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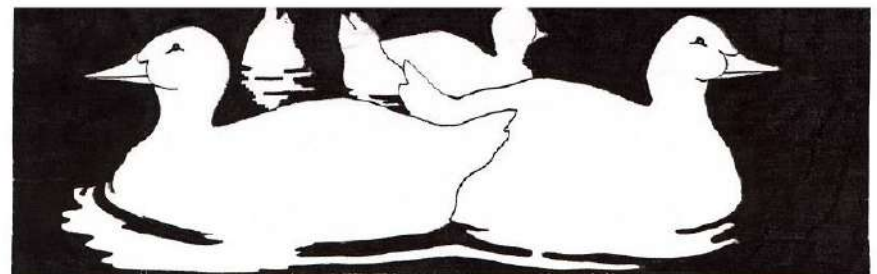
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The

# Hickling Standard

Village Newsletter for  
Hickling and  
Hickling Pastures

6th e-issue April - May 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.

**Our 11 place pre-school room is led by Amy who is a qualified Early Years Teacher.**

We plan our daily activities around the EYFS and foster children's interests. Amy builds and challenges children's learning to ensure all children have the qualities to become good listeners, are friendly, happy, independent learners who have the confidence to have a try at everything! We ensure all children have the foundations in place for them to have the qualities to succeed with love for learning, ensuring the children have a smooth transition when starting school.

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



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

## Eric Wood



A huge thank you from all the family for your very moving roadside tribute to Dad at his funeral on 12th March. It felt like half the village came out to line the streets! While we couldn't quite deliver the scale of service he wished for, he would have been deeply touched by this mark of recognition.

Thank you also for all the cards and good wishes we have received, which have helped enormously. So many beautiful stories of your memories of him.

Your kind donations to his Just Giving page have meant we have raised nearly £2,000 for Access Sport which has far exceeded our hopes and expectations. Thank you so much for your generosity.

We moved to the village 35 years ago and both our parents enjoyed becoming part of the community, Mum through church and the WI, Dad his beloved table tennis club. If you can do one thing for him, please keep using the outdoor table at the Wharf. That will make him smile.

With very best wishes  
Martin, Deborah, Helen, Ben, Josh & Zach



### **Eric Wood - A fond farewell**

With the passing of Eric, the village has lost a stalwart who will be missed dearly. Many would have seen him distributing village magazines or directing traffic at village fairs. Others may remember his help at Church functions alongside his wife Margaret, who was a church warden.. He was also always ready to take the elderly to and from hospital if required. I got to know him best when we started the local table tennis club which flourished mainly through his dedication. His work experience as a sports teacher gave him the insight to maintain focus levels of our young members through our weekly sessions at the village hall for over a decade. This was no small feat when some wayward ones would even try a phone conversation across the table while trying to play at the same time.

He even managed to get funding for a community out-door table-tennis table which was installed at the wharf in 2017. The Wharf restaurant have bats and ball available for all to play, free of charge. For its inauguration, we took part in the annual village scarecrow weekend for which the theme was 'nursery rhymes' and we made a mobile depicting 'hickory dickory dock the mouse ran up the clock'. It still works and my grand children love to play with it on every visit. This year after Eric's funeral, his grand children took great delight in playing with something their Grandfather had been involved with. This was the first time they had seen it. They will miss him. I will miss him. The village will miss him. RIP old friend. Joginder.

### **The Royal British Legion Vale of Belvoir Branch**

#### **Jim Smelt, Commando and The Dickin Medal**



One of our members, Jim Smelt, sadly passed away in April last year. He did his National Service 1949-1951 in The Royal Artillery based on the East Coast of Yorkshire. He trained on the 40mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun and the smaller 37mm anti-tank version. Jim moved to Kinoulton in 2010, bringing his loft of racing pigeons with him. His circle of pigeon racing enthusiasts organised several homing events, and the prize moneys amounting to hundreds of pounds were donated to our Branch Poppy Appeal. He told me that a pigeon had won a 'Victoria Cross' for three separate but dangerous missions. I found it hard to believe but I decided to investigate.

During the Second World War, Maria Dickin, CBE, founder of the PDSA, was aware

of incredible bravery shown by animals and birds on active service and the Home Front. Inspired by their devotion to man and duty, she introduced a special medal specifically for them. The PDSA Dickin Medal is recognised worldwide as the animal's 'Victoria Cross', the highest award any animal can achieve while serving in military conflict. It is for displaying conspicuous gallantry or devotion to duty. Since inception in 1943, 72 medals have been awarded. The recipients comprise pigeons, dogs, horses and a cat. He was Simon, a WW2 ship's cat, but that's another story!

The pigeon to whom Jim was referring was Commando, owned by Sid Moon, a pigeon fancier who had served with the Army Pigeon Service during the First World War. With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Moon offered the service of his pigeons to the war effort, including Commando.

Pigeons were carried on all Reconnaissance Aircraft and RAF Bombers on missions, and would be released if they had to ditch, to provide information back to their RAF base. Messenger pigeons were also carried into the war zones by British paratroopers and secret service agents, and released as needed with messages attached to fly home. During his career, Commando made more than ninety trips into and out of German occupied France, carrying confidential messages. He was noted for three particular missions carried out in 1942 - one in June, another in August, and the third in September - in which he carried crucial intelligence to Britain from agents in France. This vital information included the location of German troops, industrial sites and injured British soldiers. It was for these three missions that he received his PDSA Dickin Medal, the animal equivalent of the VC.

Pigeons were used where radio communications had become highly dangerous. The information being sent was placed in a small canister attached to the pigeon's leg. Fewer than one in eight of the pigeons were able to conclude their missions successfully. Most fell victim to the marksmen and falconers that German troops used to intercept these birds along the French coast, while others were killed through bad weather, exhaustion, or by wild birds of prey.

Even today, animals are specially trained and used by the armed forces in dangerous situations. Recently, Dickin Medals have been awarded to search dogs specialising in sniffing out arms and explosives while serving in Afghanistan. They are Treo, a Labrador (2010), Theo, a Springer Spaniel (2012), and the most recent is Kuno, a Belgian Malinois serving with the Special Boat Service in Afghanistan. They all located improvised explosive devices, helping to save lives and prevent injuries. Theo holds the record for making the most operational finds of IEDs with a total of 14.

