

TOM CHILDS MEMORIAL AWARD 2021

This ,due to the ongoing Pandemic, was included as part of the Annual Open Evening, instead of being a small Luncheon Event.

As there was no Award made for 2020 due to the Covid situation, the four recipients all got cheques of £250 for their nominated charities. This was instead of just the two we would normally have given. They also received a framed certificate and small wooden bowl, this was made from locally sourced wood and donated by one of our residents Doug Mitchell.

The recipients were Tony Parker for his continued hands-on *Voluntary Work* within the Parish, Terry Claxton for his work with the *St John the Baptist Church* during lockdown. Stephen Storey for his *many money raising efforts* with his

garden displays from which he raises money for charities, and Rob Dixon for all his *charity fund raising* which benefitted both parishioners and those further afield.

Local Charities to benefit were: Lincs Air Ambulance, St Barnabas Hospice, "PlacetoBe" and the Parish Councils Jubilee Seat fund*.

(* more about this elsewhere in this Newsletter). These donations are made via our S137 budget.

Looking forward to our fourteenth and the 2022 Awards, **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 prefer 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 at some point, have an involvement within the parish.

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 2022 should be submitted by the 1st June 2022.

For further details please contact Pete Armstrong on 07929321426 or at londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com



Stephen Storey receiving his award from Kath Childs



Chairperson's Message

Welcome to your latest Newsletter with up-to-date information on all your Parish Council activities.

Although Covid 19 and its variants are still with us, Government guidelines have meant we have been able once again to undertake activities and events that were previously impossible under lockdown rules due to the need for reduced social contact.

The Parish Council Open Evening in September 2021 held at the alternative venue of the Church of the Ascension was an enormous success. It was really great to be able to meet our parishioners in person once again to discuss all the things we have been involved in over the past year.

At that evening we were also able to give recognition to those people in the parish who have helped others during the pandemic when four deserving parishioners received the Tom Childs Award for 2021, as well as re-introducing the Best Kept Gardens presentations.

Government guidelines have enabled Parish Council meetings to continue to be held face to face rather than on Zoom, which has been very welcome.

Under our Parish Council Standing Orders my term of office as Chairperson will come to an end in May having served in that capacity for three years. Though normally a term of two years it had been agreed by the Parish Council to extend my term by one year for continuity reasons during the pandemic. However, I will still continue to serve and support the Parish as a Councillor.

It has been a privilege to have served the Parish in this position throughout this challenging period and I would like to thank all our Councillors for their continued contributions and enthusiasm in ensuring we have continued to maintain a safe and attractive environment.

Thanks also to our District and County Councillor representatives for again providing valuable support and assistance to us on various issues this past year.

As Chairperson I have worked very closely with our Parish Clerk Pete Armstrong and on behalf of our Councillors and parishioners I wish to thank him for his support and guidance, especially through some challenging times during the pandemic.

Apart from dealing with some outside agencies where getting the responses required has proved a problem, through his hard work and determination to get things done we have been able to a large extent to continue with "business as usual".

This will become apparent to you in all the Parish Council activities and events that are displayed in the articles within this Newsletter, which I hope you will find interesting and informative.

Best Wishes

Geoff Parnham - Chairperson

Lion Gates Access

Parishioners have enjoyed free access again to the parkland at Belton House after the National Trust re-opened the Lion Gates entrance in August 2021, this following the installation of security measures.

The ability to use the parkland once again for safe exercise during this pandemic has been very welcome, with all the benefits it brings.

The Parish Council want to thank all the visitors who have respected the right to free access to the parkland by keeping their dogs on leads and not attempting to gain unauthorised entry to the Adventure Playground, House, and Gardens.

Should you wish to also enter these areas, you will need to report to the Visitor Reception point to pay or show your National Trust membership card.

Also please remember to check the closing time of the gates to avoid getting locked in.

The National Trust are continuing to monitor the situation and the Parish Council Chairperson and Clerk have held a further meeting with Ian Cooper for an update on progress.

