



Stathern Star

**Village Assembly
Special**

Village News and Updates

Welcome to this special edition of the Stathern Star.

Each May, there is a legal requirement for the Parish Council to host the Village Assembly Meeting. All the village groups as well as Police and Councillors are invited to report on their previous years operation and their plans for the future as well as answering any questions from either the Council or members of the public who have attended the meeting. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing threat of Covid-19 this has not been possible.

Therefore each group has submitted a short update which has been included in this special edition.

At the moment, we are unable to print the paper version of the Star so once again this is only available online.

Although we have no diary dates at the moment, things are still happening in the village such as The Socially Distanced Staying Alert Charity Cake Stall on the 23rd May and Alice Transfield is running her Pilates sessions via Zoom. The WhatApps group "Stathern Chat" is still going strong with lots of information and support. The group is open to all residents and access is via Carrie Fryer on 07773 324785 or Alison Shelton on 07801 970883.

Coffee Shot wins Certificate of Recognition

Well done to the Coffee Shot who have deservedly been awarded a Certificate of Recognition from Leicestershire Cares for *"their outstanding contribution to the community during the corona virus pandemic"*.

There have been some wonderful things happening in the village as a result of the lockdown, from all the volunteers collecting shopping & prescriptions etc., to the sewing of scrubs for the NHS by members of the WI. People have been connecting with other residents who they may not have met before through the various social media groups that have been set up and swapping toys and games and also the gardeners amongst us have been growing and giving away plants and seeds to those who weren't able to get any. It makes you realise that we are so lucky to live in such a beautiful place with such a sense of community and hopefully many new friendships have been forged out of this chaos.

Stathern Neighbourhood Plan Update

We have our 1st DRAFT of the plan!! Exciting times!

All the Theme Groups have worked incredibly hard and collected and reviewed huge amounts of data & detail.

The draft plan includes Housing & Environmental Policies. There is some work to do on historic buildings & assets but this will be completed by July 2020.

An Executive Summary will be shared across the village ASAP. “

Thank you to everybody for all the work that has gone into this.

Stathern | Housing | Matters

As the people of Stathern rise to the challenge of the pandemic, the rollercoaster of housing matters in the village rumbles on.

Red Lion Inn - 20/00309/FUL “partial demolition of the Inn and conversion to a single dwelling together with erection of 7 dwellings to rear”. This application by the owner has just been made available on the Melton Planning portal. Public comments should be received by 10th June 2020.

Tofts Hill - Field OS 4011 Tofts Hill 19/00741/FUL for “9 new dwellings”. This application was withdrawn from the February 2020 Melton Planning Committee agenda following additional information from a geologist regarding retaining walls and drainage concerns. The developer has since appealed to the Planning Inspectorate for ‘non-determination’ ie the council not deciding the application in the legal time frame. It is currently awaiting the appointment of the Planning Inspector/case officer which have been delayed due to the pandemic, it is understood that the application will still go to the Planning committee so that the council can decide on their stance with the Inspector.

Chantry House 3 Chapel Lane - 20/00104/FUL “a two storey four bedroomed house” The Planning Officer gave the application a Permit – which Melton’s Planning Department then announced was a procedural error and that the application would be presented to committee on 28th May. However, at the

time of writing, the agenda has been published and the application is not included.

STAT1 - Land West of Main Street Stathern 19/01302/FUL. “74 dwellings including 24 ‘affordable houses”.

Once the details of the revised masterplan are finalised - following meetings with Melton Council and the Parish Council, the recent Stathern Housing Needs Survey and Melton BC Housing Policy team comments – a Planning Committee date will be made available.

Stathern’s ‘Housing Needs Survey’ 2019

This is now available on the Melton Local Plan website

<https://www.meltonplan.co.uk/rural-housing-needs>

Of the 321 surveys distributed there was an overall response rate of 39% which was described as ‘a good level of response for a survey of this type in village of this size’. Findings include that there is a requirement in Stathern for 12 affordable homes (7 from the survey and 5 from the council’s housing register) and 6 market homes. The report is a really interesting insight into the village.

Planning Applications in Stathern

You can keep up to date on planning applications in Stathern (including tree work in the Conservation Area) - click <https://pa.melton.gov.uk/online-applications/> and use ‘Stathern’ as the search area or the application numbers listed above; or ring the Duty Planning Officer on 01664 502427.

