XMAS TREE  Donations received for the lovely tree on the Empingham Road/Stamford Road junction, donated by David Healey amounted to £80. This has been passed on to the Exton and Greetham School in the village to help towards purchasing new cycles. Thanks to Derek Palmer for the electrics and Peter Healey for the power supply and both helping to erect and dismantle.

WELCOME to the new landlords of the Fox and Hounds, Simon and Christina! They have already made an impact with their warm welcome to the locals over the Xmas and New Year period. A number of changes are anticipated so it is a case of ‘watch this space’. If the village wishes to keep a pub in the village then it must be supported. Let us wish them all the best in their new venture. Anyone having a booking of any sort with the previous owner should get in touch with Simon immediately to ensure it is covered. Tel 01572 812403. Or if you know of others ‘booked in’ for functions, please pass on this message. Please don’t rely on the website or any other telephone numbers at this moment as there are naturally some timing issues with the hand over. Website details, etc will be updated in the Newsletter as soon as available.
John and Margaret Bell would like to send grateful thanks to all friends and acquaintances of Exton and beyond for all good wishes on their Wedding Anniversary 19th December 2019. “We had a celebration lunch on Saturday at the Wheatsheaf, Edith Weston, dancing at Ketton Sports Club in the evening with a buffet and cake. All in all a very happy weekend. Sincere thanks to all.” Such is the number of friends and family, I was despatched to Stamford office to obtain more copies of the local papers where the couple graced the front page with a lovely photo!! [Ed]

ADVENT WINDOW TRAIL
Thanks to all who joined in the Advent Trail [all 24 homes]. This was our first year so hopefully it will continue next year. It would be nice to all meet on Xmas Eve and walk the trail and finish with a drink at the Fox and Hounds or the Village Hall? We can arrange this nearer to next advent. Lots of nice comments passed around about how nice the windows looked so we hope we can do the trail again next year with your help joining in. Many thanks............Ann Bell [Please return your numbers to Ann, thanks]

CONGRATULATIONS to Nicholas Duell, aged 11 yrs, who was nominated as Rutland Radio’s Hero of the Week last month for his collection for the Rutland Food Bank. Nicholas delivered leaflets around the village asking for donations which he then collected from the generous people of Exton. In his heart-warming interview with Rob Persani he said ' he wanted to help people in need and that Christmas is not all about receiving gifts but showing people on their own that others care'. He also said he felt very proud of himself and happy that he could help struggling people have a good Christmas.

WELL DONE Nicholas - we are all so very proud of you. Bernadette Wallace
CHIEF COMMISSIONER AWARD
On Sunday 1st December I travelled to Barton Under Needwood and was honoured to receive the Chief Commissioner's Award for outstanding service to local Guiding following a nomination by my Division Commissioner. It was very humbling to hear of other people's achievements.
I am the Unit Leader for 1st Cottesmore (St Nicholas) Brownies and we meet in Cottesmore Community Centre on Thursday evenings between 6pm and 7.30pm - term time only. We offer fun activities, sleepovers, trips and friendship.

If you have a daughter aged 7 - 10 yrs who would like to join us please do contact me.

Bernie Wallace – 07858484918

On behalf of everyone a huge ‘Well done’ to both Nicholas and Bernadette for these two achievements, making the village and their families very proud.

'T' for Tuesday

A lovely time was had by everyone who attended the Festive 'T' party in December. The Hall looked lovely and thanks go to Marion Foers and Derek Palmer for setting the tables. ‘Cobalt Class’ from the
Village School provided the entertainment; beautifully singing Christmas carols, and the festive refreshments were very well received by the 40 people in attendance. Many thanks to Sally, Lesley, Patricia and Marion for their help.

The ‘Guess the Weight of the Christmas Cake’ (provided by Marian) was won by Linda, a former Exton girl (although many others were very close). It raised £15.50 which was split between the Village Church and 'T' party funds, (the cake weighed 3lbs, 8oz). Many thanks to all who 'had a go' at guessing the weight!

**The February afternoon tea will be held on 11th in Exton Village Hall between 2.30pm and 4pm.** As usual there will be tea, coffee and homemade cake served.

If you would like a lift please contact Bernadette 812956.

Donations received at the 'T' party go towards the cost of the hall hire and the refreshments. We are self-sufficient, receive no other funding, and independent of other village organisations.

