Thanks to David Healey the village will have two Christmas trees in place again, one outside the Fox & Hounds and the other by the telephone box. It takes a couple of days to get the sites ready, the trees erected and the lights organised. There are several who help David with this job and we thank them all. We are grateful to the Healey family at Villa Farm for use of their electricity. The trees certainly are an asset to the village.

Some of the children from Exton & Greetham School will be singing carols around the tree at the telephone box on Friday 1st December at 6 pm. Everyone in the community is invited to join them. There will be a collection on the night for the school as a thank you; any monies will contribute to the purchase of an outdoor reading chair.

Contributions made after then can be either taken to the school, or alternatively handed to David Healey at 2 Stamford End or myself at 20 Stamford Road. Please leave in an envelope marked ‘school Xmas collection’, with your name unless you prefer to be anonymous.

The Fox & Hounds will raise money towards the playpark.
Rutland’s New Local Plan – Planning for Rutland’s Future

Rutland County Council will be consulting on the Regulation 18 Preferred Options for the new Local Plan from Monday 13th November 2023 until it closes at 4pm Monday 8th January 2024. This is the first draft of our new Local Plan for Rutland.

This draft plan contains the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and planning policy framework which we consider will best address the challenges, and utilise the unique opportunities, that face Rutland now and in the future.

The draft Local Plan has been informed by the responses we received to our Issues and Options document, during the consultation in Summer 2022. It has also been informed by the new and updated evidence base that has been prepared, this includes research on specific issues relating to the plan and range from Retail and Town Centres to Climate Change and Viability, as well as emerging Council and regional strategies.

Alongside the Regulation 18 Consultation, the Council is also inviting comment on the following documents:

- Minerals and Waste Safeguarding Areas Methodology (September 2023)
- Sustainability Appraisal (SEA/SA)
- Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)

This document looks and reads like a new Local Plan but it is still a work in progress. We welcome your comments and ideas on how it can be improved to best create a happy, healthy and well Rutland for all.

The easiest way to comment will be via the online form. This has added benefits as it’s easier to complete the responses and will allow draft responses to be saved and changed or updated. It also enables easy access for future consultations. In addition, comments made by other people can now be viewed on the system once they’ve been made live rather than wait until after consultation has closed the Consultation Statement to be published.

The new Local Plan web page includes more detailed information on how to submit comments in the Regulation 18 consultation www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan.

For any further enquiries please email localplan@rutland.gov.uk or call the Council’s customer services team on 01572 722 577 who will arrange for a member of the Local Plan team to contact you to provide you with a response.
Welcome to Charlotte Newby who is the new Parish Councillor. Here in Charlotte’s own words is why she feels she can contribute to the parish ...

.. I’ve been in Rutland for the last 16 years, moving from Stamford after living in London and Oxford, but I grew up in Hungarton near Leicester. We self-built our home in Barnsdale in 2007 and have worked hard to preserve the Victorian Walled Garden that it sits in and to look after the natural world around us.

My career has been mixed. I worked first in hospitality, then for a dating agency before starting a small catering business in central London that expanded into a café. In 2000, I moved back to the area to live in Stamford and worked for EMAP Publishing in Peterborough (now Bauer Media). I have two daughters, 20 and 18, who went to Catmose Primary, Catmose College, then Harington Sixth Form and are now both at university. I’m currently the main carer for my husband Phil, who has Motor Neurone Disease, which he was diagnosed with in 2014. I also run a holiday cottage in Barnsdale. I care about Rutland and have reached a stage in life where I think I can be useful and would like to give my time to being more involved in my local community........

The Act of Remembrance, held on Saturday 11 November, at the Village War Memorial was attended by approx. 50 people; it was lovely to see representatives of our Armed Forces, village school and community. Barbie Coulson, Lay Reader, led the short Act and David Ketley read out the names of those who ‘gave their tomorrows for our today’. Paul Almond, a veteran of the Falklands Conflict, laid a wreath on behalf of grateful villagers. .....Bernie Wallace
How nice to see around 50 people at the Village memorial on Saturday 11th November. Head teacher Megan read the moving verses written by the pupils this year: These Poems were written by Year 5 and 6 in response to pictures of poppies in the fields of WW1 and of pictures of war cemeteries.