He reports that the re-opening has gone well so far with a minimum of anti-social incidents to report.

The Parish Council will be continuing to work with the National Trust towards a long-term solution. We have also been assured that the Parish Council will be fully consulted on any future plans at the Lion Gates entrance, and we will maintain a dialogue and hold further meetings with the National Trust going forward.

Best Kept Gardens Competition

The winners of this were presented with their awards at the Annual Open Evening in September. Awards were presented for each of these separate areas of the Parish namely: Lonthorpe and Harrowby villages, Sunningdale East & West, Harrowby Lane East & West, Somerby Hill, Best Container Garden and the Best Past Winner.

Two of the 2021 Winners with their Certificates



Once again some excellent gardens were observed by the judges with many people taking to their gardens during the lockdown. One that particularly interested the judges was the use of a front garden as a vegetable patch! In these uncertain times we may see more of this. This years judging will start in July and run through to September, so plan carefully!



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A Town Council for Grantham?

South Kesteven District Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review to establish if there is support for the creation of a town or parish council for Grantham which could include parts of neighbouring parishes.

Grantham is the only town in South Kesteven which does not have a town council. This came about due to the reorganisation of local government in 1974 where at the time it was decided that Grantham should only have Charter Trustees. There are 15 Councillors who represent the old borough of Grantham whose only remit is to select the mayor and set the budget.

The office of Mayor Precept is funded only from those residents living in the old Borough of Grantham.

Town and parish councils represent their communities for example in the provision of allotments, burial grounds, cemeteries, parks, and recreation grounds. Public conveniences, litter and play areas are functions they can administer which are currently run by the District Council. Another area is in crime prevention and markets. What they cannot do is Highways, Adult Social Care, School transport and Fire Prevention which are carried out by the County Council.

An important question often asked is how much would this cost?

Clearly the cost of running a Town Council would cost more than the current charge. A new Town Council precept would be determined by the town council although if created SKDC would set its first-year costs.

Currently the total electorate is 28,508 for the purposes of the District Council elections. Areas currently outside the old borough boundary which could be considered to join the council are – Grantham St Wulframs, Belton & Manthorpe and Rosedale ward. 234 electors – 111 properties

Grantham St Vincent's, Londonthorpe and Harrowby without Parish, Bridge End ward. 343 electors – 189 properties

Grantham Arnoldfield, Great Gonerby Parish, Gonerby Hill ward. 173 electors – 78 properties

The National Association of Local Councils suggests that the minimum number of Councillors should be 7 and the maximum 25. Please note that no allowances are paid except for expenses.

When the Community review is launched various organisations will be consulted including all Parish Councils neighbouring the unparished area, local government electors in the area under review, Members of Parliament, SKDC, LCC and any other organisation who appear to have an interest.

For further information please either contact myself.

cllrwootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk linda.wootten@southkesteven.gov.uk

cgr@southkesteven.gov.uk

Councillor Linda Wootten Belmont Ward. January 2022

Please note this would only affect the one area of our parish in **bold above**.

Please contact the Clerk if you are interested in joining any Working Party or applying for any of the vacancies. The same applies if you have any queries about items in this Newsletter.

Leisure & Outdoor Committee Overview

In last April's newsletter I outlined the improvements we had made to the Londonthorpe amenity area including the laying of the roadside hedge. Since then the number of visitors using the site has increased and we have received many positive comments from members of the public. One even stating they didn't realise the play area existed before. Due to Covid-19 restrictions in early 2021 we were unable to purchase the shrubs and trees required to fill in the gaps in the hedge. However, in the autumn we were successful in an application to Lincolnshire County Council Treescapes Planting Scheme, these have now been delivered to us and planted by our volunteers.

They are of a mixed species to give the hedge a more diverse feel. Along with these hedgerow saplings we received both Oak & Rowan trees which are interspersed with the Wild Cherry already there.

