

View from the Hill

Thorpe on the Hill News

Issue No 144 - February/ March 24



The Newsletter is sponsored for you by Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council

The next edition will be at the beginning of April and any contributions are welcome. Cut off date for **submissions will be Friday 22nd March**. Anyone who would like to contribute to the magazine please do so through viewfromthehillpub@gmail.com or, if you wish to place an advert, then email Chris.abrahams@btinternet.co.uk .

From the Editor

Hi Everybody

Hi everybody. Welcome to the first edition of 2024!!
Hope you all had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. Slowly the daylight hours are extending and before we know it Spring will be here. 🌻🌻🌻

Thankyou to all this issue's contributors, and hope you enjoy the newsletter.

As usual there are the regular social events:

- Umbrellas Community Cafe which is the first Friday of each month....p3,
- Book club... contact details p 5
- On page 9 there's an update on FREE car parking passes for Whisby for all Thorpe residents.
- Ladies and Gents nights at the Railway Inn details p12
- Hopefully there will be a village walk in February...date to be arranged.
- Also there are opportunities to volunteer at the Scouts, details p 17
- And if you want to try out bowling, details are on p 22
- On page 16 is an update on the proposed Solar Farm action group, and contact details if you wish to get involved.

And to finish off, a couple more photos from the fantastic New Year's Eve celebration at the Railway Inn

Sylvia





Umbrellas Community Café



Next café is on Friday, 2nd February at 9.30 a.m.

The Village Library

Cold and winter weather generally means staying in the warm, and the best days are with a good book. Did you know we have a mobile library which comes to the village each month, parking on the corner of School Lane and Lincoln Lane. Next visits are 10:30 on 15th February and 14th March.

The van is usually stocked with a good selection of books, or you can order online from the Lincolnshire-wide library system to reserve something for pick-up: <https://prism.librarymanagementcloud.co.uk/lincolnshire>

Failing that, James, our local librarian, will always recommend something for you.

Love your Parish - ThReds Walking Group

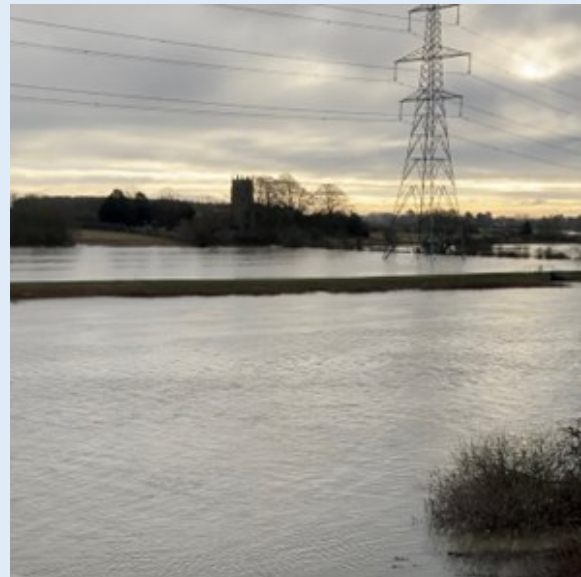
ThReds Walk 65

The Annual Night Hike

(21st December, 2023)

Another wet weather route change

Although normally our most popular walk, the numbers were lower for this year's Night Hike, probably because of the appalling state of some of the local footpaths after the heavy rain. Fortunately, the paths at Whisby drain very well so, for the second walk in a row, we changed our route and took the safe option. We set off from outside the school at about 5.00 pm but soon after 6.00 the pull of the Railway became too great. Walking was abandoned and we made our way to the marquee where we enjoyed a hearty Christmas meal washed down with some excellent beverages.



After discussion, it was agreed not to set a date for the next walk until the condition of the footpaths improves. Hopefully we should be back in action in February. However, the photograph shows the Trent Valley Way near North Clifton. The path is on the raised bank, the Trent is in the foreground.

For more information contact me at tonymagri949@btinternet.com

Love your Parish - ThReds Book Club

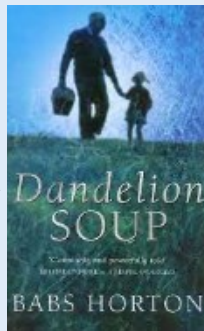
Book 56

Dandelion Soup by Babs Horton

(7.5/10)

(12th January, 2024)

The book we read over the Christmas period proved to be a popular choice from Jenny and Lawrie who were also our excellent hosts for the afternoon.



There was general agreement that the book was an easy read and humorous. The group enjoyed the strong and well described characters and the clear descriptions of the various locations in Ireland and Spain. Most found the ending to be too contrived and complicated and had to read it more than once to even begin to understand the way all the threads come together.

