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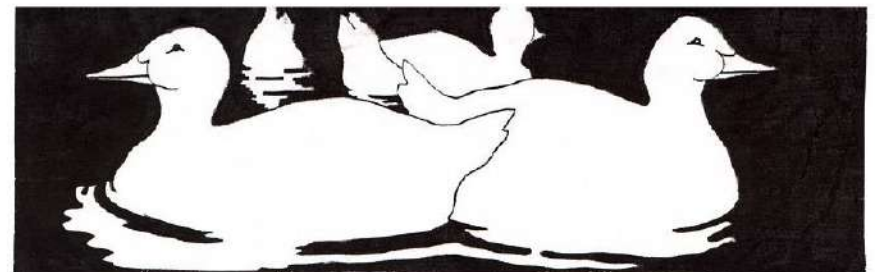
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The

Hickling Standard

Village Newsletter for
Hickling and
Hickling Pastures

5th e-issue February - March 2021





Pea Pod Day Nursery is a small, family run 29 place day nursery at Hickling Pastures, on the A606 between Melton and Nottingham, only a few yards from the A46 roundabout.



The nursery is split into 3 separate rooms which enables us to promote a home from home experience with a very friendly, warm environment and in our rural setting the children have the opportunity to explore open fields and have access to a number of different animals.

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Call in to have a look around for more information, or ring Louise on 01949 81522



www.peapod-daynursery.co.uk

Pea Pod Day Nursery, Melton Road, Hickling Pastures, LE14 3QG



The Royal British Legion Vale of Belvoir Branch

Legion 100

The British Legion was formed 100 years ago on 15th May 1921, bringing together four national charitable organisations for ex-servicemen which had been formed at the end of the First World War. Legion 100 is about celebrating staff, volunteers, supporters and members as a charitable organisation, and the tremendous contribution it has made, and will continue, to play a key role in supporting the Armed Forces community in the future.

Current circumstances make it difficult to put firm plans in place, but national events are already in conception. There will be a special commemorative service at Westminster Abbey in September and a Centenary themed Conference in London in May. There may also be events at regional level. Legion 100 will also be themed in the November Poppy Appeal and the Festival of Remembrance.

Michael Chapman

Should you feed bread to ducks and swans?

There is much debate about what to feed water birds and what not to feed them. As Hickling is a popular place for the great British pastime of 'feeding the ducks' it has always been very relevant to us all. As with most debates, some have polarised but entrenched positions; from 'Every child should grow-up with the experience of taking bread to feed the ducks.' to 'You will kill the ducks if you give them bread—just don't do it.' **As with most debates, what is best falls somewhere in between.**

The Queen's Swan Marker, David Barber, MVO, endorsed by Professor Christopher Perrins of the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology at Oxford University released this statement in July 2019:



"There has been a great deal of press coverage in recent months regarding the 'Ban the Bread' campaign which is confusing many members of the public who like to feed swans. Supporters of the campaign claim that bread should not be fed to swans on the grounds that it is bad for them. This is not correct. Swans have been fed bread for many hundreds of years without causing any ill effects. While

bread may not be the best dietary option for swans compared to their natural food such as river weed, it has become a very important source of energy for them, supplementing their natural diet and helping them to survive the cold winter months when vegetation is very scarce.

"There is no good reason not to feed bread to swans, provided it is not mouldy. The 'Ban the Bread' campaign is already having a deleterious impact upon the swan population; I am receiving reports of underweight cygnets and adult birds, and a number of swans from large flocks have begun to wander into roads in search of food. Malnutrition also increases their vulnerability to fatal diseases like avian-flu which has caused the deaths of many mute swans and other waterfowl in the past.

"Furthermore, there have been statements made in the media claiming that feeding bread causes angel-wing in swans. Angel-wing is a condition where a cygnet develops a deformed wing. Professor Christopher Perrins, LVO, FRS of the

Department of Zoology at Oxford University stated, 'There is no evidence of a connection between feeding bread and angel-wing; at least some cygnets develop this condition without ever having seen any bread'.

"I therefore encourage members of the public to continue feeding swans to help improve their chances of survival, especially through the winter."

A quick internet search comes up with a variety of opinions and it is worth having a bit of read through a range of opinions, but this seemed to offer a brief and sensible approach that suits most of us—including the ducks and swans!

There have been some unhelpful feeding practices developing over recent months at the Basin in Hickling and along the towpath.

Please take a few minutes to look through the guidelines recently circulated by the Parish Council and published with this article.

**Thank you for feeding the ducks and swans and
Thank you for doing it considerately!**



Samarpan Ashram Yog Meditation Centre - Long Acre
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Please ring Jaya Pisavadia (Centre Manager) to book meditation class at the centre.

