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APRIL 2024

**News & Events
from our Villages**

Barholm

Braceborough

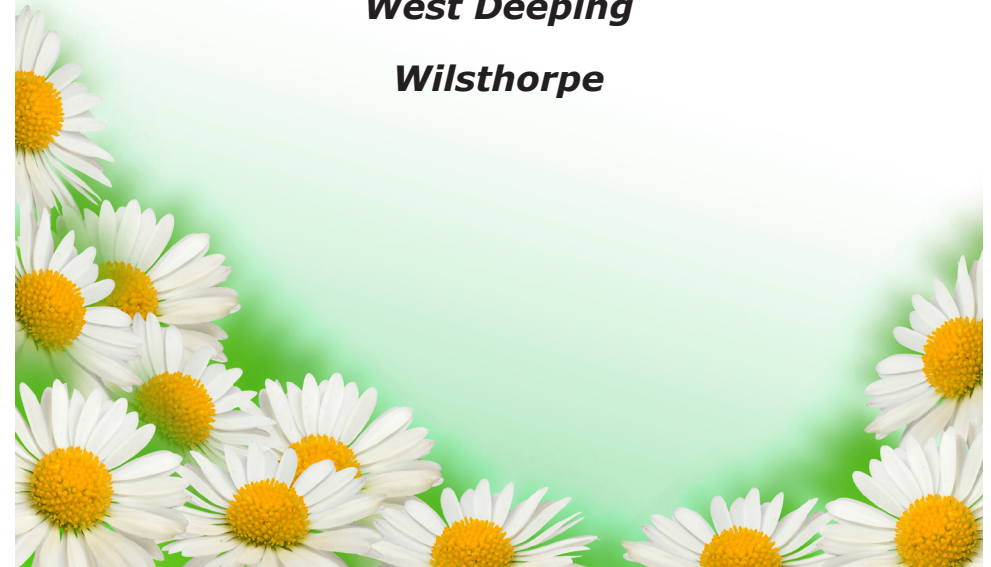
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Tallington

Uffington

West Deeping

Wilsthorpe





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CLERGY:

Father Aron Beesley
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E: fraranbeesley@gmail.com

EDITORIAL SECRETARY:

Mrs Gail Genever
T: 01780765005

E: gailgenever@btinternet.com

*Please note that all copy must reach Gail by 16th
of month to be included in the next month's issue.*

Please email your copy in MS Word.

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pratriciabrockhouse@gmail.com

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GREATFORD
Mrs Lois Webb 01778 560437
lois.m.webb1@gmail.com

TALLINGTON
N Baines 07580 511503
nicola.j.baines@gmail.com

UFFINGTON
Mrs G Genever 01780765005
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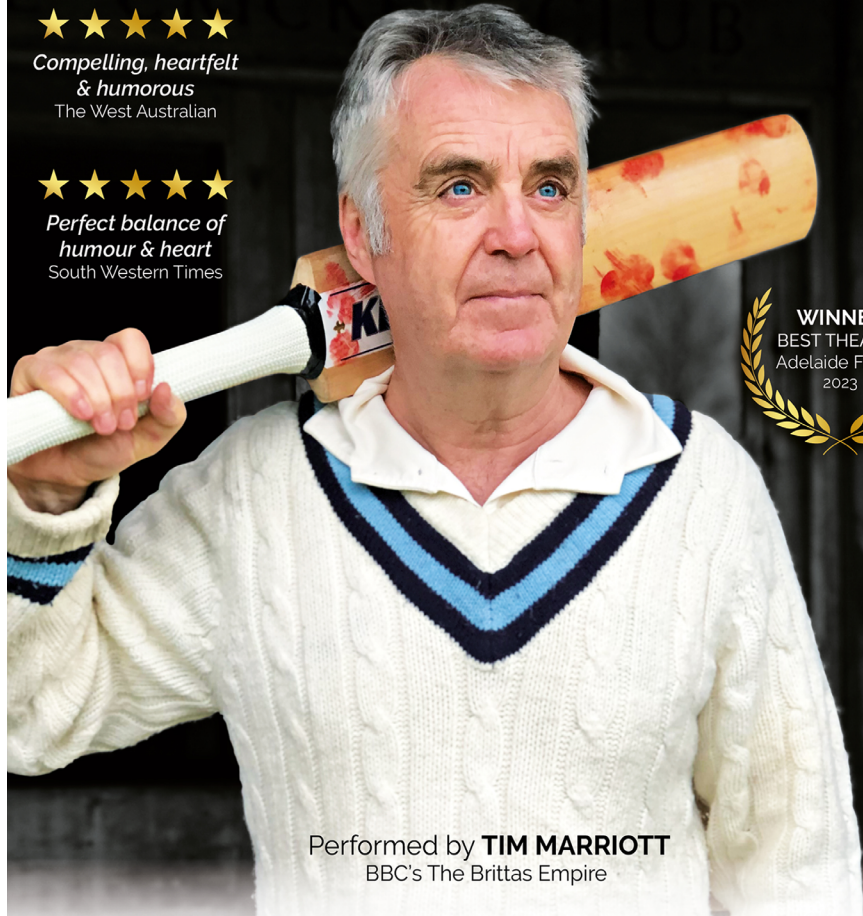
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Happy Easter!

