

## Christmastime 2023

Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall took place on Saturday 30th November with many families coming along to get involved in the start of the festive celebrations. Thanks to the Burton Joyce Community Brass Band and the Lady Bay and Ruddington Community Choirs, there was musical entertainment throughout the afternoon including carol singing.

Whilst Super Sparkle entertained the children with stories and face painting, there were Christmas crafts to make, a quiz and a guessing game, with all the lucky winners receiving prizes.



In addition, Karen, the balloon modeller, who has become a great favourite at parish council events, created fantastic animals with her extraordinary skills. Once activities were complete, Reverend Mark Fraser, Vicar at St Luke's Church, told the children the story of Christmas.

Refreshments, including mince pies and mulled wine, were served throughout the event.

Due to the amazing generosity of those who donated at the event, the parish council was able to present £177.35 to Rainbows, the Loughborough based hospice for children and young people. The donations will help to brighten short lives.

## Support the Bone Cancer Stamp Appeal

If you have any used stamps, have you considered donating them to the Bone Cancer Research Trust Stamp Appeal? Every 1kg of stamps collected can help fund an hour of their life saving research. Gamston Medical Centre are supporting the charity so if you have any used stamps, please take them along to the practice and show your support for this very worthy cause.



## Anti-Social Behaviour

Since last year's article about graffiti and vandalism an undercurrent of low-level antisocial behaviour has continued to blight the parish.

The Christmas tree lights situated at Ambleside Play Park were vandalised several times and there was some very unpleasant graffiti spray painted on the large boulders. More seriously the multi-use games pitch was damaged when an aerosol was ignited and burnt through the all-weather surface. It is almost impossible to prevent this kind of behaviour and the only remedy is vigilance from the community and the reporting of incidents as quickly as possible so that any damage can be repaired.

It also appears that casual rubbish disposal and fly-tipping both locally and nationally is on the rise. Fast food wrappers thrown from car windows litter the lanes and old electrical goods, furniture, mattresses and plastic bags filled with rubbish are sometimes heaped by the side of the road. Many communities are taking it upon themselves to get out and tidy up their local areas and Gamston is no exception. The Gamston Litter Pickers, who recently collected their 700th bag of litter, usually meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10.00am at Gamston Village Hall. All equipment is provided for children and adults alike and everyone is out for a maximum of two hours. If you would like to help out, please email [gamstonlitterpickers@gmail.com](mailto:gamstonlitterpickers@gmail.com).

Please report any instance of fly-tipping in the area to Rushcliffe Borough Council by using their online fly-tipping form or by calling their Customer Services team on 0115 981 9911. Fly-tipped waste can contain hidden hazards so please do not try and remove it yourself. The quicker the response the sooner the damage can be undone and the less likely it will proliferate.

## Hire Gamston Village Hall

An ideal venue for Party Events and Celebrations!

- Well-equipped kitchen facilities
- Indoor tables & chairs available
- Enclosed Village Green Area suitable for Picnics & Bouncy Castles

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

Subject to terms and conditions

# parishNEWS



Holme Pierrepont &  
Gamston Parish Council  
Newsletter

Spring 2024

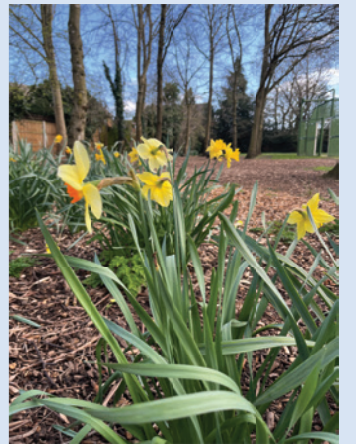
## A few words from the Vice Chair

Welcome to the first parish council newsletter for 2024. Spring is in the air; the daffodils are blooming and everyone at the parish council is getting ready for another busy year.

Although it has been a few months since our 'Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall' event I just want to say what a great afternoon it was. It's always lovely to see the community to come together and have fun. We have already started planning for our next event, which will be our Summer Play Day on Wednesday 21st August. As the Paris Olympics will start in July, we have decided that this year's theme will be sport. More information will be forthcoming over the next few months.

Over at Ambleside Play Park we are delighted to announce that our second bid for UK Shared Prosperity Grant Funding via Rushcliffe Borough Council has been successful. We look forward to telling you more about some exciting new developments over the next year.

We are pleased that the village hall continues to be used by local groups but do request that visitors who come by car take care when parking. It is common sense not to park in front of driveways but please also consider that the roads around the hall are narrow, so parking on both sides can make access very difficult for anyone wanting to get through.