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Hansa Heena Thoban (Education Manager)

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Feeding the Ducks & Swans - your help is needed

We all enjoy the wonderful bird life here on Hickling Basin
and along the canal towpaths but please bear in mind the
following guidelines when feeding the birds:

Please do:

- Please do feed bread (yes, this is absolutely fine!) and/or specialist food to the ducks and swans.
- Please keep all food the canal side of the railings or in the water.

Please do not:

- Do not spread food in large amounts - a good rule of thumb is that the ducks & swans should be able to eat it all whilst you are there.
- Do not spread bird food on the paving side of the railings, the towpaths or the canal banks.

Please note:

- Leftovers encourage vermin and can be a significant nuisance to other users of the canal area (particularly, dog owners).
- Encouraging larger birds on to areas used by the public causes conflict and aggressive behaviour - particularly, in the swans. As the area is popular with young families it is important to avoid this.

Thank you for feeding the birds
and thank you for being
considerate!
Hickling Parish Council



Skating on Hickling Basin

It hasn't been cold enough this year (yet?!) but recent cold spells prompted us to pull together stories of skating in years gone by - please visit the Local History website to see all that we have collected so far.

We would love to hear from you if you have more pictures and anecdotes that we could add to the page.

It hasn't happened for a few years now but the icing over of the Grantham Canal and Hickling Canal Basin used to be a regular occurrence; stories tell of skating from Hickling to Nottingham and from Hickling to Grantham, of ice hockey matches on the Basin, of a fundraising festival during WWI and of crowds of 60 skaters at once. Stories also tell of how safety was ensured - with at least two different large local gentlemen named as having being sent out into the middle with a rope around their middle to test how strong the ice was. We think the last time anyone skated on the Basin was on Boxing Day 2010 but the swans and ducks still get regular opportunities to skate ...



Phillipa Jacks (January 2021)

Skating Memories:

"The story goes that to test the ice residents tied a rope around Freddy Keys waist and he would go out on the basin to see if safe enough (apparently a large gentleman) if it didn't give way it was deemed safe. I can remember skating on it along with sixty plus locals. My father Jack Bailey, Trigger Smith, Dick Goodson and if I'm not mistaken Teddy Faulks (AE Faulks) skated through to Grantham and



back." (K.Bailey, January 2021)
 "When I was growing up in Kinoulton we used to be allowed to skate on the basin if Mr McIntosh had tried it, he used to live on Harles Acres and was a "giant". (J.Richards, January 2021)
 "I have photos of folk in Hickling skating on the Basin & the kids playing ice hockey - would have

been 1983/4 ... Edwin Woolley was always one down there skating if he could. Happy memories ... Couple standing together are Mike & Sue Schizler (not sure if spelt surname right), the group one is where our friends staying & I took our boys onto the canal as they wanted to see the boys playing ice hockey (you can see one of the lads behind Mike & Sue with his hockey stick - looks like their son Nicky). The fire brigade had been down & ok'd it for ice skating on!" (P.Simons, January 2021)

From Hazel Wadkin's Village History Books:

"When the canal was frozen most people of the village would go skating as soon as the yard work was finished in the morning and stay until afternoon milking, then return in the evening by the light of lanterns, During the freeze-up of 1962/63 the canal was frozen from December until the first week in March. One evening a bonfire was lit on the bank and skaters took tins of soup which were all put in a saucepan and heated on the bonfire. The different flavours of hot soup mixed together on that cold night was delicious."

(Scrapbook of Hickling, 1982)

"February 1917: An Ice Carnival was held on Hickling Basin, refreshments were arranged by a small committee. Fancy skating was given by experts of the Art. A sum of £1.7s was collected to provide funds to buy wool for the Council School girls to make comforts for the village soldier lads."

(Scrapbook of Hickling, 1982)

"In the winter if the canal was frozen it again was an attraction, this time for the skating community, when I was at school I remember the canal being frozen for skating quite a week or two, we children loved it, but the cold winds chafed our knees and I know I cried more than once when I went home, we never wore long stockings (cont'd on next page!)



Follow us on Facebook: [Hickling Notts Local History Group](#) | [Facebook](#)

More can be found at:
[Skating on the Hickling Canal Basin](#) | [Hickling Local History Group](#)
hicklingnottslalhistory.com



until quite a while after leaving school. Whole families would be on the ice, the essential work, milking and feeding the animals were done, then everyone down to the 'Cut' grown ups skating, children sliding. During the 1914-18 War there was a 'Tea' on the ice for Red Cross Funds, such a crowd gathered, skaters came from Kinoultan, Harby and Hose on the ice, it was a great success."