If you'd like to know what's going on in Church, please give me your email address, and I'll add you to the weekly email.

Easter is when we are reminded of the hope that belief in Jesus gives.

It is, of course, a matter of your decision.

How have you made the decision to believe or not believe in Jesus? I've had the wonderful opportunity to talk to two

groups of children and one group of adults about the evidence for the existence of Jesus. I was

impressed that those who had obvious doubts were willing to spend time thinking about the

evidence rather than doing what many people do and dismiss faith/religion/Jesus based on hearsay or bad experiences. Of course, many of those who meet regularly in Church are still working

things out - accepting you need help and trying again is fundamental to churchgoing. Our church is

definitely not filled with people who know it all and have it all worked out (me included!).



Please let me know if you can help - 2hrs would make a big difference.

Those involved in church life and those who volunteer and work for good causes and charities tend to have longer and happier lives (BMC Public Health Journal, *Volunteering and health benefits in general adults: cumulative effects and forms*, 2017 and JAMA Internal Medicine in 2016). I'd love to have the chance to talk to you about what we are trying to do in our seven villages, and how you might benefit. And importantly, how we will be better if you come and get involved. We're also gearing up for the Scarecrow Festival - We're still after volunteers to help with set up on the Saturday before the event and on the two days of the Festival. A couple of hours would make all the difference. Please let me know if you can help. The friendly group who organise the event can find a role to match your skills - in the car parks, helping on one of the many stands or guiding people around. Scarecrow is on Sunday the 5th and Monday the 6th May with set up on Saturday the 4th May.

Take care and see you soon,

Fr Aran

PS Messy Church is on Sunday, April 14th, from 3 to 5 p.m. at West Deeping Village Hall. 36 people gathered last month, so if you're considering coming, you'll have plenty of company.

Parish Priest for our Seven Villages

07590055905 fraranbeesley@gmail.com

Barholm with Stowe

APRIL! Magic, evocative word, beloved of Poet's throughout the ages. Shakespeare's month; month of rainbows & primroses, lilac & apple blossom, the cuckoo & cowslips, green hedges and golden meadows. It is seedtime and annuals must be sown. Sites for the dahlias have to be dug & prepared. The vegetable plots make loud demands, pansy cuttings must be taken. Weeds are rampant; daisies smile impudently on the lawn. Any day now the swallows will arrive. We shall accept their presence as commonplace; a swallow is just one of the many birds that appear as if from nowhere at a certain time of the year.

It is strange that people take rainbows for granted. Besides being indescribably beautiful, it is a reminder of the infinite and never-failing mercies of God.

"I do set my bow in the cloud and
it shall be for a token of a covenant
between me and the earth."

The reflection & refraction of light in raindrops break up the white light into the seven colours of the spectrum. The rainbow is the child of the sun & the shower, but is not God the maker of sun, rain & cloud, the very elements out of which rainbows are made? Was it not his voice that summoned the Light from the formless chaos of original darkness? Did He not set the sun in the firmament? Is he not the Lawmaker unto whom Nature herself is subject? Why then should we doubt that it is His hand that paints this glowing arch upon the April skies?

Lewis Carroll once wrote, "It's no use going back to yesterday because I was a different person then."

We all enjoy a wander down Memory Lane, but we are different people now. If we could go back we would no longer see those things through the eyes of innocence & inexperience. We might want to do things better (which of course we can't). But there is one useful, practical thing to be done down that lane. We might stroll along it long enough to forgive our younger selves for the mistakes we made when we did not know what we know now. And, having forgiven, we come back home again - forgiven.

Wishing you heaven in your heart, starlight in your soul and wonder in your life.
May this be true for you today!

What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.
Joseph Addison.

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Ajay Tegala

Lev Parikian

Tessa Boase

Heidi Swain



West Deeping

Coffee Morning

Saturday 13th April, 10.30am – 12noon in West Deeping Village Hall. Thank you to everyone who supports the 100 Club to help maintain our Village Hall.

The March winners were 1st Moira Small and - 2nd - Dick Latham. Contact Lesley Ward 07845132129, lesleyward@yahoo.com

The Red Lion

Opening times 12-11 Wednesday to Saturday and 12-6 Sunday. A La Carte served Wednesday - Saturday 12-2.30, 5.30-9, Sundays 12-3. Lighter Lunch Menu daily, 2 courses £17.50. Also 'Pie & Pint for £15 on Thursday evenings and Roasts on Sundays. Monthly Quiz – Thursday 4th April at about 7.30pm. £5 for teams of up to 6 people.