Other comments included

“a gentle read”,

“historically inaccurate”,

“an original plot”,

“too many coincidences”,

“a rollicking story”,

“not my cup of tea”.

Most scores were 8 or more with only two below 7. A definite thumbs up from the group

The main foods described in the book were the preparation of sardines for canning (the removal of the heads, tails and guts), and the Dandelion Soup with its very unusual soup recipe as follows



This made themed snacks very difficult. To overcome this problem our hosts provided a recipe card for the soup and some unopened cans of sardines. We actually ate some delicious cheeses, pate and more.



Our thanks to Jenny and Lawrie for another very enjoyable afternoon.

The next book is Grey Bees by Andrey Kurkov

For more information contact me at:

tonymagri949@btinternet.com

Love your Parish



Making Room for Wildlife Wildlife at the Eric East Lake Nature in Turmoil

This quote is from an article on the BBC website in late December.

“The loss of predictable weather patterns is “causing chaos” for nature, according to the National Trust.”

“It warns climate change is upsetting the regular rhythm of the seasons, making plants and wildlife more susceptible to disease.”

The evidence is all around the village and in our gardens. In December we had roses in bloom and in January we had a self seeded cowslip in flower in our lawn.



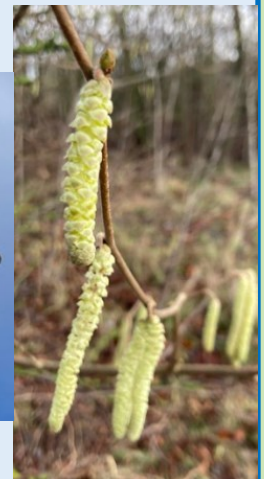
At the Eric East Lake

In early December, after the snow, I walked round the lake and was confused by what I saw on the ground. There was snow and there were leaves but I couldn't understand why this looked so unusual. As far as I can ever recall, leaves have never been on the snow, the snow covers the leaves. This



happened because the autumn was so mild that the leaves clung on for much longer, until the cold, which accompanied the snow, caused the leaves to fall.

Catkins were appearing in early December. I took these photos in late December.



Although moles are active in winter, it is normally in late winter and into spring. Fresh mole hills appeared regularly in December - I took this photo later in that month.



Love your Parish



Elsewhere

At the top of Clay Lane, towards the end of 2023, a bramble was in flower and was bearing blackberries.



Why? Again from the BBC website:

"The year 2023 has been confirmed as the warmest on record, driven by human-caused climate change and boosted by the natural El Niño weather event.

Last year was about 1.48C warmer than the long-term average before humans started burning large amounts of fossil fuels, the EU's climate service says.

Almost every day since July has seen a new global air temperature high for the time of year, BBC analysis shows."

Storms - The Eric East Lake

You will have noticed that storms are named alphabetically. For this season the storm names are: Agnes, Babet, Ciaran, Debi, Elin, Fergus, Gerrit, Henk, Isha, Jocelyn, Kathleen, Lilian, Minnie, Nicholas, Olga, Piet, Regina, Stuart, Tamiko, Vincent and Walid. No storms begin with the letter Q, U, X, Y and Z to comply with the international storm naming conventions.

At the time of writing, the most recent storm was Henk ie the 8th since September. No doubt your gardens have suffered from the strong winds and relentless rain - for 2023, we had about 150% of our normal annual rainfall and most of that fell from September to the end of the year. No trees have fallen at the lake but many branches have broken off.

And the island is submerged.



Fencing - The Eric East Lake

It will soon be time to remove more of the redundant fencing on the northern edge of the site before it becomes overgrown with the brambles again. I hope to provide more information in the next issue.

Murmuration

We are very fortunate to have starlings roosting in the reed beds at Whitby Nature Park. As a consequence, murmurations are not uncommon in the winter and this photo, sent to me by a village resident, is a perfect example. They can contain many thousands of starlings - an estimated 25000 on this occasion.



Connectivity

I have been invited to talk to the Eagle and Swinethorpe Parish Council about Wildlife Friendly Community status. I am hoping to do the same with Doddington and Whisby Parish Council. This could really open up our potential connectivity from our gardens, fields, hedgerows, school, church, Golf Centre and so on to four adjacent villages. I've estimated this to have an area of about 10 square miles. Google tells me that's over 3600 football pitches!

tonymagri949@btinternet.com



The
Natural World
Centre

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

Boardwalk Bistro

with Dog Friendly tables in the reception, shop area

Lincolnshire Makers Gift Shop

Cygnets Suite

for corporate and social hire

Quote 'VFTH' to receive 20% off room hire

Little Darters Outdoor Adventure

Otters Reach Adventure Play*

areas

Go Wild Children's Parties

Open Daily

9.30am-4.30pm

*charges apply

Follow us on social media for What's On
and exclusive offers



WWW.NATURALWORLDCENTRE.ORG



Open Daily
9.30am-4.30pm

As we start a brand new year, we have some updates regarding our facilities here at the Natural World Centre.

