

## U3A - Something for everyone

The core belief of U3A is to provide a self-help educational movement for people from all walks of life who are no longer in full time work. However, the reality is so much bigger.

At the Gamston and Edwalton District U3A there is room for those who want to learn a language, to paint, to discuss books or to read the plays of William Shakespeare. For the active there are monthly walks, cycling, table tennis and visits to NGS Yellow Book gardens. For the more adventurous there are regular outings which have recently included, a weekend away in Liverpool, a trip to the National Arboretum, a tour of Trent Bridge cricket ground and a visit to Woolsthorpe Manor, the home of Sir Isaac Newton.

With around 28 activities on offer, there is something for everyone. If you do want to find out more, the group holds monthly meetings at Edwalton Church Hall on Vicarage Green, NG12 4AP. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th November at 1.30pm, where there will be a talk on bees and beekeeping. There is a small admission charge of £1 to cover the cost of refreshments. For further information, please visit <https://edgamu3a.weebly.com>.

## Claire Bills

In September, Claire Bills took on the role of Headteacher at Pierrepont Gamston Primary School (PGPS). The parish council would like to wish Claire all the best and has asked her to write a few words about her new role:

*"Having been Headteacher at Pierrepont Gamston for a few weeks, I can honestly say I have been absolutely blown away by what an incredible school it is. I have been made to feel so welcome by all the parents, staff and most of all the pupils. I remember starting my first headship five years ago at Gunthorpe and wondering how I would get to know 100 families. The task is three times as great now but I have already made a start.*

*I shared with parents in my first school newsletter and with staff on my first day, that I hoped our school would feel together like Ohana. For those who haven't watched Disney's Lilo and Stitch film for a while or whose Polynesian knowledge is lacking, Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten. At PGPS this is part of the vision we live out, making sure everyone is loved, included and no one feels left behind. At the start of this exciting journey, I look forward to seeing what God has got planned for me at this special school."*

Claire Bills



# parishNEWS



Holme Pierrepont &  
Gamston Parish Council  
Newsletter

Autumn 2023

## A few words from the Vice Chair

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

A large turnout of local families enjoyed this year's activities when the 'Carnival' came to the Summer Play Day, at Ambleside Play Park. It was a wonderfully vibrant afternoon with a great sense of community as children and parents joined in the fun. We hope that everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

The next event will be 'Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall' on Saturday 25th November. As usual, there will be plenty of activities for the children as well as carol singing and the opportunity to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine. We look forward to seeing you there.



To ensure children can play safely at the play park, we have been extending the fence to fully enclose the site. The existing fencing has now been

moved closer to Ambleside and, by the time you read this newsletter, new fencing should have been erected along the path that leads from Ambleside towards Main Street. This has also freed up sufficient space for the new inclusive play equipment we are planning to install. We were disappointed that a recent application to fund this project through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was unsuccessful, but our commitment to providing an inclusive facility remains and we will continue to actively seek financial support until it is completed.

In other news, there has been a disappointing rise in anti-social behaviour in the area including vandalism at both the village hall and the park. We have asked the police to be more vigilant in these areas, but if you do notice anything please report it.

For more news from around the parish, please read on.

Cynthia Stacey

## The Charge of the Litter Brigade

With apologies to Alfred, Lord Tennyson

*Half a street, half a street,  
Half a street onward,  
All through the parish,  
The pickers have wandered.*

*Bottles to the left of them,  
Cans to the right of them,  
Rubbish in front of them,  
Plastic and paper.*

*Though they all feel dismay,  
At this muck thrown away,  
Are they downhearted?*

*How many filled sacks?  
You may well have wondered  
The number they've reached  
Is a magic SIX HUNDRED!*

Congratulations and grateful thanks to the Gamston Litter Pickers and Rosie Shaw who collected the 600th bag of litter in August this year.

It is also interesting to note, that one of cavalry who took part in the famous 'Charge of the Light Brigade', celebrated in the poem by Tennyson, was a local man. Farrier Major William Roberts, survived the battle and ended his days in Radcliffe on Trent. Major Roberts is buried at St Edmund's churchyard in Holme Pierrepont.

**CHRISTMAS**  
at St Edmund's, Holme Pierrepont

Sunday 3rd December  
Christingle Service 3.00pm  
with children from Pierrepont Gamston Primary School

Sunday 10th December  
Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30pm

Sunday 17th December  
Neville Singers Carol Concert 3.00pm

Sunday 24th December  
First Communion of Christmas (Festal) 6.30pm

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SAT 25TH NOV  
3.30PM - 5.30PM  
**CHRISTMASTIME**  
AT GAMSTON VILLAGE HALL, NG2 6NX

3.30PM - 4.00PM BRASS BAND  
4.00PM - 4.30PM CHOIR  
4.30PM - 4.45PM NATIVITY STORY  
5.00PM - 5.30PM SING-ALONG

with Lady Bay & Ruddington Community Choirs  
AND Burton Joyce Community Brass Band

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL SHOW  
BALLOONS & FACE PAINTS  
MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES

DONATIONS IN AID OF rainbows  
Brightening short lives

ORGANISED BY HOLME PIERREPONT & GAMSTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Carnival Time

After a rainy spell in August, it was lovely to see the sunshine at this year's Summer Play Day. Over five hundred people attended this year's event which brought the carnival to Ambleside Play Park. With live samba music performances, a samba drumming workshop and the opportunity for the children to make their own carnival head dresses, the park was full of colour and fun.