(Maggie's Memories, p.69)

Boxing Day 2010:



The Hetherington family
John walker
Richard Collishaw
Vicky Baker

Buller Timms; from Nottingham to Hickling, Traveller's Privilege and The Plough Inn.

BULLER

10

In January 1940 I skated from Lady Bay Bridge to Hickling Basin. This was made more difficult by a light fall of snow overnight and instead of gliding over the ice it was necessary to strike for every yard of the way, but otherwise the ice was so good that I was able to skate under every bridge. By the time I reached Cotgrave I was ready for a break, so I slung my skates over my shoulder and walked the two or three hundred yards to the "local," only to be met by an apologetic landlady with the information that she was just closing.

"Oh, well," I said, "I am skating from Nottingham to Hickling and would like to claim Traveller's Privilege."

Without any argument she ushered me into the bar parlour and went away, to return a few moments later with a pint of beer and the most succulent cheese sandwich I have ever tasted. Thus refreshed I resumed my journey and eventually reached Hickling in time for tea at the Plough.

For the last thirty years I kept my skates hanging in my garden shed, and when the ice would bear, I used to skate from the bottom of my garden to Mabel Grove and back to prove that I could still do it. However, the last time I tried, I could only find one skate; one of my skates, like the lost lambs we sing about, had "gone astray."

(Traveller's Privilege - an innkeeper must provide sustenance for a genuine traveller at any time and beer in a bucket for his horse!)

Hickling Basin provided an excellent rink in hard winters, so that most of the local people had grown up learning to skate. The atmosphere of a brilliant frosty moonlit night, skating on the Basin, had to be experienced to be believed.



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Locations

Main Street
Hickling
Melton Mowbray
LE14 3AQ

Units 21/22
Trent South Industrial Park
Little Tennis Street
Nottingham
NG2 4EQ

THE GRANTHAM CANAL IS STILL IN TROUBLE

Many people were very upset to see that the canal dried out locally last summer, despite it flooding at the same place in February last year. The August report about it on BBC East Midlands Today was the trigger for the formation of the Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group under the chairmanship of our Parish Council Chair, Peter Cadwallader. Six local councillors, including Tina Combellack, our local councillor, county councillor Neil Clarke, and Tony Osbond, General Manager of the Grantham Canal Society form the membership, and me. Between them all, the group has a very good knowledge of the canal and its problems. They know many of the local landowners who's land is adjacent to the canal, and there is a lot of goodwill to get things done, the group also have the experience of navigating through the relevant bureaucracy.

To summarise, the canals predicament and the causes of water loss are many, and they emanate from as far away as the Knipton Reservoir on the Belvoir estate to a large leak near to the Vimy Ridge Bridge. There are other leaks, and also the density of reeds in several places makes the reeds act as a dam, preventing the movement of both wild life and water.

The Canals and Rivers Trust are responsible for the maintenance of the canal. However their budget is overstretched, and they regard our dis-used canal as 'a drain' so it gets low priority. However they have promised some help, and you may have seen the plastic barrier marking the large leak near Vimy Ridge. The work started there was exploratory, and has not yet fixed the leak, indicating that fixing it is not going to be an easy quick thing to do. Meanwhile all the early winter rain which had brought the canal to a decent level can be heard haemorrhaging out, and as I write on January 8th, the water level is dropping again. The Canals and Rivers Trust have plans made to assist, with the thinning out and removal of some of the dense reed beds acting as dams along the water-course.

We need to keep public attention focused on our canal in any way that will bring the support and funding to address each issue, any help with

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any aspect of this will be welcomed by Tony Osbond's team at the Grantham Canal Society, he can be contacted by email at generalmanager@granthamcanal.org.

Most people in Kinoulton will be aware of the massive popularity of our canal, during 2020 it has attracted a huge amount of people along its length to enjoy the beautiful scenery and the wildlife. We cannot take its continuation for granted however, it needs us, and our vocal and practical support to overcome its catalogue of accumulated maintenance needs if it and its wildlife populations are to be there for future generations.

Even though the maintenance backlog is massive and involve many stakeholders, fixing problems bit by bit is not impossible, but it will take time and resources to repair. We feel the future of the canal is important for the welfare of village life, and most importantly the wildlife who live on or in it. Do not be deceived that the current levels of water are a sign that all is well. Sadly that's currently far from true.

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has re-opened

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Did you see the Christmas Star?