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

Cynthia Stacey

## Buddy Bench

As residents may already be aware, a 'Buddy Bench' has now been installed on a grassy area off Ambleside, alongside the path that runs from Gamston old village to Morrisons.

The bench has been funded from surplus funds accrued by the very successful Gamston Breakfasts plus additional donations from local councillors.



For anyone new to the area, Gamston Breakfasts was an initiative set up by a group of volunteers who, once a month, cooked and served Sunday morning breakfasts to residents. The breakfasts were a great community event giving local people the opportunity to meet, socialise and make new friends. The initiative ran for several years only closing when the lockdowns hit. Although prices were set to cover costs, with an average of forty-five breakfasts served each time, a surplus accumulated. After some debate, the idea of a different kind of space for locals to meet, rest and chat was agreed and plans made for the new bench. After a flying start, with comments and photos posted on Facebook within days, it is hoped that the bench will get lots of use.

Meanwhile, the breakfast team have decided to hang up their aprons but would be more than happy to show the ropes to any new volunteers willing to take up the reins. If you are interested, please contact the parish clerk at [clerk@hpgpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hpgpc.org.uk).



## Tree planting

The Tree Council was founded in 1974 to act as an umbrella organisation for local groups involved in the planting, care and conservation of trees. This year, in celebration of its 50th anniversary, those who fund its work will be supporting the planting of fifty Golden Orchards across the UK, providing a bounty of fruit, and food and homes for wildlife, in years to come. The parish council, with help from Paul Phillips (RBC's Senior Ecology and Sustainability Officer), has successfully applied for one of the Golden Orchards and five golden fruit trees have now arrived ready for planting.

Over in Holme Pierrepont over three hundred trees were planted by the Skylarks Friends of Group at the nature reserve. The trees, which were supplied by The Conservation Volunteers under the '1 Dig Trees' scheme, will replace those lost in fires in July and August 2022.



## Farrier Major William Roberts

In the last newsletter it was mentioned that buried in St Edmund's churchyard is a local man who had the distinction of taking part in the Crimean War of 1853 – 1856. His name was William Roberts and he was born in 1830 in Langar spending much of his childhood in Radcliffe on Trent on a farm on Henson Lane.

In 1851 William joined the army as a Farrier and by 1853 he was serving overseas with the 4th Hussars and playing his part in the Crimean War. Over the next two years he was engaged in the battles of Alma, Sevastopol, Inkerman and Balaklava and it was at the Battle of Balaklava in October 1854 that he took part in the famous Charge of the Light Brigade so memorably commemorated by Tennyson in his poem.



William Roberts was one of the lightly armed cavalymen, whose officers had been given confused and contradictory orders, and who charged down a valley with enemy troops firing from both sides towards Russian cannon waiting primed and ready. The result was a disaster. The scale of the losses is unclear but estimates are that of the 600 plus men who took part 40% were killed wounded or captured. An eye witness account of the charge appeared in The Times newspaper a month later and caused great disquiet with Tennyson writing his poem soon after in December 1854.

The rest of William's life was thankfully much quieter. He spent some time serving in India, was married in 1857 and by 1875 was in receipt of an army pension and living back in Radcliffe on Trent. The 1881 Census has him living with his sister Harriet and her husband at Lees Farm. William Roberts died on May 19th 1885. He shares his grave with Harriet and Samuel Pike and his epitaph reads, "Farrier Major William Roberts late of the 4th Queen's Own Hussars who died May 19th 1885 aged 54 years. A Crimean veteran who fought in the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava".

## Truxor on the canal

As work has continued on the Grantham Canal to cut back the overgrown trees and bushes, and remove the reeds that have been inhibiting the water flow, the Canal and River Trust recently bought along a Truxor machine to help with the job.

A Truxor is a multifunctional amphibious machine which can be operated on water, in the shallow margins and on the dry land at the water's edge. The weight distribution system gives low ground pressure and floating capacity to the machine allowing it to work in sensitive environments where conventional machines may cause damage. It can carry out a range of tasks including reed cutting and collection, silt pumping and dredging.

Since the formation of the West Bridgford Canal Group (WeBCan) last year, over fifty work parties, all made up of volunteers, have now been organised to help clear the canal in Lady Bay and Gamston.