West Deeping Heritage

Tuesday 16th April, in the

Village Hall, 2pm for a 2.30 start. Finding Newstead by Stamford Priory – an illustrated talk by Nick Sheehan. As with many other smaller houses of Augustinian canons in Britain, there are very few visible remains of the medieval priory Newstead by Stamford at Uffington. Even its precise location is uncertain, the only clue being an array of enigmatic earthworks in open parkland at the west end of the parish. Originally founded as a hospital in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century, it was dissolved in 1536. While information is scanty and widely dispersed, once pieced together, the picture emerges of a small but important priory which, in its heyday, was at the heart of the administration of the Augustinian order in Britain. Admission at the door £3, includes light refreshments. Contact Maggie on 07808 585189 or wdheritage@hotmail.co.uk. For info on forthcoming events visit the website <https://wdheritage.wordpress.com/prgramme-of-events>

Wilsthorpe

The next service at St Faith's will be Holy Communion on Sunday 21st April at 9am. Please do come along and join us, all are made very welcome. Tea/coffee and biscuits (and sometimes cake!) are served after the service.

Future Dates and Fund Raising:

Plans are going ahead for our Open Gardens in July – offers of help would be most appreciated. Further details will follow in the May issue of Towers and Spires and if anybody has ideas for future fund raising projects or a village social event, it would be most appreciated. Please contact Rita at Wilsthorpe Cottage (560491), Susan at Corner Cottage (560720) or Di at Willowcroft (560746) with your ideas and inspirations!!

Paperback books for sale!

These continue to be very popular and such a bargain price!! Paperbacks 50p each or 3 for a £1 and hardback £1 each or 2 for £1.50. There are now 3 bookcases to display our selection which are frequently refreshed with all books being in very good condition..

We hope that everyone is keeping well and receiving the village updates and news. If any villager, who is not included in the Neighbourhood Watch (now called Lincs Alert) and village news emails, would like to add their name,

please contact Susan on susan_burgoin@hotmail.com or telephone 560720.

Braceborough

Sunday 7 April – 9 am Holy Communion at St.Margaret's

Our next service at St.Margaret's is the 9am Holy Communion Service on Sunday 7 April. Please come along with family and/or friends and join us. We would love to welcome you to St.Margaret's.

Good Luck to all our Local Students

Every good wish, and the best of luck, to all our local students – whether at school or at university – with your exams this spring/summer. We hope you all do well & achieve the grades you would like to achieve.

Chairperson for Village Hall Committee

The search continues for the next chairperson of the Village Hall Committee. Please contact Sue Cook, or any committee member if you are able to offer a little time to help fill this vital role within our local community. Please consider offering to 'have a go.'

Saturday 13 April 9am – Churchyard Maintenance Morning

We are planning our annual spring maintenance morning for Saturday 13 April for anyone able and willing to help with a few regular tasks.

Might you be able to offer a couple of hours to help clear drainage channels, trim yews, weed paths & walls, trim weeds & alder etc? We also have a small hole requiring sealing at the base of the lean-to shed on the north side.

Would love to see you if you can help. Please let Malcolm know if you can make this date.

Future Community Events – Here are the dates for your diary!

Wednesday 17 April – St.Margaret's Church 'Pot Luck' Lunch in the Village Hall.

We missed our Harvest Supper last autumn, so are arranging this lunch to replace it and help raise essential funds for church, so please come along and support us. We would love to see you. 12 for 12.30pm. Tickets £10 from Pat, Keith & Malcolm.

Saturday 18 May – Race Night.

More details to follow. Sponsors are required for 8 races as well as for jockeys & horses plenty for everyone to have an interest in – and 'Liz & David's' Tote a key feature.

How about your company/business sponsoring a race?

Saturday 8 June – 'D-Day' Pot Luck Supper

Saturday 6 July – Summer BBQ.

Fly The Flag

It costs just £5 to fly the flag for a birthday, anniversary or any other memorable or special event. Please contact Sue on the number below.

Village Hall Bookings

The village hall is available for hire. Please call Sue on 07736958755 for reservations & more details.

Greatford

Church Services in Greatford.: April

Sunday 14th April 0900

at St Thomas of Canterbury All Age Worship This will again be an informal, family-friendly service with well-known hymns. There are toys available for smaller children, refreshments after the service (and a loo!). All welcome!

Sunday 28th April 0900 HC with refreshments after the service.

The Church is usually open from c.0930 – 3.00 pm. But, if locked, and you particularly want to enter for a quiet prayer or just to visit and look around, please phone Lois Webb 01778 560437

Mothering Sunday

was celebrated with a short family-friendly service and posies were distributed.

SOUP KITCHEN will be in the village hall again, Saturday 13th April from 1–2 .30pm with huge thanks to the wonderful ladies serving their delicious soups !