Thorpe on the Hill Car Park Passes:

Thorpe on the Hill residents are invited to renew their FREE annual car parking pass. Please bring in two forms of identification confirming your home address.

(If you pay for your annual pass, these will be available from the 1st March 2024.)

Otters Reach Charges Implemented:

Access to Otters Reach will now require a nominal fee to help maintain and preserve this beautiful natural space. Your contributions will ensure its upkeep for all to enjoy.

Otters Reach Play Sessions:

Sessions start at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm, children £1, adults and under 1's are free.

Memory Leaves and Paws

The perfect way to remember a loved ones - at a place they enjoyed visiting. Personalised memory leaves and paws are displayed on our distinctive wooden tree silhouette within the centre. Ask at reception for more details

We look forward to welcoming you very soon!

Follow us on social media for What's On and exclusive offers



WWW.NATURALWORLDCENTRE.ORG

**10% off your Boardwalk
Bistro bill Monday-Friday
with this
VOUCHER***

*This voucher must be presented to qualify. No photocopies will be accepted.



Thorpe-on-the Hill - History

Technically, just outside Thorpe's parish in Eagle's. This very grainy print of a photograph appeared some years ago in the house magazine 'Wyvern' of the Midland Railway Trust which is a preserved railway running steam and diesel trains near Butterley in Derbyshire. The centre preserves and operates all things related to the Midland Railway which was, until the nationalisation of the railways to become British Railways in 1948, was the railway which ran through Thorpe on the Hill from Lincoln to Newark. The old station site was at Thorpe's level crossing on Station Road with the Railway Inn opposite and the Stationmaster's house on the other side of the road. The former Goods Yard is now the site of Alpha Concrete's operations. The original brick-built weighbridge cabin, now in a very dilapidated condition (but, surely, worthy of some TLC and preservation?), still stands at the entrance, which is just over the railway crossing on the right as you go towards Whisby Crossroads.

The photo shows the crossing keeper, Mrs Widworth operating the crossing on 30th May 1972.



Whilst Station Road had a 'proper' signal box (on the left on the Thorpe side next to what is now the Railway Inn's car park), the level crossing over Eagle Lane west of Thorpe beyond Eric East Lake and turning to Scotland Farm) only had the little hut with the levers to operate the signals (called a Ground Frame) as shown in the picture. The gates would have been opened and shut by hand - all day and night! The house by the railway (on the left just after crossing the railway when going to Eagle from Thorpe) was the original house provided by the Midland Railway for the crossing keeper. Later, in British Railways' time, a new bungalow was built (on the right just before the crossing) to replace the old one. Both are now of course privately owned as all the crossings were automated with automatic barriers in c. 1986 and personnel were no longer required to operate them.

Interestingly, further along the line at Swinderby Station, the old signal box and arrangement still survives, with the signaller operating the levers inside the box and then having to come out of his cab to shut and open the gates - again, any time of the day or night when a train was due! A somewhat incongruous scene in this modern age when the latest, state of the art LNER Lincoln - Kings Cross train comes by.



Apparently, the Midland Railway Trust acquired the levers (German pattern turnover levers, we are told) from this crossing (and from the next level crossing towards Newark at Eagle Barnsdale), presumably when the crossings were automated with automatic barriers. The photo shows the crossing keeper, Mrs Widworth operating the crossing on 30th May 1972.

The Midland Railway Trust would be very interested in any additional information. If you have anything you can add, please let us know via the VFTH Editor.

Gordon Kobish

Love your Parish

WEST END 'SLOW' GIN COMPETITION

3rd JANUARY 2024

After a lovely Christmas it was time for the " West End " folks to have a rummage in the pantry to see what might be a prospective winner and be best of the best SLOE GIN. Some say it's the wine of the gods .. some say its common hedge row tippie but here in Thorpe-on-the-Hill the local fruit have a wonderful appeal. Each and all have their secrets .. wait till the frost hits them or pop them in the freezer overnight .. that hidden unpruned blackthorn .. the bit of hedge near the leaky water tap and dare I say it the early morning stroll to quietly add a bit of liquid fertiliser ! Now some do say that is verging on cheating but when the nectar is sampled and pronounced a delight the provenance slips into morning mist !

This year saw 9 entries vying for the honour of the prestigious **West End Cup**.

