As we enjoy the spring time revitalising the gardens our spirits are lifting too with the gradual return to lives as we knew them before Covid 19. There is a certain amount of trepidation on the part of many who have been housebound for so long to take up any new found freedom. The vaccination roll out has been incredible and despite the press coverage of lack of belief by a minority in the necessity for us all to take part, the Rutland take up has been excellent. Some have had to travel further afield it is true but alternative arrangements are always available. Meanwhile the Oakham Vaccination Centre has been organised so well and we should all be grateful to the many volunteers across the community who have helped to run this facility. We understand that STEP 2 of the Government roadmap should begin 12th April and will allow more ‘non essential’ premises to open. This includes hairdressers and some ‘outdoor’ hospitality too which we were familiar with before the current lockdown, table service only. Some outdoor sports will be active from this date onwards. Social distancing and wearing of masks remains in place.

SPINNEY Thanks to the volunteers who planted all the bulbs in the Spinney, it is lovely to see them brightening up the village. The trees and shrubs donated are too beginning to open their buds.

EXTON HARVEST SUPPER – PROVISIONALLY BOOKED on 16th October 2021 in the Village Hall – it is hoped that this can be arranged but is dependent of course on the Government guidelines as they progress throughout the summer in the lessening of restrictions caused by the Covid 19 pandemic..

DOG FOULING is still an issue in Exton and it is not just the visiting pets who should be blamed. We do not wish to do the name and shame thing here in the Newsletter but the owners do know who they are as a recent photograph sent to me shows! Cleaning up after your dog goes with the territory of ownership. Let us ALL help to keep out lovely village clean.
MORE EXTON RECOLLECTIONS FROM ANN BELL’s album

EXTON VILLAGE HALL 1984 HARVEST SUPPER

Above: Ann Bell, Aubrey and Betty Rimmington, Aubrey’s brother and wife, at back Joy Wallace and Nicola Bell

EXTON INDOOR BOWLS 1984
PRODUCE SHOW 1993 - Mick Mills and son Andrew with their wooden crafts

Below: to right Mick Mills, David Healey and Mick Bell 1998 with their home produced flag poles for the church
Harvest supper village hall 1976 - Left to right Jane Mills, John Burton, Violet Luckhurst

1979 EXTON GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM AND A FANCY DRESS TEAM below
Best wishes to Margaret Oliver and Clare Smith who have been on the sick list and to anyone else unwell

Thank you from Ann Bell for all the cards and flowers celebrating her 80th birthday ………………..Ed

EXTON PLAYPARK
I just wanted to drop you a quick note to say thank you so much for the work that you (and I’m sure an army of others) did to get the new improvements to the park. The park has now become a much loved destination of our kids. We spent 2 hours there yesterday morning and have spent countless hours there recently. During the lockdown, it has become a much needed (and only!) source of entertainment.

Yesterday I returned to the park in the afternoon to fetch my forgotten gloves, and there were about 6 families enjoying it, at least 18 people. Kids were playing, parents were chatting (safely distancing). it is a really community hub, in a time when having a little “community” is hard to come by these days.
I intended to send this to you today. It was ironic that the opening of the park photos featured in the newsletter this week too.
Many thanks. It is a real little gem………………………….[anon resident]

Today’s youngsters enjoying the Eco trail installed 2020
PARISH COUNCIL
At the March meeting Peter McNally was welcomed as a new Councillor after co-option to the Parish Council. Minutes are published on the website exton.org and displayed on the Noticeboard. Correspondence to clerk@exton.org

EXTON LITTER PICK
Organiser of the litter picking event Ed Heckels sent the following:

“Many thanks to the 40 residents who participated in Exton’s annual litter pick on Saturday 13 March. It was the best attended litter pick to date, possibly because, as some commented, it was the only event in their diary for March given the Covid lockdown! Social distancing rules were observed and some 50 sacks of rubbish ended up in the drive of 2 Stamford Road for Rutland Council to take away. Thanks as well to Bob with his trailer who joined Edward to collect the rubbish and transport it back to Stamford Road – and also assisted with extracting three large tractor tyres from the ditch by the Owl sanctuary!....Edward"

Well done all – it was a really cold and windy morning too.....Ed
The Parish Council would like to hear from anyone who is prepared to take on the volunteer role of **Snow Warden** in Exton for next winter. Training is provided by the Rutland County Council and there is a need to be registered with them. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk at **clerk@exton.org** for details.

**FixMyStreet**

[https://www.fixmystreet.com/](https://www.fixmystreet.com/)  Use this app if you spot a problem in the village, ideally include a photo. Updates appear on the site.

**'T' for Tuesday**  We will make a doorstep delivery of Easter goodies to our regulars on **Tuesday 13th April** from 2.30pm onwards. If you are likely to be out please let me or Sally know and we can rearrange the delivery. Many thanks, as always, to our team of helpers.

*Bernadette 812956 / Sally 811411*

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The force is urging people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to remain vigilant and be wary of a telephone scam currently in operation.