*Michael Chapman, Vale of Belvoir Branch*





## THE PLOUGH INN

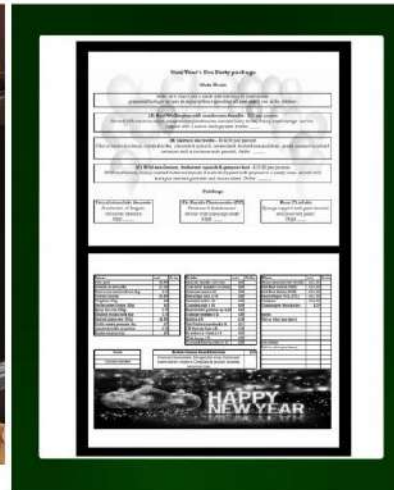
Chris, Kirsty, Elke, Matilda and Dexter.



Chris and Kirsty took over the Plough just a few short months ago in August 2020 – and what a time to start afresh in the hospitality sector ... We are very lucky that they have such grit and determination as well as talent, humour and kindness!



The New Year's Eve package began with the instruction: "(1) pour yourself a glass of wine" – perfect!



## BAR - FOOD - TAKEAWAYS SHOP - STAY & PLAY - GARDEN



## RETURNING VERY SOON!

Keep an eye on your letterbox and on their Facebook page.

Chris & Kirsty achieved amazing things for us all during the Autumn lockdown and over Christmas – please give them all the support you can when they return after the floods!





## ... something seasonal ...

**April Fool's Day;** the custom of playing pranks on April 1st has been around for centuries but its origins are hazy. It is celebrated across the western world and even in the 1700s was regarded as having been around for so long that no one could remember where it had come from; "Whence proceeds the custom of making April Fools?" was the question asked of the wonderfully-entitled publication 'British Apollo or Curious Amusements for the Ingenious' in 1708. It has been argued that there is a reference to it in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales but firmer references can be found in a 1508 poem called *Le Livre de la Deablerie* (The Book of Devilry) by Eloy D'Amerval which refers to the 'poisson d'Avril' which is the French April Fools' Day tradition, where children try to stick paper fish on adults and the person fooled is called the 'poisson d'Avril'. A clearer mention is a 1561 Flemish poem by Eduard de Dene where a nobleman sends his servant out on fool's errands and the servant worries that the errands are nothing more than an April 1st joke.

Sending people on fool's errands has been a persistent part of April Fools' celebrations. 'Hunting the gowk' was the tradition in Scotland, where people were sent to deliver a message which told the recipient to send them off again with another pointless delivery.

One probable explanation may involve the Roman festival of Hilaria which took place at the end of March each year and was characterised by pranks and masquerades. Another more sinister possibility comes from the founding of Rome when Romulus is said to have tricked the Sabine virgins into coming to Rome where they were taken against their will.

**The modern versions are all about pranks though:**

- On the evening of April 1, 1957, thousands of British families tuned in to watch Panorama to witness footage of a happy Swiss family harvesting their prized spaghetti trees. The four-minute "news" segment, which showed strands of cooked pasta dangling from the trees in a family vineyard was an intricate hoax devised by a freelance cameraman.
- In 1976, renowned astronomer Patrick Moore appeared on BBC Radio 2 and announced that at 9:47am, we would feel what he called the 'Jovian-Plutonian gravitational effect'. He said that at that exact



moment, the planets would align and gravity on Earth would get a tiny bit weaker, so if you jumped in the air at exactly the right moment, you would almost float. Evidently this was a load of rubbish, but it doesn't stop the pseudo-science from being recirculated every so often by people who fall for it (BBC).

- In 1998, news circulated that the state of Alabama was to pass a law that would redefine pi to the 'Biblical value' of 3, and it made people furious. When people started to write in to the Alabama state department to ask why they would do such a thing, it was revealed that physicist Mark Boslough (renowned for his humorous takes on science education) had started the rumour as an April Fools prank.
- During renovations to Big Ben the BBC Overseas Service (now called the World Service) tried to convince the world that it would change to electronic beeps. In 1980, they announced to listeners that not only was



the iconic clock face going digital, but that the first people to get in touch could win the hands of the clock. Unfortunately, this did not go down as well as they'd hoped and the BBC was apologising for weeks after the joke was made.



In the programme, they explained that the uniform length of spaghetti was down to years of skilled harvesting.

## ... something seasonal ...



### Grantham Canal Water Level Dropping Again

Our canal has benefitted from heavy rain this winter – but once again levels are dropping rapidly.

Why? Because there are leaks that need fixing and blockages that need clearing.

Working with Canal and River Trust and with Grantham Canal Society, the Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group – GCWRG - has been pushing to identify these issues and get them fixed. The recent reed clearance is a start but there is much to do.



Canal at Vimy Ridge February 2020

- Grantham Canal Society will apply a temporary fix at culvert 39, Irish Jack's Bridge in the next month or so. This will be followed by a permanent rebuild of the bank and culvert by CRT next year.
- Another serious leak at culvert 42, along from Devil's Elbow, will be addressed at the same time although there are several leaks in this area and analysis is underway to define the issues and come up with a fix.
- Meanwhile, a serious leak at culvert 13 east of Knipton Feeder will be fixed by CRT using a new 'grouting' solution shortly. This leak has meant that water from the already depleted feeder was leaking away before coming downstream to us.

A number of other issues are being addressed but it will all take time and money.

In the meantime we are mindful of the impact the fluctuation of water levels during the year is having on wildlife, and maintaining their habitat is in the interest of our own biodiversity and of the lovely resource for residents and visitors.

You can follow GCWRG on [Facebook](#) by searching for Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group or GCWRG. Join the Facebook group and keep up to date with progress, contribute ideas and volunteer assistance.



Canal at Vimy Ridge July 2020

On the subject of money....

We know that the Canal and River

Trust do not have the budget to enable all the work needed to be done soon, so we need to raise some finance ourselves. Working alongside the Grantham Canal Society, we can then remedy individual problems on our doorstep.

GCWRG are proud to announce the launch of the fund-raising initiative:

#### **SLOW - Stop Losing Our Water**

Money raised will be held in a ring-fenced fund by GCS and used to fix leaks and clear blockages to restore consistent water to our stretch of the canal.

Mike Hill's support (see 70 @ Seventy) is a brilliant fund-raising start but we need your help too. You could organise a SLOW sponsored walk along the canal, or a SLOW bake-off or anything else that takes your fancy. The more money we have, the sooner we can fix the problems.

