Reminder:
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS 6 pm FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER
Contributions to the lights in memory of a loved one should be made to Jo Downton. We are soon going to have to replace lights and can we urge you to please drop a donation [cash please] into 4 Blacksmiths Lane if you wish to see the continuation of this lovely village tradition. All extra monies raised will be donated to ‘Rutlanders for Rutland’ - but money collected on the night goes to the school.................Jo

DOG FOULING
We are all hoping the new posters will have an effect on this unpleasant situation referred to in previous newsletters but only time will tell. There are still some problem areas including the green itself. Perhaps it is time too to remind owners that dogs should be on leads when walking through the village?
The Parish Council are investigating costs involved to place cctv cameras in the worst affected fouling places and considering their effectiveness. There are already some by the school of course. Naturally residents feel very strongly about the soilng on footpaths etc whether pet owners or otherwise. Another option is the PSPO path
which controls the actions of dogs in certain areas: An explanation for these is -

**Public Spaces Protection Orders:** Some public areas in England and Wales are covered by Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) - previously called Dog Control Orders (DCOs).

In public areas with PSPOs, you may have to:

- keep your dog on a lead
- put your dog on a lead if told to by a police officer, police community support officer or someone from the council
- stop your dog going to certain places - like farmland or parts of a park
- limit the number of dogs you have with you (this applies to professional dog walkers too)
- clear up after your dog

This is a lovely village and nobody wants to spoil it with too many restrictions but the onus is on the owners to ensure this is not forced upon us.

![EXTON VILLAGE PLAY AREA](image)

is in need of some refurbishment/repairs. ‘PAGE ’ – the Exton organisation that has been responsible for many years is handing over the management to the Parish Council after the formal dissolving of the group. Regular supporter Councillor Mick Bell is not in the best of health these days and many other former members are either in a similar position or have moved away from the village.

What is needed is a fresh surge of energy and some younger parents to get themselves interested in this village asset. It is used regularly but we are aware that it is looking a bit ‘sad’ and the annual inspection has revealed some areas in need of work.
Younger parents will obviously have a better insight into the needs of their children and may come up with some ideas. Your suggestions and help will be appreciated in making the area safe and enjoyable.

Initially get in touch either with the Clerk 812233 or Bob Smith 812962 who has already agreed to head this project on behalf of the Parish Council. This is to be discussed at the next PC meeting [December 6th].

**USED STAMP COLLECTION** for LOROS CANCER HOSPITAL IN RUTLAND, Leics

Please save all your Xmas card and other postage stamps. Trim and leave approximately 1 cm border around each stamp. There is a box inside the Village Hall or leave them at Ann & Mick Bell’s home St Mary’s House, High Street, Exton. ........... Many thanks Ann

**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 & 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.

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

_________________________________________________________

I have been writing the newsletter for the past 7 or 8 years and I have been very well supported by all of you supplying content. However I am wondering whether villagers would like a change of Editor? Is it time for a fresh slant on this task? I would love to know if there is anyone else in the village with computer skills who would like to take this on? If so please give me a call on 812233 [Annette].

As we are approaching Christmas it really is time to thank the school – usually Lyn – for printing the newsletter. Thanks are due too to Dan Howison  who I take the printed version to. Dan in turn distributes the copies to the kind residents who pop it through the doors of their neighbours. Thank you to everyone involved with the process......Annette

Unfortunately there was an error re closing date in the last newsletter – [blame the Editor!! ] the closing date is guided by school holidays etc. **Reminder: there is no January edition.** Items for the **February edition** need to be with me by **25th January 2018**. If you have missed deadline for the December edition then I apologise.
Sarah's Pet Care Services
are your local 5* rated reliable dog walking and pet Sitting service. We are fully insured and first aid trained.

Visit www.spcs.uk or call 07751 962682 for more information.

Thank you - Sarah Husband - 07751 962682

__________________________________________________

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal
Many thanks to all who contributed to the appeal either by filling a box, donating items to be included or donating cash to assist with transport costs. I have now delivered 70 filled boxes and these will soon be on their way in time for Christmas. They will go to Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East or Africa and not necessarily all to the same place. Those of you who paid transport costs on line should receive an email at the end of January to advise where your box has gone..................

