

Peak Wildlife Park set to expand its facilities



A planning application has been submitted to erect 10 lodges at Peak Wildlife Park based in Ellastone Road, Winkhill.

The development proposes that the 10 lodges would be split over two sites on the park.

The planning application also includes fencing, paving and landscaping.

The park, which attracts thousands of visitors to the area each year, currently employs in the order of 65 members of staff over the spring/summer months, with that number reducing to 45 members of staff over the quieter autumn and winter periods.

The applicant expects that the proposed development will

generate an additional five jobs throughout the year.

The site is located within Ipstones Parish Council area who considered the planning application at a recent meeting.

Following a full discussion, the parish council resolved to support approval of the application because of its benefits for local job creation and tourism.

A planning statement produced by Rob Duncan Planning Consultancy, said: "Peak Wildlife Park is a unique wildlife attraction that combines conservation, education and entertainment for visitors of all ages.

"The park has a commitment to preserving biodiversity and

promoting sustainable practices and is a popular attraction within the Staffordshire Moorlands. Since acquiring the former Blackbrook Zoological Park, Peak Wildlife Park has grown into a significant family attraction, drawing visitors from both the local area and further afield.

"The proposed visitor lodges will strengthen the long-term resilience of the park by allowing a small number of visitors to stay overnight as part of their visit.

"This will diversify the park's revenue stream, support continued reinvestment into the attraction, and help to facilitate more overnight stays within the district."

See more on this story on page five

Welcome to the October Communities Newsletter

This is our community newsletter, with information about the Benefice, and what is happening in and around the local community. If you have an event/group that you wish to advertise, simply email us at:

moorlandsmag@outlook.com

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Friends of St. Leonard's

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Ipstones Tiny Tots Nursery: 01538 266000

Ipstones Creative Writing Group: 01538 266633

Ipstones Community Choir

Denise Rowe: 07739 179722

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New proposed cemetery rules are thrown out by parish council

AFTER months of discussing planned changes to Ipstones Cemetery the proposals put forward have now been thrown out.

Ipstones Parish Council intended to adopt a new ruling for interments in the village cemetery.

This included the criteria for people to be buried in Ipstones Cemetery, is that they must have been living in the parish at the time of death or have lived more than 60 per cent of their life in the parish.

It was also agreed that no reserved plots would be allowed. The plans were aimed to safeguard space in the cemetery which was filling up.

At a parish council meeting, councillors stated that the cemetery was filling up and that the council had to protect residents as they pay council tax to maintain the area.

During discussions councillors feared that people from outside the parish and with little connection to the village wanted to be buried in the cemetery as it was a lot cheaper to purchase plots there.

However, after listening to residents the council voted to continue with the same rules which were adopted before the proposed changes were discussed.

These were: Fees for persons who resided outside the parish, will be tripled.

The criteria for people to be buried in Ipstones Cemetery is that:

“They must live, have lived or worked in the parish at some point during their lives or have spouses, parents, grandparents, children or grandchildren who are buried in the Cemetery”.

Fees will be charged in accordance with where they were living at the time of their death.

Reserved plots will be allowed to be purchased.

The council has also agreed to take £1,000 out of their annual precept along with any treble payments to be put aside for further land to be purchased in the future.

This money will be ring fenced on a separate account for a future land purchase.



Family Group Of Churches

Who is who in our family group of Churches in 2025/26

Church	Name and Job	Contact Details
All Churches	Roger Cutts (reader)	roger.cutts@btinternet.com 01538 266862
	Toby Gaddum (licensed lay minister)	toby@gaddumandgaddum.co.uk
St. Leonard's and Berkhamsytsch	Rob White (churchwarden)	robwwhite@icloud.com / 01538 266891
	Jacquey Millward (churchwarden)	jacquey.millward@gmail.com 07799 780561
	Ann Jackson (deputy churchwarden & lay chair)	
	Pam Ramsay (treasurer)	pamela.ramsay@btinternet.com
	Jackie Worrall (secretary)	ipccmrsjworrall@gmail.com
Onecote	Jean Tickell (churchwarden)	jeantickell55@gmail.com / 07368 135758
	Janet Stone (churchwarden)	janet@onecotegrange.co.uk / 07398 232793
	Debra Tickell (secretary)	tickell.d@kevi.org.uk
	Vicky Buttress (treasurer)	victoriabuttress58@hotmail.com
	Carole Jackson (lay chair)	carole.jackson@gmx.com
Butterton	Maggie Risby (churchwarden & secretary)	maggie.risby@btopenworld.com 01538 304115
	Rachel Hopper (churchwarden)	the.hopper.family@gmail.com 07709 039147
	Lily Hambleton-Plumb (deputy churchwarden)	heathyroodsfarm@aol.com
	Patrick Bailey (treasurer)	patrick.bailey@hotmail.co.uk
Warslow	Judy Prince (deputy churchwarden)	judyprince29@yahoo.co.uk
	Emma Gould (treasurer)	gouldemma80@gmail.com
	Janet McNicol (secretary)	janetmcnicol@yahoo.co.uk
Elkstones	Myrtle Alcock (church leader)	01538 304225

“Development will strengthen long-term resilience of park”

PLANS to build 10 holiday lodges at Peak Wildlife Park in Winkhill would create additional jobs and safeguard existing levels of employment, a planning statement has stated.

The proposal would also help to support continued reinvestment into the attraction.

A planning statement on behalf of the applicant, produced by Rob Duncan Planning Consultancy, said: “The proposed visitor accommodation is to be split into two areas of the site, namely four lodges around the Polar Bear enclosure and six lodges to the west of Black Brook.

“The proposed Polar Bear Lodges are to be arranged around the northeastern and northwestern fringes of the existing polar bear enclosure.

“The smaller Polar Bear Lodges will provide open plan accommodation comprising of a double bedroom, lounge area, dining table and kitchenette, with a separate shower room with toilet.

“The larger Polar Bear Lodges will comprise of two ensuite double bedrooms, along with an open plan lounge/kitchen/dining area. On the terrace above there will be an external viewing deck.

“The Polar Bear Lodges will have a galvanised metal/light grey finish and will be designed around an expedition-style theme, reflecting the character of the polar bear enclosure and providing a distinctive visitor experience.

“The Black Brook Lodges are to be arranged in a linear

form parallel to the Black Brook, with an access path located to the rear linking the lodges to the existing public right of way.

“These lodges will comprise of Nokken-branded cabin accommodation, with a simple, contemporary design, finished in timber. The smaller lodges will comprise of a double ensuite bedroom with kitchenette/dining area. The larger lodges will comprise of two ensuite bedrooms with an open plan lounge/kitchen/dining area.”

A series of associated works are also proposed, including new and extended bunds to help screen the site and reduce the visual impact of the development. A viewing platform is also proposed to the west of the

polar bear enclosure, which will be available for use by guests staying in the lodges, providing elevated views of the enclosure. Alterations to existing fencing are also proposed.

The planning statement added: “Peak Wildlife Park experiences significant seasonal variation. Visitor numbers are strongest during school holidays, weekends and periods of good weather, while the quieter winter months and term time weekdays are more challenging.

“This creates pressure for a business which carries year-round responsibilities and costs, including animal care, staffing, maintenance, utilities conservation work and ongoing site management.

“The proposed development will strengthen the long-term resilience of the park, allowing a small number of visitors to stay overnight as part of their visit, and in doing so will also help to smooth some of this seasonal pressure by creating a more stable and varied income stream, while also broadening the park’s appeal for short break visitors.

“The proposal will also help to support continued reinvestment into the attraction, generating additional employment opportunities, whilst also safeguarding existing levels of employment.”