Come up with your own ideas - however wacky - to raise funds and tell us about it on the Facebook group or send it to [gcwrg@yahoo.com](mailto:gcwrg@yahoo.com)

Together, we can fix this!



Samarpan Ashram Yog Meditation Centre - Long Acre  
Long Acre, Melton Road, Hickling Pastures, Melton Mowbray. LE14 3QG  
(HMRC Charity No: EW19886)  
website: [www.samarpanmeditationuk.org](http://www.samarpanmeditationuk.org)

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**Contact details:**

Please ring Jaya Pisavadia (Centre Manager) to book meditation class at the centre.

If you would like us to visit your group and teach meditation then please contact

Hansa Heena Thoban (Education Manager)

Contact Number: 0194981103

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## 70@Seventy Fundraising For -

### Grantham Canal - Stop Losing Our Water

During the pandemic, the importance and popularity of the canal running through our villages has become clear, not only for us humans but also for the wildlife. Last year we went from a flooded towpath to no water in the canal in a matter of months and the disappearance of the swans and birds was alarming – and water levels are dropping rapidly again.

We must make sure our canal continues to be an asset to our villages and enjoyed by all.

In response, the Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group is pleased to announce the SLOW fund-raising programme – **Stop Losing Our Water!**

Created to respond to the loss of water, the group has a clear objective to achieve consistent water levels in our area and are now looking to raise funds to help make this happen. Working closely with Grantham Canal Society, all funds raised will be 'ring fenced' and used for projects including fixing leaks, clearing blockages and improving feeds to our part of the canal.

I would like to start the fundraising ball rolling or wheels turning, with a 70 mile sponsored bike ride around the Vale of Belvoir, along the canal towpaths and venturing in to Rutland and as I have a big birthday in May, I'm calling it '70@seventy', you can sponsor me on - <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/70atseventy>

If you have fundraising ideas for the canal, maybe a sponsored walk in the summer along the length of the canal, please let us know. Contact GCWRG at [pcadwallader.gcwrq@yahoo.com](mailto:pcadwallader.gcwrq@yahoo.com) or tell your local parish councilor who will pass it on.

Join us and **Stop Losing Our Water!**

Mike Hill

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**Contact:** 07757 707725

**Facebook:** HeidiBurnsMassageTherapy

### Locations

Main Street  
Hickling  
Melton Mowbray  
LE14 3AQ

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

## A LETTER TO OUR FRIENDS IN FARMINGTON FROM HICKLING

Thank you for the Christmas gift for Hickling village of decorative tiles made by a local Farmington artist. You timed the arrival of the package very well as it arrived on Christmas Eve. This lovely gift will be put with our collection which we now have depicting the life, art, history and culture of Farmington.

The virus has continued to affect our lives here in Hickling. The many clubs and societies have not been able to meet. Social events and gatherings have been banned from taking place. We all now wear face masks when leaving our homes and we are unable to visit family and friends. However, Hickling is a beautiful village and we are able to walk by the Canal towpath and along the footpaths which criss cross our village.

The lockdown is now taking its toll on us and we are delighted to see that the vaccine is becoming available to all the community. All the over 70's in the village have already had their first dose. Is this 'the light at the end of the tunnel?'

Our History Group members have continued to research and collect information about Hickling Village. The information is then presented on our website. Do encourage visitors to your museum to look at the Hickling History Group's site - [hicklingnottlocalhistory.com](http://hicklingnottlocalhistory.com)

You previously sent us a T-shirt with the Fred Maltby Warner museum printed on the front. We have given this to Jim Woolley who lives in Hickling and who is a direct descendant of Fred's family. Jim has two sons and I am not sure who will wear the T-shirt but a photograph will hopefully be forthcoming.

Before the pandemic, the History Group was raising funds to be able to erect information/history boards at key locations in the village. As we have been unable to fund raise, this project has been put on hold for the past year which is very disappointing.

The Cherry Tree in Hickling churchyard which was planted by a close relative of Fred Warner, when a visit was made to Hickling from America, is thriving and looks lovely when in full blossom in the springtime. Photographs of this tree can be seen on our website.

We hope you will be able to open the Warner Museum in the Summer this year and that some of your usual programme of events will take place.

We send our best wishes to you all for a healthy and happy 2021

Carol on behalf of Hickling History Group and the residents of Hickling



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*The Sands, Long Clawson*



**Thank you to the Lady who Feeds the Ducks and Swans**

I would like to send a big thank you message to Elizabeth who lives in Hickling and spends a great deal of her time feeding the ducks and swans in the village. She must walk miles and she certainly spends a great deal of money feeding them proper food. I think you do an amazing job and appreciate what you do, especially when the weather was cold and the canal was iced over.

(John Peet)



**The Post Office**  
 in Kinoulton Church will re-open on  
**Wednesday 14th April**  
 Opening hours:  
**every Wednesday 10am-12.30pm**

Regret everything cancelled until further notice.





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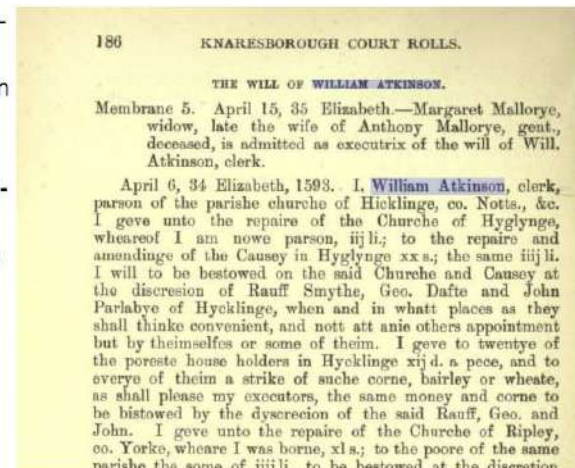
## The Boulder Causeway and the beginnings of the road and pavements in Hickling.

(with thanks to Graham Kilner for his help and expertise – this article is almost entirely his work)

### Summary:

Graham Kilner contacted us with an enquiry based on a reference in the 1593 Will of William Atkinson who had been **Rector of Hickling from 1566 until his death in 1593**; in this Will he included three bequests to the village: "I, William Atkinson, clerk, parson of the parishe of Hicklinge, co. Notts., &c. I geve

unto the repaire of the Church of Hyglynge, wheareof I am now parson, iij li [£3]; **to the repaire and amendinge of the Causey in Hyglynge xxs [twenty shillings].**; the same iij li. I will to be bestowed on the said Church and Causey at the discrecion of Rauff Smythe, Geo. Dafte and John Parlabye of Hycklinge, when and in what places as they shall thinke convenient, and not tatt anie others appointment but by themselfes or some of them. I geve to twentye of the poreste house holders in Hycklinge xij d. [12pence] a pece, and to everye of them a strike of suche



W1193 c.1910 (Jimmy Grundy, Miller – he is said to have been a heavy drinker and when, one night, he was swept all the way round on one of the Mill Lane windmill sails, he never drank again!)



