XMAS AND NEW YEAR

Thanks again to David Healey and all his team of helpers who put up the two beautiful Xmas trees in the village. They did us proud. It certainly enhanced the wintry Christmas feel of the village no matter which way you came in or departed. There was also a good turnout of carol singers.

The disco did not apparently happen at the Fox & Hounds, due to insufficient interest but those who went into the pub for the evening still got entertained as our very own Robin Beard got out his 70’s gear and strummed a tune or two I am told! It evidently went down well and hosts Simon and Christina provided some snacks at the end of the night free of charge. So well done all. Another Greek night is in the planning but you will have to look on Facebook for details.
TOURISM IN RUTLAND
Revenue from tourism helps the financial wheels keep turning without doubt wherever in the country. During Covid restrictions many residents found the number of visitors to the village visiting to walk ‘annoying’ and true to say many of them still come. Very often there are cars lined all the way along Stamford Road belonging to visitors walking in the park. We have the Rutland Water Park and Nature Reserve, the Falconry and Owl centre, Rutland Farm Park, Barnsdale Gardens, and the railway mentioned below. It looks as if there may be a future wildlife park too on the land owned by the Hanbury family. They hope to house lynx, bears and wolves on 1000 acres of land between the by pass and Burley wood. Who would have thought it?

FROM ROCKS BY RAIL – ASHWELL ’

When the huge Exton Park quarry system dieselised around fifty years ago, the resident fleet of distinctive steam locomotives were displaced and now only one or two of the type survive.

It was with a great deal of pride that we welcomed part-restored Yorkshire Engine Company No.2521 to the Museum collection in early April 2012 to recall the use of these locomotives on the Exton Park system and over our Museum site. The locomotive, which is part of the National Coal Mining Museum collection, was built in the same series as those used at Exton Park but was allocated to work at the Appleby-Frodingham works at Scunthorpe in Lincolnshire as their No.9 until sold off to the National Coal Board in its last years of operation.

The restoration of the locomotive will allow the distinctive Exton Park livery used by the Ore Mining Branch of the United Steel Companies to be compared and contrasted with the similar livery carried by the Janus diesel engine DE5 which superseded the type and is already part of the collection. We hope to reunite two retired Exton Park footplate crew with the locomotive as soon as the conservation work is carried out.

We thank the support of the National Coal Mining Museum and the custodian group, The Chesterfield Locomotive Carriage & Wagon Group. ...”
**BANK HUB IN OAKHAM**

Whether you bank privately or run a small club or voluntary organisation, we all have to have a banking mechanism in place, even if using the online facilities. There are times when a face-to-face meeting is necessary or queries are unresolved over the telephone or internet. It seems Alicia Kearns MP has fought to resolve this situation and below is the latest situation.

Cash Access UK, the organisation set up to protect nationwide access to cash, has confirmed that the new **Banking Hub in Oakham will be located at 43, High Street.** [This is the old Lloyds bank on the corner of Church Street....Ed]

**The Hub is due to open in April 2024,** and will offer a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions, Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm. There will also be a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their own bank about more complicated issues on the day their bank is in the Hub. Community Bankers will work on rotation, with a different bank available on each day of the week:

- **Monday:** Barclays
- **Tuesday:** NatWest
- **Wednesday:** Santander
- **Thursday:** Lloyds
- **Friday:** HSBC

Finding the right location for a Banking Hub that is convenient, accessible and works for everyone often takes time so Cash Access UK is delighted to have been able to secure convenient premises in the heart of the community. This development is a significant step forward in bringing a Banking Hub to Oakham. The team at Cash Access UK are now working hard to fit out the new premises and will update the community on progress and an opening date as soon as they can. The [Oakham Banking Hub page on the Cash Access UK website](#) will provide updates as works progress.

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**WEATHER !** We’ve had it all! Wind, rain, a touch of snow – Keep Safe!
FEEDING THE BIRDS

Many of us feed the birds as not only is it lovely to see the different varieties close up in the garden, it is a way of contributing to a greener environment. It is quite an expensive hobby however. Careful thought too has to be given to avoid encouraging vermin into the garden which can be an issue especially in a rural situation. Rats are never far away. Personally I stick to sunflower hearts, however I notice the birds who visit my garden prefer the light coloured hearts to the black? Does anyone else find that? If there is a mix in the feeder it’s the black seeds that get left behind. The birds certainly have their own hierarchy! Goldfinches rule the roost, the tit family come next, chaffinches defer to both, the lesser mortal sparrows have to join the queue!