Poppies spread over the battle fields like blood spills from a wound. Crosses stand in rows like those they commemorate. God shall always be with them. They will be remembered.
Poppies blanket the grass between the crosses, almost as a shroud. They were and are brave people, who will give, or gave their life for the good of their country. They will be remembered.
In the battlefields lie friends or foes. Thousand sacrificed themselves for a cause. Fallen but still live on. Many sun downs and dawns they see, but they don’t get old. They will be remembered.................Ben

May the bright red poppies thrive
As the light in the soldiers’ hearts never die.
May they fly high.
The crosses stand like soldiers ready for battle.
Their brave souls fought for our freedom.
We will remember them.
Many have sacrificed their lives for their country
Just so we could be free.
May they fly high.................Monika

While poppies grow, may their poor souls live forever in heaven,
Gone, but never forgotten.
Row upon row – fathers, sons and more
Many sacrificed their innocent lives for strangers they didn’t even know.
Gone, but never forgotten.
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.
Gone, but never forgotten...............William

On behalf all, thanks to whoever had tidied up the grass etc. in the memorial garden and also to whomever put out the poppies on the lamp posts......? [Ed]
‘Tis the season to be jolly....

This is always a favourite, if exhausting, time of year at Exton & Greetham CE Primary School! During this term we dust off our acting skills, as the youngest children prepare to share the school nativity, and the oldest children prepare a school pantomime, written for them by the staff. It is a lovely opportunity for the children to develop their sense of comic timing, alongside developing confidence in stage-craft.

Alongside our Christmas productions, we also have our traditional ‘Christmas in a Day’. This begins with a visit to one of the village churches (this year we are hoping to be at Exton), followed by a whole school Christmas dinner, and then a party in the afternoon (with a special visitor if we have been good!). This year, this will be on Tuesday 19th December. The church service is at 9.30am – or just after if it takes us longer to walk. Do come and join us as Teal class take us through the story of the nativity and the whole school joins together in song.

The picture above shows the new mural in our entrance hall, painted to brighten up a plain wall. We think it captures all that is special in our school, a love of music and being together, alongside our Christian foundation.

If you would like to find out more about the school, do visit our website – www.extonschool.co.uk.
We are always happy to show prospective parents around the school.

Please contact the school office on the phone on 01572 812380 or by email at extonoffice@rltschools.com to arrange a visit
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 17 February 2024.

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 edward.heckels@gmail.com - or just turn up.
To Everyone in Exton Village and surrounding areas, my name is Andy and I used to be your postie for 6/7 years. I have unfortunately been moved to another route in Rutland, so I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who made my job so pleasant and enjoyable. I have made so many friends and hopefully I will see you again sometime. I would also like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who was so generous towards my farewell gifts. I will really miss you all and I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and have a Happy New Year.

Love – ex-postie Andy

Now some of us love dogs and some of us do not. However even those who do, should expect owners to understand that it is their choice to own pets and to keep them - it should not be expected that neighbours and friends should have to be annoyed by them? We are all aware that some folk get up at different times to others. Some work from home. Some have little ones who enjoy a nap during the day. When the weather is nice neighbours may wish to spend time in their garden or at least have windows open. How infuriating when a nearby dog is whining – barking – or howling – why? Because it is sad? – bored? – hungry? Who knows? Owners not at home?

Particularly when living in a small community displeasure expressed to the owners can soon be misinterpreted and thus cause friction and nobody wants that to happen. When one person is fed up with a dog/s being a nuisance it is bad enough but when a number of neighbours are upset, it is a different ball game. They can’t all be wrong!

So if you own a dog/s just think to yourself – is my pet annoying anybody? Do I know what happens when I am not here? Have I checked with my neighbours? A little consideration makes the world go round.