Church & Rota Services

CHURCH SERVICES - OCTOBER 2026

	4 th October 2026	11 th October 2026	18 th October 2026	25 th October 2026
Warslow	To other services	11am Morning Worship Roger Cutts	To other services	11am Holy Communion Rev. Carol Richardson
Elkstones	To other services	To other services	3pm Holy Communion Rev. Nicola Pepper	To other services
Butterton	To other services	3pm Harvest Festival Debra Tickell	10am Holy Communion Rev. Carol Richardson	To other services
Onecote	9.30am Holy Communion Rev. Carol Richardson	9.30am Morning Worship Clare Day	To other services	9.30am Morning Worship Debra Tickell
Ipstones	11am Harvest Festival Roger Cutts	11am Holy Communion Rev. John Hall	11am Morning Worship Roger Cutts	11am Morning Worship Roger Cutts 7.30pm Compline John Flint

CHURCH ROTA, IPSTONES - OCTOBER 2026

Church Liturgical colours G =green R=red P=purple W=White	1 st Sunday 4 th October 2026 18 th after Trinity/ Proper 22 G	2 nd Sunday 11 th October 2026 19 th after Trinity/Proper 23 G	3 rd Sunday 18 th October 2026 20 th after Trinity/ Proper 24 G	4 th Sunday 25 th October 2026 Last after Trinity/Proper 25 G
	11am Harvest Festival Roger Cutts	11am Holy Communion & Baptism Rev John Hall	11am Morning Worship Roger Cutts (by local arrangement)	11am Morning Worship Roger Cutts Compline 7.30 pm (John Flint)
	Name	Name	Name	Name
Welcomers	Ann Jackson	John Flint	Pat Nash/ Zoe	John Flint
Readers	Ann Jackson Linda Malyon	Ann Jackson David Jack	Jacquey Millward Zoe Johnson	Jacquey Millward Ann Jackson
Eucharistic Assistant	N/A	Ann Jackson	N/A	N/A
Refreshments	volunteers	Jacquey Millward	Volunteers	Volunteers

News From The Pews

I am writing to you on the eve of the Autumn Equinox, when autumn begins. Although I think it has felt quite autumnal for the last three weeks or so. I have shared before that I love all the seasons, but there is something about the night's drawing in and the cooler temperatures that make this a season that has lots of appeal.

It is a season where we give particular thanks to God through our churches Harvest Festivals. These have already started in earnest, and the race is on for pie and pea suppers throughout our churches.

Harvest is a good time to reflect on the year to date. It has been quite a year for us all, with Rev'd Jane retiring, flower festivals, wakes services, lots of weddings and baptisms. As church families we are constantly busy, but we have been blessed by God in so many ways, and we thank Him for His goodness and provision.

The numbers attending church services are growing and I get the sense that some people are reflecting on life and seeking answers to questions that stem from a challenging world.

As Christians Jesus Christ tells us to sow the seed of the good news of eternal life, we can do this in many ways, but Harvest is one of the best to bring people together. A good old pie and pea supper with a cup of tea allows us to share and chat.

Unlike the story of The Confused Scarecrow.

There was once a farmer who made a brand-new scarecrow to protect his harvest.

He put it in the middle of the field and said, "Your job is to scare away the birds!"

The scarecrow stood very proudly.

A few minutes later, a little bird landed on his head.

The scarecrow shouted, "Shoo!"

The bird didn't move.

Another bird landed on his shoulder.

"Shoo!" shouted the scarecrow again.

Soon there were birds sitting everywhere — on his hat, his arms and even his boots!

The farmer came running back.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"I'm not very good at scaring birds," admitted the scarecrow.

The farmer sighed. "Apparently not!"

Then the scarecrow smiled and said:

"But look at it this way... at least I'm very good at bringing the birds together!"

And that's a little bit like Harvest.

We sometimes forget how many things have to come together, for us to have food: sunshine, rain, soil, seeds, farmers — and God's wonderful creation.

So, at Harvest, we say thank you to God for all that he gives us — and we remember that we should share what we have with others.

Toby Gaddum



Johnny Coppin
with
The Phoenix Singers



Celebrating Johnny's 50th year as a solo singer-songwriter

Featuring some of Johnny's best loved songs spanning his 50-year career, alongside hidden gems and choral arrangements written especially for this event

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Daily Telegraph

One of the finest voices in its field
Q Magazine

Unquestionably at the top of his game
Acoustic Magazine

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7:30pm (Doors open 6:45pm)

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Staffordshire
ST13 5PT



Tickets £16 (£5 U18s)

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& choir members
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St. Leonard's Ipstones News



Harvest service and auction to take place this month

We are now experiencing the change of seasons into Autumn.

The rain was welcomed by many people, although visitors to Ipstones Show were maybe not quite so enthusiastic.

The day still turned out to be quite a successful one for everyone involved, there were lots of places to shelter and maybe make a few purchases of the excellent and varied items that were displayed for sale.

There was everything that you expect at a country show from cattle, sheep, goats, hens and chickens, pet rabbits, Shire horses which always

look so elegant and many other stalls that were selling products or raising funds for their charities.

It is now time to gather the crops and prepare for Harvest. Our Harvest service will take place on Sunday 4th October at 11am when the boxes of produce and all gifts of various types of food will be collected in Church. We have a selection of empty boxes at the back of church for anyone who needs them.

Our boxes, along with many other items will then be auctioned at the end of the Harvest Supper on Monday 5th October.

At this time of year, we also have the Frothblower's sales in the four public houses around the village, organised by a team of volunteers. This enables all local pensioners to receive a Christmas bonus from the funds raised.

Our church has recently had some general maintenance jobs to prepare it for the oncoming winter months and keep the access tidy, many thanks to all involved who give up their time for us.

Future date for your diary

Friday 27th November

Christmas market and Festival of Lights in Church.

Stall holders for the market and helpers in church on the night would be greatly welcomed.

Prayer Corner

Please Lord, comfort those who are sad and grieving, and those who just don't know which way to turn. Give them courage to keep going although everything seems to be hopeless.

Lord, when things go wrong it is then we realise that there is only you. You are our hope and strength. We pray that in their troubles and sadness, more and more people will come to know your love and peace.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Methodist Church refurbished

This month I am writing about a significant event in our neighbouring town of Ashbourne.

I wonder how many of us remember the enormous disruption that took place in our neighbouring town of Ashbourne during most of last year. This was due to the Government Sponsored Levelling Up Project also described as Ashbourne Reborn.

If you visit Ashbourne today you may well be impressed by the wider pavements and better sense of space but may also be surprised to learn that £16 Million was spent on the project.

To put it politely that's quite a lot to spend per paving stone.

Approximately £6 million of this was spent on the refurbishment of Ashbourne Methodist Church.

What began as an ambitious refurbishment project has developed into one of the most exciting parts of the town's wider Ashbourne Reborn programme—a new community hub known as The Link Centre.

The Link Centre now provides a range of flexible rooms for worship, meetings, conferences, performances, exhibitions and social activities. It includes larger halls, smaller meeting rooms, improved catering facilities, better accessibility and Gateway Lodge, offering en-suite accommodation for visitors and groups.

A riverside community garden is also part of the project, providing space for gardening, learning, relaxation and outdoor events.



We have been frequent visitors to the Cornerstone Coffee House and have supported it for many years through its various stages of development.

Already valued as a friendly meeting place, Cornerstone now benefits from being part of a much larger and better-connected community facility. It remains somewhere to enjoy coffee, cake and conversation, and has a most interesting and varied menu.

The project's name is particularly appropriate. It is about linking buildings but also linking people: church members and local residents, community groups and visitors, faith and everyday life.

A Service of Dedication held on 22nd August was attended by both the President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Mark Slaney and the Vice-President, Caroline Stead.

Although Ashbourne is not part of our Circuit it is not so far away and I have always been met with a warm welcome from somebody every time I have visited the Link Centre and the Cornerstone Café.

Ipstones Services for October all at 10.30am

October 4th: Mrs Beryl Stew

October 11th: Rev Julie Hassall

October 18th: Miss Jo Powell

October 25th: Local Arrangement

Coffee, Toast and Chat 10am until 12 noon

October 13th:

October 27th:

Roger Cutts

St. Bartholomew's Butterton News



St. Bartholomew's Church, Butterton

The last few weeks haven't presented any problems and things are running smoothly with everyone pulling together.

Debra Tickell took EW on Sunday 13th September and even the neighbours chickens came into church to take part in the service!! Sunday 20th was HC with Arthur Hack at 11am.

