## Introducing Rev. Samantha Parsons, the New Vicar of Harrowby and Londonthorpe

I became the new vicar of Harrowby and Londonthorpe in August 2019. It has been a great privilege to meet many of you through schools, church and community events and I look forward to meeting many more of you.



My own background is in teaching which began in Lincoln and ended up in Paraguay in South America, where I spent 14 years with the Anglican Church. I taught in a bilingual school, a teacher training college, various indigenous Indian communities, and eventually went to work in a children's home for vulnerable girls. It was a deeply enriching experience in a beautiful country where the people, despite their economic challenges, were always generous and hospitable.

I trained as an Anglican priest on my return from Paraguay and served my curacy, as an assistant vicar, in Horncastle.

My work has always focused on helping build community and working with others to enable our communities to flourish.

I very much look forward to working with you and would welcome your suggestions for ways that the church can better support our communities.

You will often see me cycling or walking around - two of my great loves and I have been known to frighten the cat with my guitar playing!

We would be delighted to welcome you to any of our services at the Church of The Ascension, Edinburgh Rd, Harrowby or St John the Baptist's, Londonthorpe.

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

I very much look forward to meeting you and wish you all a happy and healthy 2020!

### St John the Baptist's, Londonthorpe

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - 8:30am Morning Prayer, Book of Common Prayer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - 8:30am Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - 4:00pm Hymns of Praise
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - 4:00pm Holy Communion
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday - 4:00pm Holy Communion

**All services at 4:00pm followed by Refreshments.**

### Church of the Ascension, Edinburgh Rd

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - 10am Holy Communion with Sunday Club for children
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - 10am Family Service for All Ages
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - 10am Holy Communion with Sunday Club for children
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - 10am Service of the Word with Sunday Club for children
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday - 10am Holy Communion with Sunday Club for children

**All services followed by refreshments**

## BEST KEPT GARDENS

This competition has now seen its eleventh successful year. The competition followed the same format as in previous years. Councillors were requested to compile a list of promising gardens in their part of the Parish and submit them to the Councillors who are acting as judges.

What was slightly different this year was Cllr Roland Wright joined Cllrs Geoff Parnham and Paul Bakker along with the Clerk as the judges. Although Cllr Wright was new to the task, it was uncanny how the scores for each garden when marked individually were within a point of each other. Scores are compiled between late July and late August during which numbers are dwindled down to a shortlist for each area of the Parish. A final visit is made in early September and a winner is found for each area.

This past summer, because of the two distinct parts of the season which ranged from bone dry to really wet, the numbers of gardens to consider was reduced considerably by the time we went around the second time. It was commendable and a pleasant surprise that some parishioners still managed to maintain tidy, attractive and colourful gardens despite the weather conditions. Some were actually excellent. In the end the judges' combined scores resulted in winners in each area of the Parish, including the Container Gardens & Past Winners categories. The lucky winners were all invited to accept their certificates and prizes at the Parish Open Evening in September. It is hoped the weather conditions are more favourable for gardeners this summer and we look forward to a successful twelfth year of the competition.

**The winners for each area were:**

**Harrowby Lane East**  
Mr & Mrs Jones of Harrowby Lane.

**Harrowby Lane West**  
Mr R Corby Kenilworth Rd.  
**Sunningdale East**  
Mr Treer of Portrush Drive.

**Sunningdale West -**  
Mr Welham of Turnberry Close.

**Somerby Hill -**  
Mr & Mrs Swinburn of Hillside Drive.

**The Villages -**  
Mr & Mrs Kalbassi Newgate Lane.

**Past Winner**

Mr & Mrs Wells of Hillside Drive.

**Containers—Mr & Mrs Williamson of Harrowby Lane. Well done to everyone.**



Mrs Williamson Winner of the Best Container/ Landscape Garden 2019



## Councillor Contact Details March 2020

**Chairperson; Cllr Geoff Parnham**  
01476 401873 Home  
[geoffrey.parnham@ntlworld.com](mailto:geoffrey.parnham@ntlworld.com)

### Somerby Hill

Vice Chair; Cllr Roland Wright  
01476-578227  
[roly1950@gmail.com](mailto:roly1950@gmail.com)

### Harrowby Lane & Alma Park Area

Cllr George Chivers + SKDC  
129 Fifth Avenue, Grantham, NG31 9TH  
Home 01476 410294 Mob 07752694418  
[g.chivers@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:g.chivers@southkesteven.gov.uk)