The Hills & Hollows conservation area continues to be very popular with walkers, both those with and without dogs. I'm pleased to say a seat, made from the polished granite slabs donated by Vale play equipment in 2020, was finally installed last summer. This is a great addition to the site and provides a welcome resting point as well as a great view towards Grantham and Belvoir Castle. More trees have been donated and planted and an area of grass was cut in the autumn to encourage fresh growth and hopefully improve the diversity of plant species growing on the site.

The Council has made a further investment in our play areas by replacing the worn out wooden trim trail at the Withambrook with a mainly metal one and some rubber stepping stones. Both have been well used since their installation. It was also decided to lay an all-weather footpath, made from resin bound wood chips, from the Withambrook bridge to the Ruston Road entrance. This section was always very muddy previously and we felt it was an important improvement to make. Unfortunately, the land on the Sunningdale side of the bridge is not under our control, so we are unable to extend the path on that side. Likewise, we are still unable to install a footbridge linking this area to Third Avenue until LCC's flood prevention team have made a decision on whether to install an attenuation pond or not.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone who has volunteered on Council led projects in the past year, including those in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. Some of these people do not live in the parish or even in Grantham; thank you for your continued and much welcome support.

Richard Keeler - Leisure & Outdoor Committee Chairperson "Feb 2022"



Councillor Contact Details 2022-23

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Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council

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Avenue, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 9JE Tel
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Email: londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com

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 Midland Electronics and Tailored Hair to enable the Defibrillators to be sited on their buildings.

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Londonthorpe Gateways & Planters

Since the last newsletter we have seen glorious results from our summer planting of Begonias and Geraniums. We have received many congratulatory quotes from people both from residents and visitors to the parish. In November we reluctantly pulled out the last of the summer blooms to plant our pansies ready for the spring when we hope the beautiful bulbs will show again (hint: they were starting to sprout in that warm spell between Christmas and New Year). We are very lucky that the same people as previously have planted and been supporting the plants, we would be grateful if anyone else would like to take a bottle of water along during dry spells. Or even perhaps give the gates a bit of a clean-up (see winter planting)? This next summer the grass on the approaches will be cut to allow for a better view of them.



Above: the summer planting
Below: Planted up for winter, but needs a clean!



The February Woodland Trust Volunteers after planting nearly 400 saplings at the New Woodland Trust Carpark on Five Gates Lane

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Planning Update

The Parish Council has received details of all planning applications within the parish for our consideration and to submit comments to the SKDC Planning Department. Applications considered have included residential builds and extensions, industrial properties, conversion of agricultural properties to residential use, change of use applications and tree preservation work requests. The Parish Council will pass their concerns and objections to the Planning Department if we consider they will have a detrimental impact on the community environment.

On occasion requests have also been made to SKDC Enforcement for them to investigate when planning conditions imposed do not appear to have been kept to. The appeal for the traveller's site on the High Dyke was allowed by the Inspector, who decided to consider the appeal without permitting objectors to express their concerns to the Inspector in person.

This was very disappointing as the Parish Council had objected to this application on the grounds the site is unsuitable on grounds of safety for any potential residents, lack of any infrastructure or amenities and the impact on the area.

Legal advice was obtained on behalf of all neighbouring Parish Councils on the possibility of a Judicial Review application, but this was precluded by the potential legal costs involved and the very remote chance of overturning the decision.

We receive regular scheme updates from the contractors building the east/west by-pass with an overview on progress and a look-ahead at forthcoming works, including traffic management updates.

You will have seen the current work on the relocation of the Somerby Hill roundabout which is now within our Parish. Parishioner's can keep up to date on the projects progress on the official website <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/gsrr> The planned closure and development of the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks site has now been put back to 2028. However, we will keep an eye on any developments and continue to seek the retention of as much of the Queens Jubilee Wood as possible.