**LADY FRIDAY** Are you short of TIME?

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**CHILDREN & ELDERLY RELATIVES**  
Meet children from school or take them to their recreational activities\*  
Accompany elderly relatives to appointments or shopping, or whatever

**HOME**  
Water plants, take mail in & generally check all is well

Do not hesitate to ask - I am mature and versatile!  
References available on request, Inc DBS\*

Angela Sallis, 6 Melton Road, Long Clawson, LE14 4NR  
01664 822597 angela\_sallis@btinternet.com

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corne, bairley or wheate, as shall please my executors, the same money and corne to be bestowed by the dyscrecion of the said Rauff, Geo. and John."

(Transcript (Surtees Soc. Knaresborough Court Rolls)

He was interested to know whether the 'Hickling Causey' mentioned in this Will was a 'horse causey':

"I am researching the history of horse-causeys (causeways) in England. These were narrow, usually flagged paved ways constructed when most travel was either on foot or horseback. I have uncovered the will of a William Atkinson who, in 1593, left money to repair the 'Hickling Causey'. do you know anything of this, and whether it was a cartway or a horse-causey?"

(Graham Kilner;  
Feb 2021)

A number of old photographs from the Wadkin Archive show a raised boulder causeway; particularly a street view of the Chapel. A causeway of this type was essentially the bad weather option; when the normal road was difficult or impassable this much narrower raised boulder causeway along one side of the road allowed movement to continue.



"The village lied in a miry part of the county and consists of about 70 dwellings; the roads to it are intolerable in the winter. The road from the Fosse to the village is in a right line, very spacious, at the distance of about half a mile. The village, or rather the lanes leading to it, are a labyrinth, the way I entered it. The numerous passages, open to the more numerous inclosures adjoining the village, misguide you: the trees in the hedgerows are lofty, many and meet each other, which made the passages gloomy and miry, and some them almost impassable."

(Robert Thoroton 'The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire' 1790-96 & The Scrapbook of Hickling by Hazel Wadkin)

Before the development of macadamised road construction in the 1750s (which



was layers of compacted 1inch broken stone), village streets were often impassable in the winter so horse causeys, raised paved paths, were laid to ensure that people and supplies could continue to be moved. The roadway in the photograph of

Cromwell House looks like compacted earth but it was probably of macadamised construction. Although it was a step forward from what went before, these roads were dusty in summer and muddy in winter. When motor vehicles arrived, with their higher speeds and pneumatic tyres, the



*Cromwell House, Hickling.*

dust problem became intolerable, and tar sealing was invented to cure the problem. The old macadamised roads were mostly tar sealed in the period 1910-1940. Unclassified rural roads were the last to be sealed. Perhaps we have older residents who still remember the old roads from the 1930's? The Wadkin archive records that 'the causeway' was relaid in the early 1900s as a Coronation project forming the pavements that we know today along the eastern edge of Main Street.

August 1912. For several weeks past a much needed improvement has been going on in the village by removal of the old boulder causeway and the laying down of a concrete (granolithic) footpath. The pavement when completed will extend throughout the main street from The Plough Inn near to the Nether Broughton end of the village, a distance of 1,050 yards or thereabouts.

For some years the matter of causeway renovation had been commented on, but not until arrangements for celebrating the Coronation were in hand did the matter take definite shape. A sum of £16 odd was subscribed for a permanent memorial of the Coronation.

A scheme was considered, and the recommendations of the Coronation Committee were laid before the parish meeting and

approved. A deputation was appointed to lay the matter before the Rural District Council and report, that authority having promised to contribute to the cost of a new causeway.

A committee was appointed to canvass the parish for further subscriptions and to act with the Rural District Council in carrying out the work. The result of the second canvass of the parish was very gratifying, donations, promises of carting labour (to which were added bank interest and donations from local bodies) were generously given, resulting in the total sum for a renovation fund of over £100. The work is progressing satisfactorily. Mr W. Burnett is the contractor.

*(H Wadkin: The Scrapbook of Hickling and unpublished notes)*



**Interestingly, it does look as if at least some of these cobbles may have been re-used and remain in the village today; for example, outside Cobblestones and in the garden of the Old Barn.**

**William Atkinson's Will demonstrates that the boulder causeway ran along Main Street from at least the mid- to late- 1500s and the Wadkin archive records that it survived until the early 1900s.**



**At some point, we would like to be able to identify how much of present-day Main St had this causeway along its eastern edge and, if possible, when it was originally laid.**



**2021 Service Dates for St Luke's Churches: Sundays unless designated**  
**We are very pleased to announce that our Churches will reopen on Easter Sunday**

Date	Kinoulton	Hickling	Upper Broughton
April 4 Easter Day	10.00am Morning Prayer Benefice Group Service Holy Communion at Cotgrave 10.30am	(no service)	10.00am Morning Prayer
April 11	11.00am Morning Prayer	9.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Morning Prayer
April 18	9.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Morning Prayer
April 25	11.00am Morning Prayer	6.30pm Holy Communion	10.00am Morning Prayer
May 2	9.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evening Prayer	10.00am Morning Prayer
May 9	11.00am Morning Prayer Holy Communion at Cotgrave 10.30am	(no service)	10.00am Morning Prayer
May 13 Thurs Ascension Day	(no service)	(no service)	7.00pm Holy Communion Benefice Group Service
May 16	9.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Morning Prayer
May 23 Day of Pentecost Whit Sunday	11.00am Morning Prayer	6.30pm Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion
May 31 Trinity Sunday	10.00am Holy Communion 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Benefice Group Service	(no service)	(no service)

### An Easter Message from Rev Maggie

It is that wonderful time of year when spring is springing, as it were, flowers are blooming, the sun is getting warmer and the cold days of winter are behind us, although as I am writing this it's raining. Ah well so much for our British climate!