The Melton Planning Committee

This now takes place online using Zoom and is posted on YouTube. Find all the YouTube links, planning officer reports for each application and minutes (minutes are contained in the Agenda Reports Pack of the subsequent meeting). Watch online - live as it happens - or afterwards at your leisure. Find the ‘Browse meetings - Planning Committee’ page by searching online for *Melton Planning Committee 2020* or type in your browser: <https://democracy.melton.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=134&Year=0>

Stathern Housing Matters is a voluntary ad-hoc informal bulletin sharing information on housing related matters and the emerging Neighbourhood Plan in Stathern. Drop me an email to be added to the SHM database where your privacy is always protected by blind copy emails.

Best wishes to you all Alison Shelton Stathern.Housing.Matters@gmail.com

Stathern – the village with time for everyone

Stathern War Memorial Institute clocked up a piece of history on Monday.

A restored clock was unveiled on the historic building 54 years to the second that it was gifted to the village hall by the Stathern Women's Institute in 1966.

A small, socially distanced gathering marked the event at 19:30, with current members of both organisations coming together.

Alison Shelton, one of the WMI trustees, said: "I spotted an old photograph displaying the clock and learned that it had been taken down years ago. I then came across the original letter from Stathern Women's Institute, asked around the village and was delighted to find the actual clock, albeit somewhat worse for wear, but with the mechanism still working. So I set about refurbishing it and getting it back up where it belongs."

Mary Hughes, Stathern WI president, added: "It's 54 years to the day and hour when this clock was presented to Stathern War Memorial Institute. The passage of time marks the changes within the village. When this clock was presented it was under very different circumstances to those of today. The common link that does not change, is the feeling of community, which has never been more apparent than now. Under testing times, not only for Stathern but the whole world together, we stand united."



Annual Village Assembly Reports 2019/20

Leicestershire County Council

Report from Byron Rhodes

County Councillor for the Belvoir Division which includes Stathern.

In previous years I wrote an Annual Report about what had happened in the previous year and what should be expected in the coming year. But this year the coming of the COVID-19 epidemic has changed life so much for everyone that I have decided to report on what the County Council is doing to maintain services during the lockdown and keep the residents of Leicestershire safe.

As you would expect, support for vulnerable people is the priority. That includes the elderly, the disabled and children whose families are absent or unable to care for them. Our staff have stepped up and maintained the support. It has not been easy. Until recently there has been little PPE for front line workers because the priority quite rightly has been to supply the NHS. But now it is coming: some through via the Local Resilience Forum – a body led by the police which includes all the councils, fire service, voluntary groups - and the rest through normal channels. At the time of writing the NHS still has supply problems but they require more specialist equipment than most carers who are supporting people who do not have the infection.

Some County Council services however have had to be curtailed or suspended. Only critical and vital repairs to the roads are being done - it is very difficult to maintain personal distancing for those doing this work. Grass cutting has started but limited to those areas near junctions for example to ensure safety. Many people are pleased that the spring flowers have not been cut down too early this year.

The Recycling and Household Waste sites have had to be closed for similar reasons but the Government has asked for them to be re-opened. That's given the Council some very difficult and expensive logistical problems to solve to ensure social distancing in the confined space of the sites. However, it is planned to re-open the Lake Terrace RHWS in Melton Mowbray on 18th May. People will have to make an appointment in advance so we don't get queues of cars. The Bottesford site is more

difficult to manage, both for queueing cars and social distancing so it won't be re-opened in the near future.

The schools meals service and catering has more or less stopped too. Some schools have remained open so they can look after vulnerable children. We shall follow the Government directive of course before re-opening schools generally.

Most staff are now working remotely using video conferencing. Parish Councils are too. When this is all over we shall see very different ways of working for everyone. That should be a good thing to expect: fewer car journeys, fewer road traffic accidents, less pollution, less stress perhaps.

All this is costing the Council a great deal of money. I expect an overspend of £60m this year! The Government have given us £27.5M towards it so far. If they don't give us any more we shall have to curtail the capital programme.

One day we shall be back to normal, whatever that will be!
If you have any issues with County Council services please email me at byron.rhodes@leics.gov.uk.
Keep well

Parish Council

Report from Kenneth Bray – Parish Council Chairman

An interesting year for the Parish Council starting with the retirement of long serving Chairman, Gerald Hourd, and therefore a new chairman, and ending in lockdown!

It has been a year dominated by planning issues for the most part with the Parish Council becoming more involved directly in those issues. We have seen many applications to build here under the new Melton Plan, not all desirable. Attendance at Melton Borough Council's Planning Committee meetings became regular and we were able to defeat a proposal to build on Blacksmiths End (STAT3) by supporting local residents and in turn being supported by our new Borough Councillors who have been very proactive. Proposals for Toft's Hill and the Red Lion site are still threatened and have been resisted so far.