Warm Welcome will have had three sessions in September. At the last session on Tuesday 15th, we held the Lottery Ball Draw. First Prize of £40- Clare and Nick Kendall, Second Prize of £20- Lily Hudson and Third Prize of £10- Gillian Newall. The next Draw is Tuesday 13th October.

Our next event is **Harvest**. The Harvest Festival service is at 3pm on Sunday 11th October. We would welcome gifts of produce in Church on Saturday 10th between 11am and 1pm.

This is followed by the ever popular **Pie and Pea Supper** on Monday 12th October. Tickets are £10 each, £5 for children. For your ticket price you will get a plate of pie and peas (vegetarian option available), a dessert and as much tea and coffee as you like. Please bring your own drinks.

Following the Supper, Les will take to the microphone, and we will be entertained by his auctioneering skills. All proceeds of course to St

Bartholomew's. Tickets available from Maggie, Rachel and Barbara.

Butterton Village Hall

The bad news first. We have a leaking flat roof between the fire exit in the main hall and the History Centre. It became apparent at the Wakes that the roof was leaking. We need to apply for funding for repairs asap.

By the time this has gone to press we will have had our **Bingo** session on Friday 25th September.

Hilary Bassett will be holding her annual **Macmillan Coffee morning** on Friday 2nd October at the village hall from 11am until 2pm. Everyone is welcome to help raise money for this very important cause. Donations of cakes and raffle prizes would be welcomed.

Manifold CAN are holding an exhibition of photographs at the hall on Saturday 3rd October, 2pm – 5pm.

On Saturday 24th October there is an **Artisan's Fair** at the village hall from 12.30pm until 4.30pm. Lots of stalls. Contact Lisa Gale for more details although as I type, I understand stalls are at a premium.

Butterton Parish Council

The next meeting is Tuesday 20th October. 7pm at the village hall.

We are still hoping for applications for the vacancy on the Parish Council. Contact Maggie, the Clerk, for more details.

Good news in that the wall at the Ford has finally been rebuilt following a lorry trying to squeeze its way unsuccessfully through the Brook.

Funding has been applied for and granted for two upcoming projects. The Doubly Thankful flags and wrought iron poppies on Church Corner (project headed up by Jacqui Salt) and re-staining and repairs to street furniture (noticeboards, bollards and benches).

St. Luke's Onecote News



Let my mouth be filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day, Psalm 71:8

As I write these notes the sun is still shining but thankfully not as hot as we had it earlier in the year. The nights are now well and truly drawing in, reminding us that it is the beginning of another Autumn.

Happy Occasion

We in our family last weekend, that is September 19th had the happiest of occasions as our Debra was licensed by the Bishop of Lichfield, as a Lay Reader.

The pride we all felt was terrific. I myself had all kinds of thoughts going on in my head. I'm sure you all know what I mean, thinking of those of our family who were not with us. A very emotional time for everyone.

A small group came with us to the Cathedral to support Debra. Here I must mention Debra's Sponsor, our dear Rev. Jane. She travelled down to join us. Thanks go to everyone who went and supported Debra.

We all enjoyed a buffet at home afterwards. Debra has already started taking some church services, why not join us and see how she's getting on.

On September 26th, we had a wedding at St Lukes and the day after, September 27th, was our Harvest Festival. We had a Holy Communion service at 7.30pm led by Rev Arthur Hack.

Our pie supper was on September 28th beginning at 7pm, with the auction afterwards. As usual someone from Graham Watkins was with us.

Fabric fund

If you haven't already, please get in touch with me on 01538 304334 regarding the Fabric Fund 100 Club subscription.

Best wishes Jean

ONECOTE VILLAGE HALL
GROCERY & CASH BINGO
Tuesday 6th October
Quality groceries and over £120 cash
Doors open 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30pm.
10 games of bingo plus 2 flyers
each playing for lines, corners or 5 numbers followed by full house on every game.
Free refreshments at the interval.
LUCKY 7 ALSO **LUCKY 7** game to win a **Morrisons/sainsburys** shopping voucher. This has accumulated funds and will be around **£60.**
ALL WELCOME

Warslow and Elkstones News

St. Lawrence Warslow News



CHURCH TEAM

Deputy Church Wardens:

Judy Prince and Myrtle Alcock

Treasurer: Emma Gould

The months ahead

We are now in vacancy

If you have any needs such as a Baptism, a Marriage or a Funeral Service or any other ministrations your first port of call is either Judy Prince 07768340253 or Emma Gould on 07989 294809.

We are looking forward to our Harvest Service, which will be 11th October 2026 at 11am. The Service will be led by Roger Cutts whose services we always enjoy, along with his lovely guitar accompaniment.

We have decided not to do the traditional auction, instead we ask that people bring an item of fresh fruit, vegetables or flowers along or just dry goods. The dry goods will be shared with the local Foodbank.

We will be doing a Harvest Quiz on 10th October at 6.30pm in church, with food. Tickets are available from Judy and Emma – booking preferred for catering purposes. We look forward to a fun night!

We are sorry to hear that Rosie Phillips has not been well – we wish her a speedy recovery.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Debra Tickell from Onecote on her recent Licensing as a Reader – we look forward to welcoming her back to take services in the future.

Congratulations, also to our friend, Sharon Ford, from Longnor who has been accepted for Ordination Training – well done and good luck with your studies!

Gardener Wanted Warslow

A gardener is wanted to help care for the gardens of a large country house in Warslow.

The role would be one day a week from October to March, increasing to two days a week during the spring and summer.

We are looking for someone who enjoys gardening and takes pride in their work. Good rates of pay and a friendly, pleasant working environment are offered.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested, please get in touch with James on

07786 630656.



St. John's Church, Elkstones



**Sunday 18th October,
Holy Communion at 3pm.**

**Cleaning and Flowers for October –
Katy Parkinson.**

David Swindells

On Saturday 19th September, the church was filled to capacity for the funeral of David Swindells. David was born and brought up in Elkstones at Breech Farm, attending Elkstones School and Warslow Secondary School.

His life was spent in farm-related work, first of all with Burgess's agricultural firm in Leek until it closed, and then helping out with milking and other farm work in the area until his retirement in Leek.

David was a well-known and well-liked figure about the area, and it seemed fitting that his funeral took place over St. John's Church Harvest Festival weekend, as David had fulfilled the role of Auctioneer at the church's Fruit Sale for over 40 years, a job which he loved doing. He was 71 years old. R.I.P David.

More drivers caught breaking speed limit through village

MORE data has been received which highlights speeding vehicles along Froghall Road in Ipstones.

It comes after Ipstones speed watch group, which is run in conjunction with the police, have completed more speed checks in the area.

One session showed during a one-hour morning check between 7.50am and 8.50am, 314 vehicles travelled through Froghall Road.

During this time more than 50 vehicles were recorded as travelling at speeds above the 30mph. Some vehicle speeds were recorded up to 63mph.

Next a follow up late afternoon check was concluded, which took place between 4pm and 6pm. Data showed that 535 cars travelled through Froghall Road during this time with several breaking the speed limit.

Thirty-three drivers were caught travelling well above the limit.

Clothes sale to be held in Ipstones

A pre-loved clothes sale is to take place in Ipstones. The event will be held at Ipstones Memorial Hall on Saturday, October 10th between 10am and 12 noon.

More than 20 stalls are expected to be in attendance at the event with clothes from major High Street chains, including Next, M&S, Zara, M&CO and Halara plus many more.

A changing area will be available.
Cash is preferred but traders may accept Bacs.

A third check has taken place between 7am and 9am where more than 300 vehicles passing through the village with several checked at speeds way above the 30mph limit.

Now another early morning session, held between 6.30am and 8.30am, showed 278 vehicles travelled along the road with 34 drivers breaking the speed limit. The fastest was checked at 49mph.

The data was given to Ipstones Parish Council at their recent meeting. Councillors are now working with the highways authority to look at ways to address the problem.

More volunteers are required to join the volunteer speed watch team and would be most welcome.

Please contact the clerk of the council for further details on 07973 522861 or email clerk@ipstonesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ippy **20+ STALLS**

PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SALE

WHY PAY FULL PRICE WHEN YOU CAN SNAP UP SOME PRE-LOVED BARGAINS?