## John Ingram Garden Services

Serving Radcliffe and surrounding area since 1982



**Patios and Driveways**  
**Fencing**  
**Decking**  
**Hedge Cutting**  
**Lawn Mowing**  
**Garden Maintenance**

Full Insured - All Jobs Left Clean and Tidy - Sprayer Certified - Commercial Landscaping Specialists

07976759608 - 0115 933 5125 - johningram@live.co.uk

## St Edmund's Church

St Edmund's Church at Holme Pierrepont was built to last from generation to generation, and has survived through floods, plague and wars. There was mention of a church on the site in 1201 although very little of it now remains as it was completely rebuilt in 1666 by Henry Pierrepont, the 1st Marquess of Dorchester with a new chancel added in 1878. St Edmund's has a host of interesting features including the family burial vault of the Dukes of Kingston and the Earls Marvers, a range of stone and alabaster monuments, an organ that dates from the mid-1800s and a stained-glass window at the east end designed by James Powell.

Most importantly the church is a place to worship God, a place where people find that God is a safe refuge in all the seasons of life. We would love parish residents to be able to enjoy the church not only as a beautiful historic building, but also as a place of refreshment in a busy world.

If you would like to have a look around both the church and gardens at Holme Pierrepont Hall we are holding an Open Day on Sunday 14th April from 11.00am – 4.00pm, or if you would like to join our weekly services or attend one of our regular concerts please visit our website at <https://st-edmunds.org.uk> to find out more.

Rev'd Dr Jonathan Mole

## Flooding

Provisional Met Office figures show that the winter of 2023/2024 was the eighth wettest on record for the UK overall. It should be no surprise that this resulted in flooding in many parts of the country and the parish was no exception. This was the scene on Holme Lane between Holme Pierrepont and Radcliffe on Trent last October when the nearby Trent and the Polser Brook were full to bursting and the land became completely saturated with the water flowing over the road.

This was repeated in the early part of this year and on both occasions the volunteer flood wardens in Holme Pierrepont put out signs warning of the danger and temporarily closed the road for a day or two until the water subsided.



## Parish Council Contacts

### Vice Chair

Cynthia Stacey Holme Pierrepont 0115 9335337

### Clerk to the Council

Julia Barnes 07432 620204  
clerk@hpgpc.org.uk

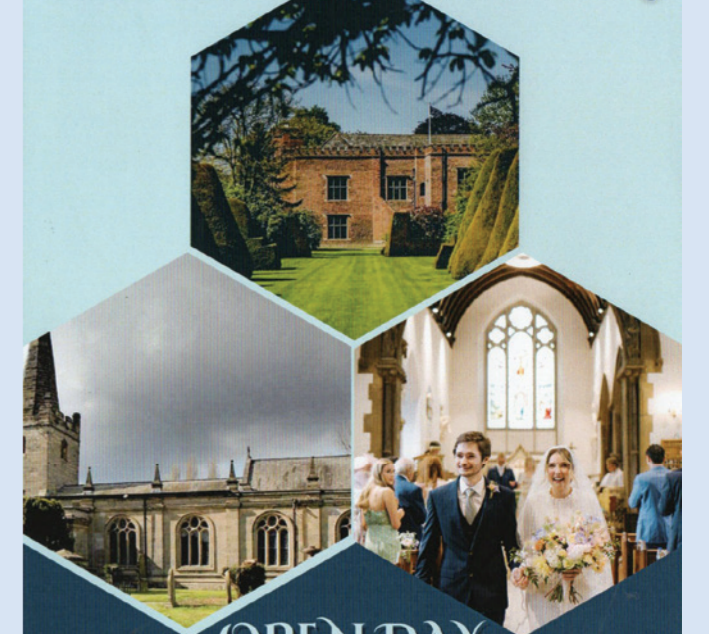
### Booking Clerk (Village Hall)

Rebecca Logue 07786 141066  
bookings@hpgpc.org.uk

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

Visit us on Facebook

'A local treasure' 'Worth visiting!'



## OPEN DAY

St Edmund's Church and Holme Pierrepont Hall gardens open to the public

SUNDAY 14 APRIL 11-00 a.m. – 4-00 p.m.

Teas, Coffee and Cakes served in the Hall Ballroom

£6.00 Adult Children FREE.

All proceeds to help maintain the church.

## Waterside Bridge

Nottingham City Council has submitted a planning application for a pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the Trent stretching from Lady Bay to the entrance to the Trent Basin.

Work on the Waterside Bridge is expected to commence in Summer 2024 and the bridge, when completed, will be the first to have been built over the Trent for sixty years. It is anticipated that the bridge and the supporting infrastructure on the riverside paths will increase walking and cycling connectivity between Nottingham and West Bridgford/Lady Bay and be a huge boost for cyclists and walkers alike.

The plans which include some exciting photographs of the proposals can be viewed online via the West Bridgford Wire website.