Greatford Parish Council news

The next meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday 14th May in the Village Hall. The first part - the Annual Parish Meeting - is a round-up of news from the Chair, local Councillors, Village Hall Committee etc. The second part is to re-enrol the Parish Councillors as part of a typical meeting. Despite being in two parts, this meeting usually takes around an hour, as usual. Everyone is welcome.

Please go on the parish website to read the minutes from previous meetings and the next agenda.

Greatford Village hall news

At last month's Village Hall Committee Meeting, it was decided to host another Hog Roast for all Greatford residents to bring the community together during the ongoing effects of the January flood. This will take place at 1pm on Sunday 23rd JUNE - on the playing field/in the village hall, depending on the weather. Please bring your own liquid refreshments and any further additions to your picnic. Reserve the day now, more details will be coming your way!!

Prior to that we hope to bring the community together on Friday 19th April, with a Live and Local Performance of Jack's Ashes, a new cricket-themed comedy show written and performed by Tim Marriot (BBC The Brittas Empire) Former professional cricketer Jack gives his team talk, as wickets fall and anecdotes from the ashes of his career prove less that inspirational!!! The play is wrapped in humour and delivered to you directly as Jack's team. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Remember to bring your own refreshments. Tickets (£15) are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/greatford-village-hall

Nature in Our Churchyard

Over 25 people met on Saturday 2nd March in Greatford Village Hall to learn about mammals. We talked about what they look like, where they live and how to recognise their tracks and signs (including skulls, distinctive footprints and nests). There were quizzes, a craft activity using modelling clay and a chocolate rabbit hunt!

The next meeting will be advertised in the Towers & Spires, and if you would like to receive an email alert, please contact Donna Radley (07980 506381)

West Deeping

St Andrews Church

On Saturday 16th March the new "St Andrew's Church walk-about guide" produced by West Deeping Heritage Group was officially launched to around 30 invited guests.

There were many favourable comments and suggestions which will help in the design of the more detailed information boards about specific parts of the church. Copies of the guide are now available in church for visitors to purchase at one pound each. Proceeds for church funds. Thanks to all who helped make this event a great success.

Canon David McCormack will take his final service at Uffington on Sunday the 14th of April at 11am. Therefore, it has been decided to give the West Deeping congregation the opportunity to support him at that special service, so there will be no service here. For those who require a lift to Uffington transport will be available from St Andrew's Church at 10.30am. Also, on the 14th "Messy Church" returns to West Deeping Village Hall from 3pm. Families with young children are particularly welcome and offers of help will be gratefully accepted. For further details please contact Les Baillie bailliesinuk@aol.com or Fr Aran. All Age Worship will be on the 28th of April. Full details of this month's services in the Uffington Group can be found in the centre pages, also at

<https://westdeeping.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parishinformation.church-news> or at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>. 14510 The Church is normally open during the daytime.

Village West Deeping Bell Ringers.

Church and handbell ringers meet on Monday evenings in the Church and at 43 King Street. To find out more or have a go yourself, please contact Melanie James 01778 380197, email melanie@thelane.me.uk

Bible Studies.

Contact Susanna Aldred 01778 380014, susannaaldred@gmail.com

The Mobile Library

will come to the Red Lion car park on Monday, April 15th, 12.30-1.15pm

West Deeping Parish Council

Our Parish Clerk is Ian Coles, wdparishclerk@gmail.com/07979 906284. The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 13 th May 2024. It will follow immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 7pm in the Village Hall. .

West Deeping Walkers

dates are 31st March, then 14th and 28th April We start from the Village Hall on Sundays at 2-week intervals at 2pm .All village residents are welcome, and their friends. For more information ask Annie at annie.new@me.com, tel. 07976 766540.

The Village Litter Pick

organised by Walkers was held on Sat 23rd March, Contact - Annie as above.

West Deeping Village Hall Please call Anna

Thompson for booking enquiries 07901 716924 or email lizaccamb@icloud.com Current rates are £8 per hour for residents and £10 per hour for non residents.

Rambling Readers (Book Club).

Friday April 26th 7.30 for 7.45pm in the Village Hall. (Last Friday in the month.) Books are supplied by Lincolnshire Libraries. Last month we were given copies of The Chalk Man, by C. J. Tudor to read. Details from Elizabeth Noble 01778 344674, eliz.noble@btinternet.com.

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Uffington

Village Hall

Following the work to upgrade the toilets in the village hall, the next project is to replace the flat roof over the foyer, archive room and toilets area. The current roof is around 25 years old and has started to leak in places, particularly around the skylights.

The work will begin on Monday 13th May and should take around 10 days to complete. As most of the work will be done from above, there should be minimal disruption to planned bookings, though there may initially be some noise and dust when the old roof is removed.

The three existing skylights are weak points in the existing structure and will be removed so that the new roof will be a single expanse.

