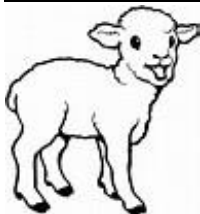


# April

## SWATON NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2016

### IMPORTANT NOTICE – LAMBS ON THE LOOSE



There have been several incidents of lambs escaping from the field at the north end of the village. If you see any loose animal on the road or sidewalk, please call the Police on the 101 number. Loose animals are a potential hazard & it is a matter the police will take seriously as road traffic accidents causing fatalities have been known to occur (and not just to the animals!).

### IMPORTANT NOTICE – VILLAGE GRASS CUTTING

For the past 15+ years, Lincolnshire County Council pay for the cost of Swaton Parish Council public grass areas to be cut at a cost of around £600 per year. From April 2017 (due to LCC's budget cuts) this will **STOP**. We have been given a year's notice. We have two options:

1) Cancel our grass cutting contractor & ask all residents to cut the grass in front of their properties and to help out by cutting parts where others cannot. Many residents do this at present.

2) Add the cost of grass cutting to the Council's 'precept', thus increasing Council Tax by around £10 to £12 per household. *THE CHOICE IS YOURS* . . . Please let Andrew Deptford know your views - [andrew@aadhire.com](mailto:andrew@aadhire.com) or 01529 421111.



**POLICE:** We are lucky to live in a relatively safe location but that doesn't make Swaton crime free. Lately there has been incidents of **Anti-Social Behaviour** within the village – the police will be patrolling the village regularly to ensure this is kept at bay. **Hare Coursing** (a cruel & illegal bloodsport) is rife in the region with Swaton Fen seeing more than its fair share of this activity – if you see anything suspicious do note details such as offender's car registrations / make & model & phone it in.

**Speeding through the village** remains an issue - if you know anyone who flouts the maximum 30mph please tell them to slow down. Also reported is an increase in **Dog Fouling** – it's not the dog's fault the owner / dog walker doesn't clear up behind them but it is **illegal** not to remove the dog poo & put in a litter or dog poo bin so **BAG IT & BIN IT** (or take it home to dispose of it) – *you know who you are & your spoiling it for others*. If you see anything unlawful or Anti-Social contact 101 or an emergency /serious crime phone 999.

### In The 'April Garden' – Sunshine and showers (as advised by The RHS)

Spring is finally in evidence as daffodils and flowering trees start to bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the lawn. April is an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors BUT watch out for frosts . . .



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 - Keep weeds under control.           | 2 - Protect fruit blossom from late frosts |
| 3 - Tie in climbing and rambling roses. | 4 - Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds       |
| 5 - Start to feed citrus plants         | 6 - Increase water given to houseplants    |
| 7 - Feed hungry shrubs and roses        | 8 - Sow new lawns & repair bare patches    |
| 9 - Prune fig trees                     | 10 - Divide bamboos and waterlilies        |

For excellent advice on what to do in your April garden have a look at [www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/april](http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/april)



### IMPORTANT NOTICE - FLOODING.

All properties at risk of flooding have previously been issued sand bags and plastic sheets. Advice given is to keep these bags safe, dry and at hand so you can access them when needed. It is not advisable to leave sandbags out in the open as they can rot in the sunlight nor adapt their usage such as kiddies' sandpits!

If you need replacement bags please don't wait until the waters are rapidly rising towards your home - contact Pete Penketh, Richard Arnold or Mike Kempster (Swaton's Emergency Planning Group Committee) who will assist you. Be prepared - it is your responsibility.

### PARK CONSULTATION

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Park Consultation meetings and also to those who completed the consultation questionnaire. The park layout and planning stage is close to being finalised and despite the size of the area there is a very good range of equipment and facilities for everyone to be able to enjoy the space. Now it is a matter of raising the funds through grant applications - so fingers crossed this vital stage of the process is speedy and successful.



## REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN THE HUT



### SATURDAY MORNING CAFE - 9.30AM TO 12PM

A range of delicious cakes are on offer as well as freshly made bacon rolls and hot beverages - *a great way to start the weekend!* You can also collect your Saturday newspaper (which must be ordered in advance from Liz Harborow - 01529 421 217).

### SOUP KITCHEN - MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

**12PM TO 1.30PM - Second Monday of every month.**

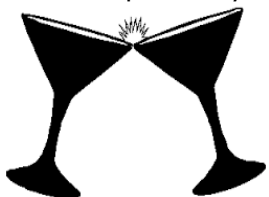
You'll find a choice of soups as a starter or main course as well as freshly baked jacket potatoes with beans &/or cheese and side salad. Excellent value - a bowl of soup & bread is £1.50 or two bowls for £2.50, Jacket spud with fillings and salad also £2.50.