SATURDAY 10TH OF OCTOBER

10 TILL NOON

IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL, ST10 2LD

CHANGING AREAS AVAILABLE

CASH PREFERRED BUT TRADERS MAY ACCEPT BACS.

CLOTHES FROM ZARA M&S NEXT M&CO HALARA AND MANY OTHER HIGH STREET BRANDS!

GREAT CLOTHES. GREAT PRICES. SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!

Cathedral Travels - Roger Cutts

Roger Cutts on his pilgrimage to visit all 42 cathedrals in England

Roger continues his travels

Following on from my visits to Hereford and Leicester, the next cathedrals I visited were our local cathedrals of Lichfield and Derby. Dora did not accompany me on these occasions, though we would find plenty of further opportunities to take short breaks in cathedral cities together.



Lichfield Cathedral – 16 August 2025

I travelled by car to Lichfield Cathedral—my local cathedral, which I have become quite familiar with over many years. The view of the three spires is quite prominent as you approach the city, even from several miles away. Known as “the Ladies of the Vale,” they give Lichfield a unique and graceful skyline.

I always like to do something when I visit a cathedral: maybe attend a service, see something of historical interest, and at least take advantage of whatever

refreshments may be offered in the refectory (the original monastic term for a dining hall).

During this visit I was able to take part in a lunchtime service of Holy Communion. It was led by a retired—and clearly rather elderly—priest, which lent the service a gentle, unhurried quality. I enjoyed the simplicity of the service and was reminded that the cathedral is a place of worship, not just a historic building.

Lichfield Cathedral is rich in detail. The west front, with its many statues, is striking; while inside there is a sense of light and space that contrasts with the more intricate exterior. The stained glass, with its vivid medieval colours, is a particular highlight, as is the sense of continuity in the choral tradition.

The cathedral also hosts concerts, exhibitions, and events throughout the year. When I visited, the Fenland Black Oak Project was on display—an interesting and thought-provoking installation using ancient, preserved oak, linking natural history, craftsmanship, and spirituality. The Black Oak project is touring various cathedrals around the country and is currently installed in Blackburn Cathedral until May 2027.

It centres on a 5,000-year-old, fossilised Fenland Black Oak tree, from which a large section was carefully dried and crafted into a 13-metre-long table. It is a most impressive sight.

Derby Cathedral – 20 August 2025

My next visit took me to Derby Cathedral. This time I travelled by bus from Ashbourne, a straightforward journey through the Derbyshire countryside, arriving conveniently close—just a short walk from the bus stop of about a hundred yards to the cathedral itself.

Some of our cathedrals are traditional and ancient; others are more recent and arose from significant increases in population as the result of events or eras such as the Industrial Revolution and times of rapid population growth.

Derby Cathedral is one of the more recent ones. Originally a parish church, it became a cathedral when the Diocese of Derby was created in 1927.

Cathedral Travels - Roger Cutts



Rather than building something entirely new, the existing church of All Saints was elevated to cathedral status.

Its tower rises prominently above the city and gives the building a strong architectural presence and is also the nesting place of a pair of Peregrine Falcons. The falcons have become a famous sight in Derby and have given their name to the Derbyshire County Cricket T20 side.

Inside the cathedral, one of the most notable historical connections is with Bess of Hardwick, one of the most formidable figures of the Elizabethan age. Her memorial provides a link to the Tudor period and to the wider story of Derbyshire's history.

During my visit, the cathedral had a large LEGO display on show. At the heart of the display was a realistic model of Derby Cathedral and the surrounding city centre, crafted entirely from LEGO bricks and containing at least 50,000 pieces.

We were also to come across LEGO displays in other English cathedrals, which we will cover in future instalments of this series.

From Lichfield's familiar spires to Derby's more understated but constant presence, these visits continue to reveal the variety among England's cathedrals—each with its own story, its own role, and its own way of connecting past and present.

Pictured are Lichfield's Three Spires and the interior of Derby Cathedral

Village green space area set to be transferred

TALKS are taking place over the transfer of land into the ownership of Ipstones Parish Council.

In 2023 after months of negotiations the parish council took on a 15-year lease from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for the land, which runs from Froghall Road to Mayfair Avenue in Ipstones.

Now further negotiations are taking place for the land to be permanently owned by the parish council before the proposed Local Government Reorganisation comes into place in 2028.

This involves Staffordshire Moorlands District Council being dissolved and forming one large council with Stoke on Trent and Newcastle Borough Council.

However, the government has just announced that the plans to merge the councils has been put on pause with a review taking place.

District councillor and chairman of the parish council, Linda Malyon said: "The land will be



transferred as soon as the questions asked by the district council are responded to, it has taken many, many, months to reach this conclusion. It is very important that the parish council have this land in their ownership."

Local Interest

Successful Wakes Day held at Butterson

THE village of Butterson held its annual Wakes Day during the Bank Holiday weekend.



From the time the marquee was erected it was all systems go.

Maggie Risby said: *"Electricity cables set up, build a bar and barbeque, erect gazebos, dress tables and set out chairs, fence off restricted areas, put the skip and rubbish bins in place and so it goes on."*

"Everyone was eagerly watching the weather, and we were making contingency plans as best we could if the rain came. The Bouncy Castle man did cancel."

"However, setting up on Sunday morning was in sunshine and somehow, we escaped the predicted weather during the afternoon. By the time the rain arrived, we had delivered a well and truly enjoyable Wakes Day."

"Attendance was slightly down from last year but everyone who did attend spent well."

The day began with the Church service at 1pm. Sadly last year's Wakes Queen had no one to hand over her crown to this year as the committee were unable to find someone to take on the role.

Warslow Silver Band played in church and after the service they led the congregation to the village hall playing field. The band continued to play for most of the afternoon, with visitors able to sit and watch them.

Maggie said: *"Thank you to last year's Queen Lily Chadwick who raised more than £1,000 to be split*

between a Cancer charity and the village hall play area."

"Meanwhile, the bar in the marquee was kept busy as was the barbeque and cafe."

Other attractions included skittles, a coconut shy, the Crazy Card game, Jellycats raffle, Shell game, tombola, tractor rides, children's games and some indoor stalls.



This year saw the return of an old Wakes favourite, knocking a nail in a tree stump which proved very competitive with queues of people wanting to have a go.

Maggie added: *"Thanks must go to Kim and Darren Kirby who master minded the whole event. Also, thanks to the Wakes committee members."*

"Special thanks to those who volunteered to help in so many ways this year, helping erect gazebos, putting up signs and not forgetting our cake bakers. Without our volunteers we couldn't offer such a variety of attractions."

The proceeds of the day are to be split between the church and the village hall with a donation to the Mountain Rescue team.

The Wakes celebrations go back many years and have changed over time. The Ancient Order of Foresters used to parade with their banner and a Wakes dinner used to be served in the Black Lion. There were also floats and fancy dress.

Maggie said: *"St Bartholomew's Feast Day is 24th August, so the Wakes is always held at the weekend nearest this date. Many people hold many happy memories of past Wakes Days. We move with the times but hopefully will enjoy Wakes Day for years to come."*

Local Interest



Sue Webber (centre) of the Beatrice charity, celebrating the award together with Judy Scott-Moncrieff and Michelle Cohen from We Love the Moorlands

Does your group need some funding – We Love the Moorlands is here to help!

A LOCAL group is calling on local charities and community groups to apply for a much needed grant.

We Love the Moorlands is a local fund that works with small charities and community groups all over the Moorlands region.

Part of the Community Foundation for Staffordshire, they are dedicated to helping good causes specifically in the Moorlands area.

The group are a panel of local volunteers who help to deliver grant awards in the Moorlands.

Over the course of the year, We Love the Moorlands has awarded around £25,000 to numerous groups, each grant can be up to £1000 – if you need some extra help they want to hear from you.

Some examples of recent groups We Love the Moorlands have helped include The Beatrice

narrowboat that runs canal boat trips for children with special needs and @21 The Young People's Place, a drop-in centre that supports teenagers in the centre of Leek.