Patricia Hagger

________________________________________________________

There was a wonderful turnout at the Remembrance Service held on Saturday 10th November at the Exton village memorial. I would say probably around 50 people including some children. Headmistress Megan Davis and parents must have been proud of Grant reading an original poem and the others who placed the wreath. Cathy Dyson did the reading. It was very moving. A big thank you is due to Derek Palmer, Chairman of the Parish Council who put up the poppies on the lampposts.
Are you living with a long-term condition or frailty? What helps you stay well?

The long-term condition could be (but isn’t limited to):
- Parkinson’s
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Learning Disabilities
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Dementia
- Spinal Injury
- Stroke
- Mental ill-health
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

If so, we want to hear about your experiences:

What support works well?
What help and support do you value?
What support is lacking or can be improved?

Your Experiences Could Shape Future Support in Rutland

Your information will be confidential and anonymous
You can email, post or ‘phone it through to us in the office or a volunteer can visit you in your home
If you would like to take part please contact us before 1st February 2018:

Healthwatch Rutland c/o Rutland Community Hub,
Lands’ End Way, Oakham
tel: 01572 720381 email: info@healthwatchrutland.co.uk
"A book is a gift you can open again and again." — Garrison Keillor

There are lots of exciting things that happen in school at this time of year. From tinsel to tea towels; from nativities to pantomimes; it really is a magical time of year.

However, developing the school learning environment does not stop for Christmas, and as well as all the things that happen in school to celebrate Christmas, we are also going to be developing a new school library over the next few weeks, ready for a grand opening in January. Our staff room has been relocated, and the old staff room is to be turned into a lovely library space where the children will be able to relax and curl up with a book, as well as use it for research.

In the classrooms we are developing ‘Book Talk’ to encourage the children to really delve into the books they are reading and to discuss good quality fiction.

Books really are the gateway to a lot of understanding, and the more we can encourage children to read, the more they open up their minds to new ideas and expand their horizons.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the children, staff, governors and parents at Exton & Greetham CE Primary School, to wish the local community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
## EXTON CONTACT INFORMATION

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<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Tele</th>
<th>Email</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>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Hall Secretary</td>
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<td>811183</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Council Clerk</td>
<td>Annette Oliver</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC Priest Oakham Presbytery</td>
<td>Father Stephen Dye</td>
<td>722308</td>
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<td>Parish Church Rector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fox &amp; Hounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Room</td>
<td>Susan Ware Meggie Kroeger</td>
<td>812825 812509</td>
<td><a href="mailto:s.p.ware@btinternet.com">s.p.ware@btinternet.com</a> <a href="mailto:kroegermeggie@gmail.com">kroegermeggie@gmail.com</a></td>
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There certainly seems to be a growing tide against the Oakham town centre improvement scheme. A petition has been doing the rounds.

For those of you who have not read the minutes of the Exton & Horn PC meetings on line, I should advise that the Council added their comments against the proposals to the RCC. The general view seems to be a lack of comprehension as to how spending three million pounds on such a project can possibly help encourage tourists when there are hardly any shops to visit these days; due to I believe the high cost of rents. [This is the same town that has need of a Foodbank!] [Editor]. While trendy bars and coffee shops have their place and are needed and charity shops are allowed rebated premises to survive, visitors need the smaller interesting shops that the town used to have; many family owned.

The recent road works enforcing a one way system has shown the knock on effects on the surrounding roads. For those incapacitated in some way it has been a nightmare trying to ‘pop into the bank’ or chemist for a short visit.

Please note you have another opportunity to view the designs as per the poster above and a chance to add your personal comments. Do let the RCC have your views. A letter if you do not have email.
LADIES CIRCLE NEWS:
The November meeting, when Camilla Saunders, former winner at Chelsea, gave a demonstration of flower arranging, was very well attended, and enjoyed. The result of the competition, for six jam tarts, was 1. Meryl Hart, 2. Ann Bell and 3. June Green.

There will be no meetings in December or January

A decision has been taken, by the Committee, not to go for the usual December Christmas meal. Instead members will go for a meal, for the February meeting, to celebrate the Circle’s 30th Birthday. This will take place on Thursday, February 1st.

Chris will circulate menus and details after Christmas. Annette, who usually organises a quiz for the February meeting, will come to the dinner, and do a short quiz after the meal.

Those of you who were disappointed when bad weather caused the cancellation of last March’s talk about the Osprey Project will be pleased to know that this will now take place at the meeting on March 1st., a date for your diaries.

