



SWATON NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2016



BUS SERVICE

Unfortunately, the Parish Council has learned of a further decline in transportation services to & from Swaton. Mark Broughton (MD of Sleafordian coaches) has confirmed that the 09.20 bus will cease as of Tuesday 20th December. It has been withdrawn due to consistently low passenger numbers over a number of years and does not receive any Lincolnshire County Council subsidy to assist with its operation.

The 14.24 will continue to operate on a Monday to Friday basis within the school term only although this service is also under review, again due to consistently low numbers. Call Connect is an alternative bus service that may be able to assist should anyone need transport & is contactable on 0345 234 3344, lines are open Monday-Friday 8.30am-6.30pm & Saturday 8.30-4.30 or via the internet on <http://www.lincsinterconnect.com/bookonline>.

FRESH CHRISTMAS TURKEYS & CHICKENS

Locally farmed in Threekingham.

Christmas is stressful enough without having to pluck & clean a turkey so all the hard work is done for you - all birds are sold oven ready. To order your Chicken or Turkey contact Liz or Tom Smith on 01529 240 800 or 07703 351 870.

Collection from Monks Wood Farm, Mareham Lane, Threekingham. NG34 0BQ



QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK



Our village park is starting to take shape. Over the last month or so the Bod-Paving that protects the ground and tree roots has been laid, overhanging trees were cut back and the flat-swing set, see-saw and zip-wire installed. Unfortunately Swaton's park project didn't receive enough votes to be eligible for the £25k on offer from The Aviva Community Award, however, there are other avenues of fund raising on the go at the moment although not as financially beneficial as Aviva would have been. We have had some success since

Tesco awarded us the money for the Zip-Wire . . . Bicker Wind Farm Trust given Swaton £1740.00 for the materials to build the shelter & The Lincolnshire Playing Fields Association has given £500.00 but we have a long way to go.

A big THANK YOU to all those who've volunteered their time and skills getting the park prepared for the equipment as well as keeping it tidy and mowed.

SWATON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 15th NOVEMBER 2016.

The Play Area: Equipment has been ordered for Swaton's new play park. Sufficient grant funding has been obtained for some swings, a seesaw and a 20mt zip wire. A committee is being set up to manage and administer grant funding. A further promised grant should pay for a youth shelter. Negotiations are still ongoing with the Lottery funding organisation. Future repairs and maintenance must be managed and further grant funding is being sought for the next phases.

Speed Indicator Signs: New batteries have been ordered for the Speed Indicator Signs which are managed by Swaton Parish Council. These signs are loaned out to neighbouring parishes. Three of these are sharing this cost, another has not yet had a meeting.

Lighting: A reminder has been sent re a street light which is still not working despite being reported some months ago. An application for an additional light along High Street, has been submitted to NKDC. A survey of nearby properties was carried out of which the results have been submitted with the application.

2017/18 Budget: Councillors looked at a proposed budget for 2017/18. After discussion, it was agreed to keep the current precept of £2500.00 for another year. Details of any support grant from NKDC have not yet been received so the decision will be confirmed in January once this is known.

Emergency Plan: Swaton Parish Council decided not to continue producing a full emergency plan as required by the County Council. These are complex plans and require more volunteers and volunteer hours than a small parish can provide. Such plans require neighbouring parishes to mobilise and assist each other in times of crisis. The people involved in the preliminary work will produce a Plan which is more specific to Swaton and can be managed by a small number of key volunteers.

2017 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES



Tuesday January 17th
Tuesday March 21st,
Tuesday May 16th
Tuesday July 18th,
Tuesday September 19th
Tuesday November 21st

All meetings start at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, the first 15 minutes of a PC meeting is open to the public to raise concerns, queries or questions.

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council are on May 16th. All agendas and other details can be found at the appropriate time on the web site.

HUT NEWS

HUT COMMITTEE

At the recent AGM the new committee was elected as follows:

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.

HUT MAINTENANCE: The Hut floor will be refurbished in early January. It is likely the hut will be closed for about a week – we let you know more details when we can.

SATURDAY MORNING CAFÉ: Every Saturday, 9.30am until 12 noon. Tea, coffee, bacon rolls, homemade cakes and chat. Newspapers are available by pre-order only.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER

This will run alongside the café. There will be a cake stall so the café will only serve drinks and bacon rolls.

FRIDAY NIGHT SWATON SWIGGERS

Every Friday, 8.30pm until late. Selection of wines, beers, soft drinks and snacks at very reasonable prices. **(NB: The bar will NOT be open this New Year's Eve).**

SOUP KITCHEN: 2nd Monday every month – next date is 12th December. Choice of homemade soups and bread and jacket potatoes with various fillings.

CINEMA CLUB

1st Saturday of the month. Next date will be 4th February 2017
Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm. Bar and refreshments available.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 11TH DECEMBER

All tickets are now sold. Please ensure any outstanding payments are sent to Nicky Arnold as soon as possible.



LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE:

2016 has again proved to me what great places Sleaford and Heckington are to live. Nationally it has one of, if not the lowest, crime rates in the country. Anti-social behaviour is also low but that does not mean we at the Neighbourhood Policing team take our eye off the ball. Sleaford Rural was a target for 'Shed Burglaries' particularly on allotments and in rural locations which became a series of crimes that were investigated by Sleaford

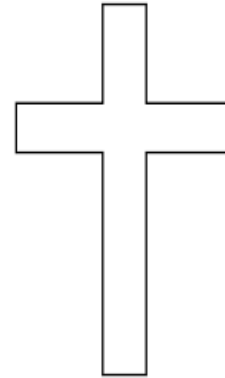
Officers. Currently (due to the number of crimes that were involved) this is still being investigated and we have 2 suspects on Police bail. However, prevention is always better than detection and I would like to remind people not to leave any items of value in wooden sheds especially in isolated location such as farm yards and allotments. Finally let me take the opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

PCSO Patrick Welby-Everard.

Email: Patrick.Welby-Everard@lincs.pnn.police.uk

SWATON CHURCH NEWS

Christmas is a time to reconnect with our roots. Remembering people and places, family & friends. Sending cards or taking presents as we visit those we love but haven't seen for a while. Laying flowers to remember loved ones, who may even have been with us last year but have now gone on before us. It's a time of looking back, often in nostalgia as we think of past Christmas's that somehow touched us in memorable ways funny, happy & sad.



I also find it a time of reflection as I look back across the year to write an annual newsletter that I send with cards destined for further afield. Christmas of course is also part of our wider heritage and has become a deep pool of memories that intertwine in ways that go deeper than just family.

As well as his divine credentials, which we read of in the opening verses of the gospel of St John, Jesus had earthly roots too. Every Christmas we revisit these roots – his parents, his conception, the journey to the place of his birth and the strangers rich and poor who visited him in Bethlehem. The gospel of St Matthew opens with the words "Jesus Christ came from the families of King David and Abraham", followed by a list of his earthly ancestors going back 42 generations from Abraham until his birth. I am struck

this year of how often Bethlehem is mentioned in the Bible stories of his ancestors like Jacob, Ruth & King David, and how deep his roots went down into this town's chequered history. The story of the birth of Jesus is an account of how God put down earthly roots amongst us in order to really know how we feel. He came also to show us how to reconnect with our divine roots, to live and to love, and to lift the human race out of the mire it finds itself in.

Sadly, the retail world, which now starts its run up to Christmas back October, seems to be becoming more and more disconnected from the roots of Christmas. Perhaps this is just a reflection on us as a country. Are we losing sight of why we even celebrate this amazing story? Coming to church at Christmas, as many of us do year after year, to hear and sing of that familiar story of the birth of Jesus helps us reconnect us with our spiritual roots. So do try and put the shopping bags down and make the time to visit a church near you this Christmas and reconnect with the amazing story of God's love for us all, giving us a real hope for the future.

Happy Christmas to you and your families,

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 CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS



SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER

9pm till 12noon - Christmas Fayre in the Hut. Bacon Butties as usual plus stalls, Christmas wreaths, Raffle and steel band playing in the church.

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER – 3rd of Advent

11am - Morning Praise at St Michael's Church led by Wendy

6.30pm SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER

Carol service at St Michael's Church with real donkeys. Refreshments after in the Hut.

SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm - Heckington (Crib Service with real donkeys) Andrew Key & ALM Team

6.00pm - Helpringham (Carol Service) John West

11.30pm - Heckington (Midnight Mass) Rev Chris or Rev Stephen

SUNDAY 25th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am - Christmas Praise at St Michael's Church led by John West

11.00am - Heckington (Holy Communion) Rev Stephen or Rev Chris

POTHOLES

The pothole down North End has been reported and acknowledged. If you see a pothole developing and want to flag it up you can register it yourself on-line with Lincs County Council, the link is <https://www.gov.uk/report-pothole>



WINTER WEATHER: Some tips for snowy weather from Lincs County Council. . .

SELF HELP TIPS CLEARING SNOW FROM FOOTWAYS

- **Do** work from the footway at all times - working towards oncoming traffic wherever possible
- **Do not** lift too much snow or ice at one time. Compacted snow can be very heavy.
- **Do not** use hot water to melt ice or snow – it may refreeze to form “black ice”.
- **Do** place the snow on the verge or grassed areas.
- **Do not** obstruct accesses or footpaths with the snow.
- **Do** place snow at edges of footways next to the road. This helps to form a safety barrier between cars and pedestrians
- **Do** put sand or ash down on cleared areas as it will give grip to walkers.
- **Do** use grit/salt from grit bins sparingly.
- **Do not** use grit/salt from highway grit bins on private property – that is theft.
- You **Do not** need to use a lot of salt - a teaspoon of salt per square metre will defrost ice patches..
- **Do not** work in blizzard conditions.