Screening of Six Inches of Soil

The screening of the new documentary film – Six Inches of Soil (www.sixinchesofsoil.org/) – was a great success with over 60 people attending. The film is “inspiring story of British farmers standing up against the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities.”

The plan is to host more related films and required funding for our own screen.

Detectorists Afternoon

Another successful event with over 60 people coming to explore the village archive and look at items that have been found around the village by local metal detectorists.

Thank you to Kate Genever and Carol and Bill Niehorster for organising, and Colin, Sue and Jo for bringing their finds and kit.

If you have any ideas for events, please let Liz (details above) know. The village hall offers free hall hire for new ideas or events, so please contact any of the committee – Liz Genever, Nick Kimberley, Father Aran Beesley, Dean Cornish, Nessa Winters, Susan Genever-Jones, Sarah Brereton, and Chris Pearman - to discuss ideas.

If you have a booking enquiry, please have a look at <https://uffington.org.uk/village-hall/> and scroll down and there is a link to the new online system. You can check availability and provisionally book the hall. Or email bookings@uffington.org.uk.

Scarecrows' Festival

The UVH committee are after volunteers to help with the catering at the UVH during the Scarecrows' Festival. Please contact Liz (details above) if you are happy to help for a couple of hours or would like to donate some cakes.

175 Club

The March draw happened at the Detectorists' afternoon at the village Hall. The numbers were drawn by Sue Lee.

1st 82 Dave Knight - £20 2nd 19 Barrie Church - £15

3rd 200 Ted Genever - £10 4th 2 Nick Kimberley - £5

The next draw will be happening at the lambing open day at Croft Farm on Sunday 21st April.

Greatford

Primrose Day

Being passionate about our primroses and primulas, we were delighted to welcome visitors to the churchyard on Saturday 16th March. There were also cakes and coffee, and painting and a craft activity for everyone, and especially children! We were also delighted to show off our new churchyard management equipment, kindly donated by Gary Bannister of Breedon Quarry, and were grateful for other donations received on the day.

'Bargain Hunt'

St Thomas of Canterbury church is once again having a stall at Uffington Scarecrows on Sunday 5th and Monday 6th of May. This year we're calling it 'Bargain Hunt', and we would be very grateful for any items you no longer need that we could sell on the stall to raise much-needed funds for the church. So if you are doing any spring cleaning or sorting out over Easter, please remember us! We can store items, and collect them. Please contact Donna Radley (07980 506381) or Lois Webb (07815 523080) if you have anything suitable. Offers of help on the stall would be very welcome too!

Many thanks!

Flying the flag at the Village Hall.

For just £5. You can have the flag flown on any day of your choosing to celebrate anything you want to, and raise money for the VH in the process.

Tallington

Tallington Village Hall

Our hall is available to hire for £9 an hour or £55 for the whole day. Please contact us through our Facebook page (Tallington Village Hall), Instagram or by emailing tallington.villagehall@gmail.com.

Flying the Flag

You can fly the flag for your special occasion at a cost of £5. Please contact Liz Allen on 01780 740076.

Post Office

The post office is in the annex of Tallington village hall every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm - 4pm.

Mobile Library

The mobile library van will be in Church Lane on Monday 15th April 2024 from 11.45 - 12.15.

St Lawrence Church

Our April services follow the usual pattern of Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday and Evensong on the 4th Sunday of the month.

14th April

9.00 am. Holy Communion led by Fr Aran, with old and modern hymns

28th April

6.00 pm Evensong led by Fr Aran with Julia on the organ. Well loved hymns and traditional prayers.

You will be very welcome to either or both services.

TALLINGTON FLOODING UPDATE as at Friday 15th March 2024

Sunday 18th February saw Mill Lane flooded again with water coming up through the ground, sewer and surface water drains similar to events of early morning Thursday 4th January. This after only moderate to heavy rainfall. Also rising water in front of the Old Post Office, at the Manor House courtyard and at the end of Searson Close. An increasing number of properties were left without toilets, backing up throughout the day and no help from Anglian Water who continued saying that they would not tanker away storm water and could do nothing! Calls for assistance resulted in the LCC highways emergency team sending a tanker late afternoon and with the help of a highways team commenced taking the rising water from Mill Lane. That proved futile so it moved to the Old Post Office chamber and then to road outside Manor House from where it stayed until late afternoon making numerous trips from the village. The flooding experienced at the Manor House and on Searson Close from the rising water from Sunday 18th February kept the Parish Council 2" pump busy on and off from then until 9.30pm Sunday 25th February pumping water to the waste land next to the East Coast line. An additional 3 pumps brought in by residents to tackle the rising water coming up through the drains primarily at the Manor House, Searson Close and on Mill Lane as water continued to rise from the foul and surface water drains throughout the week. On the afternoon of Thursday 22nd February from 1pm and throughout Friday Greystones and Tennyson Cottage saw water coming up through the floors and flooding yet again!

