

February

SWATON NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017

CUTS TO GRASS CUTTING

It can't have escaped anyone's notice that NKDC along with many councils around the country are having to pull in the purse strings, and one aspect of public services to be affected is grass cutting. Many house-holders in Swaton have always kept the grass areas in front of their houses adjacent to the road mowed, and in 2017 this will be no less vital to keeping our village neat and tidy. If you do have a grassy area in front of your property and don't usually mow it, then please stretch a little further out from your own front garden! If you don't have the ability or equipment to do that then ask a neighbour or friend. It's going to be the only way to stop a meadow growing right outside your house!



UPDATE - QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK

Back in November the Zipwire, Swing and Seesaw were installed in the park thanks to various donations and an £8,000 grant from Tesco bags of Help. The good news is The Lottery's 'Awards for All' has just granted Swaton's Park £9,998.00. Grant provider usually stipulate what they would like their money to buy & the Lottery has chosen to purchase the wheelchair friendly roundabout and any

remaining money is to go towards a basket Swing or the cradle and inclusive swing set. Other recent awards have included £500 from Lincolnshire Playing Fields Association, £250 from Lincolnshire Rural Housing Association & £1,740 from Bicker Windfarm Trust. Bicker wants to fund the materials for the Park's bespoke Shelter, which is going to be crafted by a few skilled volunteers within the village saving many thousands of pounds not having to purchase one from a commercial company.

Over the next few months you should see the roundabout installed and hopefully one or two additional items and the shelter should be completed in July. A path is going to be installed that leads to the Roundabout – volunteers will be needed to help dig it out – if you're willing to be part of that group please contact Alan Wilson 01529 421334 – we need volunteers to make this happen. Other grants have been applied for or are in the middle of being written so fingers crossed we are fortunate enough to win those too – every penny really does count but many funders make it a long, drawn out process.

Many thanks to Charles who has been cutting the grass in the park – your efforts are sincerely appreciated. If anyone else is able to help maintain the park then please contact Alan. It's a village facility that we will have to tend to ourselves so any help is appreciated.

THINGS TO DO LOCALLY FOR HALF TERM



DISCOVER SLEAFORD'S RIVERSIDE

A number of groups including Countryside NK and Discover NK are holding a free Family Fun day full of activities to interest the kids and encourage families to get outdoors.

It is being held 16th Feb between 10.30 and 3.30pm

10.30am: Event starts – come & explore the mill or

have a go at the Molly the Mill Mouse trail (available all day!)

11am: Craft activities at Cogglesford Mill & Navigation House – make a corn dolly or a nature-inspired mobile (available all day!)

11am: Nature Explorer Walk with WatchNK (booking essential). Allow up to 1 hour.

12pm: Make a bird box (inside Cogglesford Mill) - **£5 per box.**

1.30pm: Nature Explorer Walk with WatchNK (booking essential). Allow up to 1 hour.

3.30pm: Event closes



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CRAFT & DESIGN, Carre Street, Sleaford:-

FEB HALF TERM - FREE - Decorate NCCD Cafe Crockery - 15th Feb, 11am to 3pm - Join local ceramicist artist Kate McBride & up-cycle the cafe crockery and create unusual designs & effects. Look out for your crockery on your next visit to NCCD café

FEB HALF TERM - 11th to 19th Feb - 3D MakerBot Returns

Visitors are invited to drop in to the NCCD anytime during Feb half term to watch the popular MakerBot in action. See how 3D printed shapes are constructed, handle the objects & even take some home. MakerBot is being leant free by University of Lincoln

Silversmithing Evening Courses, 7 Feb, 7 Mar & 4 Apr, 6 to 9pm - Local jeweller Andrew Poole introduces the basics of Silversmithing in his popular workshops. Participants will learn soldering, sawing, hammering, joining, polishing & finishing & have the opportunity to work on their own project - £75 for 3 sessions.

FREE: NCCD Tots Tuesdays, every Tuesday, 10am to 12pm - Activity Zones & worksheets without worrying about how much noise & mess the kids make.

NCCD Creative Young Minds, every Tuesday, 4pm – 5pm & first Tuesday of the month, 4pm – 6pm - Join us for our young people's group & create artwork & events at NCCD. Bring your ideas & take ownership of your young people's group.

Hub Writers Unplugged, first Tue of every month, 6.30-9pm - NCCD is brought to life every first Tuesday of the month with a potent mix of local musicians & writers - Free

CRANWELL AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE –til Fri 26 Mar 2017 – explore Cranwell's history as a training school and learn about the types of aircraft that have flown at Cranwell over the last 100 years - Free

Various dance activities at TERRY O'TOOLE THEATRE. One NK, Moor Lane, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 9AX. 01522 883311 www.terryotooletheatre.org.uk

SWATON CHURCH NEWS

What did you receive at Christmas?