*Bernadette Wallace*

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**YOUR HELP is needed to keep Exton clean!**

We are lucky to live in one of the most beautiful parts of Britain. Sadly, however, our countryside is spoilt by the growing spread of litter (fast food wrappers, bottles, cans etc) along the road side.

Exton Parish Council is supporting Edward Heckels who is organising a morning of litter picking on **Saturday 22 February 2020.**

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

*see details in December newsletter.*
LETTER FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

IS NOTHING SACRED?

I am very sorry to say that the village dog-fouling epidemic has taken on an unholy turn at the Roman Catholic cemetery on the Exton estate. Irresponsible dog owners have been dumping their animal droppings in a green recycling bin at the churchyard gates.

I visit the churchyard regularly with my wife to tend our family graves, always using the bin before we leave. During a recent visit we were told that workmen from the estate had emptied green waste from the bin into a special skip on two occasions, and were left with the unpleasant task of separating dog droppings and plastic bags. They also had to disinfect the container each time.

The graveyard is on private land owned by Exton Estates. We are grateful to the company allowing us use of the cemetery and for always ensuring the place is well-maintained for the benefit of the village community.

This is a highly-valued and cherished place where villagers can come to reflect in peace and quiet about departed family and friends. Sometimes we see people looking at tombstones and have even come into contact with friends from the past and ended up sharing family memories. It is a place very close to our hearts.

For us therefore, such thoughtlessness is especially painful and disrespectful. What seems to be happening is that these people spot the bin while walking their dogs along a small road running past the churchyard and consider it a good tipping place. We have no doubts that the problems are down to a small minority of dog owners who, as always, spoil things for the majority and give them a bad name.

We believe the estate has a very good relationship with the local community, reflected among many other things by its highly successful and popular Exton Hall Open Gardens Day in May said to have attracted around 1,500 people and raised £8,000 for charity. For us such blatant disrespect and ingratitude by dog foulers beggars belief and is deeply disturbing, especially at a time when recycling and protection of the environment is of such critical importance.

Peter Small

PARISH COUNCIL
The above letter was referred to the Parish Council but it is a subject that we have covered so many times unfortunately. We are blessed with living in a beautiful part of the country with acres of walking which means lots of visitors. How do we encourage owners to not only ‘pick up’ but to ‘take home’? This should be part of a dog owner’s code. Waste bins are very expensive, need maintaining and of course need emptying. Somebody has to pay for such services. The Parish Council has a responsibility with regard to finance and the limited funds are carefully monitored. The 8th January meeting discussed the Precept.
The Town Pump, Grade II, monument is currently undergoing repair work; the pillars are completed and the collyweston roof is now receiving attention. It has taken several years to accumulate sufficient monies to cover this specialist work. The Playpark is now the responsibility of the Parish Council since the PAGE group dissolved. What a great service to the village was achieved by the PAGE group who received a Lottery grant under the guidance of Mick Bell and provided the play area over 20 years ago. The area requires vigilant health and safety maintenance. A second application has been made for funding but at the time of writing we do not know if successful. The area needs some new equipment due to wear and tear and changes in children’s’ play needs. Should no financial support be received, the Parish Council will have to dig deep into the coffers to replace where needed and maintain the area. We do not feel our children should have to go to other villages for recreational facilities. If anybody is interested in raising funds to support the Playpark we would be interested to hear. The War Memorial is also under consideration as it could do with cleaning but we cannot do everything at once without raising the Precept.

Fortunately the Spinney is being supported by donations of bulbs, plants, etc. Cllr David Healey has over New Year strimmed the area ready to plant some trees – also being donated – details later - and other easily maintained hardy shrubs to make this green space once again an asset to the village.

There were some volunteers to organise a ‘speed watch’ in the village and we await the instructions from the RCC on how to proceed.

I hope you have noticed the additional Noticeboard designed and made by David Healey, engraving by Bryan Lowe with the ES [Exton Stitchers] logo.

Parish Clerk, Exton and Horn

SHORT MAT INDOOR BOWLS – EXTON
NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN SUNDAY EVENINGS
7 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

No previous experience necessary and no equipment. Just bring flat soft shoes with you and your enthusiasm! Bowls is a fun game, especially in Exton! If you really take to it then there is the opportunity to bowl outdoors locally in the area in the summer months. Give it a go!