Six reports have been received in the past week in which a total of £18,000 has been erroneously handed over. From enquiries carried out so far, many calls follow the below scenario: A cold call is made to a victim by someone claiming to work with Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC) or national insurance and that information is required to be passed on to the police. The call is then ended. The victim then receives a further call which is shown to be from 0116 222 2222 – which is the main switchboard number for Leicestershire Police. Please note this number is 'spoofed' - ie faked. Numbers shown on a caller ID are NOT confirmation or verification of where a call is coming from - the phone is merely displaying what it has been told to say. A person claiming to be a police officer then speaks to the victim, stating the victim’s details are being
used to open a large number of bank accounts. Threatening language may be used and victims have been told they are in trouble and could be arrested or taken to court. The caller then provides a bank account number and asks the victim to transfer money over for ‘safe keeping’. Nicole McIntyre, from the force’s Economic Crime Unit, said: “We will never contact you and ask you to transfer funds. ‘Should you receive a call from the force phone number where someone asks you to send money, please hang up immediately. ‘You can contact us on 101 should you need to clarify the information. Always leave more than ten seconds between hanging up and dialling out to ensure the original call has terminated. If you are a victim of this scam – or know someone who has been – please contact us on 101. You can also report incidents online by visiting https://www.leics.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/ You should also contact your bank immediately.

You can also make a report to Action Fraud by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

*If you use Facebook, why not give Leicestershire Police Cyber Aware a follow for warnings regarding scams, fraud and guidance on how to stay safe online. Remember the police will NEVER ask you to hand over sums of cash*

Please make your local community aware that of what is typically known as a ‘Courier Fraud’.

It occurs when a suspect contacts victims by telephone purporting to be a law enforcement official or bank staff. The victim is persuaded to co-operate with an ‘operation’ designed to gather evidence or identify offenders responsible for a fictional offence. Victims are requested to: withdraw money from their bank, purchase an expensive item, or provide their bank card/details to assist with the operation.

The money or item is then handed over to a ‘courier’ who attends the victim’s address or meets them nearby.

“If you receive any calls that make you suspicious, you should disconnect the call straightaway and report the incident to the police using another telephone, as on some occasions calls can remain connected.”
Audrey (May) Inspector 4345 Danvers - NPA Commander Melton & Rutland

[How many of you get regular calls from callers allegedly representing Amazon saying you have just purchased a product, usually ipad or similar and to check your account!]Ed
It's good to be back!

It was lovely to welcome all 75 children back to school on Monday 8th March. Whilst we still remain working in our separate class 'bubbles', we are all happy to back together as a school again.

As part of our return to school, the children are enjoying taking part in music and wellbeing sessions run by Rutland Music. We have been learning about pulse and rhythm and learning some new songs, as well as using music to help us focus on our wellbeing.

The children have all missed their friends and are enjoying being back together both in lessons and in playing outside. As one of the children said, "our school is all about the friendship!"

If you would like to find out more about the school, the website is a good place to start – www.extonschool.co.uk. We now have a 'virtual tour' available on the website under 'about us'. We are also happy to chat to prospective parents on the phone on 01572 812380.
Exton church is still closed but it is hoped that our first service will be on May 23rd followed by the Annual Parish Church meeting. There will be Easter Day Services at Cottesmore Church at 9.30am and at Greetham Church at 10.30am. It would be helpful, if you would like to attend either of these services, to ‘book in’ at Tel no 497003 Txt 07434 664316 email cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com

There will also be the usual online service on YouTube for those who are wary of physical meetings.

There will be an Easter Garden in the churchyard at Exton Church.

Exton burials
The late Clarice Rook was buried at a graveside service. She died in a nursing home but had been an Exton resident and was laid to rest near her parents and her two ‘Bell’ brothers.

Alma Kettley’s funeral was like no other. It was more of a celebration of her life and the church was decorated by her daughters to reflect Alma’s love of flowers – nothing ostentatious, just a profusion of wild and garden flowers and some lovely photos of happier times. Fittingly enough, we also had the joy of two 3 day old lambs in the congregation who were cuddled in blankets during the service – named Robin and Wren to reflect Alma’s love of nature. These were premature lambs from Fleur’s farm, rejected by their mother and needing to be fed every two hours and kept warm. Alma was buried next to her brother Gerald who died last year. She will be much missed.

The ashes of Graham ‘Budgie’ Bell were interred with those of his late wife Bettina and the ashes of Doreen Chambers, a sometime Exton resident, were interred within the family grave of George Reeson.

Two new long pew cushions have been added to the church. One in memory of Jane Ward/Lacey and the other in memory of Mick Bell provided by Ann and the family. They have their names and dates embroidered on the side.

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

Unfortunately still closed

EASTER BUSES

All bus services will run to the timetables currently in operation over the Easter period, except as below:

- CallConnect, Centrebus, Blands – No Service on Good Friday
- Delaine – Good Friday runs as a Saturday Service

Private tutoring

- Enthusiastic and innovative teacher with 16 years of teaching experience
- Tutoring for both Primary Maths and English from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2
- Experienced in teaching children with special educational needs

Due to the current Covid pandemic I am currently only offering tuition online.

Please call 07960128235 if you are interested
Just as the Newsletter was being completed came the news of the loss of Barry Smith from Stamford End. On behalf of all who knew him may I pass on our sympathies to his son Bob, daughter in law Chris, to Patsy with whom he has shared the past few years and his extended family. Fortunately he did not suffer a long illness but this will have come as a great shock to those close to him who loved him. Our condolences to you all.

NEWSLETTER
Thanks to the school for printing the Newsletter

Contributions to the May edition need to be with the Editor by 20th April by email annetteoliver63.gmail.com or in writing to 20 Stamford Road

Anyone not already receiving the Newsletter on line should send their email address to the Editor

Thanks to Dan Howison and his team for the distribution of the hard copies.

[Advertisements free of charge]

COVID 19 - KEEP SAFE – KEEP HEALTHY