More than 5,000 individuals have benefited from the group's grants

throughout the last year alone.

Sue Webber, trustee of the Beatrice charity said: "This award from We Love the Moorlands is absolutely fantastic because it will enable us to train four new skippers, so that we can offer many more trips to children with special needs and other groups – this grant will make so much difference."

If you would like more information, then please drop an email to the address below and the group will provide you with an application form and guidance on how to apply.

So, if you are involved in a community project or organisation that could benefit from some extra funding support, please contact welovethemoorlands@staffordshire.foundation

Sue's recovery continues

In September 2025 Sue Gould was involved in a serious accident on the family farm and was airlifted to hospital.

Sue is well-known in Ipstones for her work on the family farm and also in the village Post Office.

After suffering serious injuries Sue's determination has seen her make big progress and has involved a sponsored walk.

Here she tells us in her own words the road to recovery, with ongoing rehabilitation and not knowing if she would ever walk again.

"Sue's Thankful Walk To Recovery"

Back in December, I popped a short piece in this magazine, updating everyone on how I was doing after my accident, and to thank everyone for their amazing care, support and encouragement.

So much has happened and changed since then ... it's certainly been a rollercoaster journey in many ways!

With help from amazing physios, and sheer determination on my part, I gradually started walking further, began driving again and managing to do more around the house. It wasn't easy, lots of setbacks, pain and ongoing healing.

At the beginning of April, I attended Vicar Jane's leaving service and "do" in the hall. It was my first proper outing since the accident and was very overwhelming seeing so many people for the first time in months.

My good friend Denise Rowe came over to chat, and mentioned a charity fundraising walk that was



planned for mid-July, raising vital funds for the HELP appeal, for County Air Ambulance Trust and wanted to know if it was ok to name the walk, "Sue's Thankful Walk To Recovery "

Obviously, I didn't hesitate to agree. I'll be forever grateful that I was taken care of and taken to hospital so quickly back in September 2025.

What Denise wasn't expecting, (and even I was shocked, when the words left my mouth!), was me saying that I'd attempt to take part in the walk myself! Bearing in mind, I couldn't even walk half a mile at this point!

Some folk thought I was insane! Some were supportive. But the opinion that mattered to me was my physios. When I asked him if it was "doable" he raised his eyebrows at me! There were options of walking five, 10 or 13 miles. When I asked if he thought "only walking five miles" would be a good goal, well the look on his face said it all.

Sue's recovery continues

Turns out five miles is quite a long walk, when you're starting from zero! So, he began giving me targets to aim for each week, gradually building up distance, fitness and stamina.

Training walks included Tissington, Oakamoor, Tissington Trail (to see what the gradient and terrain were like), the hot temperatures made it more difficult, but it was enjoyable, and my confidence was building.

When Saturday 18th July arrived, I don't know if I was more nervous or excited.

It was certainly a very emotional time for me, especially as Steve Judge was joining the five-mile group, (world champion paratriathlete)

As I set off that sunny afternoon, with my sister and nephew by my side, there was great team spirit, lots of support.

So many of the other walkers gave me encouragement to keep going - one lovely lady commented on my "good form", to which I replied, I'm not a racehorse! Another kind lady gave me her walking poles to use.

Lots of chatter, super views and surprisingly, it seemed to be over so quickly! I think I was just in the zone, wanting to get the job done, and earn all of my sponsor money. There was no way I wasn't going to complete the walk!



The last half mile was torture, but when I crossed that finish line, I knew the pain was worth it all.

When you've been in the position of not knowing if you'll ever be able to walk again, when you've gone through months of hell, when you've learned to walk again, then have been given the chance to walk, raising money to help other unfortunate injured people, it's an absolute privilege to be a part of it all.

Thanks to so many amazingly generous people, family, friends, customers and colleagues at Ipstones Village Shop, for sponsoring me.

I truly am grateful for all of the support and encouragement you gave to me.

Altogether, (including my sponsor money) the walk raised over £6800, which is incredible.

I'll certainly be doing more fundraising in the future, for such a fantastic charity. I just don't know what yet I still think a sponsored silence is a step too far though!

Lots of love and thanks, for everyone's continued support and kindness.

Sue Gould

Pictures show Sue on her way and on the sponsored walk

Leek Foodbank

Foodbank continues to help people in need

MORE than 160 people required help from Leek Foodbank in August.

This included 103 adults and 60 children.

Project manager, Lindsey Stockton, said: "We are still seeing a steady decrease in numbers, but it will be very interesting to see how things develop as the weather gets colder and people need to put their heating on.

"I fear that we may have been lulled into a false sense of security by the prolonged spell of good weather.

"We have now completed our six weeks of takeaway meals from Trinity Church, over which time we have provided 300 highly nutritious and absolutely delicious meals to those most in need.

"This year, for the second year in a row, we have seen a deficit in our finances. Next year we face a very large deficit, as we have committed to fund 50 per cent of the cost of our in-house Citizens Advice service, to the tune of £22,500.

"In our budgetary discussions, the question arises, what is the core work of the Foodbank? We, along with foodbanks right across the country, firmly believe that we should not only be issuing food to those in need, but also taking steps to improve the situation for these people so that they don't need to turn to us in the future, hence our commitment to our financial inclusion service.

"Since the beginning of April, we have had to buy 22 per cent of our incoming stock to ensure that we have enough to cope with the demand. In addition, we

purchase supermarket vouchers and vouchers for a local butcher to be able to offer our clients the chance to have fresh food, rather than just the tins and packets which make up our standard food parcels.

"All of this adds up, but it is what we feel we need to do, and we want to try to ensure that we have the necessary funds to continue to do it for as long as we are needed."

The foodbank current needs are:-

Fruit squash; Tinned fruit; Pasta sauce; Longlife sponge puddings; Tinned rice pudding; Coffee-100/200gm; Tinned soup; Tinned vegetables; Instant mash(single/family); Noodle snacks; Tinned custard; Tinned meat; Rice – 500gm bags; Instant noodles; Tomato ketchup; Chocolate – single bars and multipacks; Tinned tomatoes; Tinned potatoes; Dog and cat food – dry and wet.

Household cleaning products:-; Multi surface cleaner (no bleach); Cleaning cloths/sponges; Laundry liquid/capsules.

Toiletries:- Shampoo and conditioner; Soap and shower gel; Toothpaste and toothbrushes; Deodorant (male/female); Razors and shaving foam; and Toilet rolls

We are happy to receive donations of fresh fruit and vegetables and eggs.

And if you have any good quality carrier bags we would very much like these please – we are absolutely desperate!!

If any of you would like to discuss anything relating to the Foodbank, please contact me at projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk or on 07916 005064.

Folk News

In September we held a sing-around and about a dozen of us enjoyed an evening full of entertainment with many songs taking on an Autumnal theme.

Our next sing-around will be on Wednesday 21st October at Ipstones Methodist Church doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Please come along and bring a song or just come and listen if you like.

Entrance is free but we invite a contribution towards refreshments.

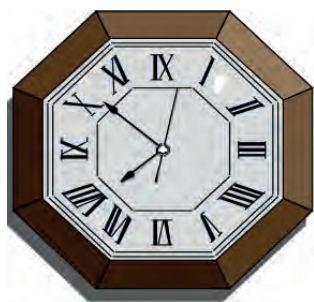
See separate poster of our next major event in November.

Roger Cutts

Ipstones Historical Soceity



The Ipstones Historical Society met on August 27th, for a rearranged talk on the Piltdown Man.



The original speaker Mr Durose unfortunately was unable to attend so the society was very grateful that Jenny Lingham stepped in at the last minute to give a fascinating insight into archaeology.

Piltdown Man was a famous archaeological find in Britain in 1912. It was discovered by Charles Dawson a country solicitor and gentleman archaeologist. A number of the establishment were amateur archaeologists, and Dawson was famed for discovering many historical artefacts.

This time he claimed to have found evidence for the missing link! The items included fragments of human skull and an ape like jawbone with what appeared to be human teeth. The artefacts were all stained a red/brown colour and looked prehistoric. The British experts were in raptures and accepted the finds as legitimate, whereas in fact they were fake.