In 9th position Was a gallant try from three times medal holder and hugely experienced Bon Vivant .. Gordon with his Farnley Gin

No 8 Was Bob's '19 bottling. A little muzzy on the palate perhaps but a splendid colour and wonderful shape in the glass.

No 7 Was a newcomer to the tastings .. somewhat lacking in presentation but would make a decent pre-prandial offering if decanted carefully.

No 6 was Bob's well received '20 bottling .. should be drunk soon as beginning to loose its shine. A delight to see this one again

No 5 Was an amuse bouche from Annie and as expected a curious after taste of malt. Maybe a finer filter would have improved but even so .. delicious.

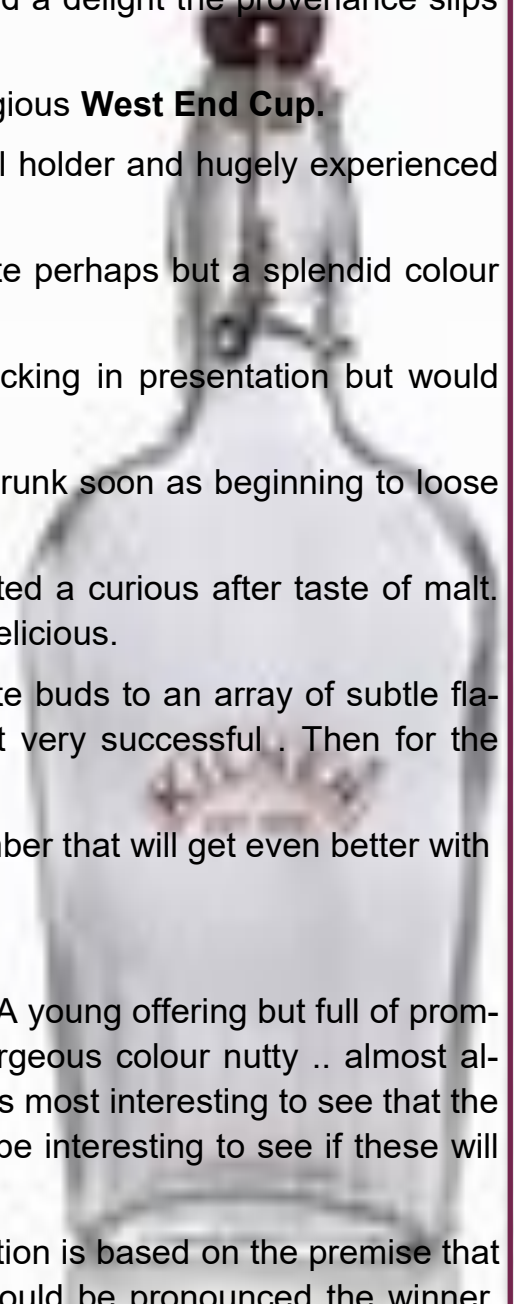
No 4 Was Bob's alternative '20 bottling treating our taste buds to an array of subtle flavours. The maturation in the sheep barn was novel but very successful . Then for the medal winners

No 3 Was Oliver's '21 pick from the cellar. A modest number that will get even better with leaving undisturbed in a dark quiet place

No 2 Was again from Oliver's cellar and this time the '22

No 1 Finally we had the wonderful mouthful of Bobs '23 A young offering but full of promise and with care and attention will be very special. Gorgeous colour nutty .. almost almond .. complex flavours to delight the connoisseur It was most interesting to see that the younger offerings were received with favour. It will also be interesting to see if these will improve in quality and depth as time goes by.

It's been suggested that the West End Sloe Gin Competition is based on the premise that after drinking a dozen samples the one left standing should be pronounced the winner. May I enlighten the readers by stating that the panel of judges are all experienced, unbiased and of sober good character. 'Slow' correspondent ... OC



Best wishes for 2024 from us all at The Railway Inn



Wow what a busy few weeks it's been!! We were involved in so many lovely community events throughout December including the Halfway Heroes Bike Run to The Children's Ward at LCH, Quinny's Christmas Quiz was fully booked, the Ladies Night Christmas meal was enjoyed by us all, we welcomed the village Carol Singers and the North Scarle Cricket Club Christmas Tractor Run went ahead despite the unexpected snowfall!

Our raffle was drawn on Christmas Eve and saw over 70 prizes being won including a Samsung 32" TV, an Air Fryer and numerous cash prizes. Hardy's of Farndon donated a Christmas Hamper which we were able to raffle separately and raised £428 which will be going towards our 2024 target of £1,500, which we are hoping to raise for MacMillan Cancer Care.

A great night was enjoyed by us all on New Year's Eve and we would like to thank every one that came and made such a fantastic party atmosphere.

The beginning of 2024 has seen us sponsor a Guide Dog puppy called "Sage". We look forward to hearing all about her progress over the coming months.

