XMAS TREE lights – what goes on before the ‘switch on’. David Healey in the bucket! Next year the tree will be moved to the left as it is a bit close to the power lines!
Thanks to all involved and for raising the amount of £410. This will be donated to ‘Rutlanders for Rutland’.
A special thank you to the generous couple who gave a very large donation to replace some lights - we now even have an extra spare set which will be great for next year. However even a £1 makes a difference.
Thanks to David as always for his brilliant support and hard work supplying and erecting the magnificent tree, we now have over 2000 lights on it and this year it’s wonderful - a fabulous monument to all those we have been blessed with loving and knowing. ........................................Jo Downton, organiser
I have homed and fed this young stray cat and had her chipped and checked at the vets over the last 6 months. She is still quite timid and disappears for several days at a time. If you should see her around the village please do not feed her but let me know via a ‘phone call and I shall come and collect her.

My number is 01572 812902 and you can always leave a message.  
Many thanks. Terry Connolly

OAKHAM TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

I am sure most will be aware this improvement scheme has been shelved for the time being due to lack of support from the local community. The leader of the Rutland County Council has stepped down and the acting leader Councillor Oliver Hemsley has advised:

"It is imperative that we as a Council continue to review how we can best support and deliver much needed improvements to Oakham Town Centre, for the benefit of all those who live, work and visit there. I am keen to spend 2018 working together with Councillors, businesses and community representatives to review what can be done to achieve the objectives that underpin the Oakham Town Centre improvement scheme. No more physical work will be undertaken by the Council on this project in 2018. This will allow time for the
High Street and Town Centre to settle after the completion of the essential utilities work undertaken by Severn Trent and Western Power. During 2018, I will be discussing with my Cabinet and Officers how best to work towards a scheme for the future. I remain committed to the need to invest in our County town but acknowledge that this endeavour must have wider support and I will work hard to achieve this..........."Acting Leader Councillor Oliver Hemsley

LADIES CIRCLE 30\textsuperscript{th} CELEBRATION

LUCKY HEATHER AT EXTON

February 2018 is the 30\textsuperscript{th} year of the group and a celebration dinner is planned. Ann Bell has found in her old scrapbooks the above picture of the first full meeting. Heather is enjoying a beauty treatment as you see!
Left to right on back row:
Margaret Singer, Pat Castle, Kate Kettley, Jean Colin, Janet Brackenbury, Margaret Healey,[the demonstrator is Nicola Stanton], Maureen Hudson, Camilla Saunders, Alma Kettley, Kath Browne, June Green, Sue Beard.

Left to right on front row: Margaret Secker, Bet Luckhurst, Jean Medley, Christine Wallace, Heather Healey, Ann Bell, Florrie Castle [there are several mother and daughter combinations].
The reproduction of the photo will not be brilliant in the printed version, - check it out on the website exton.org.

Please note The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 1st in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. and the talk will be [postponed from last March], by Paul Stammers of the Rutland Water Osprey project. All welcome. Let’s hope that we don’t get a repeat of the bad weather that caused last year’s postponement.

The competition will be to write a limerick with the subject “Birds and Rutland Water”
Look forward to seeing you there..........Meryl Hart

EXTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

| Driving to Hospitals: Peterborough Leicester Other | Sally Miller | 01572 811411 01572 812233 |
| Collect prescriptions | Sally Miller Serena McClean Annette Oliver [Petboro] | 01572 811411 01734 815757 01572 812233 |
| Driving to surgeries: Oakham Empingham Market Overton | Sally Miller Annette Oliver | 01572 811411 01572 812233 |
| Help while incapacitated | Serena McClean | 07734 815757 |
| Lift to Community lunches | Bernie Wallace | 01572 812956 |
1ST COTTESMORE RAINBOWS

Rainbows learn by doing—they get their hands dirty with arts and crafts, cooking and playing games.
Rainbows are girls ages 5-7 years old and can take part in lots of different activities with girls their own age.
LOOK and explore the world around us
LEARN new things and skills
LAUGH with everyone
LOVE having fun together!