The time before Easter is called Lent where Christians contemplate the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion on Good Friday on the cross at Golgotha, an area just outside the city of Jerusalem. The period of Lent is 40 days long (excluding Sundays) and is a penitential time, where time may be set aside for prayer, reading, discussion about these events and how they may reflect in our actions today. Some people also use the time to fast or at least "give some thing up for Lent" as a reminder of the time Christ spent in the desert being tempted by Satan. It may be stopping eating chocolate or ice cream, or even watching daytime TV! Some use the time to study, others do something not tried before, or maybe read that book you always wanted to but never found the time.

As Lent comes towards its end we celebrate Palm Sunday, the time when Christ entered Jerusalem to cheers and salutations, with palms laid at His feet but knowing what His fate would be, just five days later.

Easter Sunday is the day Christ rose from the tomb to bring the Good News to all. In church we greet each other by saying "Christ is Risen" and responding "He is Risen Indeed". A time of jubilation may follow with "party poppers", "paper chute whistles" and the like (please do ask if you want to know when and where).

It is also the time when we are all looking forward to beginning the rise out of the Covid19 pandemic and hopefully into another time of jubilation, such as the Church's response to finding that the Lord has risen.. Slowly and surely, not too quickly, stage by stage so that come the summer we should all be able to meet and greet our friends and family, some of whom we may not have seen for well over a year. Just like having faith in Christ we need to have faith in our decision makers.

Our churches will re-open from Easter Sunday, a very appropriate time, but as many of you know its not just the unlocking of the doors, the building must be cleaned from door to altar, the water systems run through and the church aired and ventilated after being shut up for so long. When we open it will still be under Covid restrictions, face masks must be worn, hands sanitised and with limited numbers. We all look forward to that time when none of this will be needed, but not just yet!  
 If you would like to get in touch with me my email address is

[maggie.woodward511@btinternet.com](mailto:maggie.woodward511@btinternet.com) or call me on 01949 81183

On behalf of all of us at St Luke's Churches may I wish you all a glorious and very Happy Easter. Rev Maggie.



## NEVILE & LANGAR WARD NEWS

March 2021

Cllr. Tina Combellack

Hickling, Kinoulton, Owthorpe, Upper Broughton,  
Hickling Pastures, Colston Bassett & Langar

**YOU'VE BAGGED IT great! NOW BIN IT please**



**This is not the latest trendy tree decoration - it is litter.**

Those who leave dog poo bags in trees, hedgerows at the side of the road or along the Canal Tow path could be fined for littering or failing to clear up after their dog  
OR BOTH = **£200**

### PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Rushcliffe Borough Council approved a policy of enforcement in March.

It replaces the Code of Practice and carries much more weight.

However, we shall still be reliant upon the eyes and ears of the public and Parish Councils to ensure that development proceeds in accordance with planning permissions and that trees are not removed without permission and no unauthorised building or engineering works take place.

## GRANTHAM CANAL



GCWRG (Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group) have been working hard to slow the loss of our water and have had very productive meetings with Grantham Canal Restoration Society and Canal and Rivers Trust.

### SLOW

Stop Losing Our Water

During the pandemic, the importance and popularity of the canal running through our villages has become clear, not only for us humans but also for the wildlife. Last year we went from a flooded towpath to no water in the canal in a matter of months and the disappearance of the swans and birds was alarming. Water levels are dropping rapidly again.

We must make sure our canal continues to be an asset to our villages and enjoyed by all.

In response, the Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group is pleased to announce the **SLOW** fund-raising programme – Stop Losing Our Water! Created to respond to the loss of water, the group has a clear objective to achieve consistent water levels in our area and are now looking to raise funds to help make this happen. Working closely with Grantham Canal Society, all funds raised will be 'ring fenced' and used for projects including fixing leaks, clearing blockages and improving feeds to our part of the canal. We will be letting you know how you can contribute either monetarily, help with fund raising or volunteer physical help (get stuck in and muddy) Don't forget all the latest information is available on the Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group face book page.



### TREES

Rushcliffe announced it would be extending the free tree scheme for a further 4 years. That would equal 40 trees for each of the Parishes.

They have also included free wild flowers seeds.

Nottingham County Council are working with partners to plant 22,500 trees in 2021 and continuing to plant new trees on the county's roadsides with a further 150 to be planted this year.

They are also, like Rushcliffe, promoting planting of wildflowers in the verges.

Example of wild flower planting



Wildflowers planted on station approach at Radcliffe. On Trent

### NOTTINGHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS PLUS CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

will be held on **Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>** don't forget to have your say  
Last day to register to vote or apply for a postal vote is 19<sup>th</sup> April  
Do it now then you won't forget!

If you have any issues or concerns you can always contact me at

[cllr.tcombella@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.tcombella@rushcliffe.gov.uk)

Cllr Tina Combella

### Was there a Cruck Cottage where you live now?

In the early days of settlement in Hickling the Cruck Cottage would have been the most common basic structure for modest families living off the land - as late as the 1960s one of these survived in Hickling in what was then known as Hodson's Yard.



The cottage known in the 1800s as Corner's Yard and later Hodson's Yard (The Retreat and Holly Cottage) was a Cruck Cottage; it isn't known when it was first built but they were commonly and generally built from the 1100s onwards through to early Tudor times and particularly in the Midland Counties. These were usually modest houses built by families living off the land. The Deeds and documents still held by the occupiers of this site only go back to 1803 but photographs taken before the demolition of the cruck cottage (by then split into two cottages) clearly show the cruck construction. Recent research which included surviving cruck houses in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire found that almost all the houses sampled (using carbon dating and dendrochronology) were built in the 300 year period between the 1260s and the 1550s. It is highly likely that the original cruck structure at Hodson's Yard stood for several hundred years.

'Cruck' or 'Crook' comes from the Middle English word 'crok' which in turn



comes from the Old Norse 'kraka' meaning hook or hooked. Words such as 'crooked' and shepherd's 'crook' have the same derivation. Mediaeval documents refer to them as 'furcae' (fork) buildings. Cruck construction involves a naturally bent timber split into two, they are placed on the ground to form a symmetrical arch and raised into position – the top of the arch (where the timbers meet) forms the roof. They were common because they were so quick and easy to construct.