REMINDER

There is an **increased charge for green bin** collection from April 2024. It will in future be £60 per year. [previously £50]. N.B. 25% discount for those on local Council Tax support. The RCC believe it is compatible with other local authorities and will allow investment into the green waste collection vehicles.

During December, January and February, green bin collections are less frequent as the level of garden waste decreases. Dates marked with a cross indicate that no green bin collections are due to take place. Green bin collection service below:

The Service restarts April. 2024 dates not yet available.
There are two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) sites in Rutland located at: An Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) System is in operation at both sites. If your vehicle is not correctly registered then you will not be able to access the sites. New users (or those changing their vehicle or personal details) can register quickly and easily via www.rutland.gov.uk

The sites are for use by Rutland householders only. We use ANPR to monitor site usage and to prevent abuse of the facility by unauthorised users, such as traders and businesses.

If you use the site(s) frequently you may be asked to fill out a declaration form to confirm that the waste is from your house. There is no need to be concerned about this, we’re just making sure that the facility is not abused.

Household Waste Recycling Centres Also known as 'The Tip'! **North Luffenham** North Luffenham Road Morcott, LE15 9DW Open Tuesday to Sunday (closed on Mondays) April to September 10am to 6pm October to March 10am to 4pm

**Cottesmore** Burley Road (B668) LE15 7BZ Open Friday to Monday (closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) April to September 10am to 4pm October to March 10am to 4pm Trailers are not accepted at Cottesmore.

Trailers less that 3m are accepted at North Luffenham. Please only bring waste that you’re able to unload yourself, for example if it took two people to load heavy items into a vehicle, then two people should come to the site to unload it

Other services provided by the Council

- Assisted collections: If you cannot move your bins yourself (due to age or a medical condition) and have no one else who could do this for you, you can apply for an assisted collection.
- Additional bins: Households producing large amounts of recycling can request an additional grey bin free of charge. Households with five or more permanent residents may be able to have an additional black bin.
- Disposal of bulky waste: Large items can be collected as part of the Council's bulky waste collection service. A charge is payable for this service.
- Community litter picking kit: We have a community litter picking kit that we can loan to Parish Councils, community groups and individuals if you want to organise a litter pick in your local area. We’ll deliver the kit and collect it once you’re done, along with any rubbish that you pick up.
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.
‘T’ FOR TUESDAY

Our February ‘T’ for Tuesday gathering will be a ‘Valentine special’ in Exton Village Hall on **Tuesday 13 February. 2.30pm – 4pm.**

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!!

NEW SERVICE ..... Have teamed up with Pharmacy2U, the UK’s largest online pharmacy, to offer a complete NHS prescription service you can access 24/7 from the comfort of your home. Now you can make the most of the online world and save valuable time by having all your NHS prescription needs delivered directly through your letterbox*. Simply, register and order your prescription through our website or the Royal Mail Health app. We’ll then deliver it safely and securely for FREE. Register below and we’ll take care of the rest. We’ll even send handy reminders so you never run out. It’s as easy as that.
*Most orders will fit through your letterbox but in the case of larger items, you can select alternative delivery options.

Register.....https://www.royalmail.com/health/pharmacy2ur now for free

I cannot help but wonder how somebody who may really need a service like this can be supplied if they do not have the internet.? There must be a way in? **Fortunately we also have our own personal service in Exton – see page 10.** The Citizens Advice Bureau is a really good place for answers on a number of things.

FLOODS The recent storm Henke caused devastation in several Rutland villages, so much so that the Rutland County Council organised an online meeting for those interested to discuss solutions.

PARKS SCHOOL, OAKHAM no doubt many will have signed the petition to save the special needs school who’s staff do such amazing work and make a number of children and their parents feel very safe and cared for. Unfortunately it seems finance as ever has the last word. The school is due to close this year.
A great start to the year!

As I write, we are nearly three weeks into the first term of 2024, and already we seem to be busy, busy, busy!

This term we have lots of activities in and out of school, alongside our normal curriculum. Our youngest children are taking part in Balance Bikes workshops and are also receiving additional music sessions learning about pitch with the Rutland Music Hub. The Rutland Music Hub are also working with the Year 2,3,4 children to develop their singing skills. Year 5 and 6 were recently visited by one of our governors to learn more about Judaism, and are visiting Oakham for their weekly swimming lessons up until Easter. Despite all of these activities, perhaps the most exciting thing this term so far has been Miss Barker visiting to introduce us to her new baby!

In the classrooms the children are all hard at work, learning about their new topics, alongside maths and English. Aqua Class are ‘polar explorers’ this term; Teal Class are learning all about the Egyptians; and Cobalt Class are exploring outer space.