7th Feb - Gents Night ♦ **12th Feb - Chow Pizza 5pm** ♦ **21st Feb - Ladies Night**





St Michael's Church of England Primary School

What a great start to term we have had! 2024 is certainly going to be a good year!

The end of term finished with a whole school trip to the panto and carols around the tree at the church. We also had a Christmas event organised by Friends of School which raised nearly £800 and every child got to meet Father Christmas.

Since being back, we have embraced our new topics with gusto! Year 5 are looking at the Arctic Tundra and have already produced some amazing artwork of the Northern lights.

Year 3 have been designing and making snappers – characters with moving parts and snappy mouths to the rest of us!

Year 2 have started their topic on pirates and made hardtack – pirate bread – it was not popular with everyone!

Year 4 have started their topic on the digestive system and teeth which has involved making a model of this system and designing and making healthy snacks to help our teeth!

Year 1 have started their topic on transport and are looking forward to having some real modes of transport in school later in the term!

Our Reception class have started the term by looking at Epiphany and some of the traditions associated with this celebration. Finally Year 6 have a topic about climate and change and are now looking at whether Thorpe on the Hill can make a difference – they are currently looking

at whether a wind farm would work in our village! (Hypothetically at this point although they are open to any visitors from the village with strong opinions who might want to talk to them so please get in touch!)

Are you still looking for a school for your child? Did you know that our Reception class has at least three fulltime adults, an enclosed large covered outside space and there is access to Breakfast Club every day from 7.30am and after-school care until 5.30pm – all of our children love Breakfast and After-School Club!

We hope that prospective parents can see what we are all about at St Michael's and we welcome you to have a look around.

Please contact the school on

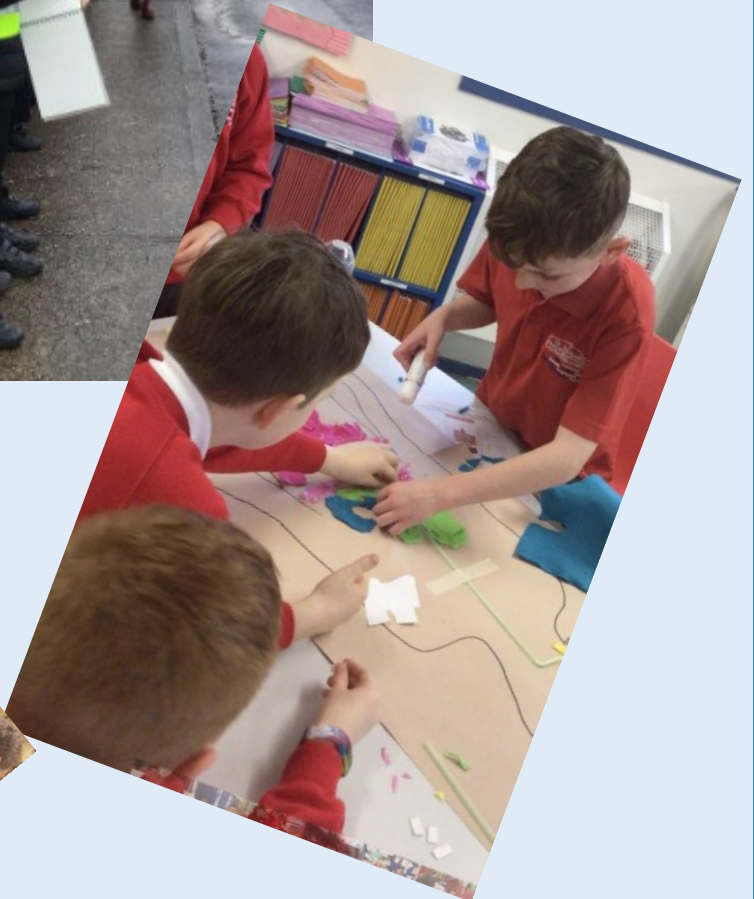
01522 681923

or

enquiries@stmichaels.lincs.sch.uk

and we will be happy to help you. We have spaces in some year groups, so why not get in touch and come and see what makes St Michael's such a special place to grow and learn!

St Michael's Church of England Primary School



Fosse Green Solar Farm

Solar Farm Update & Action Group

The PC convened a public meeting in the Oliver Roper centre on 10th January. It was well attended and the discussions productive. The agenda was as follows:

- Explain the background to the proposed development.
- To set out the benefits and disadvantages of the development to residents.
- To explain the Parish Council's position on the development.
- To help residents decide their own position on the development.
- To consider actions for residents who do decide to oppose the development.