Christmas already seems a long time ago, some may have even forgot what they received for Christmas, it might even have broken or been exchanged. In the Church, we have only just come to the end of the period just after Christmas known as Epiphany where the stories from the Bible, which we hear in our church services, are about people receiving new revelation.

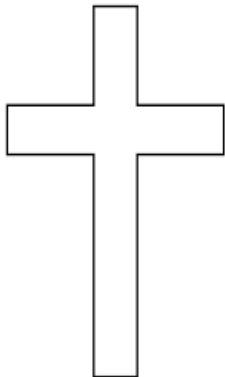
The light shines in the darkness and only a few perceive it. Some of those whose eyes were opened to the new thing God was doing in the world were the wise men who travelled from Babylon (Modern day Iraq) to visit the infant Jesus possibly 18 months after the birth. They had been led by light (the star) to meet The Light. They returned to their own land by another way but changed. As TS Elliot suggests in his famous poem, Journey of the Magi, "We returned to our places, these kingdoms, but no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation, with an alien people clutching their gods". Those who have met with The Light and become illuminated with his love, do feel changed. I know I did when I finally got down on my knees to ask Christ into my life over thirty years ago.

I was no longer at ease in the old dispensation, the old way of being, of living, of seeing. Like those who met him then I too had been changed. This Christmas and Epiphany I have been thanking God again for that encounter, the best gift I have ever received. It can never be broken and I won't be exchanging it for all the tea in China. If you have never received that Light. Remember, it is only a prayer away. May there be new Light in your New Year.

Every blessing,

Rev Chris Harrington

Rector of Heckington & Helpringham
Group of Parishes
The Rectory, 10 Cameron Street,
Heckington, NG34 9RW
01529 460904
c.r.harrington@btinternet.com



LOCAL SERVICES

Services at St Michael's church in Feb and March.

Sunday 12th Feb at 11am

Morning Praise led by John West

Sunday 26th Feb at 9.30am

Holy Communion

Sunday 12th March at 11am

Morning Praise led by Wendy Kerby

Sunday 26th March at 9.30am

Mothering Sunday

Future dates for the diary

We are hoping to have Palm Sunday procession through the village to church with the donkeys on *Sunday 9th April*.

More news about that in the next issue.

AN APPEAL FOR AID

The churches within our group are appealing for help on behalf of the many thousands of Syrian refugees displaced by war and now living in tents enduring awful winter conditions. Children, the elderly, families - all in need of the basics we take for granted. If you can help them by donating new or used (in good clean condition) items to make their lives a little easier it will be appreciated – things you don't want or were going to throw away or leave at a charity shop will be put to very good use.

WANTED items are clothes for men, women and children, shoes, boots and wellies as well as much needed blankets and sleeping bags.

If you can help, please contact Wendy Kerby (421930) or Jill Abbott (421278)

The charities running these appeals are Jacobwellappeal.org & Samarasaidappeal.org



SWATON COMMUNITY TRUST – SOCIAL CALENDAR

SATURDAY MORNING CAFÉ

Every Saturday, 9.30am until 12 noon. Tea, coffee, bacon rolls, homemade cakes and chat. Newspapers (available by pre-order only from Liz 421217)



FRIDAY NIGHT SWATON SWIGGERS



Every Friday from 8.30pm. Good selection of wines, beers, soft drinks and snacks at very reasonable prices.

We will also be holding BBQ evenings during the summer – more details nearer the time

SOUP KITCHEN

2nd Monday every month – next dates are 13th February & 13th March. Choice of homemade soups with fresh bread and jacket potatoes with various fillings.



CINEMA CLUB

1st Saturday of every month (Feb to Nov). Next date will be 4th February 2017.

Full details of the films are displayed in the hut or from Nicky 421566.

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm. Bar and refreshments available.



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

QUIZ NIGHT – SATURDAY 25th MARCH

Tickets will be available from Liz nearer the date. 01529 421217 (Numbers are limited so make a note in your diary!)

BANK HOLIDAY BREAKFAST – MONDAY 1st MAY

Come and enjoy a full English breakfast – tickets £5 each (Vegetarians option will also be available). More details nearer the time from Nicky 421566

HUT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Nicky Arnold – 07905 155359
Secretary: Liz Harborow – 07947 567378
Treasurer: Abi Eaves – 07950 663226
Bookings: Jonathan Forbes – 07710 782943
Committee: Vicky Webb; Kate Brown; Mike Kempster

District Council Report from Cllr Mrs Kate Cook

Unitary authority

You may have seen an announcement in the local media and on social media from Lincolnshire County Council Leader Martin Hill about plans to ask County Councillors to vote on whether a referendum should be held asking if Lincolnshire should switch to a unitary system of governance. If approved, it will take place at the same time as the County Council elections in May.