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@ritschools.com to arrange a visit.
USEFUL SERVICES

MOBILE POST OFFICE SERVICE, at The Green, every Friday from 1.15pm to 2.15pm.
The village of Exton is constantly changing with new residents arriving so the newsletter is a way of reminding what services we have? Gone are the days that we have a shop, bakery, garage, dairy!! However in times of crisis we all pull together which is what happened during ‘covid’. Many contributed to giving a helping hand as and when and how they could with all the restrictions in place. One such service was regarding prescriptions. Fortunately for us Dr Sheila Koehring with husband and daughter, used to live in Exton but eventually moved to Greetham. Sheila has continued what she started:

PRESCRIPTIONS PICK-UPS
We all need a little added help on occasion – particularly when we are ill or find it difficult to get out and about. During the pandemic and lock-downs, the surgeries, county and our villages organised prescription drop-offs from various surgeries in the region. Since the pandemic, Empingham Surgery dispensary and I decided to continue prescriptions runs to several villages due to a small, but consistent, need – it is a little thing we think can help. So, this is just a reminder that if you are in acute need due to illness or if you are just finding the run and wait that one-too-many things, there is a friendly volunteer service that runs weekly to help you out. The dispensary and I have it down pretty well and it may help to know the system we have organically created. So, here it is and I hope it is straightforward and easy enough as explained:
1. I run deliveries on Fridays (usually early-mid morning) from Empingham Medical Centre dispensary – every week. If you have prescriptions from Oakham or Stamford and are struggling, talk to me – we can arrange something!
2. The dispensary needs to know your order Tuesday for a Friday morning delivery. If you are talking to them, let them know that I’ll be picking it up. If you have a text or email from the dispensary that a prescription is ready and you would like me to collect it, call me (leave a message) or text by Thursday morning and I can add you to my list.
3. I will need your name and address – not only for delivery but that is what we use to verify that we have the right prescriptions. I do not look in bags or check what is there unless explicitly asked regarding something specific. It is your data, your medical care and I respect that.
4. I run the prescriptions around the village – as it warms up again, I will definitely be back to actually running them around. I will normally knock and hand deliver to
insure that you get the prescription and it is not damaged or lost. If you are not able, please let me know a safe place to leave it.

5. Plus, handing over the prescription means that you have a friendly face checking to make sure all is well – we all need that social interaction and it is part of that mid-western, little-village character of mine. But, I won’t make you chat!

Remember, you are not the only one and should not feel guilty for asking for a delivery. The dispensary knows we have not all bounced back since the lock-downs and that illness can make it difficult to get out. As for me, I would rather people use their time for more better social well-being rather than waiting in a queue at the surgery – especially in poor weather.

It can be the little things that help us all feel better – if you need me to regularly pick things up or on just the odd occasion (for a Friday), my number is 07931 260 839.

Sheila Koehring

There are several residents not in the best of health, undergoing treatment, with worrying appointments, etc. This is always a very upsetting time for them and their families; we wish you all the very best and hope that better times are on the way.

NEWSLETTERS

If you wish to receive the newsletter in digital format then please send me your email address; the list is confidential; conforming with Dara protection; only used in between newsletters occasionally if something important arises that would be useful for the residents to know.

Anybody may advertise in the newsletter for free. If you need help with the layout please just send the facts and I will do the rest. The Newsletter Editor is a voluntary role so please do not be too harsh if there are any errors which I do my best to avoid. The Parish Council supply the paper on which the newsletter is printed and the school print it for us. This is obviously a term time role, hence the need for cut off dates to be observed. Items arriving late usually require a revamp of the layout and this is time consuming so please be considerate. Also a reasonable amount of pages is required to be cost effective. Three ladies in the village collect from me and distribute the printed version to others who put it through your door!

PS I cannot include what I do not know!!!

CONTACT LIST Regularly included, this contains useful information – a who’s who’s for Exton! Any errors? Inform the Editor.
ENTERTAINMENT  Thanks to Mark Butterill, “Extonbury may be no more but it’s not the end of live music in Exton this summer. The following bands are playing in the beer garden of the Fox & Hounds with the pub providing a bbq: Watch out on Facebook and in Newsletters!

May 25th – DAZED & CONFUSED - Exton’s newest band kick off the Whit Bank Holiday with all the best 70’s and 80’s songs you thought you had forgotten.

July 27th – MANKY BEDS – four hugely popular guys with a set that spans the sixties right up to the new twenties, featuring Exton’s very own Gary Tyler.

August 31st – SMOKESTACK BLUES BAND – we close out the summer with the unstoppable blues rock outfit, veterans of festivals, bars, marquees and street corners throughout East Midlands.