Representatives from several of the affected local villages to the south of TOTH have met in the last few months to co-ordinate responses to the proposal. Other groups who are opposing similar schemes elsewhere in the county have also been contacted. They recommended setting up an Action Group, independently of Parish Councils, and made up of active residents who can be more agile and responsive to time pressures, than typical PC's. Such a group would be able to hold a bank account and to raise money to pay for leaflet drops, a website, posters, and potentially external professional expertise.

Anyone who is interested in being part of a Fosse Green Action Group should contact the Parish Clerk on her email:

tothparish@gmail.com.

Anyone who missed the meeting can view the presentation on the Parish Council website where a section is devoted to the Fosse Green Solar Farm

The image below shows the scale of proposed solar farm, which if it were placed on Lincoln would cover the city.



Volunteering: IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK.

AT ANY AGE

Flexible volunteering to suit you



Our group includes

**Squirrels
Beavers
Cubs
Scouts**

**Boys & Girls aged
4 - 14**

**Support young people to develop
"Skills for Life"**



Scouts
27th Lincoln
Thorpe-on-the-Hill

**For further information on this
exciting opportunity email:**

**Oliver Chapple - oliver@27thlincolnscouts.org.uk
Ray Twell - ray@27thlincolnscouts.org.uk
Fran Firth - fran@27thlincolnscouts.org.uk**

Make a New Year's resolution to volunteer some time

St Michael and all Angels



Hello,

I don't know whether it is age, or just the rhythm of life, but we have only just finished clearing up from Christmas, and already with this article looking towards the 6 weeks of Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. I suppose many will be planning romantic gifts for their partners, and it is right to do so. Our love we give, and receive from our partners is so precious. Our loved ones can often empower us with their touch, presence or a simple word.

With this in mind I suppose it is appropriate to celebrate Ash Wednesday on the same evening, as it is a celebration of another aspect of love. It starts our focus on the destructive behaviours that led to Jesus crucifixion, our failure to love. Whereas, his non violent loving approach led him to confront those behaviours, with the resultant crucifixion.

During Lent we will renew our understanding of how we live out that loving faith, both in our services but also our weekly Lent Study Group. These will take place on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm in Eagle Church vestry, as it is the easiest to heat!!

Please do join us for these sessions, if you can, and let it challenge you on how you can live a loving life.

As ever
Andrew

St Michael and all Angels

Our Church Wardens

Felicity Jenkinson on 07949654855 and Bob Sheldon on 685810

Our Treasurer

Chris Abrahams on 698208

We are now pleased to say that all administration for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals is being dealt with at North Hykeham.

Please contact:

Sally Long, Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am - 12pm)

North Hykeham, Lincoln. LN69AB Tel: 883100

Tel: 883100 or email: sallylong@nhallsaints.co.uk

Bell Practice

Tues Evening Bell ringing lessons 7.30pm - 9pm

Please contact: Sandra Underwood on 07710 762458

We look forward to welcoming you to any of these services irrespective of which village you live in.

4th February	11.00 morning Prayer
11th February	16.00 Evening Prayer
14th February - Ash Wednesday	19.00 group Communion at Swinderby
18th February	9.30 Holy Communion
3rd March	11.00 Morning Prayer
10th March	16.00 Evening Prayer
17th March	9.30 Holy Communion
24th March - Palm Sunday	10.30 Palm Sunday Procession & Communion Group Service at Swinderby
28th March - Maundy Thursday	19.00 Communion and Stripping of Altar
31st March Easter Day	10.30 Group Communion North Scarle

Dear Friends,

As you know we have a great team who work very hard in maintaining our churchyard as a place of beauty, and where families can go to remember loved ones who have gone before. Our aim is to make the churchyard one that honours the departed, but is also a symbol of new life and hope, hence the tremendous work on the wildflower meadow.

Part of this work also involves maintaining the churchyard within the guidelines set by the Church of England, guidelines that we are expected to follow. In reviewing these recently we realised, that, with all that has been going on over the past 2-3 years these have slipped a little and in the coming months we will need to get on top of these.

The main areas that we need to address are:-

1. Artificial flowers are only allowed between October and March, and must be cleared by the end of March. From next March any such items that are not removed, we will remove from graves.

2. A number of people are leaving ornaments, mementos on graves as a semi-permanent memorial. Sadly, unless they are ones that have appropriate permission, either via myself, or a Faculty signed by the Diocesan Chancellor, technically they are not allowed. However, we do recognise that so often it is important to express our love for a departed loved one, that we accept such outpourings are important. To facilitate those expressions of love we suggest that any mementos be removed after two months from the funeral, again if family are unable to do so we will remove those items, obviously with respect and dignity.

Please could you help us with adhering to these regulations we are guided by, so that we can maintain the churchyard as a special place of beauty.