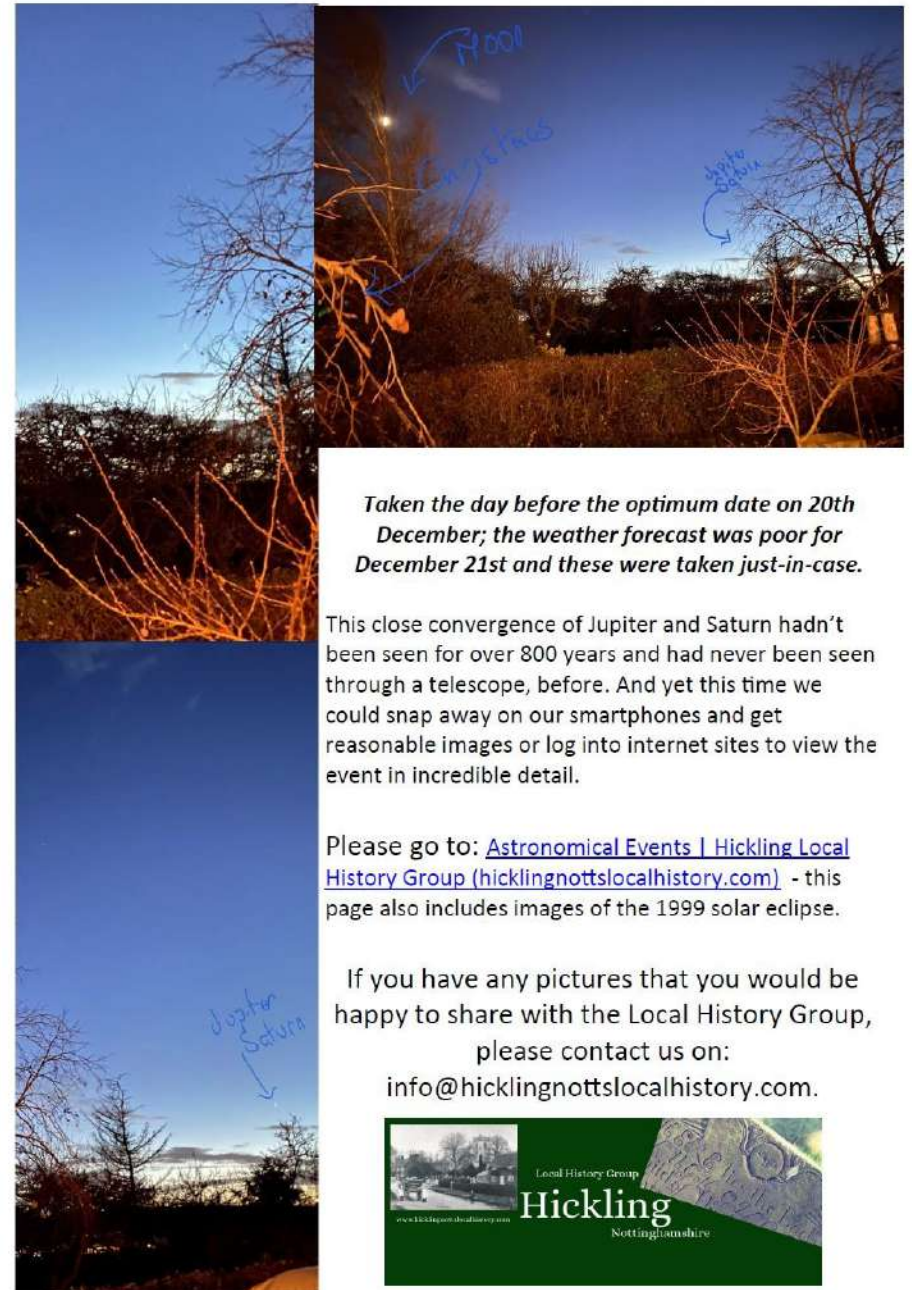
Saturn and Jupiter are the largest planets in our solar system and they last appeared so close together that they could be mistaken for one large star (a phenomenon known as a great conjunction) in 1623. Best seen in the dusk, they reached their closest point on December 21st 2020 but, in Hickling, the weather was cloudy and they couldn't be seen (certainly with the naked eye). However, they could be seen (slightly further apart) for several nights before and after the 21st at dusk in the south-west.

This conjunction last appeared in 1623 (14 years after Galileo's discovery of the telescope) but it doesn't seem to have been visible because it was too close to the sun. The last time that it was visible was in 1226. Johannes Kepler, the 17th-century German astronomer, calculated a similar conjunction for 7BC which fits estimates for the date of Jesus' birth sometime between 6BC and 8BC and making a great conjunction between Saturn and Jupiter a possible explanation (although one of many) for the Christmas Star. In reality, the two planets maintain a constant distance from each other out in space of roughly 450 million miles.