This and a further find misdirected the study of anthropology for decades and it took 40 years to disprove it. Dawson became known as the wizard of Sussex for his knack of finding fossils. He was awarded the honour of becoming a 'Fellow of the Geological Society' and he died in 1916 without his find being disproved. Strangely after his death no more finds were made.

In later years with the advancement of technology Piltdown man was re examined and the hoax was proved. The skull was only 50,000 years old (not 500,000 years) and the jawbone was only decades old. The red colour was a stain of iron and chromium, and the bones were filled with grit and sealed with putty. In 2016 researchers discovered that the jawbone and teeth came from an orang-utan. Dawson was responsible for 35 forgeries.

So why did he do it? He wanted to be famous was the answer. Many people suspected that Dawson's friendship with the author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle may have been linked as Doyle wanted to make the established experts look foolish. He had a grudge with science disbelieving his spiritualist values and he also had many friends who had access to bones and teeth from abroad found on their expeditions.

Our October meeting will be on the subject of the Leek Polish connection. All are welcome, members £1 and non-members £4 on the door.

Ipstones Memorial Hall & Grounds

What's On: Regular activities to join

	ACTIVITY	FOR MORE INFO:
MONDAY	Computer Classes	Sally Wilson 07768 173850
TUESDAY	Seated Pilates - 11am (weekly) Ipstones Writers - 1.45pm (<i>last Tuesday of month</i>) Yoga- 5.45pm (weekly) Ipstones Youth Club	Louise 07956 675683 or Louise@podiumpilates.com Geraldine 01538 266633 Natalie 07970 940718 Heather 07432 873605 and Nikki 07734 421972
WEDNESDAY	Dolly Birds Café - 9am - 2pm (weekly) Ipstones W.I. - 7pm (<i>2nd Wednesday of the month</i>) Rainbows - 5pm Brownies - 6pm Guides - 6.30pm } <i>(weekly-term-time only)</i>	Ann Mace 07518 472770 Jane Fleet 01538 260074 Call 0800 169 5901
THURSDAY	Yoga- 9.30m (weekly) Well Street Medical Practice Clinic - 10m (weekly) Indoor Bowls - 7pm (weekly) Ipstones Historical Society- 7.30pm (<i>last Thursday of every month</i>)	Louise 07736 351257 Well Street Practice Reception 01538 753114 George Ratcliffe 07837 451829 Alison Cartledge 01538 266048
FRIDAY	Seated Pilates- 12noon	Louise 07956 675683 Louise@podiumpilates.com
SATURDAY	Dolly Birds Café - 9am - 1pm (weekly) Little Kickers Football - 9.30am (weekly)	Ann Mace 07518 472770 Steve North
SUNDAY	Dolly Birds Café - 9am - 1pm (weekly)	Ann Mace 07518 472770

Additional Groups	Ipstones & Foxt Senior Citizens several times a year Ipstones British Legion several times a year	Jean Goodwin 01538 266831 Margaret Burnett 07973 480184
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Ipstones Memorial Hall & Grounds

What’s On: Special Events Open To All

Anyone is welcome to join these events. We’ll be adding community events throughout the year, so check back each month to see the list grow.

	ACTIVITY	FOR MORE INFO:
Mon. 5th Oct. 7pm	Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce	Julie at the shop, church members and the Warm Welcome Team.
Sat. 10th Oct. 10am – 12 noon	Ippy Pre-loved Clothes Sale	Liz Hardy
Sun. 1st Nov. 2pm – 4pm	St Leonard’s First School PFA Children’s Halloween Party	Grace Eastwood 07970 053312
Fri. 27th Nov. 3pm – 8pm	Ipstones Christmas Market	Linda Malyon 07464 244468
Sat. 12th Dec. 2pm – 4pm	Ipstones Memorial Hall Village Cuppa and a Chat	Geraldine Shuttleworth 01538 266633

To book the hall for a regular or one-off event, please contact
Jane Fleet on 01538 260074

300 CLUB

IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

300 CLUB MONTHLY DRAW

September 2026 draw

£20	No.35	Graham Bentley
£15	No.204	Angela Buckley
£10	No.252	Mark Boyden

300 CLUB

Eat Out Locally

We regularly have lunch at The Reform Inn in Thorncliffe. It is an old Inn serving delicious food both at lunch time and evenings. The menu is interesting and always good.

The staff are friendly and helpful and the food portions generous. Their chips are second to none! The rooms are split up into small cosy areas, and they have a large outdoor area much of which is under cover and furnished with generous cushions.

However, we don't understand the name Reform, and it does sound political! We remember going in the 80's when it was called The Red Lion. It changed hands in 2018, given a makeover and updated including changing the name to Reform.

We recently asked a helpful member of staff if she knew why it was changed and she told us the Inn was built in 1852 and called The New Reform Inn.

This set us trying to find out more. Now for the history lesson; prior to 1831, to put it mildly, Britain's Electoral System was corrupt. Members could buy their seat in Parliament; some wealthy landowners could send their nominees to Westminster as MP's.

We have all heard of Rotten Boroughs such as Old

Sarum, where few voters sent members to Parliament while cities such as Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds had no representation at all. The system needed reforming. Talks began in 1831, leading to the Reform Acts of 1831 and 1832.



Riots followed when the Tories voted against the second Reform Act, which led eventually to the passage of The Great Reform Act of 1832. The Prime Minister at the time was Earl Grey. Further Acts followed in 1867 and 1885, but basically the pub got its name from this little time in history.

It is not known when the Inn became the Red Lion. Perhaps somebody will know who lives locally.

So do try The Reform Inn, it is closed on Mondays and if going for lunch on a Friday it is advisable to book.

David and Hilary Jack.



AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, BUTTERTON



EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 10.30 – 12.30

UPCOMING DATES IN 2026

13th October, 27th October, 10th November, 24th November,
8th December, 22nd December

POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A COFFEE / TEA



NO CHARGE, BUT DONATIONS TO CHURCH FUNDS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED,
THANK YOU



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

family
**warm
welcome**
a warm space for all

2pm–5pm every Friday

drop in for:

- Food & Drinks
- Jigsaws, Games
- Company and Conversation

At The Methodist School Room,
Brookfields Road, Ipstones

For more information about 'Warm Welcome' please contact:
Rev'd Julie Hassall on **01538 751907**

Ipstonesonline
The community Facebook page for Ipstones and the surrounding area

Organising an event?

Advertise it **FREE** on the Ipstonesonline Facebook page
Visit Facebook and search for **Ipstonesonline**

Or write the details down and post to: 26 Froghall Road, Ipstones. ST10 2NA

Gardening

Gardening jobs for October

It's the best time of year for planting trees, roses, hedges, shrubs and most fruit. The plants will settle in over winter and get off to a great start next year.

Protect hardy fuchsias, penstemons and other slightly tender plants by covering the soil around them with a 10-12.5cm thick mulch. Don't cut down the old stems until spring.

Prepare for cold weather. Insulate the greenhouse with bubble wrap. Turn off outdoor taps at the stopcock or protect with lagging. Drain hosepipes and put them in the shed.

Overwinter young rooted geranium cuttings in a light, cool but frost-free spot. Keep them fairly dry, as they'll rot if they are over watered. Take off any leaves that turn yellow.

Pick any remaining apples and pears before the weather turns. Eat any windfalls or damaged fruit, as they'll just rot in store. Remove and destroy any mummified fruit affected by brown rot disease.

The grass is still growing and will need a trim from time to time. Raise the cutting height to 4-5 cms, so you don't cut off too much. Brush away worm casts before mowing.

Check the stakes and ties on young trees and make sure they are secure. Climbing plants may need tying in to supports to prevent them from getting damaged in winter gales.

Cut back rose bushes by up to half to prevent wind rock, which can damage the roots. Some shrubs usually pruned hard in the spring – such as buddleia and lavatera – can also be cut back.

Don't throw away any growing bags once the crops have finished. Whip out the old plants, sprinkle in some Growmore fertiliser and re-plant them with pansies for a splash of colour next spring.