Whisby Nature Reserve & Education Centre

Well, it's safe to say that the weather has not only been a challenge for us all over the last few months. The kind of continually stormy and wet weather we saw throughout the latter half of 2023 also has some dire effects on the natural world as well as our own.

You may notice a number of stress points showing in nature as you walk around green spaces, from fallen trees taken out by high winds and deluges of rain to masses and masses of deceased earthworms being visible at the surface of sodden ground. Our wardens have been hard at work making sure the nature reserve is as accessible for people as possible, digging drainage channels to clear paths of standing water and repairing large holes. But while the absurd weather can cause problems, we've also been able to see more positive seasonal aspects of nature in all its glory. While absent last winter, the murmurations returned in December boasting dancing flocks of Starlings some 25,000 strong. Visitors to the site at the right



Starling murmuration seen over Grebe Lake during December (photo by Lynsey Woods)

time have been blessed with sightings of Bitterns around Grebe Lake and a Great White Egret has also frequented Thorpe Lake throughout the winter so far.



Whisby Junior Wardens celebrating 75 years of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (photo provided by Junior Wardens)

We've also had a great end to the year for our education and engagement work. We celebrated 75 years of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in 2023. And in true form our Junior Wardens celebrated both the anniversary and the end of their year of hard work in style with fancy dress and games. Their 2023 programme was put together with them, as is the 2024 programme, as we engage and encourage our young people to be part of shaping their own experiences and training. If you know any young people aged between 11 and 18 who want to develop practical skills in protecting nature

then point them towards our website or get in touch with our team here to join our ranks.

However, good things aren't just behind us but also coming up, and not just for the kids. We're proud to announce that we'll be hosting monthly training courses from Whisby Education Centre to teach adults specialist nature-based skills, from Hazel Coppicing and Tree Identification to Sustainable Foraging and Wood Whittling. All details for how to book onto our upcoming courses and workshops can be found on the events page of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's website (see below).

There's so much to come here at Whisby in 2024 so we're looking forward to seeing you here for our fabulous events and to see the splendid spectacles.

Stay wild!

Sam Reast – Education & Community Officer

Interested in seeing what's on and coming to an event?

Visit www.lincstrust.org.uk/events to find out more

Thorpe on the Hill Bowls Club



**Have Fun and Meet
New Friends**

FREE
Introductory Sessions
Available Now!

See details overleaf...

Thorpe on the Hill Bowls Club



Come and join us today!

Established in 2022, the Lincoln Area Bowls League has twenty-nine affiliated clubs offering a choice of social bowling, evening and afternoon league matches and team and individual competitions.

The outdoor bowls season starts in April and continues until September. If you have never played bowls before but would like to *'give it a go'* come down to your local club. There is always someone on hand to introduce you to our sport and we have bowls available for you to use. We look forward to welcoming you!

To arrange your FREE introductory session, please contact:

THORPE ON THE HILL BOWLS CLUB

2 West Field Lane, Thorpe On The Hill
Lincoln LN6 9BF

Carol Dallamore
07833 105656

cdallamore@btinternet.com

Getting Down to Earth

“If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?”

Percy Bysshe Shelley, Ode to the West Wind

In Chinese Five Element theory, based on the Dao De Ching and on their observation of the natural world, winter is a time of stillness. A period of rest, peace, and calm in the cycle of life. Those short days and long dark nights are a time to guard our reserves by staying warm, eating well, and looking inward. It is very easy to find this time a bit of a slog – indeed Blue Monday has just gone by! I don't know if it is a coincidence that the colour the Chinese associate with winter is blue, but the idea that this is the time to be a bit reflective certainly resonates. I love the image of the moon reflecting on frozen water – clarity and light from darkness. We trust that spring will follow winter just as day follows night.

perspective, and in terms of Western anatomy and physiology. The slow gentle movements can improve balance, develop strength and stamina, and promote sleep. The mindful way of doing them promotes calm and a feeling of groundedness.



The element associated with this time of year is water. At the beginning of February, I will be leading a workshop for the East Midlands Kidney Cancer Support Group – it's a great time to be helping them to learn new skills for rest and relaxation.

In a few short weeks the sunset will be discernibly later. The birds are already more active, more colourful and more vocal. The energy of spring is like a bursting forth – an impulse to move into action. Spring is an expression of hope and new life.

In our village taichigong class, the movements of the forms we practice work with the body both from an Eastern

Come and try a session – all are welcome.