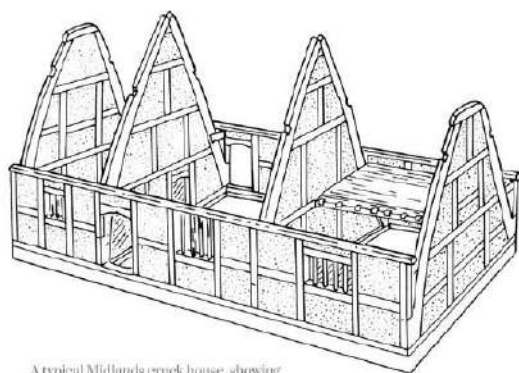
A simple cruck cottage would be made of one 'bay' – a pair of cruck timbers at each end; additional bays could be added by adding a further set of cruck timbers. The spaces between the cruck timbers were filled with whatever building material was mostly easily (and usually cheaply) available and they were generally thatched.

*"At first sight it looks like a gingerbread house with a steep roof of wooden tiles, designed to allow the rain to fall off easily, and wattle walls, made of thin, interwoven branches daubed with plaster. It is properly known as a cruck cottage, the crucks being those naturally curved wooden beams that are cut from the branches of trees, usually oak. Fastened at the top by wooden pegs, pairs of crucks provided a strong framework to support the roof, so that the sides of the cottage did not carry the weight but were simply curtain walls to keep out the weather. The*

*windows were just holes in the walls with wooden shutters. At one end stands a stone chimney, down which the light floods on to the hearth. The floor is bare earth. There are wooden shelves suspended by string (...) A simple table and bench is the only furniture in the room, but a platform at one end, reached by a ladder, provides a place to sleep. At the other end is a lean-to shed for live-stock, typically a pig or two, perhaps a cow, and hens."*

*David Dimbleby; How We Built Brit-*

*ain (2007) referring to a reconstruction of a yeoman farmer's cottage at Holdenby)*



A typical Midlands cruck house, showing pairs of cruck blades rising from the sill beam at ground level to the apex of the roof in one sweep. The centre bay is an open hall, with service bay to the left and a two-storeyed chamber bay to the right.

Whilst the framework of the house may have originated in Mediaeval or Tudor times, successive generations will have altered and expanded it as their needs changed. This type of construction has survived particularly well in the Midland Counties and can still be seen incorporated into much more affluent looking modern homes.

#### Also referenced:

*Peasant houses in Midland England: A detailed article including the construction methods and social history of cruck built houses (Current Archaeology: May 1st 2013: Peasant Houses in Midland England) - <https://archaeology.co.uk/articles/peasant-houses-in-midland-england.htm>*

*And: [www.hicklingnottlocalhistory.com/hodsons-yard-holly-house-main-st/](http://www.hicklingnottlocalhistory.com/hodsons-yard-holly-house-main-st/)*

**Please contact us if you think your property may have signs of an early cruck cottage structure:  
[info@hicklingnottlocalhistory.com](mailto:info@hicklingnottlocalhistory.com)**



This fire-damaged house (Home Farm, Harby, Leicestershire) shows that a typical cruck built peasant house dated by dendrochronology to c.1380 was later encased in brick, while the open hearth was replaced by an internal chimney, typical of the sort of improvements carried out from the late 18th century as part of the so-called 'Great Rebuilding'.

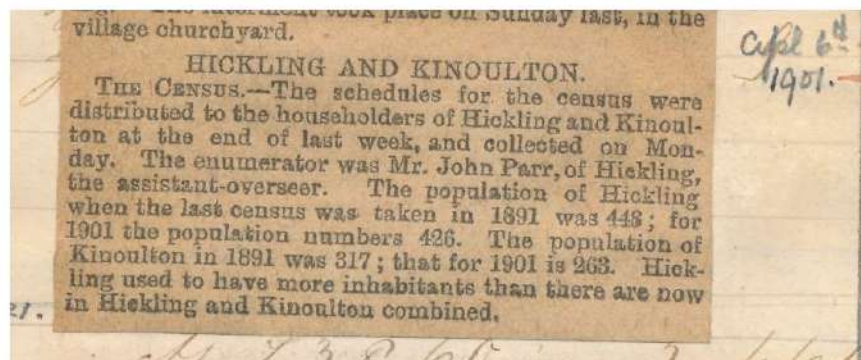
← *Hodson's Yard in 1965 just before it was demolished (also the two photographs on the previous pages).*



## Census Records—how much do you know about them?

On a local social media post recently, a resident had a moan about the letter which had dropped onto their doormat that morning; “What’s all this census nonsense—they’re just being nosy!”.

Completing a census return is a legal requirement for all householders—and this resident is quite right, it is an invaluable source of information. Government has access to census information almost immediately and the data that is collected informs all kinds of decisions about the way our society functions. But, for the vast majority of us, we won’t have access to this data until 100 years after it is collected - deliberately beyond most of our lifetimes.



Collecting information nationally at the same point of time is a gargantuan logistical task; in the electronically connected days of 2021 this year’s census is probably the easiest ever. But when William the Conqueror gave orders for the Domesday information gathering exercise it literally involved men walking every mile of the kingdom (and if someone was reluctant to take part they didn’t just complain about nosiness, they had serious weaponry to hand ...). The next attempt to gather such universal information came during Oliver Cromwell’s Commonwealth - The Protestation Returns aimed to record every male householder in the country. We are fortunate in Hickling that both our Domesday and Protestation records have survived (images are on the local history website).

There were clear political aims behind both of the above, but the start of the current census system has always had a more ‘social’ emphasis.

## A National Archives Overview:

“What is the census and why was it compiled?”

The census is a head count of everyone in the country on a given day. A census has been taken in England and Wales, and separately for Scotland, every ten years since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

The object of the census was not to obtain detailed information about individuals, but to provide information about the population as a whole; listing everyone by name, wherever they happened to be on a single night, was the most efficient way to count everybody once, and nobody twice.

In every census year an enumerator delivered a form to each household in the country for them to complete. The heads of household were instructed to give details of everyone who slept in that dwelling on census night, which was always a Sunday. The forms completed by each household, known as schedules, were collected a few days later by the enumerator. From 1841 to 1901 the information from the schedules was then copied into enumeration books. Once the enumeration books had been completed, most household schedules were destroyed, although there are some rare survivals. It is the enumeration books that we consult today online or on microfilm.

The 1841 census was the first to list the names of every individual, which makes it the earliest useful census for family historians. However, less information was collected in 1841 than in later census years. The General Register Office was responsible for taking the census, so it used the administrative framework already in place for the registration of births, marriages and deaths. The Superintendent Registrar was responsible for collecting the returns from each Registrar of Births and Deaths in their registration district, and sending them to the Census Office in London. Each Registrar of Births and Deaths was responsible for a sub-district, which they divided into enumeration districts (EDs), and recruited enumerators for each ED.