More positively, we have been able to work with the developers of STAT1 – Land west of Main Street to try to get a suitable solution for that large site. At the same time we launched a process for our own Neighbourhood Plan. You will see more on that elsewhere.

Recently, we have the Covid crisis when many volunteers stepped forward, not least our Clerk, Justine Collins, who helped to coordinate the Stathern response. We also had to learn to use Zoom. Quite a challenge!

Thank you to all who have been involved. We will continue to work hard on your behalf.

Village Speedwatch

Report from Judith Daws – Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator

The new speed sign is a lot more visible as well as being quite polite by thanking motorists for slowing down! The sign gets moved regularly and the data is kindly retrieved by Ken Bray.

Unfortunately neither the police or Leicestershire County Council Traffic department seem interested in the results but I am sure the sign has some impact on the passing motorists.

Due to the current lockdown, the sign has not been moved from by the shop but as soon as is possible it will be moved, hopefully to Mill Hill.

The fastest speed recorded so far is 84 mph going out of the village, but still within the 30mph zone, on Penn Lane !!!!!

Stathern Recreation Association Village Report

Report from Daniel Swain – SRA Chairman

The SRA has had a slightly quieter year during 2019/2020 with our only event being Party in the Park during the summer of 2019. This was a well-attended and supported event being enjoyed by many of the villagers and people from the local area. Great weather, music, food, and drink making the day what it has become.

Sadly there was some disturbance in and around the village and if Party in the Park is to be run in the future, we would look to reassure the village that measures would be put in place to reduce and minimise these issues.

With money secured for the purchase of the final piece of play equipment, the committee are now looking to secure funding to cover the installation of this.

Sadly, with the current situation we are all subjected to, we have had to close the park. We trust you all understand the reasons behind this and are very appreciative of everybody abiding by this request.

We appreciate all the great support from villagers and the local community ensuring the park is what it is and we can run the events that we all enjoy. Currently the SRA committee is the smallest it has been for some years, we are looking for new volunteers to come forward and help ensure the park is here for many more years to come.

Stay safe.

St Guthlac's Church Report

Report from Roger Hawkins – PCC Secretary

We held our 2020 Annual Parish and Parochial Church Council on the 8th March in the church. Whilst no churchwardens were appointed, the PCC (of which there are now 8 members including Jamie our vicar) will share the roles of the churchwardens. The minutes of our meeting, after ratification, are lodged in the church for public viewing, at the Communications Corner.

During December 2019, John Deave died. He had been a member of the PCC for 45 years and a churchwarden for 33 years. Also Ray Cook died in February 2019. He had been our church architect and a churchwarden at Stathern in the 1960s/70s. Both gave time, commitment, and expertise to the church and we sincerely thank them.

Church Services followed the usual pattern of a minimum of three per month and additional special services. Some services, particularly the Family Service, were taken by lay members David Smith, Mary Briant and Clare Allen and we are grateful for their input. Festival services

were generally well attended. The school made good use of the church and we are always very pleased to welcome them and parents.

St Guthlac's had no large abnormal expenditure during the year and our income was in line with expectations. We send a large proportion of our income to the diocese, which indirectly helps pay for the vicar's salary and other diocesan expenditure. We ran a number of income-generating events during the year such as a Strawberry Tea and helped with the Horticultural Show and the Bollywood themed Party-in-the-Garden at Mr and Mrs Chandler's house. The Christian Aid coffee morning and the Harvest Lunch raised money for charities - these were two of eight charities we gave donations to during the year, including the Grantham Food Bank, the Royal British Legion and the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

Of note was the remarkable and memorable Remembrance Poppy Display in the church in November to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for the WMI.

There was no big maintenance project during the year, but our architect has started to prepare plans for improved churchyard drainage works and repairs to the cracked chancel walls. Our newsletter, CONTACT, was delivered quarterly to every house in the village. We thank the multitude of villagers who have so generously helped the church during the year in all kinds of ways; it belongs to all of us and we cherish it.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the church closed soon after us holding our Annual Meeting, but we continue to support the parish with on-line Sunday services, and newsletters and we will resume normality when group meeting restrictions are lifted.

Stathern War Memorial

Report by Nicky Tansley - Chair

The Stathern War Memorial Institute has had a busy year, with new people joining the committee and others taking on new roles, so there are lots of fresh ideas to take us into 2021!

The main aim of the WMI is to fulfil our motto of being 'The Little hall with a Big heart' and create a community space that reaches everyone in our fantastic village - whether that's through new computer courses for those that need to brush up on their IT skills, family bingo or a village barbecue.