This is a statement in response to the announcement from Councillor Mrs Marion Brighton OBE: *"I am not at all surprised to learn of Cllr Hill's intentions following on from his abandonment of the Devolution proposals for Greater Lincolnshire late last year. North Kesteven District Council remains committed to a model of devolution as the best opportunity for achieving sustainable growth and excellent public services in Lincolnshire, with the considerable additional funds that would generate for Lincolnshire which cannot be facilitated by a unitary model. As an individual authority, we have a strong vision, an excellent plan built on widespread support by partners and public, and a viable financial plan which we will continue to pursue that in the interests of our residents and we will continue to encourage a partnership approach to any proposals for change, based on dialogue and robust, substantiated information."*

Garden waste goes live



Applications open on Wednesday, February 1 for new and re-newed subscription to NKDC's garden waste service for the 12 months from April 2017. The price has been frozen for the low-cost, hassle-free service to have your brown bin emptied throughout the year. Collection costs are £30 for one garden waste bin and £12 for each additional bin – and for the first time anyone renewing their subscription can opt to pay by direct debit alongside other methods of payment. Subscription opens online 1st February & by phone from 1st March.

Riverside Centre

Work has started on the first phase of the £500,000 revamp of the Riverside Centre in Sleaford. A team from local contractors Maher Millard is on site undertaking work including opening up the central courtyard, removing the bandstand and display units and some of the colonnades fronting shops along the Southern side of the development. Dated cladding along the shops on the southern side of the centre will also be removed and the ground and upper floor levels will be revamped. It is hoped this work will be complete by early July.

Spokesperson for Lincolnshire Co-op Emma Snedden said: *"We're pleased to have started work on this project, which will see significant investment in the Riverside Centre for the benefit of people in Sleaford, making it a much-improved shopping environment. The businesses in the centre are open during the works so we'd encourage shoppers to carry on supporting them while it takes place."*



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North Kesteven District Council

SWATON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING - 17th JANUARY 2017

Speed Indicator Signs: Speed indicator signs held by Swaton parish council will have new batteries. Swaton plus three other neighbouring councils have made equal contributions and will share the use of these devices.

Play Area: Three items of play equipment are now in place in the newly created Swaton play park. An area of land off the High Street has been leased by the Crown Estates and to date donations and grant funding provided the funds for the three items. A zip wire, a see saw and two flat swings plus the necessary surfacing have been installed. Further grants are being investigated and applied for to fund more equipment and a MUGA (multi-use games area).

Lighting: A request for an additional footway light in Swaton has been made to NKDC and a site inspection is to be arranged.

Grass Cutting: There will be no County Council verge grass cutting in Swaton this year. Parishioners are reminded that as the previous funding has been withdrawn the Parish Council does not have the funds to organise the cutting on behalf of the County Council

2017/18 Budget: Swaton parishioners will have a small drop in their council tax contribution to the Parish Council. It was agreed to keep the precept for 2017/18 at £2,500.00 – the same as the current year. As there has been a small increase in the parish tax base, this will mean a small reduction for Swaton residents.

Planning: Parish councillors had no objections to a proposed plan for a two-storey side and rear extension at 2 Cardyke Cottage, Parson's Grove.

MEETINGS FOR 2017:

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday March 14th 2017, not the 21st as previously published.

There is a public open session at 7.30pm in the Hut, followed at 7.45pm by the parish council meeting. All agendas and other details can be found on the web site.

2017 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Tuesday March 14th,
Tuesday May 16th,
Tuesday July 18th,
Tuesday September 19th
Tuesday November 21st



LIVES (Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Service)

Swaton has had an active responder group in the village for past 3+ years but the numbers of qualified responders within the group have dwindled. For anyone new to the region that doesn't know what LIVES does – it is an invaluable back up to the Ambulance Service, called out to attend medical emergencies within a 6-mile radius from their base point (ours being Swaton) when an ambulance is too far away to cover a serious medical issue such as breathing difficulties, cardiac arrest etc. All LIVES operatives are volunteers and give a little of their free time to be on duty, fitting it in around work and family life. All responders are given full training to confidently and knowledgeably attend a call & carry oxygen and a defib as well as other first aid related items.

LIVES is a very worthy cause and you don't have to have any previous medical experience to be part of this function.

If you would like to become a LIVES responder or would like to donate (it costs us around £30 a month to hire oxygen from HQ) then please contact Elaine Penketh 01529 421769.

Have a look at the LIVES website and see the excellent work it does -
<https://lives.org.uk/>