In the censuses of 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831 lists of names were not collected centrally, although some are held in local record offices. Other lists were sometimes compiled, for a variety of reasons, which are often referred to as census ‘substitutes’.


Unlike earlier censuses, the 1921 census (and later censuses) are subject to the Census Act 1920, as amended by the Census (Confidentiality) Act 1991 c.6 which makes it an offence to disclose personal information held in them until 100 years after the date they were conducted. Until then, they are held by the Office for National Statistics. Statistical information from these censuses is openly available.”

(National Archives; [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/census-records/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/census-records/))

## Timeline:

**“The censuses of 1801-1831 were produced by John Rickman, a statistician and parliamentary clerk.** He drafted the first census bill, entitled “An act for taking an account of the population of Great Britain, and of the increase or diminution thereof”. Rickman asked enumerators to provide the numbers of males and females, work carried out in relation to agriculture or trade and the number of houses. He also asked the clergy to provide the numbers of baptisms, burials and marriages. To establish historical trends in the



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population, the 1801 census required the clergy to complete the unenviable task of providing data for the previous 100 years." (ST)

**Full details of the questions in all the censuses from 1801 to 1911 can be found at the National Archives ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research-/research-guides/census-records/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research-/research-guides/census-records/)). Also:**

- *How records are kept for naval ships and institutions such as workhouses, barracks and hospitals*
- *A guide to census terms and abbreviations*

**In 1821** enumerators were asked to provide the age breakdown of the population, information useful for organisations with insurance schemes. Almost half the population was under the age of 20. The figure now is reportedly just under 25 per cent.

**In 1831** for the first time the occupation of women was specifically requested. **In 1841** the task for organising the form and the collection of data fell to the recently established General Registrar's Office (GRO). "This is considered the first modern census, as each member of the household is counted individually, providing details of their identity, including name, age and sex. According to the historian Edward Higgs, the GRO hoped to expand the information gathered but was also keen to collect names to ensure enumerators were not making things up." (ST)

**In 1851** respondents were asked to record if they were blind or deaf and dumb; in **1871 and 1881** the list changed to read: '1. Blind 2. Deaf and Dumb 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic'.

**1851** included "an attempt to survey religion by asking clergy to record average congregations. According to Higgs, it was feared "irreligion" was spreading because of a lack of churches in urban areas for the working classes to go to, and "there was a need to understand how many seats there were for religious bums to sit on". However, claims were made that non-conformist churches would pack numbers in their congregations to assert greater legitimacy than the Church of England. The religious question did not return to the census until 2001." (ST)

**1851** "A question on relationship to the "head of the household" is introduced, which has remained in some form to the present day. There is an implicit sense that the role is reserved for a man.

Queen Victoria's form is illuminating: under occupation she writes "Queen", but she does not identify herself as head of the household. That is reserved for



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No census records survive in Hickling until 1841; on a quick estimated page count there seem to be about 580 different named individuals in Hickling & Hickling Pastures.



The Ayling family are alphabetically first in the 1841 Hickling census.  
Hickling follows Cropwell Bishop in the registers; this is the first page





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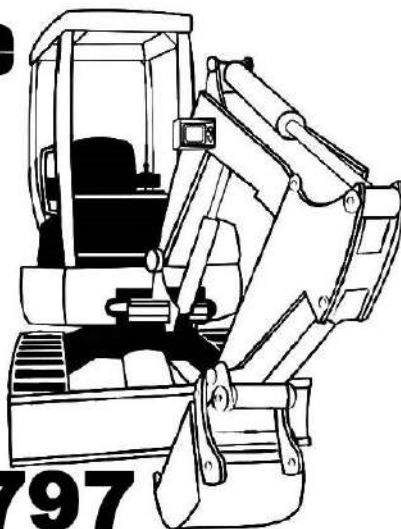
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Prince Albert." (ST)

**1901** "One new question asking if people "work from home". According to Higgs, this is to gather information about the poor working conditions of home workers and those in "sweated" trades. Sweating was defined as underpaid, unsanitary work, excessive in hours. Trades such as matchbox-making were mostly carried out by women and children, who toiled at home for long hours to produce the cases and trays that held matches." (ST)

**1911-1941** "A period marked by disruption and social upheaval, culminating in the cancellation of the 1941 census because of the Second World War. 1911 brings a great innovation in how data is collected, with the invention of the Hollerith punch-card machine. The Census Act 1920 sets out a minimum of five years between censuses. The 100-year disclosure rule also begins, meaning a full census cannot be released publicly for a century. The 1921 census will be available in January 2022." (ST)

**1911** "is known as the fertility census: there are concerns about falling birth rates, so married women are asked how many children they have had. The historian Simon Szreter suggests the question reflects a national debate on the perceived biological decline of Britain. The ascendant eugenics movement attempted to link high fertility with the working classes, which they claimed was an "evolutionary dead end"." (ST)

**1911** also acts as a platform for the suffragette movement, "Emily Davison, who died in 1913 by throwing herself under the King's horse during the Epsom Derby, is found "hiding in the crypt of Westminster Hall" when the census form is collected, which is then recorded as her address. Some women protested by writing their medical status as "not enfranchised", while others attached political posters to their forms." (ST)

**1921** "The census is postponed from April to June because of strike action. This is the first and only time the census is delayed and one of only two to take place in summer [the other being 1841]. The forms feature tick boxes for the first time ..." (ST)

**1931** "The UK is in the midst of a heavy economic downturn. The only new question — on internal migration — is a result of the delayed census in 1921, with suggestions that the summer date produced a skewed picture of where people lived. The question remains to this day.." (ST)

**1931** The records for this census were lost in a fire in 1942.

**1951** "A new question on what amenities are available to a household is introduced: exclusive or shared use of piped water, cooking stoves, fixed baths, kitchen sinks and water closets. Higgs suggests this is due to postwar slum clearances and large-scale building of social housing." (ST)



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In 1981 the phrase 'first person' replaces 'head of household'

In 1991 "The census of 1841 asked questions on birthplace, with the option of "Foreign parts" for those not born in the British Isles. The question remained in some form and served as a proxy for the ethnic make-up of Britain. The state was reluctant to ask a direct question on ethnicity because of the political implications for race relations, while ethnic minorities feared the enumeration would be used to create policies to marginalise them further. In 1981 the ethnicity question was tested but dropped from the census. In 1991, for the first time in history, respondents were asked to clearly state their ethnicity.