For further information, details on our sessions or to register your interest contact us Sam on the details below.

Meeting Alternate Saturdays 3-5pm in Cottesmore Village Hall

Unit Leader:
Samantha Shorten
Mobile:
07540 664847
Email:
samanthashorten@hotmail.co.uk
FAIL - First Attempt In Learning

It is alright to fail, as FAIL stands for First Attempt in Learning.

This term at school we are focussing on developing our resilience. This is part of our focus on the 6 ‘R’s of learning – being Ready, Respectful, Resilient, Responsible, Resourceful and Reflective in our learning.

When things seem hard, it sometimes seems easier to give up – but in keeping going, and striving to solve the problem, that is where the real learning begins. Challenge is a part of our lives as a whole, and we certainly challenge the children in their learning at school. By building our resilience we learn to keep going, even when things are challenging.

Here are a few pictures of our year 2 and 3 children busy with maths activities. In maths the children are being challenged to explain their thinking and reasoning in what they are finding out. This allows the children to really understand the maths that they are learning, rather than just learning abstract methods.

Explore & Grow

School website: www.extonschool.co.uk
Phone: 01572 812380 to arrange a visit.
REMINDER:

Exton & Horn Parish Council is supporting Edward Heckels who is organising a morning of litter picking on Saturday 17 February 2018.

Anyone who wants to volunteer to keep Exton clean should report to outside the front of the Fox & Hounds from 9.30am.

We will be walking a number of “routes” around the village to pick up litter. Please arrive by car, if you have one, so you can drive to the start of your “route” to save time. You should wear bright clothing, water-proof if the weather requires, and bring gardening gloves. Edward will be sourcing litter picking “sticks” and supplying bin bags. Litter pickers will leave bin bags on the grass verge as they fill them up for Edward to collect later that day.

When the work is done, we will be gathering at the Fox & Hounds from 11.30am for a pint. The first drink will be free of charge to say thank you for your efforts!

If you can help, let us know in advance on heckels1@me.com - or just turn up.................Ed Heckels

We look forward to seeing you from 9.30am on Saturday 17 February

REMINDER; Items for March Newsletter need to be received by the Editor by 19th February 2018

To read the newsletter in colour please go to the village website exton.org. [managed by Paul Taylor] or add your email to the mailing list via the Editor annetteoliver63@gmail.com.
EXTON VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

As we all know the Hall is a fantastic asset for the village, providing as it does a space for all sorts of activities from exercise classes to clubs, from kiddies parties to local weddings, indoor bowls, music rehearsal, Produce Show, Harvest Supper, Brownies sleepovers.....and many more. All that being said most villagers would agree that it's been showing its age for some years, and is long overdue for updating. Over the past three years we've had two attempts at securing external funding, first from RCC and then from the National Lottery, and despite putting in what we believed were carefully prepared applications we were unsuccessful. So last autumn the Management Committee decided to bite the bullet and press ahead using our reserves, which have benefited from some sound investments. Our progress so far:

- We've got the toilets upgraded with completely new, state of the art fittings, and the floor in both rooms has been sanded back to a lovely finish. We've also modernised the power supply and heating control system.
- Right now we're in the middle of sorting out the entrance hall and corridor. We've fitted a new suspended ceiling with LED lighting, have redecorated the walls will be installing new non-slip flooring and a decent entrance desk and display for user information and space for local business flyers etc.
- Still to come is the main project in the two function rooms which will see the old dark brown panelling covered with an insulation layer & then panelling to dado level with plaster finish above, all painted in a bright modern colour. In the ceiling we will install new LED panels for occasions when we need a bright interior plus inset dimmable spotlights to allow a more intimate / soothing ambience for parties or yoga sessions etc.
Hopefully villagers will see that we have a real vision of a modern hall still in keeping with the village character which is far more attractive to users. Beyond the work listed already we'll need to improve our furniture & fittings, and to do this we'll be looking at ways to raise more money. It's likely that this will kick off with an opening event after we've completed the internal modifications, so that everyone can see what's been achieved and contribute with ideas of where we can go next.