**EVERYONE WELCOME - NO NEED TO BOOK . . .**



### SWIGGERS BAR - 8.30PM TIL WE CLOSE

The bar is open every **Friday evening from 8.30pm** so come along for a drink and support YOUR VILLAGE HUT. The bar has a selection of soft drinks, bottled / local beers & chilled lagers, red / white wines and a variety of spirits. Crisps, chocolate and snacks are also available - all offered at competitive prices.



### CRAFT GROUP - EVERY TUESDAY 9.30AM IN THE HUT

If you're creative and enjoy any form of art or craft why not come along and work on your creative project amongst friends, have a chat, enjoy a cuppa and share, exchange or improve skills . . . so if its Crochet or Tatting, Beadwork or Cross Stitch, Lace or Patchwork or you're simply a dab hand with a pair of knitting needles or a paint brush and canvas then don't be shy - after all you'll be amongst friends.

**Contact Liz Harborow for more info - 01529 421 217**



### CINEMA CLUB - next film is 7.30pm Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Cinema Club is the first Saturday of each month between February & December. A listing of 2016 films is on display in the Hut & on the village notice board. The bar opens at 7pm and hot dogs, ice cream & hot drinks are available during the interval. Membership £10pa or £2 on the night. For membership info contact Nicola Arnold on 07905 155 359

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## THANK YOU CAROLINE HOLMES

The Hut Committee thanks Caroline for the kind donation of a Children's high chair to The Hut.

The Hut has a few visitors with babies and young children so the committee wanted to add in some seating just for them ! This donation is much appreciated & sure will be well used in the future.



## FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

### AFTERNOON TEA - SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY - 2.30pm to 5pm

A Sunday tea is always a delicious way to while away the afternoon so lets hope the sun is out for the last weekend in May.

Homemade scones with jam and cream are on the menu so come along to The Hut for a cuppa amongst friends and neighbours and support the church in their fundraiser on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the Queen's birthday.

Tickets can be booked in advance.

For further information contact Wendy Kerby (421930) or Gill Abbott (421278)



### VINTAGE DAY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SUNDAY JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>



Many thousands of pounds are raised for various charities on Vintage Day.

The event draws in thousands of visitors from around the region and depends upon volunteers - if you are free that day and happy to spare an hour or so to help make the day run smoothly then please make contact. Help is needed across the event including on the front gate, the parking area, in the tea tent or baking cakes.

If you or a friend are interested in hiring a stall to sell goods then please do make contact with Andy Dunlop (Vintage Day Chairman) on (07900 267 870) - he will gladly put you in touch with the person responsible for each aspect of the day.

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**EVENTS, GROUPS & SWATON SOCIAL CALENDER . . .**

If anyone has any suggestions for Village social events, then please do approach any of the Hut Committee - you'll always find a few committee members in the hut on a Saturday morning or pop a suggestion in to the letter box which can be found to the left of the Hut's front door. Our social events are always popular such as the village quiz and Christmas meals so more ideas are welcomed.

The Hut is a great location for group activities . . . in the past we've had a Youth Group, a Baby and Toddler Group and Pilates sessions and currently we have the Tuesday Craft Group and Book Club which meets monthly and includes an evening meal often themed around the book that's being read, so if you have an idea for a group or an activity please do come forward and sow the seed ! !

*Discounted rates for Swaton residents.*



**GREAT VENUE FOR A PARTY OR MEETING**

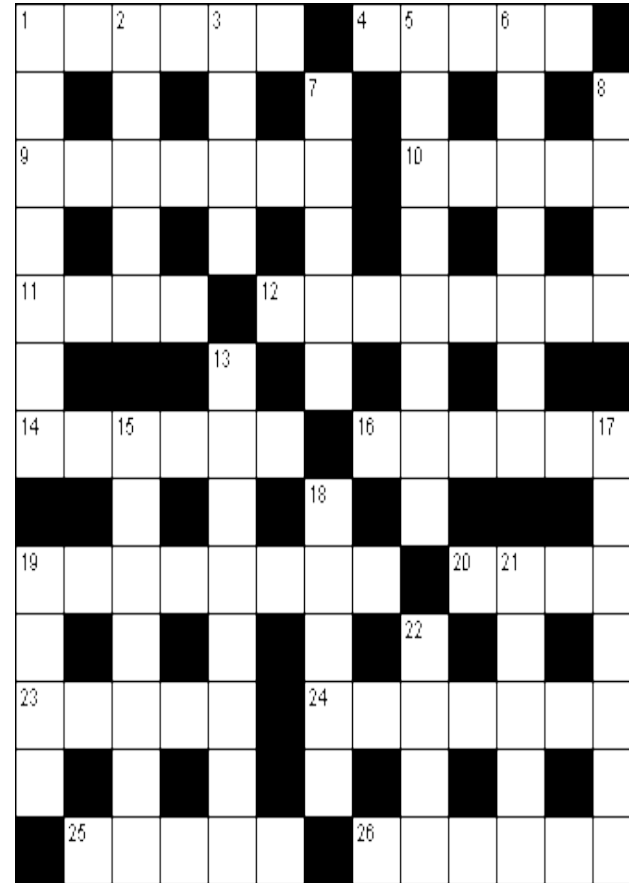
Swaton's village hall known as 'The Hut' is an ideal location for a get-together, group activity, kids party, play group or business meeting.

