

## The Power Station

One of the very fortunate benefits of living in the parish is that residents are never far away from open countryside and clean open spaces. What industrial development there is in the area is discrete and unobtrusive. However, things may have been very different if plans put forward by the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) in 1960 had gone ahead.

Following a huge rise in the consumption of electricity between 1945 to 1960, the CEGB put forward a proposal to Nottinghamshire County Council to build a 2000 MW coal fired power station on a 500-acre site on the north side of the A52 between West Bridgford and Radcliffe on Trent near Holme Pierrepont.

Altogether the complex would consist of a 275 metre long boiler house, a turbine house of a similar size, two 183 metre high chimneys and eight cooling towers, each 114 metres tall. There would also be six miles of railway sidings and 45 acres of stored coal.



The CEGB argued that the site was ideally placed for access to water from the Trent, coal from Cotgrave and had easy access to the National Grid. They also suggested that it had the potential to be developed further making it the largest power station in Western Europe.

Objections to the proposal came thick and fast and the council found itself with a disagreeable dilemma. It faced local hostility to the proposal on health grounds, environmental concerns and green belt issues but had to balance these objections with the needs of the economically important mining industry and fear that if it did not go ahead the CEGB might abandon its investment in the Trent Valley.

A public inquiry was convened in 1960 and the outcome was that consent for the power station was refused. In the local press the news was greeted with delight but it was not long before it became clear that, if it was not to be at Holme Pierrepont where was the new power station to be built. As Holme Pierrepont's power station story ended so Ratcliffe on Soar's began and continues to this day.

## WeBCan

In the last newsletter, the parish council reported on the valuable work that West Bridgford Canal Group (WeBCan) is doing after last summer's drought led to large sections of the Grantham Canal drying out.

The most encouraging recent success has been the repair undertaken by the Grantham Canal Society to a feeder stream, the Thurbeck Dyke, near Cotgrave. This tripled the amount of water flowing over Lock 2 and the entire downstream pound gained 30cm in depth within a couple of days. WeBCan is aware that there are still a number of leaks further downstream so will continue to monitor the water levels on a daily basis and report any leaks to the Canals and Rivers Trust.

Unfortunately, one of the most serious long-term consequences of the canal drying out was the effect it had on fish. Last year, the Canal and Rivers Trust tried to rescue as many fish as possible, rehoming them in the Trent. However, since then they have placed an indefinite ban on the entire canal in Lady Bay and Gamston from being re-stocked. This not only affects anglers but wildlife such as heron, kingfishers, and otters, all of which could be spotted in the Gamston area prior to last year's drought. WeBCan wants to see this ban lifted as soon as possible.

If you would like to find out more about WeBCan please visit their Facebook page. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [paulabel@ntlworld.com](mailto:paulabel@ntlworld.com).



## Hire Gamston Village Hall

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Please contact Rebecca on 07786 141066 or [bookings@hpgpc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@hpgpc.org.uk)

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# parishNEWS



Holme Pierrepont &  
Gamston Parish Council  
Newsletter

Summer 2023

## A few words from the Chairman

Welcome to the Summer 2023 edition of the Holme Pierrepont and Gamston Parish Newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to give you an update on Gamston Fields. The development was first approved in 2014 by Rushcliffe Borough Council as part of its Local Development Plan, with a housing target of around 4,000 new homes and associated infrastructure such as schools and community facilities. For a number of reasons, the actual development has yet to start. However, the various landowners and developers have now been given a target date of December 2023 to produce a "Masterplan" or "Supplementary Planning Document" to ensure that the development is brought forward as a complete new community, rather than as piecemeal sites. A transport survey of the wider area is also being carried out to assess the impact of this development on highways and identify any changes that need to be made.

In other news, the parish council is working very hard to secure the necessary funding to carry out some planned enhancements to Ambleside play park. This will include the addition of new inclusive play equipment and a picnic table that facilitates access for wheelchair users. We are also organising additional fencing to make the play park fully enclosed. The play park continues to be a well-loved facility and we are looking forward to hosting the annual summer playday which starts at 2.00pm on Wednesday 9th August. This year the theme is 'Carnival Time' so dress up in your finest carnival outfits for a chance to win a prize. There are plenty of activities to get involved in and all the attractions are free of charge. We look forward to seeing you there!

Finally, if you haven't already noticed, the parish council now has a Facebook page so please take a look. We have also updated some of our email addresses so if you want to contact the parish clerk, please now use [clerk@hpgpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hpgpc.org.uk) and for the bookings clerk use [bookings@hpgpc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@hpgpc.org.uk).

For other news and interesting stories from around the parish, please read on.

Cynthia Stacey  
Vice Chair

**It's Carnival Time!**

**FREE EVENT**

**Fancy Dress Competition! Prizes for Winners!**

**Wednesday 9th August**  
**2pm - 4pm**  
**Ambleside Play Park, Gamston, NG2 6NA**

**Carnival Samba Band & Dancing**  
Samba Drumming  
Balloon Modeller  
Sand Pit  
Bouncy Castle  
Story Telling  
Music  
Crafts  
Fancy Dress  
Ice Cream Van  
and much more!

Organised by Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council



## King Charles III Coronation

The coronation of King Charles III took place on Saturday 6th May 2023 and it was lovely to see local people come together over the bank holiday weekend to celebrate. These included the residents of Patterdale Close who braved the intermittent rain to hold a party outside and the residents of Holme Pierrepont who gathered at St Edmund's Church for tea and cakes followed by a celebratory bell ringing at 4.00pm.