Cllr Avril Gregory  
01476 568392

[avrilmgregory@btinternet.com](mailto:avrilmgregory@btinternet.com)

Cllr Richard Keeler  
07779955128  
[rmkeeler2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rmkeeler2003@yahoo.co.uk)

### Sunningdale Estate

Cllr John Anderson  
01476 562035 Home  
[dijohn2004@yahoo.com](mailto:dijohn2004@yahoo.com)

Cllr Paul Bakker  
01476 567246 Home  
[paulbakker@talktalk.net](mailto:paulbakker@talktalk.net)

Cllr Paul Bavin  
07976 792398 Mob  
[paul@mytreesurgeon.com](mailto:paul@mytreesurgeon.com)

Cllr Janie Lee  
07772-811494  
[Janovlee41@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Janovlee41@yahoo.co.uk)

### Prince William Of Gloucester Barracks

Cllr Wayne Charley  
07850-768327

[Wayne.charley237@mod.uk](mailto:Wayne.charley237@mod.uk)

### Londonthorpe & Harrowby Villages

Cllr Carol Markwell  
07733-300742  
[carol@mpchc.co.uk](mailto:carol@mpchc.co.uk)

Cllr Yolanda Martin  
07796-848676

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

Cllr Margery Radley  
01476-565081

### Your Lincolnshire County Councillors

#### Harrowby Ward

**SKDC & LCC Councillor Linda Wootten**  
The Burgage 141 Manthorpe Road  
Grantham NG31 8DH  
Home Phone: (01476) 400183  
07534778090 Email:  
[clrl.lwootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:clrl.lwootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

#### St Vincent's Ward

LCC Cllr Adam Stokes  
22 Tissington Road Grantham NG31 7FP  
Home 01476 342648 Mob 07974342648  
[CllrA.Stokes@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:CllrA.Stokes@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

### Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without"

#### Parish Council

Clerk Mr Peter Armstrong; 27 Belton  
Avenue, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 9JE Tel  
07929321426  
Email: [londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com](mailto:londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com)

## Planning Committee Report

The Parish Council has been consulted by SKDC Planning Department on a wide variety of planning applications during the past year, some of which have required close examination by the local Councillors. Some have required us to submit written responses based on our observations and concerns. This is when the Parish Council considers proposed plans may have a detrimental effect on the environment and the community life of the Parish.

Occasionally our Planning Committee has been required to meet to undertake more detailed consideration of plans and sometimes to arrange site visits so that an agreed report can be submitted. However, SKDC Planning decides whether to take on board our objections or comments.

The Parish Council was pleased that the appeal by the developer against refusal of the proposed housing development on Harrowby Lane was turned down by the Inspector and we took the opportunity to have the Clerk speak for the Parish Council at the appeal hearing to put forward our objections. No new plans for that site have been submitted at present by the developer but we remain vigilant.

Again, we had the Clerk speak and put our objections to the SKDC Planning Committee meeting regarding plans for a proposed travellers' site on the High Dyke, a site which we considered was totally unsuitable on grounds of safety and impact on the environment. The plans were duly turned down. Site visits have also been undertaken by Committee members to view proposed plans for new individual house builds, residential extensions and conversions in the Parish.

There have also been plans for two major extensions to business premises on the Alma Park industrial estate to examine and we have submitted reports to SKDC Planning Department with recommendations to mitigate the effects on the environment.

We have also been consulted on several applications by residents in the Parish for permission to undertake work on trees that have preservation orders applied to them. We are lucky to have some fine examples in the Parish and we have on occasion raised concerns if we think any proposed surgery is excessive. (Please see article on Tree Preservation Orders)

The planned housing development on Somerby Hill below the Army Camp was allowed on appeal by the Inspector. However, we had expressed concerns regarding traffic access safety and potential flooding issues.

The Parish Council has also on occasion made reports to the SKDC Enforcement Officer when we have considered that conditions imposed on permitted development plans have not been adhered to.

We continue to keep an eye on the major development plans for the east/west bypass, Spitlegate Village and the planned adjacent retail development; also, any future housing development on the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks site when it is vacated. These will all have an impact on our Parish. As a major stakeholder we will of course be fully consulted when the detailed plans are submitted.

Very recently we have held a meeting with a representative from the Woodland Trust concerning plans for their joint project with the National Trust to increase public accessibility between Belton Park and the woodlands managed by the Woodland Trust. Although we support the proposal for the benefits it will bring to public well-being, we have sought some clarification on the access route of the proposed linked cycleway and the modifications to the car park area on Five Gates Lane.