A call on Thursday 22nd February morning to the Environment Agency FIDO team brought the trailer pump back to the river bank and it commenced pumping early afternoon for approx 3 hours. The river and dyke not being the threat this time it was turned off but it stays in situ just in case. The dyke being monitored by our Flood response team.

On Thursday LCC provided 2 gully tankers from Sleaford, working from 6pm and operating for 8 hours until 2 am and again throughout Friday sucking water from the surface drains and then depositing into the river at various locations.

The National Grid work on Main Road commenced on Wednesday 21st against the Parish Council's advice but work was halted within minutes as water filled the trenches. However, it took a further two days to refill the trenches with tarmac causing traffic mayhem throughout Thursday and Friday. They will not be back until the summer they say. The LCC flooding and water management scrutiny committee met on Monday 19th February in Lincoln, the recent flooding throughout the County being the main topic. Our county councillor Ashley Baxter being a member of this committee and having visited the village on the Sunday before to see for himself first-hand the problems was able to raise the issues with the representatives of Anglian Water, LCC and the Environment Agency. Some of their responses showing a complete lack of awareness as to the seriousness of the flooding.

Anglian Water's Matt Moore, Flood Partnerships Manager Quality and Environment together with Area Manager Katie Glynn and Richard Fenwick, LCC Head of Highways Asset and local management services eventually visited Tallington on Friday 23rd February. We were joined by Tom Amblin-Lightowler, SKDC Environmental Health. They could clearly see the flooding in Mill Lane and at the Manor House for themselves. To focus our discussions, the Parish Council presented them with a copy of the Anglian Water presentation given to the parish council in July 2018! This set out the results of the surveys of earlier that year. It highlights the problems with the surface water drains in Tallington mapping them out along with the sewer drains. It also provided the various options for solving the problems including a relined surface water sewer from the junction of Main Road and Bainton Road through to just before the crossing. However,

TALLINGTON FLOODING UPDATE as at Friday 15th March 2024

The temporary repairs by the Environment Agency to the erosion damage on the river banks where the river turns near the East Coast rail bridge downstream of Tallington bridge and past the old quarry Bailey bridge were completed a week earlier than anticipated. Further permanent works will be undertaken in the summer.

It will be interesting to see what the LCC section 19 investigation report concludes over what role the blockage and the poor state of the surface water drains throughout the village had on the two flooding incidents? To my mind it was pivotal. Notwithstanding the failures of the EA preceding the 3rd January.

There was a meeting with SKDC's CEO Karen Bradford and Phil Swinton on the 7th March to review SKDC's response to the flooding and how they can continue to support us going forward. We were also able to explain the issues and show them where the problems are in Tallington including the Casewick Lane drainage. Throughout the past 10 weeks SKDC officers have offered support to Tallington and we are grateful for their ongoing assistance. A review will be undertaken involving Greatford to update village resilience and emergency plans for the two villages. Drone surveillance mapping will be undertaken over the next month by LCC and SKDC.

Stay safe. Philip. Tallington Parish Council. 15th March 2024.

District Councillors report - April 24

Dear Resident,

Again flooding has been a major concern for residents of Tallington due to a blocked/broken drain under the railway. We hope that this will be dealt with as a priority as it has been an ongoing issue in the village for years.

The Local Plan for the District has been reviewed due to certain aspects of need and site allocation. As part of this it had become clear that more sites were needed for the delivery of the required quota of housing across the district (701 per year until 2041 - previously 650 per year). The local plan can be viewed online with a public consultation ending 25th April, information can be found on <https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/draft-local-plan-consultation> If you are interested a public webinars will to be held on 11th April at 7:30pm to cover a range of topics including housing, employment, climate change and design; these events will be streamed live via the Council's Public-1 channel. Questions can be asked ahead of these meetings by contacting: planningpolicy@southkesteven.gov.uk

There have been a number of issues with the rollout of the new purple lidded recycling bin with around 20% of bins rejected due to contamination, unfortunately council staff became the subject of unacceptable levels of verbal abuse. It was decided that the tagged bins would be collected and the council decided to embark on an extended period of advisory tagging and education. If you continue to have issues please phone telephone 01476 406544 or email recycling@southkesteven.gov.uk

If you have any problems or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, cllr.trollopebellew@southkesteven.gov.uk or Cllr Vanessa Smith – Vanessa.Smith@southkesteven.gov.uk

TALLINGTON FLOODING UPDATE as at Friday 15th March 2024

This failure of an AW asset has meant that AW have at last to provide tankers at the pumping at Searson Close. These are continuing at date of this update.