We have a fantastic selection of activities on offer at the hall, including a playgroup, yoga, Pilates, line dancing and tai chi, dance and exercise classes.

We are installing Wi-fi at the hall, which ties in nicely with our new Stathern in Business initiative, bringing together businesses connected to the village.

A Section 106 application** has also been lodged with Melton Borough Council to fund substantial improvements to the hall, including an improved carbon footprint, bigger hall size, more storage and extra rooms including a meeting room. Fingers crossed!

For any WMI queries, please contact us on wmiquery@gmail.com or 01949 833508. Jenny Hendry does the bookings, and the phone number goes through to our secretary, Alison Shelton. Our chair, Nicky Tansley, can be contacted on 07703 195595.

**A Section 106 is for funding from the developers of the housing development at the bottom of Mill Hill and has to be agreed prior to the application being decided upon at the Planning Committee. A feasibility study was completed for extending the WMI following discussions with users of the hall, and public consultation.

Stathern Horticultural Society

Report by Bob Wandsworth – Chairman

2019 was once again a successful and interesting year for the society.

The program of events was as usual comprised of excellent speakers on a variety of subjects; an outing to Whitwick Manor in Warwickshire, a visit to a house in Mapperley whose small garden had featured on many TV shows, followed by a tour of the house where throughout was a collection of antique tiles, second only to the collection at the Victoria and Albert museum in London.

In late July we met for a social evening in the beautiful garden of David and Ellen Mell on Dalliwell.

The annual show in September again went well with a record 417 entries

and raising just over £1,500 for St Guthlac's Church to go towards urgent repairs to the wall in the chancel.

In December we had an excellent Christmas dinner at The Plough. proceeds from the raffle were sent to the Medical Detection Dogs charity.

FOSS (Friends of Stathern School)

Report from Mary Swain

FOSS continues to raise valuable money to support Stathern School and we have had another successful year thanks to the on-going commitment of the committee, members of staff, parent helpers and of course all those that have come along to our events.

We have once again contributed towards school trips or experiences. This contribution helps lower the cost for parents and enables the children to experience more outside class room learning.

Our focus this year has been to raise money to help the school buy new reading books for the children. This is something that has benefitted all the children across the school and is helping the children to develop a greater love of reading.

This year the duathlon said a sad farewell to the committee but, with their help, it has been passed on to a new committee and we hope to keep its amazing success going along with supporting the village 10k.

Through everyone's help and support we hope to continue to put on fun social events for all to enjoy whilst raising valuable funds for the school.

Stay safe and we look forward to what we hope will be another successful year ahead.

Stathern Primary School

Report by Matthew Lee -Headteacher

The school has enjoyed another successful year with numbers sitting around the 100 mark and projected to increase over the coming years. New staff have strengthened the team and the school has begun to consistently attract a full cohort of around 17 pupils each year.

After four years and two terms, I have recently announced that I will be leaving Stathern Primary School this summer. Governors are currently recruiting for a new Headteacher following my appointment at The Merton Primary School, Syston. I would like to thank all members of the school and wider community for their support over the last few years and wish them and the school the best of luck going forward. Our strong, shared vision of a curriculum that makes a difference to the world alongside character development and positive physical and mental health will ensure that the children of the school will have clear direction and focus going forward.

The school has enjoyed successful development this year around:

- Reading, including a new structured scheme and new books totalling 4k (thank you to FOSS for their support)
- STEM the development of contextual and purposeful Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths across the curriculum
- A well-designed, broad and knowledge rich curriculum that inspires pupils

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak we were forced to close our doors to most children on 30th March 2020. Since then, we have been focused on providing care for the children of key-workers whilst developing our program of home-learning for children to access whilst away from school. We have managed to maintain good levels of communication with parents through our class email system and have received lots of positive feedback about the learning that is on offer through our website. We hope to return by the end of the academic year but have continued to work to make sure the school is ready to continue whenever the children are back.

Stathern Women's Institute

Report by Mary Hughes –Stathern President

The WI has always thrived through difficult times and over 100 years it's remained at the heart of its communities so, in these unprecedented times, creating challenges for us all, we just wanted to reassure you that the Committee is still working in the background.

Over the last few weeks, WI members have been showing their resilience and collective strength in many ways, and we have seen

examples of this community support being stronger than ever. In these circumstances, the most important thing WI members can do is prioritise social interactions, in order to help combat loneliness and improve mental health.

We currently have 33 members, and the Committee are holding 'virtual' meetings and aiming to organise something similar for our members to join in. Our May meeting will be in the form of a cooking demonstration, whilst we have many ideas for the following months when we won't be able to get together. Information on how to access these will be sent out to members. There will also be a Stathern WI WhatsApp chat site, again members have been sent information.