Work on the Anglian Water pipeline phase from Wilsford to Harrowby reservoir is expected to start in the summer of 2022. Initial surveys have been made to ensure the route will cause the least disruption possible to the environment. You can view the route of the pipeline and updates on the project on this link <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/lincoln-ancaster-pipeline>



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The Queens Platinum Jubilee

What is the Queens Platinum Jubilee?

On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

When is the Jubilee?

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four-day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June (the late spring bank holiday which would normally have been on 30th May is moved to Thursday and an extra Bank Holiday takes place on Friday). The bank holiday weekend will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. More about this can be found at: <https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend>

What has your Parish Council done to celebrate this unique event?

After taking public feedback at the annual Parish Council Meeting the Council is acquiring a plot of land that will be established as a preserved natural habitat, and on this land a bench will be placed to overlook the parish as a long-lasting commemoration to Her Majesty The Queen. An Oak tree will also be planted and designated the Queens Oak as a permanent memory of the occasion. Also being considered is an Information Lectern describing the view from the seat. (We have been lucky so far that we have received £1000 in Grants & Donations towards this. Cllr Wootten £500, Cllr Chivers £250 both from their SKDC Councillors Grant Scheme and as you will see in the Tom Childs Award report £250 from Terry Claxton's donation.)

What can you do to celebrate this occasion?

Sunday 5th June: The Big Jubilee Lunch: Every year since the idea began in 2009 The Big Lunch has encouraged communities to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship. In 2022 The Big Lunch will bring the Jubilee celebrations into the heart of every community.

People are invited to share friendship, food, and fun with neighbours as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A Big Jubilee Lunch can be big or small - street party or picnic, tea and cake or a garden barbeque. The Big Lunch provides tips and ideas for hosting an event.

Over 1400 people have registered to host Big Jubilee Lunches so far across the UK, with events being planned across the length and breadth of the country. Everything you want to know about how you go about this can be found here: <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/stuff-to-do/organise-big-lunch> including such things like how to get your road closed for a street party.



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Grantham Hospital 014767 565232.

Local Policing

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Our Grantham East team
Emily Johnson
07976947149

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information.**

Appreciation

The councillors would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given up their free time to the Parish over this last year.

This includes those involved in all the Parish Working Parties, those involved in the Community Speed Watch Group and the Woodland Trust Group.

A special mention must be made to all those unsung individuals who are Litter Picking around the parish, we are afraid we don't know who all these people are. But we do know that they do a wonderful job in helping to keep the litter levels down. **If you are one of these, would you please contact the Clerk for some important information.**

New Wellbeing Café – Rev. Samantha Parsons

I wonder how the last 2 years living with the Covid pandemic has affected you? Many have felt increased anxiety, others heart wrenching loss and grief, some have felt isolated and lonely, starved of physical affection and human contact, yet others have felt completely disorientated by changes to work patterns and the way we now live our lives. A number of people enjoyed the peace and tranquillity that came with a slower pace of life but have felt stressed as the world begins to open up again. Few would disagree that our wellbeing has been affected significantly by the pandemic.

It was in light of this that we decided to set up a Wellbeing Café at the Church of the Ascension as a safe space where anyone can come to connect with people, talk to others, spend time doing a craft or hobby and do activities that bring a sense of peace and calm. Everyone is welcome on a Monday morning between 10am and 12noon in the Church Hall on Edinburgh Road and all the refreshments and activities are free. Some play dominoes (a favourite with the men!), some do jigsaws, while others bring their knitting and crocheting or just come for a chat over coffee and a piece of home-made cake. We have been delighted at the number of people coming to the café and the positive feedback we have received from them. Why not come along and try it out for yourself? If you feel you would like to talk to someone, or receive a visit, as a church we are here to support you.

Feel free to call me (Sam) on 01476 574145. As we all begin to recover from the distressing effects of the pandemic, may you find whatever it is that brings you peace and a greater sense of wellbeing.