If you think you may be causing distress/annoyance/ please check on the arrangements you have made for your animals. Neighbours are entitled to keep a record of times, dates, recordings of noise, etc and this can be reported to the dog warden who may take matters further. Please think about it and make sure you are not the person who is being grumbled about constantly but nobody wants to fall out with!!!
CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE WITH US

7.30pm to 12.30
Dance the night away with our
70’s themed disco [fancy dress optional]
Evening buffet

Bring in the New Year with Auld Lang Syne followed
by a delicious Bacon Bap

Tickets in advance @ £12.50 per person
Fox & Hounds, Exton

Pop down to the Pub for your tickets
or telephone Simon on 07955 206436
Date of release: 13 November 2023 - for immediate release.

Return of Coffee and Connection Service for Rural Residents

Citizens Advice Rutland is delighted to have re-launched Rural Coffee Connect in Rutland which will pop up around the county providing free barista coffee and drinks, along with information on local services, every Wednesday.

Starting at Ryhall Village Hall, a Community Outreach Officer and a trained Barista from Rural Community Council bring their Rural Coffee Connect van along with a range of information to provide a safe and friendly space for people to enjoy a coffee, chat and build connections in their community.

The team will be on hand from 10am until 3pm, with hot drinks served from 11am, to provide signposting and referrals to Citizens Advice Rutland and a range of support services and community organisations.

The Rural Coffee Connect van may be a familiar sight to Rutland residents as it has been travelling around rural Leicestershire and Rutland since 2019, however the service ended in the county back in June when funds ran out. Thanks to a successful bid by Citizens Advice Rutland, funding for this pilot partnership with Rural Community Council has come from national Citizens Advice to give rural communities in the county access to advice and support, reducing isolation and loneliness.

Duncan Furey, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Rutland said “It is wonderful to welcome Rural Coffee Connect back to Rutland. Over the next 11 months, Tracey and the Barista team will visit many of our smaller communities across the county, promoting services and signposting to other charities. All whilst dispensing fantastic free coffee and always eager to have a chat with the locals.”

Tracey Pollard of the Rural Community Council said “It’s so great to be back in Rutland with our coffee connect van. We are looking forward to being able to support residents in rural locations and provide them with lots of information about the services that Citizens Advice Rutland can offer. We will be able to fill in referrals during our visits if someone needs immediate support, or we can supply contact information for Citizens Advice Rutland and other relevant services in the local area. We are looking forward to being able to give the local residents the knowledge they need so that they are aware of the support available to them on their doorstep.”

Having already made their first two stops, Rural Coffee Connect will continue to be at Ryhall Village Hall between 10am and 3pm on Wednesday 15th November. From there the van moves on to Langham Village Hall for Wednesday 22 and 29 November and 6 December. After these dates the team will move on to other locations around Rutland which will be publicised as they are confirmed. To keep up to date with Rural Coffee Connect follow @CitizensAdviceRutland or @YourRCC on Facebook or contact Citizens Advice Rutland on 01572 725809 or cdo@citizensadvicerutland.org.uk
‘T’ FOR TUESDAY

Our Christmas ‘T’ for Tuesday gathering will be in Exton Village Hall on Tuesday 14 December. 2.30pm – 4pm. please do come along for seasonal refreshments and music.
We will meet in January on Tuesday 9th. Same time, same place!
Everyone is most welcome to join us for Afternoon Tea and a chat with friends.
If you would prefer a ‘cake away’ please contact Bernadette 01572 812956/07858484918
Donations of homemade cakes are always welcome!

BELL RINGERS

On Tuesday 14 November we welcomed a team of experienced bell ringers from Hertfordshire, Lincoln and London to our Church. They rang a full peal, which I am told involves 5000 changes and lasted 3 hours. Thanks to Rob Persani, from Rutland and Stamford Sound, who visited the church and interviewed them (sad to say I didn’t hear the interview!) and to all the people who commented on the Village FB page – saying how lovely it was to hear the bells rung.
ST PETER AND ST PAUL PARISH CHURCH,

December Services
Sunday 10 December 11.15am Morning Service
Sunday 17 December 3pm Carol Service
Sunday 24 December 9pm Christmas Eve Holy communion, Cottesmore
11.30pm Midnight Mass at Greetham
Monday 25 December 10.30am Christmas Communion
Sunday 31 December 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Cottesmore

January Services
Sunday 14 January 11.15am Morning Service
Sunday 28 January 11.15am Holy Communion

From the Parish Church Registers – (hatch, match and dispatch!)
The marriage of John and Melanie, took place on Saturday 23 September. We wish you both every happiness.