To book 'The Hut' please **contact Elaine or Peter Penketh on 421769 / 0785 222 3535** . . . discount given to Swaton residents.

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**COFFEE BREAK CRYPTIC CROSSWORD** (Solution on page 12)



**Across**

- 1. Find a prophet or a clever person (6)
- 4. Extra dark but found detection device (5)
- 9. Slipped on wet spot to form a dance (7)
- 10. Some echo reverberation job (5)
- 11. Look for a short man, urgently (4)
- 12. Writhing serpents make gifts (8)
- 14. A few winks and family for protection (6)
- 16. Romance hideaway made from a tree (6)
- 19. Container conduits make music (8)
- 20. Part of a hat, so correct the deletion (4)
- 23. Looks like a party could be a hit (5)
- 24. Mixed up singer, so no rap (7)
- 25. Acquire knowledge with poker end of the day (5)
- 26. Some future market comment (6)

**Down**

- 1. Can go to confusing shape (7)
- 2. Fruit and thick skin? (5)
- 3. Garbled tale is delayed (4)
- 5. Romance story involves someone from the past (8)
- 6. Decorated and redo at random (7)
- 7. Not together but a role (5)
- 8. Sounds like a swarm of letters (4)
- 13. Ended fiendish confusion (8)
- 15. Leaf insect, a spectacular ceremony (7)
- 17. Communicate and catch employment (7)
- 18. Refugee seafarer finds birds (5)
- 19. Put up with a large carnivore (4)
- 21. Headdress found in militia ranks (5)
- 22. Keep eels, found there's a point to it (4)

## PARISH COUNCIL



It was a shame not to see any members of the public attend the March PC meeting when so much is happening to affect us all but a few points were raised by members of the Council on behalf of villagers who had raised some issues throughout the month.

Everyone is welcome to attend a Parish Council meetings, in fact, you are encouraged to do so. The first 15 minutes of any Parish Council meeting is an open for the public to make comment or raise concerns, it is your chance to voice your opinion, ask a question or make suggestions after which if you wish you can stay and hear what is happening in Swaton...

### FUTURE 2016 PC MEETINGS

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May                      Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September          Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

**Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, March 15th, 2016 at 7.45pm in the Community Hut, Swaton (These are draft and subject to change before acceptance)**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A Deptford, (Chairman), A Dunlop, C Richardson, A Wilson and the Clerk, Mrs S McIntyre. No members of the public were present.

### PUBLIC FORUM, 7.30pm.

- \* An old wire bin along the high street near the to bus stop has been removed.
- \* Pot holes in West End – some have been repaired.
- \* Children playing football or being a nuisance in and around the 'bus shelter – the police attended, spoke to those involved and will closely monitor in future. There was some minor damage to the bus shelter – repairs are in hand.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.35pm.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS.** Block exemption granted by the Clerk for matters in connection with the Swaton Play area.

**SIGNING OF THE MINUTES** - Clerks' Notes from the meeting of January 19th that these be accepted as Minutes. Cllr Mrs Penketh seconded that these be approved as a true record. All agreed, the Resolution was passed, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