Rev. Samantha Parsons

Church of the Ascension, Edinburgh Road and St John the Baptist's, Londonthorpe

The Church of the Ascension on Edinburgh Road is open for services every Sunday at 10am and also live-streams the services onto our Church of Ascension, Grantham Facebook Page. We have a new All Age Family Service on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 10am.

Our new Ascension Playgroup, Rising Stars, opens in March in the Church Hall on Edinburgh Road, every Tuesday during Term Time from 10am-12noon. All are welcome from expectant parents to pre-schoolers. Free with voluntary donations.

St John the Baptist's, Londonthorpe is open for services twice a month at 4pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. It continues to be open daily for private prayer between 9am and 4pm.

For more information on baptisms, weddings and funerals in both churches, please contact Rev. Samantha Parsons at: rev.samparsons@gmail.com



Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council

Clerk; Peter A Armstrong 27 Belton Ave Grantham Lincs NG31 9JE
Tel 07929321426 E-mail londonthorpeharrowby@ntlworld.com

Community Cleaner/Handyperson

The Parish Council require as soon as possible, a suitable person to undertake work around our Parish.

This will be for 4 hours per week, at least three of these are for community cleaning duties, the remainder for maintenance and inspection of our Five Play Areas.

Salary will start from £9.25 per hour (over 21).

Travel expenses will be paid whilst working in the Parish, as you would be expected to visit several of our sites each week.

This would ideally suit a fit and recently retired person or a community minded person with their own transport.

Safety training will be given.

Please contact the Clerk in the first instance either via letter, telephone, or email, as detailed above.

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Parish Council Precept 2022-23

The parish council's total precept this coming year will be £33,000. Unfortunately, after four years of remaining stable we will have to increase it this year. This amounts to an increase for a Band D property of just over 2p per week. This of course, is less for bands A-C and higher for Band E and above.

The councillors who are guided by the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), have in most cases managed to remain within their set budgets. Increases that we are having to gear up for in 2022-23 are the Grass Cutting Contract plus other brought in services especially the Insurance and Newsletter printing. A new cost to us this year is that we now have a monthly charge for the banking services at HSBC. We are actively looking for other providers for our banking services.

Other smaller pots of income come from a grant from SKDC towards the cost of our Community Cleaner and Donations. Interest was another smaller income source, but this has basically dried up due to the much reduce rates on offer.

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 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.

Once again, our forward planning for the years 2023/24 and 2024/25 indicate that no major increases should be needed during that period. Though in these uncertain times this cannot be guaranteed.

As previously stated, forward planning is becoming ever more difficult as the years go by. We still expect more and more services to be passed down to the parish council level from the unitary authorities. 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 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.

In this Newsletter 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.

Councillor Vacancy.

At present there is one vacancy on the Parish Council.

We are inviting any interested parties to come forward as soon as possible, as we would like to fill this position at our "March Meeting". This will be done by the co-option method.

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Community Speed Watch Team

During the last few months, you may have seen our Speedwatch Team in operation around the parish, we have five locations in which we are licensed to operate. These are all around the Parish in Londonthorpe, Belton Lane, Sunningdale, Harrowby Lane and Alma Park Road.

The eleven registered volunteers take it in turns to make up the operating team of three. All members have done at least one session this year. We thank them for generously giving up their time to try and make the parish a safer place to live.

All the sites are within the 30mph zones, but we consistently register drivers doing speeds near or over 40mph; one was caught on the gun at over 50mph.

What has been most unbelievable is that the fastest have been near to the schools and during the time that pupils would be leaving the Belmont in the afternoon.

These drivers obviously have no regard for anyone!

All drivers caught breaking the speed limit are reported to the CSW admin team who write to the driver or in the case of a business vehicle the company it is registered to. If a driver gets three of these letters police action may follow.

Community Cleaner

Unfortunately, we are again looking for a Community Cleaner .Mark who took over from Tony and has been doing an excellent job has found that he can't carry on. We are in the process of advertising as we go to press. It has been advertised on our noticeboards and Website but so far no applications have been received.