Beatrix Cecilia Sanders, daughter of Chris and Danielle Sanders was welcomed into the church family by Baptism on Sunday 22 October.

Interment of Ashes – 7 October. Dean Bottomley, son of Peter and the late Yvonne, (formerly of Exton), was laid to rest in the grave of his grandparents, Joe and Hazel Bottomley. Dean lived with his family at 37 Empingham Road and was baptised at Exton Church.

1 November. Pauline Wade, formerly of Campden Close and Empingham Road, Exton was laid to rest with her husband Alan. Pauline died at Manton
Our sympathies to both families. May Dean and Pauline Rest in Peace.

THE NOEL BANNERS – an information booklet about the coats of arms appearing upon the Noel Banners in the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul Exton (written by Judy Swinfen) is available for the price of £5. Please contact Bernadette 01572 812956/07858484918 to purchase a copy.
CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SINGING AT THE BARNSDALE

For a number of years now a group of village families has gathered to sing carols with the guests at The Barnsdale (Lodge). We would welcome some new voices to join us and if you are musically talented (play guitar) we especially welcome you to accompany our singing. We sing traditional carols, finishing with ‘We wish you a merry Christmas’!

Meet at The Barnsdale 5.45pm on Christmas Eve for a 6pm start. A lovely start to our Christmas celebrations.

Please contact Bernadette (if you would like to join us) for more details. Bernie.wallace@btinternet.com 07858484918

General queries can be directed to the Cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com or one of the Churchwardens Bernadette Wallace 01572812956/07858484918 Edward Heckels extonchurchrutland@gmail.com

Sparklers Toddler Group
Meet in Cottesmore Church, Tuesday mornings, term time, from 9.30am – 11am.

Refreshments, crafts, toys, bible story and singing! All parents and carers welcome with children under school age. Suggested donation is £1 per family.

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Sunday 3rd December – Holy Mass 9 a.m.
Christmas Day – Holy Mass 9 a.m.

After that Sunday mass will only be on special feast days
Mass will be celebrated in the chapel each week on Fridays at 7pm which will be a traditional Latin mass. [This will be cancelled if snow/ice ].

Father Stephen is retiring at the end of the year. He will be remaining in Oakham but on reduced duties: Oakham and Stamford parishes are amalgamating.

12
Would like to reintroduce the Community Christmas Lunches

[if there is sufficient interest].

This will take place **Friday 15th December at 1.30 pm** at the school at a cost of £3 per head.

Please telephone the school well in advance to book 01572 812380.

[Please remember this depends upon numbers interested]
Exton + Greetham Christmas School Fayre

On: 8th of December
At: Exton Village Hall
Time: 2pm - 5pm

If anyone is interested in holding a stall please get in touch as limited numbers.

Please contact Tracey or Claire:
Everyone welcome
Friends & Family

Tracey: 07815178903
Claire: 07495 763737

All proceeds will go to Exton & Greetham School
information/adverts/entertainment/news/
welcomed by the Editor free of charge.
It is appreciated if the contributions are sent in plenty of time.
Should anyone in the village not already on the email data base wish
to be included please forward contact details to the Editor, [the list
is protected by Data Protection and addresses are not used for any
other purpose] annetteoliver63@gmail.com
Or by hand to 20 Stamford Road

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER BY
18th JANUARY please

'Thanks to the School for printing
the Newsletter

Thank you to everyone that has contributed throughout the year - thanks
to the late Dan Howison for the organisation of the distribution of the
hard copies and now to the new team of Sharon Bell, Bernie Wallace
and Kiloran Heckels who have taken this on.
## CONTACT INFORMATION

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<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Tele</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Fox &amp; Hounds</td>
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<td>BUS: 184</td>
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Mobile Post Office service, at The Green, every Friday from 1.15pm to 2.15pm.