Sort out dips and hollows in the lawn. Sprinkle over 13mm of compost and let the grass grow through. Add more compost at regular intervals through autumn and winter until the lawn is level.

PLACES TO VISIT

Planters Bretby

Bretby Lane, Bretby, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, DE15 0QS.

Find us just off the A511 outside Burton on Trent.

Contact Bretby

Call
01283 703355

Email
info@plantersbretby.com



Ipstones Writer's Group

It was a very good turnout for a holiday season, as we 'scribblers' gathered in the upstairs room at the Memorial Hall at the end of August.

Everyone agreed with laughter that "Awkward" had been a challenging prompt for us to tackle – quite awkward in fact! It's a word which we discovered can have several meanings.

Some shared personal experiences of times they had felt embarrassed, like breezing out of your house singing a silly song just as a church procession was passing by, or one of our number admitting to being "uncouth and inept" as a kid. One painted a picture of someone they knew, a young person, dealing with 'awkward facts' versus what is on the internet.

Misheard remarks or 'foot in mouth' moments were also a source of awkwardness which obviously continue to haunt some of us.

More seriously, conditions such as Autism and ADHD can result in people saying things which are too direct, or failing to understand irony, which can cause awkwardness if people don't understand.

Also, having to take on a difficult long car journey by yourself can be quite a challenge, if it's something you haven't had to do for a long time, and managing it despite feeling awkward is quite an achievement.

After restoring ourselves with an excellent date and walnut cake and coffee, we turned our attention to the five-minute prompt "A memorable dinner". For some it was memorable because of meeting friends or having very good – or very bad - food! A couple of us had witnessed restaurant owners 'having a meltdown' in the background.

The prompt for the next meeting, our usual slot of last Tuesday of the month, was "It happened one morning". We'll see what everyone makes of that. DC

Awkward

Alice remembered the time, a few years ago when she had had an unexpected phone call.

"I'm coming over for a conference in July. Are you around? It would be lovely to meet up again!"

Alice had said, yes of course, and why not stay at her house for a few days afterwards, so they could catch up. They didn't get to see each other very often, especially now that Kim had moved out to Australia to work there

and met and married one of the locals.

The two of them had worked together at Leavis Logistics, twenty years ago, when they were young and ambitious. Kim had been the one who had moved up the ladder and cleverly side-stepped any of the boring stuff. Eventually she got another job which took her all over the world. Alice was still there. I mean it was a steady job in uncertain times, she reasoned.

No sooner had Alice met her off the London train, and put her bags in the car, than they were deep in conversation. The years fell away. They spent the whole evening in Alice's little flat, laughing and reminiscing about people they had worked with, reaching for another bottle of wine, and maybe another after that - she couldn't really remember.

The next morning Alice woke up with vague memories of an alcohol-fuelled late-night session on the internet. "Let me return the favour," Kim had insisted. "Come out for Christmas! You can stay with us for as long as you want."

Her doubts about the cost of flying out at the most expensive time of year, were soon quashed. "Not if you book early enough, and anyway, I've got all these air miles from my business trips." And Kim had commandeered the keyboard, navigating various travel sites with practised ease. With an hour it was all arranged.

That morning, as she bit blearily into her toast at the breakfast table, Alice reflected that she had said she wished she could travel more. And well it would have been awkward to say no to her friend's generous offer. Alice didn't like to be awkward, and it had become a habit to agree to things people wanted her to do.

That was something that had exasperated her friend in the days they had worked together. Kim was always lending Alice lots of books about feminism and Assertiveness Training. Alice still had them on a bookshelf somewhere. Maybe now would be the time to read them. There were going to be some awkward conversations in the next few months.

"It's very awkward!" boomed Mrs Smythe-Gore of the Christmas pantomime committee. "Who will do the prompting? And help backstage?" Alice had been a member of the local amateur dramatic group for many years, though in all that time she had never been considered worthy of an important part. Mrs S-G usually took them, although people were starting to whisper that she was getting on a bit to be a convincing Snow White, or Cinderella.

Ipstones Writer's Group

"It's very awkward" her brother complained down the phone. You usually have Mother for Christmas lunch. She always prefers to come to you!" But it was to no avail. The flights were booked. He would have to drive the old lady there and back ("I can never sleep properly in a strange bed," she would complain). That meant he would have to go easy on the port and brandy after lunch. His wife would not be pleased either, to have his mother peering suspiciously at the food, "Are you sure there isn't garlic in this?" and so on.

"It's dead awkward" said her colleague when he saw her name on the holiday rota for the period between Christmas and New Year. "You know me an' the lads from the rugby club go away then."

"Its very awkward" moaned Doreen at the Christmas Fayre planning meeting. "I'll have to get someone else to man the knitted goods stall." She remembered that the year Alice had been ill had seen a distinct drop in sales.

"That's very awkward", said her sister. "What about our shopping trips, you're so good at coming up with ideas for presents for Robert and the boys. I can never think of anything. And I do enjoy our day in town".

"It's very awkward", grumbled Rev Bentley to the Rural Dean. "I'll have to find an organist for the Carol Service, Midnight Mass, and Christmas Day. Young Wayne has offered to play his guitar at the crib service I suppose", he added, wincing slightly at the thought.

"It is rather awkward", sighed her boss. "I suppose you can arrange the staff party in advance, but what about the cards and gifts to clients?" He didn't know them all as well as Alice did, who seemed familiar with their interests, the names of their spouses and children, and what little luxuries they would like.

None of them could understand why Alice would suddenly want to take off to the other side of the world for most of December.

But at the very same time that the Rev Bentley was sitting through old Mr Porrit's slow and wheezy rendition of 'Hark the Herald Angels' at midnight mass in the icy chancel of St Botolph's, Alice was happily accepting a glass of Coppermine Road Cabernet Sauvignon at the beachside barbecue, and not really thinking of anyone else.

For once.

DC

Thought For The Month

To read that millions are spent each year on face creams and make up is staggering. Maybe we are all a bit vain about our appearance and want to improve where we can!

Long ago when portraits were painted, it was quite common for artists to avoid depicting less than attractive facial features so that portraits were flattering.

However, Oliver Cromwell wished to be painted as he was, "warts and all".

The finished portrait did indeed depict him with warts, and so the expression "warts and all" has come to mean that people should be acceptable just as they are!

God sees us as we are, from the inside.

When we take a hard look at our inward selves we might find some not very attractive aspects to our own character.

The apostle Paul encourages us to be more patient, kind and compassionate, even to those not easy to love.

He wants us to have a forgiving spirit, because God forgives us.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians chapter 3, verses 12&13

By this example we are taught to love others the way God loves us "warts and all"

Heavenly Father,
Guide me to being more patient with those I meet,
and love and forgive as you do.
AMEN

The Armchair Travellers

Coach travel with a difference

A 5,000-mile adventure by luxury coach.

For those not keen on air travel, coach travel is the alternative, but there are coaches and coaches, and we have experienced some uncomfortable and basic buses over the years.

On several trips we have travelled Leger Silver Service, a full-size coach with only 40 passengers, giving extra leg room, comfortable seats, and if you want to stretch your legs and have a catch up with fellow passengers, there is a comfortable lounge area at the rear of the coach.

On a 5,000-mile adventure to Corsica and Sardinia, we were fortunate that just 34 passengers were on board, a real mixed bag of travellers, which made for an interesting two plus



week trip.

Travelling through France during free time in Avignon, we met up with friends who live in the area, for a delicious lunch down a little back street restaurant, away from the tourists - local knowledge is very useful.

An overnight ferry with cabin, and we woke up in Corsica spending a few days doing interesting things, before catching another ferry to Sardinia



from Bonifacio, where it was hot, hot, hot.

We spent six days in a remote hotel up in the hills, but a favourite was the picturesque town of Alghero. All too soon it was the overnight ferry to Italy, a picturesque drive up through Tuscany, a lunch stop in the pretty alpine village of Courmayeur, at the foot of Mont Blanc near Italy's border with France. The village was memorable, but the lunch wasn't so good.

In Paris it was an airport hotel, but the driver and courier, a bit of a 'Jack the lad' type, organised a private, surprise and memorable evening trip into Paris where we had supper on the Left Bank.... though we were asked not to mention this 'extra' on the review forms for Leger!