## PC MEETING (Cont. 2)

**COUNTY/DISTRICT/POLICE MATTERS.** No representative was present. D/Cllr Mrs Cook submitted a report as follows:

- \* **Lincs County Council Budget** - County Councillors have put their share of the council tax up from April by 1.95% and have added an extra 2% adult care levy introduced by the Government. This is a total increase of 3.95%  
Following the £7.8m additional one off funding from Government, there will be no reduction in road gritting, public transport subsidies and no closures of any children's centres, for two years.
- \* **District Council Budget** - Direct government funding for councils such as North Kesteven will be cut to zero within four years, so the authority is looking to build up its financial resilience to ensure the continued delivery of a high level of services. Members approved an increase of 3.41% in the District Council's share of the Council Tax charge at the end of February. Although NKDC collects Council Tax, it ultimately takes only 9% of the overall bill.
- \* **Anglian Water meeting** - Anglian Water attended a Panel meeting at NKDC but they were not able to answer the questions I had given them about Swaton (or many other questions that they had been sent in advance and put to them by other villages in NKDC). In particular, they didn't know about planned maintenance scheduled for sewers in Swaton. They are supposed to be getting back to Members with answers and I believe we will be asking them to attend another Panel meeting.
- \* **Digital Hubs** - There is interest in helping people to get online or improve their digital skills at community level, and a joint initiative between West Lindsey, City of Lincoln and North Kesteven councils is helping communities to support their residents to achieve this. Lynda Clark from West Lindsey District Council will be giving a presentation at the Tally Ho pub in Aswarby on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 19:00 as she would like us to work together to set up digital hubs in Osbournby Ward. Stephen Brookes, Lincs Broadband Programme Manager, will also be attending to discuss progress of the current project (Phase 2) and other technologies that will be used to cover the remaining areas including the satellite option. It will be another "cluster meeting" with the various Parish Councils/Meetings in Osbournby Ward following the successful one last year about Neighbourhood Planning

**PLAY AREA UPDATE.** Block Dispensation. The electric pole and overhead wires are now down. Cllr Mrs Penketh has met with tree surgeons and discussed tree work and costs. A conifer hedge on an adjoining neighbour's land could potentially cause problems for the play area. It was agreed to discuss the matter with the landowner initially. The Vice Chairman researched the appropriate legislation.

The design and choice of equipment has been amended following the public open day. Various contractors for equipment and surfacing have been approached. A successful Tesco grant application will result in a minimum of £8000 which would cover the cost of the zip wire. Other grant applications are being considered. There is some interest in forming a committee, the Chairman said this would be necessary for the future management and maintenance.



### **PC MEETING (Cont. 3)**

**SPEEDING ISSUES.** Cllr Mrs Penketh has contacted various people and agencies, but there is little interest. A Community Speedwatch group may provide information for the Police, but there are insufficient police resources to investigate and pursue this.

**GRASS CUTTING.** The Chairman met with the contractor who agreed to cut the additional grass for a nominal sum. The grant from LCC may not be awarded in future years so additional future expenditure may have to be budgeted for. Councillors resolved to approve the additional sum for the contractor.

**EMERGENCY PLAN.** The Chairman said the working group had submitted a revised plan in February – then the requirements were changed slightly, so it was resubmitted. The WG will meet with the Emergency Plan experts and possibly a mock incident will be staged to test the plan. Recent heavy rains increased to water levels and the road was flooded, but some bank clearance work has improved the water flow and no properties were affected. Residents who qualify for sand bags will be reminded through the newsletter to maintain their own supply as new ones are not issued for every occasion.

**BROADBAND** – Superfast coverage in the village not consistent. Some residents at the north end of the village do not have superfast broadband. Cllr Mrs Penketh found that they were connected to a ‘slow’ cabinet some distance from the village. The current programme does not allow for moving them. She will continue with her enquiries.

### **FINANCE –**

**Monthly report** from RFO. It was proposed by Cllr Dunlop and seconded by Cllr Deptford, that the report be accepted. All agreed, the resolution was passed.

#### **Signing of Cheques and approval of BACS payments.**

The following additional BACS payments were proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Richardson and resolved.

Mrs S McIntyre	Expenses Mar/April	£23.00
LALC Subs (due 1/4/16 )	Annual subs.	£87.57
LALC Training (1/4/16)	Annual Training subs	£50.00

**Audit changes.** The decision as to whether to ‘opt in’ or ‘out’ of the new audit procedures is due by the end of March. It was resolved to ‘opt in’ and submit to an auditor appointed centrally rather than appoint our own.

**Grants available to ‘smaller councils’.** At this stage the financial implications of complying with the ‘Transparency’ regulations are not fully known, so not applying at this stage.

**LALC subs and Training scheme.** Resolved as at point 2 above.

**Internal Auditor for 2016/7.** It was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Mrs Penketh that Mr Kerby be appointed as the Internal Auditor for 2016/7 if he is agreeable. All agreed, the Resolution was passed.