## Graffiti

Recently some graffiti has been spray painted in various locations throughout the parish.

Whatever your view of graffiti, whether you see it as vandalism or art, it is certainly difficult to ignore. While some may argue that it allows people to express themselves, it is often not so positively perceived by the general public. Many view graffiti as desecrating and debasing the visual environment and want it to be removed as quickly as possible.



Whether you love it or hate graffiti, the act of marking or defacing premises or any property without permission is an act of criminal damage and can be reported to the police by phoning 101.

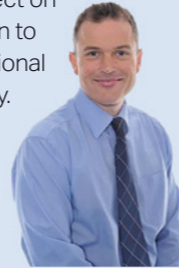
It can be costly to remove and it is your local council's responsibility to do this. You can report it through Rushcliffe Borough Council's website by clicking on the 'TELL US' button. The council will then arrange for Streetwise to come along and remove the graffiti or spray over it with grey or green paint.

The quicker the response from the community and the sooner the graffiti is removed, the less likely it will proliferate.

## Aiden Sharp

This summer, Aiden Sharp, Headteacher at Pierrepoint Gamston Primary School (PGPS), retired. The Parish Council would like to wish Aiden all the best and has asked him to write a few words about his time at the school:

"I can honestly say that the last 17 years at PGPS has flown by, which must indicate how much I've enjoyed my time here. Having had 18 years in banking, John Heard gave me the opportunity to take up my first teaching post at PGPS, something I will be forever grateful for. Right from my first visit, I knew what a special place it was and, over the years, the school and the Gamston community have become a huge part of my life. I have had the honour and privilege of being the school's headteacher for the last 9 years which, COVID apart, has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience. As I reflect on my time at PGPS, I realise how blessed I've been to teach such amazing children, lead such exceptional staff and to partner with an amazing community. Thank you to everyone who has supported me throughout this time and to God for his provision and faithfulness. I wish everyone involved with the school every success at it begins its next chapter."



## Try Free Spirits for Free

Fancy meeting up once a month for a cuppa and a chat? Find yourself at a loose end? Maybe you are new to the area? If you are over 50 years of age and a free spirit at heart, why not give this group a try?

Free Spirits is a super friendly group of over 50s that meet at Gamston Village Hall on the third Tuesday of each month between 10.30am and 12 noon for coffee and chatter. It costs £2 per session and the first session is free. You can pay as you go and you don't have to commit to attend each month.

Carolyn organises the group and can be contacted on **0115 981 5722** or by email at **carolynkearton333@btinternet.com**. Alternatively, just turn up and give it a go.

The next meet up is on Tuesday 18th July followed by another on Tuesday 15th August 2023.



## What does your Parish Council do?

Holme Pierrepont and Gamston Parish Council is currently made up of eight parish councillors who are elected every four years from within the community. Councillors are unpaid and commit their time to the improvement and maintenance of the parish as a safe, pleasant, attractive and sustainable place to live and work. Councillors meet each month (except August) and are supported by the parish clerk who administers the council business and carries out all the functions required by law. A bookings clerk looks after anything pertaining to Gamston Village Hall including bookings, caretaking and liaising with those who want to hire the building.

The council is responsible for the maintenance and development of Gamston Village Hall and promoting and facilitating its use by local groups. The village hall provides the venue for celebrations at Christmas and other key community events often organised by the councillors themselves. In addition, the council maintains and supports the use of the Ambleside play park and is currently working on developing more inclusive play facilities there.

Part of the council's work is to oversee and comment on local planning applications, providing a sounding board for residents and representing their views to other statutory bodies.

The council maintains the woodland at the play park and areas of grass and wildflowers at St Edmund's Church, Gamston Village Hall, Adbolton Lane, including Trent Boulevard Bus terminal and verges in front of Church Farm Care Home, Tollerton Lane, and the land around the bench at Bassingfield. The Millennium Garden on Holme Lane also benefits from the council's support.

Parish council meetings, which usually take place on the second Monday of the month, are open for anyone to attend. The council also produce a newsletter three times a year, and provides further information through seven local notice boards, a website and a Facebook page.

The parish council currently has vacancies for two more councillors. If this is something that may interest you, please contact the parish clerk at **clerk@hpgpc.org.uk** for more information.

## Unusual Garden Visitors

Most wildlife visitors to our gardens are welcome. Families all over the parish set up bird tables and nest boxes hoping to encourage wild birds to visit and take great pleasure in watching them. There are many who support hedgehogs, badgers and foxes or have colonies of bats or families of owls in their roofs or close by.

Mr and Mrs Harbron of Holme Pierrepont do many of these things and recently just a little bit more.



A few weeks ago, the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust introduced three Lincoln Reds and a Lincoln Red Hereford cross bullock to the field next to Blotts lake at the Skylarks Nature Reserve. The bullocks had just been weaned, so were very young but obviously adventurous, as within a day or so of being put out to pasture they went walkabout.

Starting with a spot of wild swimming, the bullocks crossed the lake and then wandered down the lanes finding their way to Holme Pierrepont. Leaping a fence or two on the way they arrived at the garden of the couple and proceeded to make themselves at home, snacking on the vegetable plot and pruning the fruit trees. Fortunately, the animals were remarkably placid and even allowed the home owners to pet them.

Uncertain where the bullocks had come from the Harbron's eventually contacted the Wildlife Trust. After a day spent in the garden, the animals were collected and relocated to the Idle Valley Nature Reserve at Retford.

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[www.holmepierrepontandgamstonpc.org.uk](http://www.holmepierrepontandgamstonpc.org.uk)

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