Watch out for further updates in the newsletter or better still, visit and like our Facebook page to stay updated with progress. Please feel free to comment on the Facebook page or to send any ideas to markbutterill@gmail.com. Exciting times!............Mark Butterill

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**CARETAKER NEEDED - EXTON VILLAGE HALL**

We're sorry to announce that Ann Bell will be retiring as Village Hall Caretaker after Easter. Ann has been the main driving force behind our day to day activities for more years than most of us can remember and will be sorely missed, although she'll remain a part of the Management Committee.

So we need to find someone - or some people! - to fill her shoes. The role has two parts, managing the Hall's bookings and dealing with day to day cleaning, and a small remuneration is available; going forward we could continue with one person taking care of both parts or alternatively separate the two roles.

In either case, if you would like to get involved please contact Mark on 07710 459655 or via email at markbutterill@gmail.com
# EXTON CONTACT INFORMATION

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<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Tele</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Circle</td>
<td>Christine Wallace</td>
<td>812081</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village Hall Chair</td>
<td>Mark Butterill</td>
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<td>Caretaker/</td>
<td>Ann Bell</td>
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<td>Bookings</td>
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<td>[Exton]</td>
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<td>Parish Church Rector</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Churchwarden</td>
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<td>Fox &amp; Hounds</td>
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DON’T FORGET ABOUT THE NEXT
AFTERNOON ‘T’
ON TUESDAY 13TH
FEBRUARY

2.30 TO 4PM
EXTON VILLAGE HALL

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A LIFT TO THE ‘T’ PARTY

Then please contact

Bernadette Wallace on 01572 812956

Or 07858 484918

Or email Bernie.wallace@btinternet.com

Or Sally Miller on 01572 811411
What is Body Blast?

Suitable for all fitness levels. This total body workout is a combination of both cardio and conditioning, so you get two methods of exercise in one workout!! The class format will be done to upbeat music in an interval training method, which is the most effective way to burn fat and increase lean muscle. Interval training involves periods of hard work followed by a timed period of rest.

Cost: £5 per session

Benefits of Body Blast

* Fun energising workouts, giving you that great feeling after a good workout.
* Sculpts the arms, thighs, legs, glutes and abs.
* Burns calories.
* Increases flexibility.
* Increases core stability, muscular strength and cardiovascular endurance.
* Builds stamina.
* Core blast is also integrated into the class, so your abs get a good blasting also which we all love!!

Enquiries: Gemma Sloan: Tel 07734447804
STRETCH AND TONE CLASS
EVERY TUESDAY MORNING AT 9.30 AM-
EXTON VILLAGE HALL - EVERYONE WELCOME
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BOOK A PLACE PLEASE
CALL SUE ON 07507088164/ suepegelow@hotmail.co.uk
(please bring an exercise mat and a bottle of water)

(Sue Pegelow is a qualified PEA, RSA Exercise to Music,
Zumba and Power Chi Yoga Instructor)
GREEN BIN COLLECTION – GARDEN WASTE

Don’t forget from 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2018 there will be a charge by the Rutland County Council of £35 per bin per year. To ensure your bin is emptied from 1\textsuperscript{st} April please sign up between Monday 22\textsuperscript{nd} January and Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March –

go to their website [www.rutland.gov.uk](http://www.rutland.gov.uk) and choose ‘Green Waste Collection Service’ option.

You should have received a letter from the Council giving you a unique reference number for your property. Please use that. Stickers are to be provided for each qualifying bin.

If you do not have facilities on line call on 01572 758488 or go to the offices at Catmose, Oakham.

On the leaflet you should have received there are many Questions and Answers.