"A pair of unusually bright lights shone in the western sky in the evening — these were Jupiter and Saturn, with Jupiter the larger of the two. Over the coming days the two planets move even closer together in the night sky until on December 21 they will almost converge. This is the first so-called conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in nearly 800 years, so no one is exactly sure what the sight will look like, although it will partly depend on local atmospheric conditions and how good someone's eyesight is — poor vision will make them look like one big light. An added bonus is that the planets will also appear to be larger when they are low on the horizon, although this is an optical illusion. This is a phenomenon best known from when the moon seems much larger when low in the sky, and is known as the moon illusion. To prove it is an illusion, if the moon is looked at through a tube it appears smaller, probably because the tube blocks out any comparison with objects on the horizon.

"Is it a coincidence that the celestial spectacle is happening so close to Christmas? There is a thought that a conjunction of Jupiter with another planet, possibly Saturn or Mars, may have been involved in the story of the Star of Bethlehem. The conjunction of planets had great astrological or mystical significance in ancient times, but any astronomical explanation for a Christmas star is in the realms of speculation." (Paul Simons, Times 15/12/20)

Taken 3 days after the optimum date on Christmas Eve



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From our "Sister City" in Michigan

Greetings from Farmington!

Many thanks for the lovely recipe book with traditional Nottingham recipes--we will enjoy reading and trying some of them! A small parcel for your Christmas was sent but may not have arrived yet as the postal service in the US has been quite backlogged for a long time.

I am sure that the holiday season has been very different in Hickling than in prior years, as it is everywhere. In past Decembers, we usually had a lighted evening parade in downtown Farmington which ended at the Warner Mansion. There was always a large gathering as the community sang carols together and watched the tree lighting. This year in Farmington, we had a virtual holiday event with recorded music and singing from previous years, video of the current tree being lit by Santa with no audience, and holiday ideas from our local businesses. It was quite lovely.

We are glad to hear that vaccines are already being given in the UK. They have begun administering them here in the states for frontline healthcare workers. Hoping for a healthier year to come!

Sending our warmest wishes for the New Year to our Hicking friends!

Martha

From February to March ... as Winter turns to Spring

"If winter is the season of darkness and death, so too it holds the promise of bright rebirth, as our planet swings and brings back the precious emotion called hope. The best thing about winter isn't the magical snowflake, or the delight of Christmas, or the magnificence of storms. It's the fact that we know it's going to be followed by spring."
(Susan Cooper; *Winter, A Folio Anthology*)

February: from the Latin and referring to the Roman festival of purification held on 15th February. Also known as, February fill-dyke referring to its characteristic rain & snow.

Shakespeare's *Much Ado*: "What's the matter, That you have such a February face, So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?"

Snowdrop: an early flowering bulbous plant, *Galanthus nivalis*, having a single drooping pure white flower; a flowering stem of this plant.

(*Oxford Dictionary*)

The Snowdrop.

Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid,
Ever as of old time,
Solitary firstling,
Coming in the cold time
Prophet of the gay time,
Prophet of the May time,
Prophet of the roses,
Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!
(*Alfred, Lord Tennyson*)

"The ground was hard, the air was still, my road was lonely: I walked fast till I got warm, and then I walked slowly to enjoy and to analyse the species of pleasure brooding for me in the hour and the situation. It was three o'clock; the church bell tolled as I passed under the belfry: the charm of the hour lay in its approaching dimness, in the low-gliding and pale-beaming sun. I was a mile from Thornfield, in a lane noted for wild roses in summer, for nuts and blackberries in autumn, and even now possessing a few coral treasures in hips and haws, but whose best winter delight



lay in its utter solitude and leafless repose. If a breath of earth stirred, it made no sound here; for there was not a holly, not an evergreen to rustle, and the stripped hawthorn and hazel bushes were as still as the white worn stones which causewayed the middle of the path. Far and wide, on each side, there were only fields, where no cattle now browsed; and the little brown birds, which stirred occasionally in the hedge, looked like single russet leaves that had forgotten to drop."

(*Charlotte Bronte, from Jane Eyre and Winter, A Folio Anthology*)

March: the month of Mars.

Proverb: March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.

March hare: a hare in the breeding season, characterised by much leaping, chasing etc
Daffodil: a narcissus, esp. one with yellow flowers; a western European plant, native in woods etc and widely cultivated, having a bright yellow corona as long as the perianth segments.

(*Oxford Dictionary*)

"Spring was moving in the air above and in the earth below and around him, penetrating even his dark and lowly little house with its spirit of divine discontent and longing. It was small wonder then, that he suddenly flung down his brush on the floor, said, 'Bother!' and 'O, blow!' and also, 'Hang spring-cleaning!' and bolted out of the house without even waiting to put on his coat. (...) 'This is fine!' he said to himself. 'This is better than whitewashing!' The sunshine struck hot on his fur, soft breezes caressed his heated brow, and after the seclusion of the cellarge he had lived in so

long the carol of happy birds fell on his dulled hearing almost like a shout ...' (*Kenneth Grahame, Wind in the Willows & Spring, a Folio Anthology*)



*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
(William Wordsworth)*



The St Luke's Benefice of Kinoulton, Hickling and Upper Broughton.