Happy Christmas to you all, and Best Wishes for the New Year.

[Meryl Hart]

Newsletters: If you wish to be included on the email circulation list please ensure your email address is sent to the editor annetteoliver63@gmail.com. This way you can see the coloured version. Or look on line exton.org. Thanks to webmaster Paul Taylor.
TRAVELLING CRIB SET – ADVENT 2017
Our knitted Nativity set is all set to go on its travels around the village in the run up to Christmas. If you would like to give shelter to the Holy Family for one night (or more) during Advent please do get in touch. Equally if the idea is new to you and you would like more information about this wonderful project please get in touch with me. Bernadette Wallace 18 Vicars Close, Exton. 01572 812956 / 07858484918 or bernie.wallace@btinternet.com

FESTIVE ‘T’ FOR TUESDAY
To launch this new project in the village we will be hosting our first event on Tuesday 12 December between 2.30- 4pm in Exton Village Hall. Tea, coffee, cake and mince pies will be served. If you would like a lift please contact Bernadette Wallace 01572 812956/07858484918 bernie.wallace@btinternet.com or Sally Miller 01572 811411. We hope this will be the beginning of a monthly meeting in Exton bringing together people of all ages in our community.

SPARKLERS TODDLER GROUP
We extend a very warm welcome to families (usually about 25 adults + children!) from our group of Churches every Tuesday morning in Cottesmore Church between 9.30 – 11am, and new families are always very welcome too.
We would like to expand our group of helpers and are looking for offers of help with the teas, washing up or craft activities. If you have a heart for reaching out to young families and children please contact Bernadette Wallace 01572 812956/07858484918 or bernie.wallace@btinternet.com

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME survey mentioned in last newsletter – offers to drive to hospital/pharmacy if available – Sally Miller 811411 and Annette Oliver 812233. No other comments received.
Christmas Services
December 2017

Sunday 3rd
1600 Christingle
Greetham

Wednesday 6th
1830 Patronal Service
Thistleton

Saturday 16th
18.00 Carol Service
Clipsham

Sunday 17th
16.00 Carol Service
Stretton
18.00 Carol Service
Greetham
15.00 Carol Service
Exton
17.00 Carol Service
Thistleton

Monday 18th
19.30 Carol Service
Cottesmore

Sunday 24th
1030 Benefice Holy Communion
Stretton
16.30 Crib Service
Cottesmore
17.00 Carol Service
Burley on the Hill
23.30 Midnight Mass
Cottesmore
23.30 Midnight Mass
Greetham

Monday 25th
0930 Morning Service
Cottesmore
0930 Holy Communion
Thistleton
1115 Holy Communion
Clipsham
1115 Holy Communion
Exton
1115 Holy Communion
Stretton

Sunday 31st
1030 Benefice Holy Communion
Clipsham

With best wishes from Rev Marcus and the ministry team. We hope to welcome you to one of our services this Christmas.
ST PETER AND ST PAUL PARISH CHURCH, EXTON

Services in December
10th  11.15am Morning Service
17th  3pm Christmas Carol Service
24th  11.30pm Midnight Mass at Cottesmore and Greetham
25th  10.15am Christmas Day Communion (Please note the change of time)

Services in January
14th  11.15am Morning Service
28th  10.30am Benefice Service at Cottesmore followed by a Bring and Share lunch. This will be Marcus’s last service before he moves to Wisbech in the Diocese of Ely.

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.

Congratulations and love to the families of Scarlet Elizabeth Smith and Violet Edie Atter who were baptised in the church in November. Congratulations also to Andrew Sibree and Zoe Pocock who were married in the church on December 2nd.

Sally Miller, Churchwarden

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Holy Mass Sunday 9 am

Christmas Eve 24th December 9 am Mass
Christmas Day 25th December 9 am Mass
Independent Advisory Groups

We need you…

Assistant Chief Constable Rob Nixon is hosting a showcasing event for the Police Independent Advisory Groups which are focused on our diverse communities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

We would like to invite you to attend this event

On: Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 6 – 8pm

At: Leicestershire Police HQ Lecture Theatre, St John’s, Enderby, Leicestershire LE192BX.

Please email: equality@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

Or telephone: 101 Ext 2265

You will then be sent a booking form for the event.

Good Health and Happiness in the Christmas period and the New Year