The Parish Council encourages residents who are affected by any planned developments to also make their concerns known directly to SKDC in writing or on-line. Full instructions on how to submit comments can be found on the SKDC website under 'Planning'.

Geoff Parnham – Committee Chairperson



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## Precept 20-21

The parish council's total precept for this coming year will again be £31,000 so no change on last year. As the government grant has now ceased all income will basically come from the Precept. Other smaller pots of income though come from a grant from SKDC towards the cost of our Community Cleaner and Donations.

This precept we believe will enable us to meet our normal expenditure on services and continue with all the projects already in the pipeline.

Parish councillors are keen to provide the services that we are required to at the best possible rate. As you will continually see throughout this newsletter, we have several responsibilities that require resources annually.

Once again, our forward planning for the years 2021/22 and 2022/23 indicate that no major increases should be needed during that period. We did not need a Parish Council Election in May so our cost was minimal in respect to what it could have been.

Planning for the future is becoming even more difficult as the years go by, as we expect still more services to be passed down to the parish council level. Also looking at how the government is expecting the parish to grow we are still not fully able to assess the effects on our budgets. With the major building work planned for the Spitalgate area things will change dramatically regarding our electorate and income.

In this Newsletter you will see where some of the precept has been spent this year. Our Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer Pete Armstrong keeps a close eye on our spending and councillors receive a detailed update at each meeting.

## Flooding in the Parish

You will have read the reports from Cllr Wootten our County Councillor, that she continued to be heavily involved trying to get an answer to this ongoing problem within the parish. We have had some limited success on Chatsworth as a catchment drain has been put in, but this does not stop water running from the landowner's field. The noise situation of always hearing running water remains.

Harrowby Hill; this is a slightly different situation, as last year Anglian Water confirmed after an investigation that they had another leaking main within the Reservoir Compound. This was repaired and the water flow down the hill has slowed appreciably but not completely.

The Clerk and Councillor Wootten have attended many site meetings about these problems and will continue to do so.

We have seen copies of old maps of the area showing ditches that were either filled in or piped before building could start in the 1960/70s, we still believe that some of these are blocked.

As we write this piece we have had another flooding situation reported, water is running at an extremely fast rate down Harrowby Hill. This time though it is coming from the Kenilworth Road side of the hill. Having taken a look at the place at which it seems to originate it runs by a Anglian Water Mains marker.

The first bungalows garden is being flooded and then the water comes out onto the road and is covering the whole of the highway.

Anglia Water have been informed and they have made a visit to assess the situation.

## The Search Continues

By Cllr John Anderson

A couple of years ago I stated that I would walk the Parish Boundary and see if I could find any of the marker stones. As the weather improves, I shall continue the search for the long-forgotten ones. Years ago, when the Parish Boundaries were set, different marks were placed to set the boundary. We have long known about the boundaries marked between Grantham and the Parish on Belton Lane, Somerby Hill and Cold Harbour Lane. These are black and white painted cast iron posts, which we maintain by cleaning and painting bi-annually.

So far, I and others have found several different markers, including trees, posts and large stones along our boundary. The middle of River Witham and the High Dyke are also boundary markers.

I have already confirmed where the boundary runs from the Witham to beyond Five Gates Lane. This is marked by trees and some surprising ones at that. We would expect Oak and Lime trees in the park but more unusually in this location there are London Plane and Walnut along its route.

If you remember last year, we reported on our planting of a Walnut tree in a gap along this boundary, this was to commemorate the centenary of the Machine Gun Corps.

In a lot of places, the boundary would have been marked with partially buried large stones or pyramid shaped concrete blocks and may also have some specific information on them.

If you have spotted anything similar on your walks or jogs, we would be delighted to hear from you so that we can log these long-forgotten features of the parish.

## Tree Preservation Orders

Within the parish we have many grand old trees that have or should have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on them. These are spread far and wide throughout the Parish, obviously a great number of these are in Belton Park. These are reasonably well protected by the very nature of the park being listed. Beyond this, information as far as the Parish Council is concerned is quite sketchy. There are some in private gardens, farmland and beside the highways, these are possibly not as well protected or even listed anywhere. It is the intention of the Parish Council to build up a catalogue of all these trees and get them on the SKDC TPO register.