There is so much more that could be said about our adventure, the experiences, the excursions, and other things we did, but space is always at a premium in the newsletter, so just wanted to point those interested in coach travel of the option to travel in comfort with fewer travellers, and lots of personal space. Take a look at Leger Silver Service for other adventures, shorter trips or get aways for just a few days.

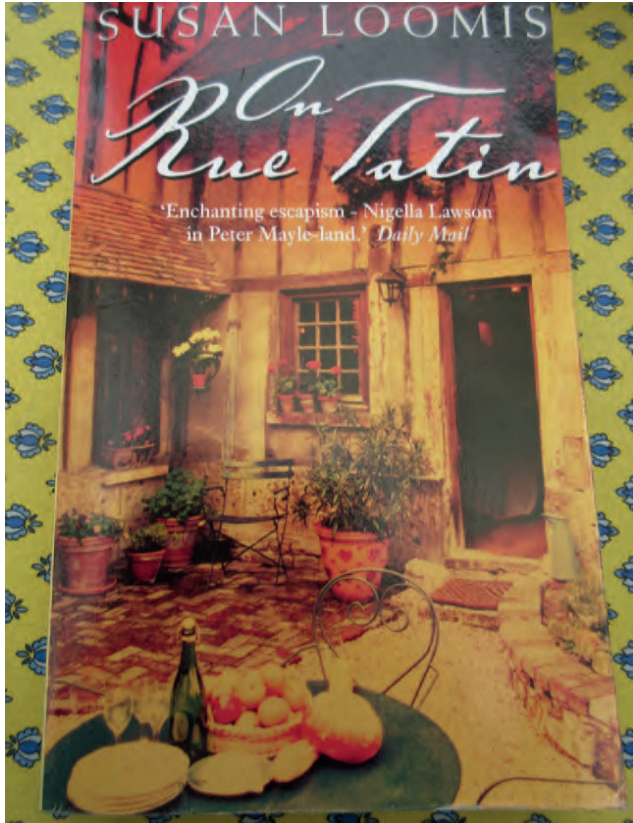
After this experience, I personally could not travel with 50+ passengers crammed into an inferior vehicle, but appreciate 'each to their own'

Pictured is Bonifacio, Corsica

Courmayeur, foot of Mont Blanc

Little Country Kitchen

MANY years ago I came across a paperback, *On Rue Tatin*, by a Susan Loomis, who took me and a friend on an adventure restoring a house in a small French town in northern France, meeting up with the butcher, baker, her neighbours, and becoming part of her life for a while.



We certainly enjoyed her writing, a mixture of real life experiences, mixed in with recipes jumping in and out of the pages, so much so, we were inspired to visit Louvier in Normandy, spending an enjoyable few days with our other halves, walking in Susan's footsteps.

The highlight was the Saturday morning foodie' market where we stocked up on goodies before returning home to Ipstones.

Recently chatting with my friend, we both agreed that her braised chicken in white wine and mustard, or Poulet Braised au Vin Blanc et al la Moutarde, a simple and memorable dish with only a few ingredient is very tasty, and worth sharing with Little Country Kitchen now that the weather seems to have 'turned' and casseroles have that cosy appeal somehow. We spoke of how amazing so few ingredients could turn into something so delicious.

So, I lifted *On Rue Tatin* down from the kitchen shelf, gave it a dust down, and here is the recipe.

BRAISED CHICKEN IN WHITE WINE AND MUSTARD

INGREDIENTS

1 cup (8fl oz.250ml) light, white wine such as a Sauvignon Blanc

3 tablespoons (45ml) Dijon-style mustard

2 tablespoons (30ml) extra virgin olive oil

1, 3 and a half- 4lb chicken cut into serving pieces

2 medium onions, cut into paper thin slices

Fine sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Flat-leaf parsley, to garnish

TO PUT TOGETHER

Preheat oven to 220 fan/gas7.

In a small bowl, whisk together the white wine and the mustard and put on one side.

Heat the oil in a large flameproof baking pan over a medium heat and brown the chicken on all sides, which will take 6-8 minutes. Remove each piece of chicken from the pan as it browns.

Add the onion to the pan, stir and cook until tender and turning slightly golden at the edges. Should take 4-5 minutes. Return chicken to the pan and season with salt and pepper.

Pour the wine and mustard mixture over the chicken and place in the centre of the oven and bake for about 25 minutes until the chicken is golden and then turn and cook for another 20-25 minutes.

Transfer to a serving platter. Place the pan over a low heat, and using a wooden spatula, stir the cooking juices in the pan, scraping up any browned bits that have stuck to the bottom. Taste the sauce for seasoning, and adjust, if necessary, then pour evenly over the chicken.

Garnish with parsley sprigs and serve with vegetables of your choice. Bon Appetit.



AN AUTUMN KIND OF QUIZ

- 1: What tree is famous for its leaves turning bright red in the Autumn?
- 2: What is the term for the shedding of leaves in Autumn?
- 3: Pumpkins are part of which food family, that includes courgettes, watermelons and cucumbers?
- 4: What is the name of the famous Autumn festival and also German beer?
- 5: Fill in the missing word from the Green Day song title 'Wake me up when ... ends'?
- 6: In their iconic jazz song Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong sing about Autumn in which city?
- 7: The Hindu festival of Diwali is a celebration of?
- 8: According to the meteorological calendar when does Autumn end?
- 9: What is the Autumn crop 'Vitis vinifera' more commonly known as?
- 10: Born on the 1st November what is my birth sign?
- 11: 'To Autumn' was written by which British poet?
- 12: I was born in October, and I painted a thing or two including 'Starry Night' - who am I?
- 13: Which Italian Saint, founder of the Franciscan Order is celebrated on 4th October?
- 14: Which famous explorer reached the New World in 1492?
- 15: In 1967 which band got to number three in the music charts with 'Autumn Almanac'?
- 16: Where has the famous Goose Fair been held for about 700 years?
- 17: A particularly bright moon in early September is known as?
- 18: What is traditionally eaten on Thanksgiving in America?
- 19: At which British Autumn festival might you expect to eat a toffee apple?
- 20: What seasonal movement is performed by birds as winter approaches?

SWEET SHOP QUIZ ANSWERS FROM LAST MONTH

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Jelly Babies. | 6. Bounty. | 11. Marathon. | 16. Flake. |
| 2. Smarties. | 7. After Eight. | 12. Turkish Delight. | 17. Gob Stopper. |
| 3. Quality Street. | 8. Chocolate Buttons. | 13. Mint Imperial. | 18. Hum Bug. |
| 4. Polo. | 9. Wine Gums. | 14. Walnut Whip. | 19. Dolly Mixtures. |
| 5. Mars Bar. | 10. Stick of Rock. | 15. Galaxy. | 20. All Gold. |

Peace through Folk with Ipstones Folk Club presents an -

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Saturday 14th November

afternoon & evening sessions

12.00 noon to 9.30 pm

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Leek Peace Choir

with Penny Barfield

& Lester Simpson

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Stephen Edkins



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The programme in the afternoon will include a special screening of the film

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£15

For more information, programme and tickets please email:
peacethroughfolk@gmail.com or text or call: 07494 738 939

or buy on line via

<https://wegottickets.com/f/24750> (£15 + WGT booking fee)

Peace through Folk is a not for profit trust working for Peace, Friendship, Reconciliation and the preservation of a kinder, more sustainable world.

Details correct as at 28/08/2026 *)Changes may happen

Event Posters / Advertisements

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For more information contact
Adult and Community Learning
on 01785 278770 or speak to a member of
Ipstones Memorial Hall Committee.



MVCT»

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**For further information
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Sally Bentley
(Chief Officer) on

01538 386888

or email:

contact@mvct.co.uk



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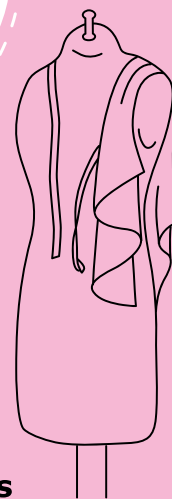
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