The Parish Council pump was in use on 20th February pumping from 9am to 4pm to reduce the level of the water in the dyke alongside the river. Primarily to allow the Environment Agency team to replace the sandbags to block up the river flap again as they did early December last year. Discovery of fish (minnows) in the dyke on the 10th February clearly indicated to the flood response team that the river flap had most likely failed again despite initially appearing to hold when debagged on 9th January (after the flooding of 3rd and 4th January). The pumping again resulted in handfuls of minnows being sucked up into the strainer when the water level in the dyke dropped. Approx. 45 sandbags have been located to create a double skin barrier on the village side and this appears to be reducing substantially any back flow from the river. We have agreed with the EA Ops Manager Field Teams that this is only a temporary measure. It is suggested that a bung or better still a gate that can be closed when required is fitted. The Parish Council will pursue this with the EA team

Thank you to Gary, Bredon's manager of the West Deeping quarry for donating to the village 2 deliveries of 8 tons of gravel that have been distributed along the unadopted road down to the Crooked Billet and Hawthorne Cottage next to the church wall. This road was badly affected during the flooding leaving it a muddy mess.

The new 4" water pump (1600+ litres) per minute has arrived, fitted to a heavy-duty trolley and will be located close to the river at one of the Flood response teams' homes to allow it to be deployed quickly to pump water from the dyke back into the river should the need arise and the EA pump is not in situ. Thanks again to the Heron's Trust for making this possible.

The Flood response team is working well and together with the Parish Council we have agreed that the Flood warden team be made up of Cllr John Smith, John Atter and Rob Burdock although all members of the response team are and will act as flood watchers. Cllr Smith has been the main point of contact with the Environment Agency for some years now through Nick Riches. The Parish Council also now has better contacts with the EA through Ben Thornely, the Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager covering the Welland and Nene catchments and Henry Hammond, the Operations Manager who manages the field teams. Both have been accessible even when off duty of late.

It cannot be stressed enough the benefit we have had from the Flood response team working together to share the load as a team. Flood Wardens can help local communities to understand their flood risk and that all residents have a responsibility to look after themselves, their family and property before, during and after a flood. Flood Wardens can help a community to be prepared for flooding and can bring the community together during difficult times. Flood Wardens are the eyes and ears of the community and often called flood watchers. Whether they are out walking their dog or just walking to the garage they can keep an eye out for blocked drains and culverts, tree branches in rivers, and anything else that may cause a flood risk and report it to the Environment Agency, land or property owners

Any residents disappointed with the way Anglian Water have failed to respond to their calls for assistance over past weeks might wish to complain to OFWAT. Contact details are <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/contact-us/water-company-enquiries> SKDC officers are following up on the Casewick Lane drain and dyke issues that go to a blocked culvert under the east coast mainline and overgrown dykes full of polystyrene and containers on the cement works site. This is restricting the fields to the North of the village draining as they should./.

TALLINGTON FLOODING UPDATE as at Friday 15th March 2024

It was almost 4 years before they could agree to jointly fund any repair works. As previously reported in March 2022 a promised £150k project was halved at the last minute, stopping short of clearing the blockages now confirmed in the village from the Old Post Office to the Walnuts and under the rail crossing. As a reminder Anglian Water advised us in May 2022 that they needed a budget of £400-£500K to carry out a full repair saying "Overall, we and LCC were pleased with the amount of debris we were able to remove and appreciating it's not a 100% fix, this is still good news for residents. Alongside the other work in the community, this will mitigate the risk of flooding in Tallington." It didn't and it's got worse since to the stage that we are now at with the rising water being unable to escape as it should via the surface water drains through the village and under the crossing.

LCC agreed emergency funding to provide a large 8" pump to drain down Mill Lane in an attempt to lower the water table and take the pressure off the foul drain system. This pump arrived late on Friday 23rd February and has been in operation ever since pumping surface water via 800m of pipe across Michael Thurlby's field to the Mill stream and eventually into the river. This pump, we have been promised, will stay until a solution is found and the risk gone. Meanwhile a 4" pump hired by Michael T to clear Mill Lane was used to feed into Mill Lane from the Old Post Office chamber on Main Road for 4 days.

Tuesday 27th February saw the start of a week of activity by Anglian Water engineers. Following a detailed appraisal of the drains from Mill Lane towards the crossing it was clearly established that there was at least one blockage somewhere between the chamber opposite the Manor House to the Chamber in front of the Whistlestop pub. It was also clear that the underground culvert from the Whistlestop chamber to the open ditches to the east of the crossing were 70% blocked with silt and rubbish. AW spent 3 days/nights clearing with specialist tankers. Early pictures of surface water drain from the double chamber village side of crossing back toward manhole opposite Manor House, that AW pumped out, shows a dry-stone wall chamber on sand and gravel with very old flagstones over! Even older than we thought.

Meanwhile our MP Gareth Davies wrote to the CEOs of Network Rail and Anglian Water to make his and our concerns known of a suspected collapse under the East Coast Rail line. The planned closure of the crossing overnight Saturday 2nd /Sunday 3rd March to allow Network Rail's contractors CML to carry out a scheduled 5-year culvert clean (a year late since 2018 last done) confirmed that there was indeed a surface water sewer collapse under the crossing. NR cameras are meanwhile monitoring the track and culvert.