What other areas do we know about you may ask? Well, we have on our list so far, the Sunningdale Spinney, Alma Wood, Hills & Hollows, Wendella Wood on Newgate Lane, Spring Hill Spinney and the woods alongside the High Dyke at Harrowby. Multiple others we know about are in the private gardens at Harrowby Hall, Manor Farm and Hall Farm in Londonthorpe along with others in properties on the High Dyke. Littered amongst the Sunningdale Estate are several major trees and some hedges that had restrictions placed on them when the estate was built. Unfortunately, not as many were left untouched by the developers as should have been, this especially affected the Victorian hedgerows.

At the Hills & Hollows we have some grand Old Beech trees which we will list, along with a couple of Ash that seem to have survived the dreaded dieback at present. To assist us, we are asking that you pass on details of any old trees that you know about which you think we should register.



Beech Trees @ the Hills & Hollows



## Leisure & Outdoor Committee Overview

The Parish Council has recently received the annual playground safety report and I am pleased to say that overall our play areas were deemed to be very safe. There are a few minor repairs which will be carried out at the earliest opportunity; by the time you read this many will already have been completed. Most of these are to remedy normal wear & tear. Unfortunately there have been several cases of minor vandalism and also at the Hills and Hollows nature area, which has meant diverting funds that could have been better spent elsewhere. Please report any evidence of damage in our play areas to the clerk. If you witness any vandalism taking place then contact the police but please do not intervene.

We are very proud of our five Parish play areas and have invested in many new pieces of equipment over the last decade and believe they offer a wide range of activities for young people.

Ensuring they are maintained to safe levels, kept attractive, clean and up-to-date is a high priority for this Council.

We also purchased a new bench for Fifth Avenue which offers great views across the area. If you have any suggestions for future improvements, please let me or the Clerk know.

In July four Councillors were given special permission by the MOD to visit the Jubilee Wood situated at the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks. The trees had grown very well considering the poor quality of the soil and that there has been little to no maintenance since planting. There was a large variety of fauna & flora visible, especially butterflies. We understand talks are underway to try and preserve at least part of the wood after the Barracks close sometime during this decade. My thanks go to Cllr Captain Wayne Charley for organising this visit.

Unfortunately, the proposed bridge to cross the stream between Third Avenue and the Withambrook play area has suffered another setback. While carrying out research into the cost of installing a crossing at a slightly different location (to avoid the land ownership issue that had previously delayed the scheme) we learnt that Lincolnshire County Council's flood team were investigating using part of this area for an attenuation pond. We are in contact with them and hope that a bridge can be included in their plans, but this unlikely to happen in the near future.

I would like to join the Chairman in thanking those parishioners, and especially those from further afield, who have volunteered on parish projects over the last year. The Woodland Trust Working Party continues to help ensure Alma Park & Londonthorpe Woods are a pleasant place to walk. They have also helped with the constant management required to maintain and protect the Hills & Hollows nature area, which is owned by the Parish, while ensuring the public have safe access to the rights of way running across the site.

Finally, many thanks to all those who helped collect 26 bags of rubbish in less than 3 hours last April as part of Daily Mail Big Litter Pick.

Richard Keeler – Committee Chairman



***We must thank AMG who gave us free of charge a re-conditioned exercise machine for The Belfry play area; an offer we could not refuse. This replaced the broken one, because after much searching a new part was found to be unavailable.***

## Grantham Dementia Café

Every third Tuesday of the month 10am-12pm



**If you have dementia, or are caring for someone with dementia you'll be welcomed at our café.**

**Come along to meet others in a similar situation, in a relaxed social setting.**

**You can spend time sharing information and experiences, or simply have a cup of tea and a chat.**

**Staff and volunteers will be on hand to give you information and support.**

**The café will be held at**

**Belton Park Golf Club, Londonthorpe Road, Grantham, NG31 9SH**

**For more information contact:**

**Alzheimer's Society**

**T: 01522 437069**

**E: [lincoln@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:lincoln@alzheimers.org.uk)**

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## General Update Report From Cllr Linda Wootten

Flooding; it has taken at least two years to get to where we are today, to achieve something positive, to address the historical water problems within the Parish. Fortunately being a District Councillor as well as the County representative helped a lot. Although LCC are the Flood Authority, it was SKDC who took up the initiative to set up a meeting of all Stakeholders for me. This and their support was invaluable.

Anglian Water found no leaks from the reservoir but, they did find a leak in some pipework. They isolated the leak and also replaced a valve. Lincolnshire County Council and the Environmental Agency put in a bid for some funding, to put in a drain, on Chatsworth Avenue, to redirect the runoff which has now been completed.