The event was opened by the Mayor of Rushcliffe, Councillor Debbie Mason, who later in the afternoon awarded prizes for the best carnival outfits.

As well as a bouncy castle, sandpit and hook a duck, Super Sparkle entertained the children with magical storytelling, music and games, while Karen, the stilt walking balloon modeller, created balloon animals for a long queue of patient children.

The afternoon can be summed up as great weather, great atmosphere and a great turnout.



## St Edmund's Church

Perhaps you are still to discover the hidden gem that is St Edmund's Church? Situated within the grounds of Holme Pierrepont Hall, off Holme Lane, it is a beautiful Grade I listed church, dating back to the 1200's, with a long association with the Pierrepont family. With parkland around, it is a place to step back and be still in a 24/7 world.

My own journey to discovering St Edmund's happened only when I became vicar of Lady Bay and Holme Pierrepont in 2021, following an unexpected sense of call into ministry while working as a consultant anaesthetist in QMC.

The heartbeat of our church life is our weekly worship on Sundays (alternating 11.00am and 6.30pm), meeting together before God to sing and pray for our community. Many generations before us have done the same, facing similar challenges, and with the same hope.

We also host a number of special services, especially around Christmas and Easter, including the Pierrepont Gamston Primary School Christingle service (for more details visit <https://st-edmunds.org.uk>)

St Edmund's Church is a beautiful location for weddings and baptisms as well as choral concerts, including a number by the excellent (locally led) Neville Concert singers. Look out also for our 'Spring Open Day' where the Hall next door also generously opens their grounds for the occasion.

We would love Gamston residents to feel a sense of connection to St Edmund's, to be able to enjoy this beautiful historic building, but also have the chance to be refreshed in quiet and prayer in a busy world. In addition to services and concerts, the church will be open on some Saturday mornings (next will be **November 4th 10.00am-noon**) or by private arrangement by emailing [vicar@ladybaychurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@ladybaychurch.org.uk).

Rev'd Dr Jonathan Mole



## Sandale Close Seasonal Spectacular

Christmas in Gamston would not be Christmas without David Carter's fabulous lights display on Sandale Close (NG2 6QG). Now into its second decade of delighting both young and old, this seasonal spectacular will begin with a 'Grand Switch On' at 5.00pm on Sunday 26th November. Santa will be in attendance and there will be the usual raffle with excellent prizes. Cheery Christmas music will accompany the lights display throughout.

The display raises valuable funds for the RSPCA Radcliffe Animal Centre to which David is affiliated – a charity that receives no financial aid from the RSPCA National Society. Donations can be made by using the red collection box on the railings outside the house or by texting **RSPCALIGHTS 5 to 70085** to donate £5, or **RSPCALIGHTS 10 to 70085** to donate £10. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code on the notice board outside the house.

David's amazing festive display will continue daily from 4.00pm – 9.00pm until Sunday 31st December.



## Skylarks

This unusual building is the newest bird hide constructed at Skylarks Nature Reserve. The hide is designed to look like a Saxon Grubenhaus, a traditional form of housing which was once present in this area several centuries ago. Its name, 'The Herebeorg', translated into Old English, means shelter or refuge and is where the word harbour comes from.



The hide was designed by Ranger, Miriam Lawley, and constructed by her and volunteers using materials from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust nature reserves. Skylarks Archaeology Group helped with their knowledge of Saxon building methods creating a structure both modern and ancient. The hide was officially opened in September when Miriam toasted the new building with a glass of Sloe Gin made with fruit from the reserve.

Elsewhere on the reserve, six new Longhorn cattle have now taken up residence. They are magnificent creatures and well worth finding time to visit. One of the cows, known as Urchin, is a bit of a star having won second place in her class at the Collingham Show. You may recall in the last newsletter how a small herd of bullocks initially placed on the site had to be relocated after they went walk-about and ended up in a Holme Pierrepont garden. Hopefully, the Longhorns are not quite so adventurous!



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## Old Gamston Village

Prior to the beginning of the second world war, Gamston and Bassingfield had a combined population of just over one hundred residents. They were two farming communities joined together by a muddy lane.

Gamston consisted of five farms, including a range of farmhouses, out-buildings and barns, and a few cottages scattered around the village. On the village green there was village shop and, where the phone box now stands, a water pump.

The iconic red telephone box was a new design from 1935 and therefore could not have been put there before this date. It is surmised that as it replaced the pump, water supplies had now been connected to homes. The daily chore of fetching water for cooking, cleaning and washing had now ended. At about the same time gas and electricity supplies were connected as Gamston began to feel the benefits of modernity. However, it was still unlikely that indoor plumbing had replaced the outdoor lavatory.

If you walk around the old village, it is still possible to make out the old buildings amongst those that have been recently built. The original farmhouses, out-buildings and barns are still there to be found if you know where to look.

The old phone box still remains and thanks to the work of a local resident is well worth a visit. In 2015, Pauline Lumley, with the help of the parish council, came up with the idea of repurposing the decommissioned phone box, by making it into a museum celebrating old Gamston life. Pauline did extensive research and put together photographs, maps and information, which are now displayed in the box. They offer a fascinating insight into the history of the little hamlet.

There is much more to the story, as the little hamlet of Gamston was destined to be swallowed up in 1988 by the huge new housing development which is now modern Gamston. This perhaps is an article for another day.



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