2001: "The form now has almost twice as many questions as in 1991. This is primarily down to an increase in questions on employment — from five to 15. The fraught question of religion, last seen in 1851, returns. It was again voluntary. Jedi is the fourth-largest religion in the country, behind Christianity, Islam and Hinduism (as well as "no religion")." (ST)

2011: "In the first census to take place since the Civil Partnership Act 2004, same-sex civil relationships are included for the first time. Respondents are also asked to state their national identity, and were allowed to pick more than one out of British, English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish and other. A report from the Office for National Statistics recommending the question be included stated that the "2001 census drew strong opinion from people that wished to express a more detailed identity than just British". (ST)

2021 "Voluntary questions on sexual orientation and gender identity will be asked for the first time. The census white paper — a policy document drafted by the government — suggests the answers will be useful in "monitoring and supporting anti-discrimination duties". There will also be an explicit question for those who have served in the armed forces." (ST)

(ST: extracts from an article in the Sunday Times 13th March 2021)

#### Some extra facts:

- The census returns for 1931 were destroyed in a fire in 1942 and there was no census taken during WWII (the only time the census has been cancelled); this means there is a 30 year gap between 1921 and 1951 without census data - a period of massive change. Fortunately, in 1939 a National Register was taken which places everyone resident in the UK with their specific address; this is already publicly available although many records are blanked out where named individuals are still alive.



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- The 2021 census will be taken on Sunday 21st March; the 1921 census results will be made publicly available in early 2022.
- Although the intention was to ensure no one was recorded twice there is no doubt that duplications have happened; the transcribers were human and fallible (in all their infinite variety) and the householder's recall hasn't always been 100% reliable. It is always sensible to try and confirm details by cross-referencing other records. *(We may have an example of duplication in the Mark Starbuck story on our website but further checking is needed).*
- Sometimes entire sections of the census have disappeared: "The 1841 census returns for the whole registration district of Wrexham, Denbighshire, were believed to be missing. However, the original enumeration books for the town of Wrexham were discovered in a bookshop, and are now deposited in the Denbighshire Archives." *(National Archives)*
- Census information (over 100 years old) is in the public domain and available to everyone without charge (the National Archives at Kew are a good starting point for free records); however, free records are limited in detail and searching is very basic - specialist family history websites allow more accessible, wide-ranging and detailed research these days.
- 1911 was the first census where householders completed the census in their own handwriting—a fascinatingly personal record; 2021 will be almost entirely collated online (no handwriting!).
- The United Nations has 4 criteria for a modern census; individual enumeration; universal across the territory, simultaneous and it must happen at regular time intervals. The 1801-1831 censuses only ticked 2 of these - they were not simultaneous and individuals weren't counted separately.
- There is ongoing debate about whether there will ever be another census after this one; apparently data is collected in real time in so many different ways these days that some believe a census won't be necessary in 2031. Supporters of the census argue that the consistency & continuity of the previous system is valuable in itself and that it is a uniquely democratic way of recording every individual equally - watch this space ...

[www.hicklingnottsllocalhistory.com/census-records/](http://www.hicklingnottsllocalhistory.com/census-records/)





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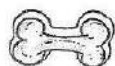


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## Village Directory

150 Club	Liz Vear	822562	Kinoulton School	Mr Savage (head)	
Beavers	Susanne Youngson	07884 136890	Kinoulton School PTTA	Sarah Parris	01949 823925
Bellringers	Lynn Irving	07388 348341	Neighbourhood Watch	Chris White	822152
British Legion	Colin Henson	01949 81453	Nottinghamshire Police	Control Room	
Councillors	John Cottee (County)		Parish Council	Non-emergency number	101
	cllr.john.cottee@nottscc.gov.uk		Parochial Church Council	Jo Cartmell (Clerk)	822866
	Tina Combellaack (Borough)		Rector	Maggie Woodward	01949 81183
	TCombellaack@rushcliffe.gov.uk		Churchwarden	maggie.woodward511@btinternet.com	
Cricknet Club	P. Parkes	822370	Treasurer	John Bloor	822682
	JD Walker	822244	Secretary	Gill Bloor	822682
Cubs	Susanne Youngson	07884 136890	Scarecrow Committee	Alex Thomas	823420
Film Society	Tim McEwen	822834	Scouts	Dorothy Chahal	822369
Gardening Club	Mr B. Baxter	01949 81374	Sunday Club	Karen Buckley (Chair)	07729 768366
	Mrs B. Grundy	01949 81442	Vale Readers	Sally Jenkins (Secretary)	07971 520711
Good Neighbours	Liz Vear	822562	Village Hall	Susanne Youngson	07884 136890
Scheme	or 07805 407229			see PCC	
	Kay Hand	822612	Village Singers	Elizabeth Evans	01949 81501
Guides	Alison Popplewell	01949 81604	Women's Institute	Jackie Haynes	822364
Hickling Pre-School	Nick	07950 558608		Barbara McEwen (Chair)	822834
Hickling Standard	see back inside cover			Tim McEwen (sec.)	822834
History Group	Dorothy Chahal	822369		John Robinson (treas.)	822762
	Carol Beadle	822195		Phillipa Jacks (bookings)	823622
	Jane Fraser	822845		Lynn Irving	07388 348341
	Gill & John Bloor	822682		lynn.irving74@gmail.com	
				Dorothy Chahal (Pres.)	822369
				Carol Beadle (Treas)	822195



## 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  
gslkinoulton@gmail.com



## Hickling Village Newsletter - Committee

Chair; Tim McEwen - Tel. 822834 or [tmcewen@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:tmcewen@globalnet.co.uk)  
Treasurer/Advertising; Andrew Terry } Tel. 822088 or  
Copy & Secretary; Maggy Jordan } [a.terry125@btinternet.com](mailto: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:

June/July 15.5.21 August/September 15.7.21

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.**

### **COPY IN ANY FORM WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**

e-mail address - [a.terry125@btinternet.com](mailto:a.terry125@btinternet.com)

- please make sure that attachments are sent in Microsoft Word or Publisher compatible formats.

### **Handwritten Contributions.**

If you have handwritten contributions please pass them for typing to:

Jane Mill Lane Cottages

Otherwise please continue to pass any contributions or ideas to any of the other committee members. Thank You!

### Advertising Rates (one advert for one year - 6 issues.)

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(enclose payment with copy for the advert and give to a committee member before the copy date.)

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