After Anglian Water did their work, the main body of water runoff on Harrowby Hill stopped and the area virtually dried up. However, if you look at the geological maps of the area you will see it contains aquifers, hence we still have a runoff off of ground water from the natural springs.

LCC are concentrating on trying to get the potholes fixed, which is a never ending job as they are appearing everywhere due to the rain we have had.

If you spot a pothole, please report it either online to [Fixmystreet.com](http://Fixmystreet.com), or ring 01522 780070. Please mention if they are particularly deep or wide.

Concessionary Bus Passes; these can now be applied for online. Residents who are eligible for free bus travel can apply at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/32818](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/32818). article or to renew [Concessionaryfares@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Concessionaryfares@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

By appointment. Face to face appointments can be pre-booked by calling 01522 550129.

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## Belmont Community Primary School

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Head Teacher

Mr Matthew Davidson.

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

**Ofsted say ‘Team Belmont’ values resonate throughout the school.**

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**They offer a breakfast club, a wide range of extracurricular activities and much, much more. Please contact the school for further information.**

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## Hills & Hollows Nature Reserve

Our area of the Hills & Hollows continues to flourish with the trees and hedges growing well and looking very healthy. The hand-held hedge trimmer purchased last year was used by Tony our Community Cleaner in his spare time. The wonderful results are there for all to see with a nice smooth side along the track. The hedges will hopefully fill out more and provide more cover for the birds up in that area. In the memorial area one of the trees planted after a donation succumbed to the dry early summer weather. This will have been replaced by the time you read this as the annual batch of trees we purchase have just arrived. During the year two or three small working parties have taken place along with other work undertaken by Councillor Paul Bakker the Clerk and Tony Parker. The route from the town to our designated Wildlife Area was cleared of brambles as they had completely overgrown the path. Tony Parker worked hard at keeping things neat and tidy as the Community Cleaner. We also need to say a big thank you to all those who use the area and also help to keep it clean and tidy. We reported in the Autumn news about the vandalism and smashing up of the Information Boards, these were repaired by Paul Bakker assisted by the Clerk. This at a cost in the region of £500 in total. Doing the work ourselves saved at least £100. The Snowdrops have started to flower but we are disappointed to discover that in several areas they are missing, we believe these may have been removed illegally. We are hoping the Bluebells have not suffered the same fate, we will find out later this spring. On a brighter note the violets seem to be coming on well and will soon be in full bloom. There was another area that caught fire for whatever reason last year, unfortunately this was again on one of the areas of Wild Rockroses, so we will have to see if they recover!

The area continues to be very popular with walkers, both with and without dogs and we receive very nice comments from all who pass by when we are working there. We would encourage anybody sighting any misdemeanours to report it to the police using the non-emergency 101 number please. However, please do not confront them directly. Our emphasis for the next few years will be on maintaining the hedges and encouraging a greater diversity of wildlife in the area. We were intending to cut back the long grass areas in the autumn but the weather was against us, so it has been delayed until September this year. This work will allow for new growth to flourish as it is badly overgrown at present.



**The Repaired Information Board**

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### Introduction by New Councillor Carol Markwell

When I heard that a) there was a vacancy on the Parish Council and b) that there was no-one from Londonthorpe on the "Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council", I thought that this was one way that I could contribute to my community. I have lived in Londonthorpe for more than 30 years.

I started work in medical information, worked in publishing and then in pharmaceutical safety monitoring. Initially I commuted to London and then Nottingham. I then spent 16 years working from home as a consultant in the pharmaceutical industry. I continued working for some time after I sold my company in June 2018, but now I have largely retired, freeing up my time.

My interests are walking, cycling, motor cycling, scuba diving and reading. I helped run the local scuba club for many years, during which time my other half and I worked hard to obtain a lottery grant for training kit for the club. To keep fit I have walked and run (jogged) using the local public footpaths through the fields and woods, so I have a fair knowledge of the local area.

I hope my varied work experience in publishing, managing a team in industry and managing a company can be used to advantage by the council. My contact details can be found on page 16 along with all the other Councillors.

### Appreciation

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our generous Sponsors/Advertisers for their support. We would ask you to consider them when making an appropriate purchase.

A special mention for the ongoing assistance given by East Midlands Electronics and Tailored Hair to enable the Defibrillators to be sited on their buildings.

We would also like to thank Ropsley Farms for the work they have done cutting our hedgerows at Londonthorpe and the Hills & Hollows over the years.