Could you have four hours per week to spare and would also like to earn some money for helping your community? If so contact the Clerk ASAP. See the advert on page 14.

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Lincolnshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/lincs> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Lincolnshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris www.walkinginengland.co.uk john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Note: Londonthorpe Woods and up to the Belmont Tower are a good walk.

National Trust

I am really pleased to be able to give a positive update regarding the use of the Lion Gates pedestrian access.

Since reopening them in August we have had regular daily use of the parkland by visitors entering through the pedestrian gates and I'm really pleased to be able to report that we have had minimal instances of anti-social behaviour towards our team or instances of dogs harassing wildlife. I'd like to thank all those who use the parkland for respecting our team and the requests made to adhere to the by-laws in place.

There have been a few instances of people being locked into the property after the gates have closed and in the main this has been resolved amicably with only one instance of the tenant in Lion Gates lodge being verbally abused for not being able to open the gates. I would just like to take this opportunity to remind visitors to check the closing time on the gates when they enter so they do not get locked in and find themselves faced with a long walk back to the main entrance to get out.

The only area that continues to be a concern is the number of cars and people that park outside the gates and walk into the wider "pay for entry" estate to use the facilities such as the playground without paying the entry fees. This is particularly prevalent at the weekend and over the Christmas period. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind anyone wishing to use the full property facilities that they must go to the visitor reception and have their membership card scanned if relevant or pay the entry fee. Over the coming weeks and months, we will start to administer this by having someone in place near the oval and river path to advise those entering the pay for entry area of this.

We will continue to monitor the use of the pedestrian access and update the Parish Council regularly.

Thank you for working with us to make sure that the Belton Parkland remains a beautiful place to walk and enjoy.

Regards, Ian Cooper

Millennium Garden

After ten years of looking after the Millennium Garden on Kenilworth Road/Harrowby Lane junction, Margaret and Tony Parker have informed us that they will not be continuing this year. They have put their heart and soul into looking after it during all his time. They have planted it up every autumn and spring, with Margaret also kindly producing most of the summer plant's in her greenhouses.

We will be eternally grateful for this, we as a council over the years have received so many positive comments about it.

We wish to thank them on your behalf for all this and we know that their input will be sorely missed.

This does though give someone else a chance to take it on if they wish.
Please contact the Clerk if that is YOU!

Parish Council Working Parties Report

*We have held one more session at the **Withambrook Amenity Area** to continue raising the crowns of the trees bordering the industrial estate. This was as we pointed out last year necessary to meet health and safety legislation. What remains now though is to continue cutting back and upwards to regain ground lost from the grassed area. We will need at least one more to complete the task. This one though will again be more for maintenance than any safety issue. The work done at the latest event gave us approximately four metres more grassland.*

*As you will see in the **Hills & Hollows** report another was held up there in the autumn where a large area of tall grass was cut down to encourage more flora to come through.*

The work done last year at

***Londonthorpe** left a lot of brash to be cleared and we are very grateful to Cllr Paul Bavin for allowing us the loan of one of his men and an Industrial Shredding Machine to clear all this.*



The trees ordered from a Lincolnshire CC run scheme, were planted by a Working Party at both at Londonthorpe and The H&H in early February

Parish Council Working Parties:

if you are interested in joining us, please contact the Clerk so you can be notified of any upcoming dates.

Londonthorpe Village

We are at present trying to get planning permission for the diseased Cherry Tree on the Church Green to be removed. It was planted to commemorate Londonthorpe winning the "Lincolnshire Best Kept Village Competition"

This tree over the years has been very poorly treated by Western Power contractors whilst keeping it clear of the power lines. This has left it with a very poor shape and a hole in the middle. It also has Canker; we have already had to remove some dangerous branches over the years. This will be replaced as soon as possible by the Village Volunteer Group.

Blessed Hugh More School Site Update.