It was with great regret that the Churchwardens, PCC and Clergy agreed that our three church buildings will be closed both for private prayer and for Sunday services until the current level of Covid19 infection decreases.

At the time of writing no decisions have been made as to when our church buildings will be able to re-open, although we hope to do so as soon as possible.

Our church websites may be found via the "A Church Near You" website, (just type in your post code), where future service times and up to date information may be found.

I look forward to welcoming you all back into church as soon as we are able. If you would like to talk to me my details are as follows:

maggie.woodward511@btinternet.com or telephone
01949 81183

We thank you for your continued understanding
in these very difficult times.

Rev Maggie .

Letter from St Luke's, February – March 2021

Dear All,

Again we find ourselves unable to be a community in the true sense of the word. We cannot use the places where we have met previously, and what contact we have with one another is less than we would like. Most of us have become much more proficient in using the internet and mobile phones to maximise our contact, but even with a Zoom meeting it is not the same as being face to face. I noticed that when my overseas family held a Zoom meeting at Christmas it was far easier to relate to those I have met in recent years as opposed to those I last met when they were children many years ago. I substituted the memory of my meeting with the individual for the image on the screen. There is something about human interaction that is stripped out by a machine. Our interaction with others is a mark of our humanity, and the basis of this is love in all its manifestations.

Jesus was asked 'Who is my neighbour', and he replied with a story, that of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.30-37). Where we find someone in need of a neighbour can surprise us. We find them in all sorts of unlikely places. Of late in this village, and probably in many others there has been a flourishing of contacts by WhatsApp and other facilities on a mobile phone (many of which mystify me). This has been a great help to a lot of people. I am sure that when we are again free to meet together face to face we will find new friends, behind names on the messages, which are new to us, as well as catching up with old friends. I hope that our community will in the end be enriched by the strange circumstances under which we now exist. I look forward to it.

Best wishes to you all,

Robert C Jones

Reader, Churchwarden etc., St Luke's, Broughton Sulney (Upper Broughton)
Tel: 01664 822916 e-mail: robert.c.jones02@gmail.com

Ministry Team:

Revd P. Massey. Cotgrave Rectory

Revd Maggie Woodward (Associate Priest, part time)
Kinoulton Rectory, NG12 3EA

Tel: 01949 81183 e-mail: maggie.woodward511@btinternet.com

Sheila Hill (Reader)

Tel: 01949 81096 e-mail: sahill18@btinternet.com

Robert C Jones (Reader)

February is Panto Season in Hickling!

... but as always deadlines keep whooshing past ...

For many years February was Panto season in Hickling - partly because in the early days, December was targeted but it never quite happened in time (although it was also a great January pick-me-up!). It was my intention to get the Pantomime and Plays page up and running on the Local history website in time for this issue of the newsletter - but it hasn't happened ...

Instead: here are a few photographs to jog your memory and an invitation to you all to send us your memories and photos for a page which will happen soon - thank you!



Please contact us if you any photos and /or records for the Hickling Players—Thank you!

Please email us at:
info@hicklingnottslocalhistory.com
 or via Facebook:
[Hickling Notts Local History Group | Facebook](#)



Snow White 2005



Aladdin 2004



Rumpelstiltskin



Puss in Boots 2006



Snow White 2005



Tarzan 2010



[Pantomime and Shows |
Hickling Local History Group
\(hicklingnottsllocalhistory.com\)](http://hicklingnottsllocalhistory.com)



Rumpelstiltskin 2009



Rumpelstiltskin 2009



Snow White 2005



Puss in Boots 2006



Tarzan 2010



Tarzan 2010



The Defence and National Rehabilitation facility, a 21st century successor to Headley Court, celebrating 2 years at Stanford Hall in Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire.



Today I received a communication from General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman, one of the 'architects' in fulfilling the Duke of Westminster's dream of the new Defence and Military Rehabilitation Centre. There is good news regarding the establishment of the ambitious National centre in the grounds at Stanford.

'We are able to report very worthwhile progress on the creation of the National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) in particular. Meanwhile, the Defence facility (DMRC Stanford Hall) has completed its second full year of operation and in recent months has been much involved in post-Covid rehab, sharing what it has developed with the NHS'

During consultation there was remarkable support for the idea of the first ever NHS specialist rehab. facility.

'The pandemic has drawn attention to the significance of proper rehabilitation. So there is every reason to be optimistic about this coming year which could bring the overall DNRC Programme to its conclusion when it finally becomes clear that the NRC will be built'

For further information regarding progress go to
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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Nevile & Langar Ward News From Cllr. Tina Combellack

COVID

I have been keeping you informed and up to date with regular briefing notes regarding the regulations from County and Borough Council.