### **PC MEETING (Cont. 4) - CLERK’S REPORT AND UPDATES**

- Clerk’s annual staff appraisal. 2015/6. The Vice Chairman went through the completed staff appraisal. This was accepted by the Clerk and the Councillors and signed.
- Electoral Roll – copies of current register of electors had been received and were distributed.
- Best Kept Village and Small Town competition – no interest for 2016.
- NKDC – Offering tree surveying and maintenance services. Cllr Mrs Penketh made enquiries as to the extent of this service.
- Environmental Awards – details circulated.
- Lincs Fire and rescue consultation – details circulated.
- Consultation – Lincs Street Works Permit scheme. Circulated - comments to the meeting please.
- Information re Community Emergency Wardens – circulated.
- Anglia Water’s Pollution prevention team – circulated.
- NK Outreach team 2016 mobile activity information sheets –n possible relevant to Swaton Vintage Day.
- Street Lighting – Changes. E mail received re changes to LCC street lighting. Lighting in Swaton is NKDC ‘footway’ lighting.
- National Grid – Viking Link. Swaton does not appear to be directly affected by this.

**TRAINING.** Training dates in latest County Circular. Cllr Deptford and the Clerk possibly interested in ‘Planning/Neighbourhood Planning’ at Carlton Scroop on May 24<sup>th</sup> – some clarification as to content and format needed.

Funding and Information event Feb 9<sup>th</sup> – Cllr Mrs Penketh attended.

**LALC.** Latest LALC County Circular received. This had been circulated and was noted.

#### **PLANNING:**

A large ‘shed’ recently installed on a property along High Street had been erected ahead of the building line and has been visited by the Planning Inspector. Planning permission is required and the owner has been informed.

16/0172/OUT. Erection of dwelling (outline) – land adjacent to the Old PO, West End. It was resolved that the Council has no objections to this, but will ask that, when full plans are submitted, the access into and out of the property and the visibility splay are looked at.

15/1531/HOUS. Amended plans. Erection of two storey side extension - 1 School Cottages High Street Swaton Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 0JP. ‘No comments’ had been returned to NKDC planning.

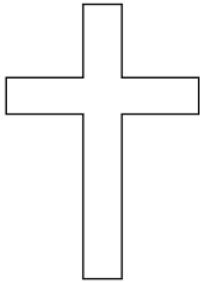
16/0200/HOUS. Alterations to porch and erection of a first floor extension – The Old School, High Street. Comments from a member of the public had been received and were noted. After discussion, the councillors resolved that ‘No Objections’ be returned to NKDC planning.

**URGENT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** - Any urgent matters which have occurred after the agenda was published – these can be discussed but no resolution can be made. The situation about some overhanging hedges was noted.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.12pm

**A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS HARRINGTON - OUR REV**

Having just changed the clocks at Easter reminds me that at Easter 2000 years ago time began again with day one. Easter celebrates a new creation just as the hymn Morning has broken describes. "Morning has broken like the first morning blackbird has spoken like the first bird". The Scriptures describe Jesus at his resurrection as the first fruits of a new creation. It was the moment that changed the history of the whole human race. Day One - The resurrection of Jesus, the man who came back from the dead three days after being cruelly put to death on a Roman cross. Not as a ghost, but as a new kind of human being who could eat and drink and be



touched by his friends, who was the same person, who carried the scars of his death and yet was also strangely different. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus was what set Christians apart from their Jewish brothers and sisters even though they themselves were Jews. If you believe in the resurrection of Christ but have never been confirmed as a Christian, you might like to consider doing so at one of the confirmation services that are coming up in May. There will be a five session course of preparation at the Rectory in Heckington beforehand so if you would like to be confirmed do contact Rev Chris (460904) as soon as possible. Confirmations will be taking place at Ewerby Church on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm or at Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 5.30pm.

**EVENTS AROUND OUR GROUP OF CHURCHES**

Now that Spring has sprung there is a lot going on around our group of churches, including:

**Military Wives concert at Helpringham Church** - Cranwell Military Wives choir are performing at Helpringham Church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. Tickets are £10 inc buffet supper and are available from Marian and Vince (421395)

**Art Exhibition at Heckington Church** - Calling all artists. We would love to exhibit your work at Heckington Church on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> May. If you are interested please contact Rev Chris (460904). The exhibition will open from 10am till 5pm both days.

**Boston Orchestra at Heckington Church** - A welcome return of the Boston Orchestra on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm. Tickets are available from Chris Cullen (60272).

Jesus said he had come to "bring life, and life to the full". I hope there is something there to help you to enjoy that life. Happy Easter.

**Rector - Rev Chris Harrington (01529) 460904**  
**www.heckingtonandhelpringhamgroup.org.uk**

**COFFEE BREAK CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS**

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