Many WIs will be sharing their ideas and experiences on social media so, if you are able, please follow us virtually whilst we navigate ourselves through this troubling time and look forward to a return to some normality again.

The Committee and members have been very busy making Scrubs for the NHS, either pattern making, cutting fabric, sewing, stitching labels and making kit bags, and the precise destination of these will be shared when complete but they will be going to ICU units in Leicestershire.

We're still open for business, just in a different form for the time being. In the meantime please follow the Government Coronavirus advice, and stay safe.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact any committee member or:

Karen Mathias-Jakes, Secretary karen.mathias@btinternet.com or Mary Hughes, President maryjhughes1@yahoo.co.uk

StathernNeighbourhood Watch (NHW) Report

Report by Hilary Paterson, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

I have been the Stathern Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, which is a volunteer role, since October 2013.

Since taking on this role I have had regular meetings with the Vale NHW coordinator / Police Community Volunteer / local PCs and PCSOs. In

addition I have attended Leicestershire Rural North Advisor training and meetings.

The Stathern NHW scheme is now a registered scheme on the national NHW Network and I work closely with other Vale NHW schemes.

In Stathern there is now an established database of email contacts and I use a range of communication channels including direct approaches, existing NHW contacts (where available), Stathern Star, local shops and the school to provide up to date advice and information. Recently the NHW database and electronic messages have been updated to comply with GDPR laws and national good practice. There is a dedicated email address for the scheme stathernnhw@gmail.com

Regular NHW email alerts and information are circulated to approximately 150 local residents with examples including: local incidents, fraud alerts, request for information, farm watch, advice about issues such as cold callers, stolen vehicles, and local crime within the Vale including Church theft. In addition, Stathern NHW respond to issues raised by Stathern residents. Recent examples of these include concerns about cold callers, suspicious people / cars, internet fraud, lost items and other local issues. Recently the Stathern Star Covid Edition was circulated which received positive feedback from NHW members who do not normally receive this electronically.

Hose and Harby branch of the Royal British Legion

Report by Graham Shipman – President of the above branch.

The branch organised another very successful poppy appeal collection with the Stathern area collecting £2,814.76 and the Harby area collecting £4,998.81. Our thanks go to Mrs M. Baily and Mrs S. Palmer for their continued efforts in the organising of these collections and to all those that help and support.

We enjoyed hosting two coffee mornings in Stathern where there was plenty of delicious cakes and conversation.

Our annual Christmas dinner was held at The Plough Inn and again was well supported.

We also enjoyed two coach outings during the year; we visited the newly opened Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln and also a trip to the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden airfield.

The branch supported the remembrance services within the area, with Branch members and the Branch Standards attending at Goadby Marwood, Harby, Hose and Stathern. We were also invited to join in with many of the Primary school's own services.

SOCIALLY-DISTANCED-STAYING-ALERT CHARITY CAKE STALL

Saturday 23rd May 2020

10:30am – 12 noon at 4 Blacksmith End, on the driveway

Many people are struggling financially at the moment so we are supporting the Grantham Food Bank with our Charity Cake Stall. If you feel unable to take cake, then a financial donation would still be most welcome! All cakes will be home-made but ready-wrapped to minimise handling. We will deliver if you are self-isolating (Stathern only).

Our menu of cakes (assuming we can get the ingredients!):

Indulgent Coffee Cake
Carrot Cake with cream cheese icing
Lemon Drizzle Cake
Sponge cake with fresh cream and strawberries
Tunisian Almond and Orange cake (also great as a dessert)
Sticky Citrus Sponge Cake (also great as a dessert)

Tray Bakes

Brownies
Spiced Chocolate Cake
Date and Walnut Cake
Lemon Slice

Other

Children's Fairy Cakes
Chocolate Refrigerator Cake

Please note that all cakes are being donated by volunteer cake makers in the village and acceptance of our cakes is at your own risk.

We look forward to seeing you... at a 2m distance!

Sally and the Cake Makers

Tel. 01949 860167
Mob. 07967 699614

Nature Notes

One good thing that has come out of the lockdown is that we seem to have hit a pause button on the daily damage we are doing to our natural environment. In Stathern, the absence of the majority of vehicles and reduced amount of building work has meant that at times, bird song is the only thing you could hear outside, and how beautiful and how loud it has been.

Whilst doing one of my daily dog walks across the fields around the village one morning during the early part of the lockdown, the only thing I could hear was skylarks singing and the buzzing of bees. Nothing else.