All enquiries to David 813413 or Bryan 813148.
OBITUARY
Condolences to daughter Sarah Hallam on the death of her dad Tony Hallam, 18 Stamford Road, Exton on 2nd December in Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Tony moved to this address in 2002. He had been very poorly the last twelve months after his heart bypass operation with various complications. Previously he had enjoyed an active life with wife Margaret, who died in 2014, both being keen walkers and cyclists. Sadly more recently this has not been possible but he has enjoyed a chat at the gate with many of you passing by. Tony was a very quiet and private man but a good neighbour to me. He kept the drive of the house impeccably tidy and appreciated the view from his window of the garden that I tend always commenting on recent activity and appreciating the many birds on the feeder and in the birdbath. Latterly I took over the drive to stop him worrying about it, hoping he would soon be back to normal, but it was not to be,

Sarah has been touched by the number of cards from local residents though unknown to her personally but who have taken the trouble to write and wishes to thank you all for your kindness. .......Ed
RUTLAND DIGITAL DAY

TUESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 9AM – 3:30PM
RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Would you like to know more about:

• What online services we offer
• Booking appointments online
• Ordering repeat medication online
• Online ‘Proxy’ access for someone you care for/
your children/ Parents/ Grandparents
• Navigating the Practice Website?

Come along to our Digital Day and chat with experienced
members of staff, meet services in the local community and
enjoy a hot drink. Bring ID for on the day online access!
Learning in school

As I write we are at the end of our first week of the spring term. The children are beginning their new topics and are excited to begin their new learning. Below are a few pictures of the children hard at work.

Tasting explorer’s porridge as part of the new ‘Explorers’ topic.

Working hard on writing with great description.

Do look at the school website to find out more about what we get up to during our time at school.

School website: www.extonschool.co.uk

Phone: 01572 812380 if you would like to arrange a visit to the school.

Learning using technology.
**CONTACT INFORMATION ..................**

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<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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February Services

9th 11.15am Morning Service
23rd 11.15am Holy Communion

Morning Prayer will be held at Malting Barn each Wednesday morning at 9.15am.

The services over Christmas were well attended. At the Carol Service the collection was sent to the Children’s Society and at the Pony Club Carol service it was shared with Exton Church and the Salvation Army.

Thank you to Ann Bell and Eileen Smith who decorated the church so attractively.

The Village Map painted by Judy Swinfen is now at the back of the church with places of interest in the village marked on it, including various cats and dogs belonging to villagers. There are leaflets to accompany it for a walk around the village. We are very grateful to David Healey and Bryan Lowe for framing it so beautifully and for its safe removal to and from the Village Hall to the Church. General queries can be directed to the cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com or to me at sallyrm24@gmail.com or on 811411.

Sally Miller, Churchwarden

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Holy Mass Sunday 9 am
In the haste of finalising the December Newsletter and with the usual editing at the last minute as things arrive late that ‘really cannot be left out’ according to the senders!, it was not until I read the printed version I realised that I had cut off some of my own original text..... I always thank the school for printing the newsletter but I had in particular wanted to thank Lynn Almond who gets it done alongside her other work at the school and lets me know immediately so I can collect the printed copies and Dan Howison who then is given the task of passing on the copies to a number of kind residents who distribute to their neighbours. The outlying houses Dan takes himself. Everyone is busy and has their own commitments, even more so over the Christmas period, sometimes we don’t always feel in the best of health etc. so please let us all jointly thank everyone involved with the distribution and make them aware it is appreciated.

Thanks also to Paul Taylor, webmaster for the Village page exton.org who is responsible for ensuring the Parish Council Minutes, Agendas and Exton Village Newsletters are uploaded.

I am very grateful for all the Christmas cards through my door - far too many to reciprocate but each was appreciated............Editor

MARCH NEWSLETTER contributions to be received no later than February 20th

Email annetteoliver63@gmail.com

If you wish to be added to the list of those who receive the Exton newsletter by email and therefore in colour and earlier, then please contact the Editor.
Anyone who wishes to have their name deleted from the list of email contacts please also contact the Editor.
Please note in accordance with Data Protection best practice and Privacy regulations, these addresses are not passed on to other parties for distribution purposes.