WHEN WORKING OUTSIDE

- Wrap up warm
- Wear a reflective coat if available
- Wear stout footwear
- Wear snow and ice grippers when walking – especially when pushing snow
- Beware of hypothermia and wind chill effects



The Law on Clearing Snow and Ice from the Highway and Public Spaces

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces. This includes both public carriageways and footways.

If an accident did occur, it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you:

- Are careful
- Use common sense to make sure that you do not make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves



District Council Report from Cllr Mrs Kate Cook



Election – Thursday 8th December 2016

Stephen Phillips, MP for this constituency since 2010, resigned on 4th November. The by-election will take place on Thursday 8th December and North Kesteven District Council is running it.

Please make sure you vote! This by-election is important !

Broadband Update:

I spoke to the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State responsible for digital and culture policy with Cllr Martin Hill, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council, about broadband in

Osournby Ward when Matt Hancock MP visited Sleaford recently. I am aware that there are a few houses in Sleaford who are not benefitting from Superfast Broadband like the rest of the village, and I spoke to Matt Hancock MP of the frustrations being felt by residents – not only those who are behind the rest of the village in Swaton, but also of those residing in 12 of the 20 villages in Osournby Ward who were initially told that they would have superfast broadband by March 2016 but are now being told it will be completed by the end of June 2017. The Minister made reference to the Autumn Statement which announced an extra £1 billion for the project. The challenge for our new MP will be to make sure a good proportion of this comes to Lincolnshire. Stephen Brookes, our Lincolnshire Broadband Programme Manager, said recently to me that “We are currently considering additional proposals for further upgrades from BT, but the analysis is being held at present up by BDUK. I hope to have more news for you as we move into mid-December.” I will keep the Parish Council informed of any developments and I will continue to do all I can to speed up the process.

Devolution:

Lincolnshire County Councillors and the Executive Board at South Kesteven District Council have decided not to support the devolution plans. Meetings of Chief Executives and Leaders of all Lincolnshire authorities have been taking place, looking at options for the partnership both in relation to the current proposals and alternatives that may emerge.

Council Plans and Budgets:

The Council recently approved the NK Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, providing clarity and purpose regarding the councils priorities and services and a positive financial outlook for the next three years. Councillors will vote on the new budget in the New Year.

Grantham Road Car Park:

Earlier this year, the District Council opened Grantham Road Car Park in Sleaford to allow residents and commuters to park all day on the edge of Sleaford for £2. Barriers were fitted to make the site more secure for those parking there but there is a misconception that the car park needs to be vacated by 6pm. While the entry barriers do not work after 6pm, the exit ones are operational after this time, anyone who wants to park during the day and into the evening can do so.

District Council Report from Cllr Mrs Kate Cook (Cont)

Safe as Houses drop-in event for district landlord's and letting agents:

A free drop-in event for the district's landlords and letting agents, to find out more information about minimum property standards and changes in legislation, is taking place in Sleaford. NKDC's Safe as Houses Team will be holding the session on Monday 12th December in the Council Chamber, Kesteven Street, Sleaford.

NKDC's Housing Enforcement and Sustainability Officers will be on hand to offer advice as well as providing information on heating and insulation initiatives offered by fuel providers.

The event will run from 1-4pm and a welcome and information presentation will take place at 1pm and will be repeated at 2:30pm.

Please register your interest in attending at either 1pm or 2:30pm by emailing safeashouses@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Non-designated heritage assets:

North Kesteven District Council is looking for public input in drawing up a list of locally-important heritage buildings and places. In updating its list of non-designated heritage assets, the district council will be consulting residents to determine criteria to use when assessing which buildings should go on a local list of 'Non-designated heritage assets'. Within North Kesteven there is a large number of 'Locally Listed' buildings – which are identified as 'non-designated heritage assets' within the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

These buildings sit in a tier below designated heritage assets (such as Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas), and generally comprise buildings and structures, but could also include locally important parks, gardens, cemeteries, landscapes, water bodies or even areas of archaeological interest.

The intention is to update the local list on a parish-by-parish basis, but beforehand some selection and assessment criteria needs to be agreed. These criteria could be applied to assets already on the list, but also new assets which may need to be added in the future.

Draft criteria has already been drawn up, which is open for public input during a five week consultation from December 12th to January 16th.



The proposed selection criteria can be viewed at the Council Offices. Comments care needed by 5pm, 16th January 2017.
Email to planning@n-kesteven.gov.uk

In writing to Planning Services, North Kesteven District Council, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7EF (marked for the attention of the Conservation Officer)
In all cases please quote 'Local List Criteria' in correspondence.