Classes are at Oliver Roper Mondays 10-11.00

For more information contact Barbara 07733 396891 bbshiatsu@gmail.com

Thorpe on the Hill - Parish Council

Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Cllr Bindley (Chair)

Cllr Bramford (Vice chair)

Cllr Ives

Cllr Sheldon MBE

Cllr Williams

Cllr Owen

Cllr Lyons

Parish Clerk: Kerrie Vickers

Parish Council email: tothparish@gmail.com

Parish Council website: www.thorpe-hill.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk

- Portfolio holders

Whisby Quarry Liaison meeting - Cllr Lyons and Vacancy

Whisby Nature Park Steering Board – Cllr Sheldon MBE

Finance - Cllr Bramford

Allotments - Cllr Lyons

Tennis Court – TBA

Staffing Committee - Cllrs Lyons, Bindley and Vacancy

Lake Management Committee—Cllrs Lyons, Sheldon MBE, Bindley and Vacancy

Parish Council Meetings

All Parish Council meetings will be held at the Oliver Roper Parish Centre commencing at 7pm. The dates are advertised on the notice board and via the Parish email circulation list. If you are not on the list please email the Parish Clerk and request to be added. You can ask for your email to be removed at any time.

Local Police and District and County Councillors are also invited to attend. The agenda and minutes of the current meeting are available on the Parish Council website and, on request, from the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council welcomes members of the public to ask questions or make short statements to the Council during public time at the start of the meeting.

North Kesteven District Councillors and County Councillor

NKDC, Mitch Elliott email: cldr_mitch_elliott@n-kesteven.gov.uk

NKDC, Peter Overton email: cldr_peter_overton@n_kesteven.gov.uk

LCC, Alan William Briggs email: cllra.briggs@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Oliver Roper Recreation Tennis Court

If you would like to use the Tennis Court please contact the Parish Clerk,

email: tothparish@gmail.com

A £10 deposit for the key is refundable. Please note the court can only be used for tennis, not other ball games.

Thorpe on the Hill - Parish Council

There have been three meetings since the last issue of VFTH. Full minutes for all meetings are available, when approved, on the PC website.

LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 15th NOVEMBER 2023

- A section of dilapidated fencing was removed on a trial basis and several difficulties were identified; this will be looked at again in Spring 2024.
- The budget was approved, and expenditure approved for the purchase of spring bulbs.
- The latest inspection report was received, and it was agreed that the Scouts could reinstate their life ring on a permanent basis.
- Councillor Lyons agreed to investigate the erection of a depth maker in the lake and report back to the next meeting.
- Verbal reports were received from the Wildlife Group, the Scouts, and the Fishing Club.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6th DECEMBER 2023

- The latest financial report was approved.
- Actions to deal with the tenders received for the ORPMR extension were agreed.
- It was agreed to hold a public meeting to discuss the Fosse Green Energy proposal on 10th January 2024.
- The quote to demolish the fence between the playground and 2 Westfield Drive was accepted. Work to commence in Spring 2024.
- The payment limit on the Unity Trust bank card was increased to £1500.
- It was agreed that an additional Unity Trust savings account be opened to comply with the FSCS.
- The Bowls Club risk assessment was adopted, and the new Bowls Club license agreed.
- It was resolved; to adopt the Parish Council Risk Register, to not increase ORPMR hire rates, to approve all the grant applications received and, that Councillor Bindley would respond to the request for observations on the proposals for the North Hykeham Relief Road.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6th DECEMBER 2023

- The latest financial report was approved.
- The budget and precept for 2024-2025 were approved.
- Feedback was received from the Fosse Green Energy public meeting on 10th January 2024. Volunteers for residents interested in joining an Action Group are being sought.
- Work has commenced on the Bowls Club pavilion repairs.
- It was resolved to move £50,000 to the new saving account with Unity Trust Bank.
- It was resolved to proceed with the ORPMR refurbishment, using the Builder who submitted Tender A. Procedures for managing the project were approved.
- The Publication Scheme was adopted.



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01522 788250

Bassingham Pharmacy
01522 789307

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01522 515386

Lincoln County Hospital
01522 512512

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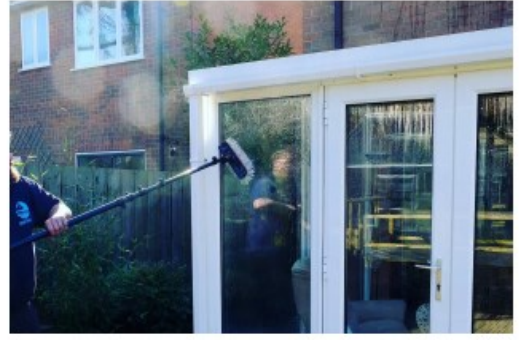
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Pennells	6.58	9.25	11.25	13.25	15.25	17.25
Thorpe	7.02	9.30	11.30	13.30	15.30	17.30

Thorpe	7.50	10.15	12.15	14.15	16.15	18.15
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