Full details on [rutland.gov.uk/greenwaste](http://rutland.gov.uk/greenwaste)
Weather in Exton in January

Meryl and Paul Hart in Pudding Bag Lane had an awful shock to see the damage to their back entrance one January morning when all the trellis at the back entrance came down. It’s certainly Open Plan!

Also Margaret and John Bell must have been amazed to see their mature laburnum tree uprooted.

In Stamford End it was the electricity pole that was damaged with consequent loss of power.

I hope nobody in the village was personally damaged.

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British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017

Although there was no house to house collection a total of £137.34 was raised in the village made up as follows:-

- School.................£28.20
- Fox & Hounds..... £34.14
- Exton PCC...........£50.00
- Gift Aid............. £25.00

Thanks to all who contributed...........Patricia Hagger

The British Legion advised the Parish Council while thanking them for contributing to the street poppies that £5000 had been raised in this way and Exton & Horn Pc have agreed to purchase a few more in 2018..........................................................Clerk
The Rutland Poppy Project - Commemoration of the centenary of the end of The Great War 1918-2018

We would like to invite the local community to get involved with The Rutland Poppy Project. This is a community art work event to commemorate the centenary of the end of The Great War. The Project will bring together members of all sections of the Rutland community over the coming months.

This commemoration will be the most important of its kind for many generations. Underpinning the Project are stories and recollections of this terrible conflict and, even more important, the hope that these appalling events must never happen again. For this to be a realistic hope we want the younger generation, upon whom our future peace will depend, to be involved and to understand the causes and lessons of The Great War.

Together we aim to create a magnificent largescale sculpture formed of up to 10,000 handcrafted poppies, based on the original work by Paul Cummins at the Tower of London. The installation will be in the grounds of Oakham Castle where it will remain on display for a month in October-November 2018.

While the Project is co-ordinated through Catmose College all schools, community groups and businesses in the county are invited to participate.
The Project aims to:

- Bring together all generations within the community
- Raise funds for forces charities
- Improve the lives of those suffering loneliness, mental or physical ill health, through active participation in this community project
- Increase awareness of the sacrifice made by our forces
- Encourage more visitors to come to Rutland

Too often small towns and rural communities miss the opportunity to experience major art projects. We feel passionately that The Rutland Poppy Project will deliver both an inspiring sculpture and a memorable and valuable experience for all generations and abilities across Rutland. It will also give us a focal point and a chance to remember in our County and beyond everyone who gave their lives in the defence of others.

This Project has the support of Sir Lawrence Howard, Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland. We hope that, by working with a wide variety of groups of all ages, the County's generations will be brought together in a timely reminder of the sacrifice made by so many and the need to reach forward in hope.

There are several ways in which you and your organisation can participate. For more information please contact us via email RutlandPoppyProject18@gmail.com, or follow us on facebook to keep up to date with the project www.facebook.com/RutlandPoppyProject

We do very much hope you will feel able to respond positively to this.
Services in February

11th    11.15am Morning Service with Cathy Dyson

25th    11.15am Holy Communion with John Adamson

Weekday Morning Prayer will be said at 9.15am every Wednesday at Malting Barn. Everyone is welcome and the short service is about 15 minutes long.

There are several villagers to say ‘thank you’ to since the last newsletter:To David and John for supplying the wonderful Christmas Tree and for erecting it for us.

To Eileen and Ann for decorating the church so beautifully for Christmas and to anyone else who contributed.

To Bryan and Jeff for cleaning the gutters and downpipes and to the Whadcoats who provided the ladder!

The local Guides will be cleaning the church on Saturday Feb. 3rd as their Baden-Powell challenge. Thank you to Bernadette for organising this. I am sure that they would welcome a visit while they are working.

Services will carry on as usual after Marcus has left but he will no longer be at the end of a phone. General queries can be directed to the cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com and all others to me at sallyrm24@gmail.com or on 811411

Sally Miller [Churchwarden]