It may seem to you all that the parish council have sat on this and been doing nothing, but that is far from the truth. Since the ACV was granted, we have been constantly trying to get the correct permissions to enter the site and do what we believe are at least the bare minimum actions required, e.g., the improving of the entrances.

What must be understood is that the ACV and the Licence are two totally different things, we know some people were mixed up over this.

Over the last few months, we have been dealing with the fourth different person since we started on this. This means all continuity was lost each time and we basically had to start afresh.

We were getting nowhere until the Clerk wrote to the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive, the Head of Housing Revenue and also copying in our District Councillors. Both of our councillors contacted the above officers for us, and a more informative reply was forthcoming shortly afterwards.

Since then, we have moved on to the Licence as mentioned above and we are waiting for a reply from SKDC's solicitor to our latest queries.

By permissions this means a Licence, of which we have seen a draft, and we do not like some of the restrictions etc. We have also requested some clarity on other items that we may wish to consider but not included in this draft. Two of the items that raised concerns were:

- ◆ Anything that the parish council puts on the site then becomes the property of SKDC (HRA Account). This is ongoing.
- ◆ The Scrubland to the south, is this included as it is on the original plan? (We now know that it is a separate entity)

The parish councillors are keen to see this through but not at any expense, after all it will have to come out of our precept unless grants can be obtained. We will be looking to obtain these grants as soon as we get the go ahead.

When we first requested quotes for the entrances the costs were expected to be around £10000 in the materials that we had in mind. That cost will have risen considerably since, so other materials may have to be considered. We are awaiting new quotes as this article is being written. The Clerk met with one of the contractors recently and expects the quote to arrive within the next few days.

You may have also heard the Parish Council are in the process of taking over the piece of land just above the BHMS, from Jenkinson Farms Trust. They offered us it for minimum sum. On this land we intend to put a Commemorative Bench, as stated elsewhere this is part of our Platinum Jubilee efforts. We are hoping that local residents will come forward to help make this a place to sit and take in the marvellous view.

The Hills & Hollows Update

The site is looking good, and the improvements made year on year by our volunteers is very noticeable and much appreciated. A special mention must be made to Tony Parker who has continued to trim back the hedges during the whole of last year helping to keep the track open. We thank him for that. (see Tom Childs Awards)

Members of the public using the area who we have spoken with are all very complimentary about all we are trying to achieve. As we have seen an increased footfall on this site, the paths have become very muddy at times, please take care.

Unfortunately, not everyone who uses the area is as considerate as they should be, this brings about more problems for us. Most people are very respectful of the sensitivity of the area, but a few don't seem to be bothered. In one incident recently we have had a fire reported to the emergency services. In this instance some one used one of our piles of brash for a fire, luckily no harm was done as it burnt itself out. If this had been in drier conditions, it could have spread widely across the whole area.

When we do the burning on site it is controlled until it has gone out. We are incredibly lucky to have people who use the site regularly and help to look after it properly for the benefit of others We sincerely thank you for that.

During the year we have had more on-site meetings with up to five volunteers. The work undertaken included the hiring of a wheel strimmer which enabled us to cut back some of the longer grass. Already we can see signs of regeneration of plants that were hidden below this overgrown mass.

As mentioned in the autumn update, our success rate with the trees planted last spring was very poor, those that failed were replaced by our suppliers Thorpe Trees free of charge. The replacements were planted in November along with three more donated trees.

Although the Memorial is full, we have allowed trees to be planted in other Locations on our land.

We were due to receive three trees from the Lincolnshire Treescape Scheme, but of those that we did get only one was deemed suitable for this site. As an alternative we are going to plant two more fruit trees as the holes are already dug. *We are hoping to arrange a working party on a weekday in early/mid to May to do more maintenance work. (Contact the clerk if you would like to be involved.)*

As mentioned in the Leisure & outdoor report the Granite Seat that Vale Sport & Play donated to us has been positioned to give a wonderful view down the Vale of Belvoir. This is yet another improvement made by the Parish Council. We do hope people respect this asset.