I have heard the skylarks for a number of years now, particularly in the fields at the bottom of Moor Lane /Long Lane and when heading towards



Plungar across the footpath. It is one of those sounds that always makes me feel happy as the song is so beautiful and the sun always seems to be shining when I hear them. Spotting them though is another matter as they tend to hover high in the sky and are small birds, only slightly larger than sparrows.

Skylarks are well known for their song whilst in flight which can last for up to an hour! Unlike many bird species, the male doesn't have any bright plumage to attract his mate so does this with his song. To sing for so long whilst being airborne takes stamina, a quality female skylarks apparently find particularly attractive!

Unfortunately, the Skylark has joined the 67 bird species (which includes Starlings and House Sparrows) on the RSPB Red List; "Red is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action" which came as a bit of a surprise because I hear them so regularly.

The lockdown has given us a chance to reconnect with nature, be that through just sitting in the garden or through our daily walks, runs or bike rides. As the lockdown eases, and already the sound of building work is starting to flow across the village, remember the sound of the birds.

Old Parish Council Minute Book Discovered. Part 2

The recently discovered minute book of the first meetings of Stathern Parish Council 1895-1913 contains some fascinating information. Here are a few more extracts.

The Parish Council had several parish houses which they let out. Two in Blacksmith End were deemed unfit for human habitation and had to be pulled down. The parlous state of the causeways in the village were often discussed and the Hands Charity trustees were asked to help pay for repairs. Mention is made of the Washdyke, Dally Well, the City, the Goit (or Gote), the Sandpit and Sandpit Gardens, Toft's Lane and the allotments (some of which appear to be at the junction of Wood Lane and Moor Lane). Pumps had to be repaired, hedges 'plashed', fences made, the Gote and Horse pond cleaned, the Rural District Council

asked to carry out various repairs, and a Telegraphic communication with the village requested to be established.

In 1898 the minutes reported that "The question of making provision for washing sheep at the Washdyke was discussed andit was unanimously decided to leave the arrangements in the hands of those who may require the same"

In 1907 the council received an application from the Miniature Rifle Club to be allowed to make a rifle range in the Sandpit. The Parish Council decided to form a committee to meet the Rifle Club Committee and report at the next meeting. However there is no report of this meeting until 1912 when "On the application of the Miniature Rifle Club and Boy Scouts it was decided that the members might use the Sandpit as a Rifle Range on proper precautions being taken to prevent any risk to the public".

In 1910 the question of lighting the village was proposed to the next meeting, but this does not seem to be considered any further.

In 1911 "Mr Shipman reported that the Sewage Farm Sub-committee proposed to try the experiment of planting the ground used for sewage purposes with osiers [a species of willow]. This was approved and it was resolved that Mr Robert Shipman's tender of 12s6d [about 62p in today's money] for the willows and grass on the sewage land be accepted".

In 1911 the minutes record: "A letter was read from the Clerk to the District Council suggesting that the Parish Council should provide a suitable place as a receptacle for rubbish and offering on behalf of the District Council, if this was done, to have it cleaned from time to time". The Parish Council approved this but postponed the matter to the next meeting to enable members to consider a suitable site. At the next meeting the minutes state that it was resolved "that the receptacle for rubbish be placed on the left-hand side of the road to Toft's Hill just before the first rise begins. The receptacle should be seven feet square and be fenced with a fence six feet high".

In 1911 it was resolved "That the clerk should write to the Postmaster at Melton Mowbray requesting him to take steps to arrange for an earlier

and quicker morning delivery of letters and a later despatch of the afternoon post”.

In 1913 The Allotments Committee asked to have the Parish House in the City, which was in a ruinous condition, pulled down.

In 1913 the Chairman was requested to enquire and report as to the Insurance of the Council against damage to passers-by through the defective condition of any of the Parish Houses.

In 1913 the minutes state that “The drainage of the Allotment Gardens was discussed and the Clerk was requested to see Mr Scott [the Duke of Rutland’s steward] and ascertain what the Duke of Rutland would be willing to do in the matter”.

To be continued

Roger Hawkins.

What 3 Words

The new way emergency services are finding your location

What 3 Words (W3W) is a new and simple way to identify a location, anywhere in the world. Unlike post codes, which at best cover a group of houses, and in a remote location, such as in a field, are non-specific, the W3W system has divided the entire world up into 3m x 3m squares. Thus wherever you are, if you know your W3W address, you can easily be located.

You may think, “*so does GPS (latitude and longitude)*” which is correct. But trying to find your latitude and longitude, or should you be relaying this in ‘Eastings’ and ‘Northings’, just causes confusion for most people, and unless you know how to look for it on a smartphone, it is not easy to find in an emergency. If you do not have a smartphone, then it is even more of an issue!