Vaccinations update

The NHS vaccination programme is underway in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire as part of the national roll out.

Vaccinations started in the county in December in Nottingham University Hospitals and Sherwood Forest Hospitals who are vaccinating those aged 80 and over, as well as care home workers and residents, identified as priority groups for the life-saving vaccine.

Find out more here: <https://nottscq.nhs.uk/ccq/covid-19-vaccinations-in-nottinghamshire-letters-being-sent-to-over-80s-look-out-for-yours/>

The NHS will contact people in the priority groups when it is their turn to receive the vaccine.

The vaccine rollout is initially being co-ordinated by Hospital Hubs who are calling forward patients who meet the criteria based on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's recommendations.

Vaccination centres and local vaccination services within the community are launching once the sites have been approved and meet the safety criteria and on January 6, a Vaccination Service opened at Gamston Community Hall in Rushcliffe.

ASSYMPTOMATIC TESTING

Whilst a scheme is being rolled out in the North of the County Rushcliffe have not been chosen as a pilot area.

Depending upon the results of the scheme we should be in line for future roll out.

See below:

There is a pilot of asymptomatic testing being set up by public health in Notts. The plan is to have the arrangements in place to deliver this starting week beginning 25

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January in Mansfield, and from early February for Worksop. The pilot is expected to last for 3 months and will involve people being tested once a week.

The communities that have been identified to benefit first are areas in Mansfield and Worksop. Public health has identified these communities because they have a high proportion of working age residents who are unable to work from home. We want to make sure that they have easy access to testing and support if they need to self-isolate.

HOME SCHOOLING

This is an area fraught with difficulties for parents, students and children. Access to devices when there is more than one child home schooling or a parent working from home is a trial. Rushcliffe are looking into ways that reconditioned equipment can be provided to schools. In the meantime I am told (I am no tech wizard) it is possible to use an Xbox or PlayStation to access remote learning during lockdown

XBOX OR PLAY STATION FOR REMOTE LEARNING

XBOX

Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot

Go in to my games & apps

Find Microsoft Edge and select

Log in as you would for your school

You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use

Key packages including Word, Teams, Excel, PowerPoint, Emails

To move around you use the Xbox control or plug in a mouse.

PLAYSTATION

Identify the PlayStation internet browser (it is WWW with dots around it)

Press the PlayStation logo on the controller

Go to library and find options for games and applications

Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser

Type into your school as normal

You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use

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Have your say on Rushcliffe Planning Enforcement Policy

We are reviewing and amending our Planning Enforcement Policy. It allows us to intervene should a breach of planning control take place and assess any harm that is caused.

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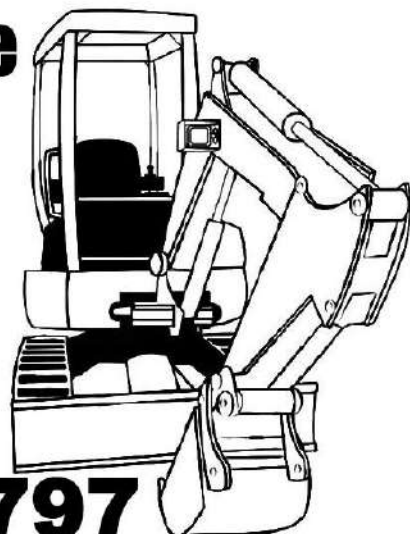
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<https://bit.ly/3myHv41>

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AREA OF OUTSTANDING NAURAL BEAUTY



You may have seen in the news that Local MPs have been looking at the possibility of designation of The Vale of Belvoir as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

An **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB) is an area of countryside in England, Wales or Northern Ireland that has been designated for conservation due to its significant landscape value.

Nearest AONB to us is the Lincolnshire Wolds

FLOODING

Over the past months there have been flooding issues in many of our rural and urban communities. I have recently attended and helped at flooding events in Colston Bassett, Langar, Hickling, Cropwell Butler and Bingham and am well aware of the problems. As a consequence I have had flooding scrutinised and its impact on communities and future planning development, receiving presentations from the agencies concerned. Our MP Ruth Edwards has also been involved co-ordinating an approach. We do seem to be receiving more active response from the agencies with gully clearance and culvert repair, however climate change is set to make flooding an on-going issue. Having inspected the Ward, after the recent rains, I would appeal to all landowners, residents and farmers for a little self help to make sure all pruning's and debris are removed after hedge cutting as this blocks ditches and drains and over time causes backup and flooding which does not help the situation. Where building works are taking place please ensure that silt and run off from sites does not enter the drainage system.