An additional large pump has been installed by AW in front of the Old Post Office to pump water from a deep surface water chamber there to the Mill Lane 8" pump. This has now revealed another collapse in a second chamber that was totally silted up. Anglian Water anticipate that this extra pump will help reduce the high-water table throughout the village and provide some reduction of water flow during their planned works with Network Rail during the night on 16th March when they will attempt to repair the collapsed drain under the rail crossing or at the very least identify what further work is required. These pumps will offer ongoing protection until a long-term fix is provided.

Mill Lane has been shown historically as one of 4 or more high risk flooding points from surface water on the EA maps and identified as such in the July 2018 AW presentation. The 2 recent flooding events of 3rd January and 22nd February have only confirmed it to be so.

We are pushing for a complete fix this time to include the blockages that were not cleared during the March 2022 works due to a perceived lack of funding, (circa £400 to £500k).

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Come and see what it's all about!

This month's Messy Church is on...

Sunday 14th April, 3-5pm at West Deeping Village Hall

In May we'll be at Tallington VH on

Sunday 12th May, 3-5pm

For more info, please contact Les Baillie on 01780 765908, bailliesinuk@aol.com

or Fr Aran on 07590 055905, fraranbeesley@gmail.com

Friday 29th March – Good Friday Walk

As in previous years we plan to mark Good Friday by walking from Wilsthorpe to Uffington, via Braceborough, Greatford and Barholm churches, carrying a huge cross and stopping on the way for short moments of prayer and reflection.

It's a lovely, quite gentle walk (5 miles, 8 stiles), suitable for children and dogs too! If you want to take part but not do the whole distance it's easy to join or leave at points on the way.

The (approximate) timetable is...

9.15	Arrive at Wilsthorpe	
9.30	Prayers at Wilsthorpe	
9.45	Leave Wilsthorpe	
10.15	Prayers at Braceborough	
10.30	Leave Braceborough	
11.00	Service of Holy Communion at Greatford	
11.30	Leave Greatford	
12.00	Arrive at Barholm	(lunch/coffee/toilet stop)
12.30	Prayers at Barholm	
12.45	Leave Barholm	
2.15	Arrive at Uffington	(refreshments, children make Easter Garden)
2.50	Prayers at Uffington	
3.15	Finish	

More information from Les Baillie (07787 492492) or Fr Aran (07590 055905)

Children's Church in our Seven Villages

Of course we welcome children to ALL of our services, but these listed below are more planned with children in mind.

We hope you can join us! Fr Aran

March

Friday 29th:

* Good Friday *

9.30am, start of Good Friday walk at Wilsthorpe, through the villages and ending at Uffington for the making of the Easter Garden at 2.45

Sunday 31st:

* Easter Sunday *

5.15am, Dawn Service with first fire, Wilsthorpe
11am, Easter Holy Communion, Uffington
11am, Easter All Age Worship, West Deeping

April

Sunday 7th :

11am, All Age Service, with Baptism - Uffington

Sunday 14th:

3-5pm, Messy Church – West Deeping Village Hall

Sunday 21st:

11am, All Age Service – Uffington

Sunday 28th:

11am, All Age Service – West Deeping

May

Sunday 5th :

* Uffington Scarecrows *

10.45am, Help us get Scarecrows off to a good start by coming to sing on the school field!

Sunday 12th:

3-5pm, Messy Church – Tallington Village Hall

Sunday 19th:

11am, All Age Service – Uffington

April Church Services in our Seven Villages

Sunday 7th April

9am Holy Communion, St Margaret of Antioch, Braceborough
11am Holy Communion (with Baptism), St Michael & All Angels, Uffington
6pm Evensong (BCP), St Martin of Tours, Barholm-with-Stowe

Sunday 14th April

9am Holy Communion, St Lawrence of Rome, Tallington
9am All Age Worship, St Thomas of Canterbury, Greatford
11am Holy Communion, St Michael & All Angels, Uffington
Messy Church 3pm in West Deeping Village Hall

Sunday 21st April

9am Holy Communion, St Faith of Aquitaine, Wilsthorpe
11am All Age Service with Holy Communion, St Michael & All Angels, Uffington
6pm Choral Evensong (BCP) with St Martin's Singers, St Michael & All Angels, Uffington

Sunday 28th April

9am Holy Communion (BCP), St Thomas of Canterbury, Greatford
11am Holy Communion, St Michael & All Angels, Uffington
11am All Age Worship, St Andrew the Apostle, West Deeping
6pm Evensong (BCP), St Lawrence of Rome, Tallington

For full details of all services please check our churches websites

A Church Near You <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14509/>

or alternatively contact Fr Aran Tel. 07590 055905 or email aran.beesley@gmail.com