This W3W is being adopted by most international agencies, and here in the UK this means Fire, Police and Ambulance (and coast guard, mountain rescue, the AA/RAC, etc). In a 999 call, for example, the operator will now ask you for your W3W address. If you do not have this, or do not know what they are talking about, then they will send you a text message. Click on this and it will tell you the W3W location of where you are calling from, even if you are in the middle of a field, or lake, or on a mountain.

We are asking all parish councils to make the addresses available for every house in a community. You can also download the W3W App for your smartphone, or if you wish, access the system via their website at **what3words.com**. At Community Heartbeat, we are also starting to register all defibrillator locations by W3W as well.

This is an innovative solution, and whilst you may never use this, knowing your own address will save time in an emergency.

Martin Fagan
The Community Heartbeat Trust charity
www.communityheartbeat.org.uk

Example - Stathern Garage, Leicestershire W3W address – **hands, paused, promoting**



The Grantham Canal 2020 spring update

The Grantham Canal Society exists solely to restore and maintain the length of the canal from Nottingham to Grantham end to end, some 33 miles long. Whilst most of it is not currently navigable by boat, all of it is walkable and cycleable and this time of year is particularly beautiful as birds return and nest, flowers and shrubs flourish and the weather has been very nice throughout April and into May.

Sadly as with everyone, we have been impacted upon by Covid 19. The impacts are numerous; it's been difficult to walk along the canal whilst maintaining social distance, our volunteers have had to cease supporting us as the country has gone into lockdown but the biggest impact is upon our essential fundraising activities.

During the spring and early summer, the Grantham Canal Society had numerous fundraising events and awareness raising stands planned throughout March, April and May. These events significantly increase our income and make the large projects such as lock restoration, refilling the dry section between Hickling and Cropwell and building slipways all possible. Sadly so far this year, when we should have been in full swing, we have been in lockdown and our income has dwindled.

Our passion hasn't though and we will be right back out there with our boat trips, themed days and delicious cakes just as soon as we can within the government guidelines as they develop.

In the meantime we hope that everyone continues to enjoy the beautiful canal walks and cycle rides taking in the sights and sounds of the canal and surrounding areas. We ask that you consider the many ways in which you could support us this year and beyond and here are a few ways we would gratefully receive support:-

- Become a member of the society – this helps in so many ways it guarantees an annual income and demonstrates support locally and more wider within the community to secure match funding and bid success www.granthamcanal.org/join-us/
- Sign up for Give As You Live and whilst you are spending online the Grantham Canal Society can be named as beneficiary and valuable funds raised at no cost to you www.everyclick.com - we have raised over £6,000 this way so far

- Join the SK Lottery and name Grantham Canal Society as the chosen charity - this currently raises more than £3000 per year www.lotterysk.co.uk
- Make a one off donation amount of your choosing at www.granthamcanal.org and click the donate button
- Volunteer for us in one of many roles, ranger, events, work parties, canal maintenance, building locks and many more roles volunteer@granthamcanal.org
- Be part of the specific group working on the dry section between Hickling and Cropwell, email generalmanager@granthamcanal.org
- Subscribe to our monthly magazine bridge@granthamcanal.org
- Follow us on social media
Facebook@granthamcanalsociety&Twitter@granthamcanal



If you have recently finished 6th form, college or university and would like to earn a fair income, 80,000 seasonal workers are needed to help bring in the harvest from the end of May and across the summer. Why not join the [#StudentLandArmy](https://www.pickforbritain.org.uk) or visit [Pickforbritain.org.uk](https://www.pickforbritain.org.uk)

Neighbourhood Watch Week 7th – 13th June.

We are delighted to invite you to join us for Neighbourhood Watch Week, which celebrates our neighbours and all the great work that you and your community do to make where you live safer, connected and more resilient.

Over the past few months, as our lives have all been turned upside down, the word 'neighbourliness' has never meant so much to so many. Communities have pulled together to provide vital support and resources, an army of volunteers has emerged, people are learning new skills, and as a result have become more resilient.

Between 7th - 13th June we are encouraging neighbours to say thank you and celebrate what it means to be a neighbour.

To kickstart the week, we are inviting you to take part in [The Big Virtual Lunch](#) activities, organised by Eden Project, on the 6th and 7th June. The Big Lunch have put together ideas of small things you can do to celebrate community connections with your neighbours such as making your own bunting and spreading some neighbourly joy by hanging it out for all to see, putting together a lunch for someone or a small food parcel and leaving it on a doorstep.