One of the benefits of the recent heavy rain has been to refill the Grantham Ca-

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nal however this is not the end of the problem – it is the leaks and heavy weed growth that need addressing.

GCWRG

Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group was

Set up last year to investigate the severe loss of water from the Canal particularly in Kinoulton and Hickling Basin.

The following is an update from GCWRG chairman regarding the latest proposed Reed Clearance works by CRT (Canal & Rivers Trust)

“This work will aid water flow which will help contribute to maintaining water levels downstream, and minimising flood risk/overtopping upstream.

By keeping open water in the channel- as well as reed fringe- (maintaining a diversity of habitat types) - it can benefit submerged water plants - and in turn more wildlife (e.g. dragonflies, damselflies and bird species). Fish populations will also benefit as a result of helping water flow, maintaining levels.

Clearly- water levels are much higher now, benefitting from recent rainfall, and some of the other work that has been done including leak repairs. But this reed removal will help contribute to a better situation in 2021, following a year of extremes in terms of rainfall (and lack of), and when people have increasingly sought to make use of the canal for exercise under the restrictive conditions needed in response to COVID-19.

The work will be done by a long-reach excavator, working from the towpath and clearing a channel (2-3m width- exact width varies) in sections where this is not already present.

Exceptions are at Gamston and Lady Bay where the stretches are short (10-20m) and don't warrant mobilising the excavator. Here reeds will be cleared by operatives working from a boat.

Arisings (i.e. the reeds) will be placed in piles along the towpath edge. This is a cost-effective approach (transport and disposal elsewhere would add hugely to the cost) but also allows the invertebrates to return to the water. From previous experience this rapidly decays and becomes hidden as the grass begins to grow in spring.”

To keep informed there is a Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group page on Facebook

Stay safe everyone and follow the guidelines

Cllr. Tina Combella

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Doggy Dens

When I ask clients whether they have crate trained their dogs I get one of two responses. The first is - 'yes, absolutely' and the second is 'no, it's cruel to lock my dog away'.

However, there are many benefits to crate training so if you have a moment, please do bear with me.

If introduced correctly many dogs will choose to use their crate. Think of it as their own private space where they can feel safe, warm and comfortable, think of it rather as a doggy den.

The best time to introduce it is when your new puppy arrives. It's a safe space to leave puppy as well as a time out zone for rest and sleep. As puppy grows it can be used to aid toilet training and to prevent chewing. It should never be used for punishment.

Likely, at some point in your dog's life, they will be put in a crate at your Vets. If your dog is not used to this, waiting for or recovering from treatment can significantly add to the stress your dog is feeling away from you in a strange environment.

A crate can be introduced at any age. Start by leaving the door open and feeding your dog in there. Put in some comfortable bedding, a favourite toy and a chew. Every so often throw in a treat so that your dog sees it as a special place. Eventually, you can start to close the door for a few seconds, build up the time slowly and your dog will soon love their new doggy den.

Lynne Marshall

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 Sally Jenkins (Secretary) 07971 520711
 Susanne Youngson 07884 136890

Scouts

see PCC

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 Jackie Haynes 822364
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 Lynn Irving 07388 348341
 lynn.irving74@gmail.com

Village Singers

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Dorothy Chahal (Pres.) 822369
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Diary

All events subject to the Coronavirus situation

Beaver Scouts 6-8 years, Tuesday 6.15-7.15pm; Cub Scouts 8-10.5 years, Monday 6.30-8.00pm; Scouts 10.5-14 years, Monday 7.30-9.00pm
All at Kinoulton Village Hall
Contact for ALL the sections is through Susanne Youngson 0788 413 6890
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Hickling Village Newsletter - Committee

Chair; Tim McEwen - Tel. 822834 or tmcewen@globalnet.co.uk
Treasurer/Advertising; Andrew Terry } Tel. 822088 or
Copy & Secretary; Maggy Jordan } a.terry125@btinternet.com
Copy Collection; Jane Fraser - Tel. 822845

Please get in touch with any of us if you have any comments or suggestions. We would welcome any contributions for future issues - articles, opinions, reports, recipes, poems, brain-teasers - whatever you would like to see in print!

2021 Copy Dates;

April/May 15.3.21 June/July 15.5.21

Copy must be received before these dates to guarantee its appearance. Please note that the committee reserve the right to edit or omit any material submitted. Opinions expressed in published articles remain the responsibility of the author. Articles may be published anonymously but the committee does need to have details of authorship before publication.

If you are submitting articles ready for publication - (either typed or in computer format) we would be grateful if you could send it in A5 size.

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Handwritten Contributions.

If you have handwritten contributions please pass them for typing to:
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Otherwise please continue to pass any contributions or ideas to any of the other committee members. Thank You!

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