### Defibrillators:

As you will have read in the last newsletter, we now have our other unit in situ on the Sunningdale Estate. We are very grateful to Tailored Hair for offering us a suitable site on their wall. This means we now have the two Council owned units operating in the parish, the other being the one on East Midlands Electronics on Alma Park Road. This year both have had their battery and pads replaced to ensure that they are fully functional if required. We have been informed that the Alma Park unit has been accessed three times during the year, we do not receive any details of whether any lives have been saved though.

A further unit is also accessible to the general public, this has been positioned by Vale Garden Houses on their gates. We are very grateful to East Midlands Electronics, Tailored Hair and Vale Garden Houses for their support of the parishioners. We believe there may be other units in the factories on the estate which are for private usage of staff and visitors. Access is gained by ringing 999 and reporting the Emergency, the code will then be given out by the operator.

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### Our Services

We offer a range of services covering most aspects of garden maintenance such as:

- Complete tidy up
- Grass Cut
- Hedge Cut
- Boarders/Flower bed tidy
- Edging around lawns/borders

We offer all aspects of lawn and hedge care from simple bi-weekly visits to keep on top of growth, to one off/bi-annual visits to completely cut back. Other garden services may be considered by discussion.

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## Londonthorpe Village Gateways

As you will know from our Autumn Newsletter, we asked you for your opinions on some speed calming measures for Londonthorpe Village. Those that attended the Parish Open Evening were able to obtain further information from the Councillors before giving their thoughts. The Council reviewed all the opinions offered and used these in line with what we could provide within the current LCC guidelines. The conclusion made was that in the next few weeks you will see Village Gateways at each entrance to Londonthorpe Village. We have had site meetings with the LCC Highways Manager and all the permissions are now in place giving us the most appropriate sites as we requested.

The gateways have arrived and are now in the process of being erected.

We are still looking at the possibility of adding planters, this will depend on two things enough volunteers to look after them and the funding being available in the 2020-21 budget.

If interested in helping or even sponsoring please contact the Clerk.



## Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

Last year we told you about an initiative being run by the above group and we were asking for volunteers. In the first instance we did not receive enough volunteers to go ahead. The good news is that after further efforts especially at the Open Evening and further conversations pushing the idea, we now appear to have sufficient to go ahead with the training. The basic idea is that a group of volunteers are trained to operate a Speed Gun in areas designated by the LRSP/Police as safe to do so. We are looking to doing the training either late March or early April.

This will be a community led group who after taking the appropriate training will be able to use them correctly and work safely. If there are any more volunteers amongst you would you please contact the Clerk with your contact details? Those who have already volunteered, thank you very much, you will be contacted ASAP.

The Clerk and V-Chairman Cllr Roland Wright will be the Councils representatives. The decision to buy the necessary machine will hopefully be ratified at the March Council Meeting.

Clerks Contact details; 07929321426 or [londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com](mailto:londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com)

## Speed Indicator Device

Again, this has been out around the parish. Over the last few months it has been situated at both ends of Londonthorpe Village with some interesting results which more or less mirror earlier ones. Whilst Harrowby lane was closed for works by Anglian Water, traffic volumes increased considerably through Londonthorpe. There were though no significant changes to the speeds travelled. The average speed through Londonthorpe came out at 33mph; this may be slightly above the actual as the machine is still set not to record vehicles travelling below 25mph.

There are a large percentage of vehicles travelling at approximately 35mph. We know that the PCSO's have been out at times in the parish with speed guns. Some of those people caught have made news in the Grantham Journal court page. Please see article across for actions re "Village Gateways" at Londonthorpe.

## **BIG LITTER PICK**

After last year's successful litter pick arranged in conjunction with the Daily Mail, the Parish Council are looking to organise another one. We would love more people to become involved in keeping and indeed tidying up the parish.

The proposed date is Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.



All tools and protective clothing (Hi-Vis Jackets and Gloves) will be provided. We would also like you to send us details of any particular areas that you feel need special attention, To register your interest please contact the Clerk on 07929321426 or email; [londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com](mailto:londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com)

## **STOP PRESS:**

**Harrowby Lane Flooding;** as we go to press the leak from the Anglian Water main on the hill should be repaired overnight tonight.

**Storm Damage;** we have suffered a few trees down in the Parish mainly in and around Londonthorpe, luckily no injuries or damage to property reported.

**Tree Planting;** tree planting at the Hills & Hollows is to be done on the 12th Feb, by some of our volunteers. One tree will be the replacement for the Silver Birch that failed in the memorial area..

Three trees are also to be planted at Londonthorpe Amenity Field.