Please see the Neighbourhood Watch website for further details

Website: www.ourwatch.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ourwatch

Twitter: twitter.com/N_watch

Instagram: www.instagram.com/neighbourhood.watch insta/

CONTACT NUMBERS

<p>Baby and Toddler Playgroup Fiona (07540 655316)</p> <p>Belvoir Dance Academy (07786 545113) Clare Calder (Ballet, tap & modern)</p> <p>BelvoirCare(event first aid and training) Martin Fagan (01949 898333) training@belvoircare.com</p> <p>Belvoir Vale Bowls Club Malcolm Britton (01664 434490)</p> <p>Belvoir Vale Tennis Club (Hose) 01949 861946</p> <p>Brownie Guides (Harby) Viv Hewson (860354)</p> <p>Dog Wardens 860138 and 861341</p> <p>Eastwell History Group John Wood (01949 861836)</p> <p>FLAG (Framland Local Archaeological Group) Tony Connolly (01476 870072)</p> <p>Friends of Stathern School Mary Swain (07966 082955) or Stathern Primary School</p> <p>Harby Girl Guides Amy Schofield (860723) harbyguides@gmail.com</p> <p>Harby Harlequins Paul Steward (860112) Sally Fagan (860167)</p> <p>Long Clawson Cubs & Scouts Lisa Allen (07900 620819)</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Hilary Patterson (869198)</p> <p>The Royal British Legion Liz Hourd (860332) or Graham Shipman (860874)</p>	<p>Speedwatch Judith Daws (860138) e-mail: judithdaws@f2s.com</p> <p>St Guthlac's Church PCC Roger Hawkins (860215) Mary Briant (869448)</p> <p>St Guthlac's Bell Ringers Roger Hawkins (860215)</p> <p>Stathern Horticultural Society Bob Wadsworth (861432)</p> <p>Stathern Housing Matters Alison Shelton (07801 970883)</p> <p>StathernNeighbourhood Plan Justine Collins (07702 806685) or StathernNHP@gmail.com</p> <p>Stathern Parish Council & Allotments Justine Collins (Clerk) 07702 806685</p> <p>Stathern Primary School The School Secretary (860316)</p> <p>Stathern Recreation Association Daniel Swain (869690)</p> <p>Vale of Belvoir Arts Society Eddie Lilley (861409)</p> <p>The Vale Choir (Church Choir) Richard Hedley (861747)</p> <p>Vale Striders Running Club Pete Leonard 01949 861400</p> <p>Vale of Belvoir Ramblers 01949 836042</p> <p>Village Library – Telephone Kiosk Sally Fagan 860167 fagan@dircon.co.uk</p> <p>War Memorial Institute Alison Shelton (07801 970883) wmiquery@gmail.com</p> <p>Women's Institute - Secretary karen.matthias@btinternet.com</p>
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Please note- adverts where social distancing would not be possible or business are closed, have been removed from this edition.

Village facilities

COFFEE SHOT

Fabulous cakes, tea & coffee, sandwiches, breakfast rolls, bread, milk, sweets, newspapers and lots more

Opening hours are:

Monday - Friday - 7am - 4pm

Saturday - 8am-3pm

Sunday - 9am-1pm

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Website: www.coffee-shot.co.uk

POST OFFICE AT THE PLOUGH

Thursday 8:30am – 10:30am

Friday 9am – 1pm

Local Services

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Suppliers of all household coal, charcoal and kindling.

Winter discount for pensions.

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General Building Work & Property Maintenance (based in Stathern)

Plastering, Rendering, Injection Damp

Proofing, Joinery, Plumbing, Kitchens &

Bathrooms, Home Maintenance,

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Fully Insured

Not job too big or too small

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Getting around to the jobs you don't have time for. General home repairs, garden maintenance, fencing, landscaping patios and grass cutting.

Tel: 01949 861880 – 07969 686157

STATHERN CLEANING SERVICES

Scott Wombwell -window cleaner, general outside maintenance including gutter clearing.

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CHRIS TAIT – YOUR LOCAL PLUMBER

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** Friendly & local service*

** Free quotes*

** All jobs, big or small*

** Evenings and weekends*

** Senior citizens discounts*

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Computer repairs, new computer/laptops, refurbished equipment etc. Repairs undertaken in your own home.

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PILATES WITH ALICE

Classes are being run via Zoom.

Contact Alice for details on

07756686682

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Experience in issues including relationships, loss and bereavement, domestic and sexual violence, stress, anxiety, low self-esteem and anger management.

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Louise Page

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<https://valehypnotherapy.wordpress.com/>

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valetherapy@yahoo.co.uk