Details will be confirmed later but no heavy charity messages, the plan is free entry, approx 5 – 9 pm [weather permitting], just a chance to relax with good food, great music and fabulous friends. “

Watch this space!!!!!

GOOD SAMARITAN
A frightening experience for a resident recently while about to pull out onto the Avenue early morning and waiting for an oncoming car. The vehicle was progressing quite slowly towards her, got past and then did a ‘flip’ landing on its side in the hedge/trees. May be ice? I am sure you will have seen the car now marked as ‘aware’.

Thank goodness for mobile ‘phones as she was able to ring for an ambulance. However she bravely approached the vehicle to see if she could ascertain the state of the driver. After a period of silence, unbelievably he finally was able to push the door open albeit up in the air, with her assisting from the ground, and jump/fall out. Only one lady driver going by offered help. Ambulances rarely come within minutes these days and it was about 45 I believe before they arrived. A scary time not knowing his injuries. How fortunate the driver was that Exton’s good Samaritan was in the right place at the right time.? We hope he is ok and applaud the actions of his Exton helper.

EASTER LILIES Anyone wishing to have lilies in the Church at Easter in memory of loved ones should contact Ann Bell 01572 812594
ST PETER AND ST PAUL PARISH CHURCH,

February Services
Sunday 11 February 11.15am Morning Service
Sunday 25 February 11.15am Holy Communion

From the Parish Church Registers:
Baptism 28 January – Kit, John, William - second son of Sophie and Guy Herbert.
Interment of Ashes – 26 January – Ursula Reeson.

Building Work
Please note that work has started in the Church to remove some of the pews in the south aisle. The church will remain open for visitors and services during this period but we do ask you to take extra care in the building. If it is necessary to close the Church for health and safety reasons we will post on the Church Benefice and Exton Village FB pages. (Church services will be unaffected).

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.

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
There will be no regular Sunday services.
However a Mass will be held on special feast days
the next of which will be Easter Sunday.
Friday Latin Mass at 7pm will continue unless prevented by bad weather.
EXTON & AND GREETHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL –
CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT EXTON CHURCH
It was a pleasure to welcome the Children and Staff to the Church on Tuesday 19 December for their Christmas Service which began their school celebration of ‘Christmas in a day!’ It was also a great pleasure to welcome many parents, siblings and grandparents to the Church.

It was opportunity to try out our new handheld microphone – which unfortunately didn’t want to work; however our new lectern mic was substituted and the children were heard – loud and clear. A lovely retelling of the Christmas Nativity with the accompanying carols. Thank you Mrs Davis too for your ‘angelic’ singing!

Many thanks also to the Church Team who provided and served the refreshments afterwards.

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). This year we were joined by more friends from the village which boosted our singing and was very much appreciated by the residents and staff at the Hotel. A lovely start to our Christmas celebrations and we are ‘booked’ in to sing again this year!
Many thanks to the Church for the loan of the carol sheets and to everyone who supported the ‘Exton Village Choir!’
SCAM TELEPHONE CALLS – 01572 818983???
I must admit to being surprised when answering a telephone call on my house phone with an 01572 code this week to find it was obviously a scam? It referred to purchases allegedly made on my account that might not be me, one for a small amount I think they said £4.49 and another for £700+ from Amazon? I immediately put the phone down without any discussion but wondered if anyone else has had similar calls. They usually have distant codes or 020/0300? I used the on line check ‘who has made this call’ and see other scam calls have been recorded with 01572 so BEWARE.

PANCAKES THIS MONTH

According to tradition, in 1445 a woman in Olney [Bucks], heard the ‘shriving bell’ while she was making pancakes and ran to the church in her apron, still clutching her frying pan. The Olney pancake race is now world famous. Competitors have to be local housewives and they must wear an apron and a hat or scarf. Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins). A bell would be rung to call people to confession.

Thanks to the school for printing the newsletter and the residents who deliver them.

Please note articles/adverts/for March need to be with the Editor by 18TH FEBRUARY either email to annetteoliver63@gmail.com Or deliver to 20 Stamford Road
OBITUARY

Sue Lesiakowski passed away peacefully on 12th January 2024; married to Ziggy for nearly 50 years, she was devoted to her family.

Sue made valuable contributions to the village of Exton during her lifetime, despite not always being in the best of health.

Only recently she had taken over the post as treasurer for the Exton indoor bowls club and was one of the founding group members that secured the play park in the village.

A funeral service will be held on Friday 2nd February 2024 at 12 noon at St. Peter & St. Pauls Church, Exton followed by a private burial.

Sue requested bright colours be worn.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to Versus Arthritis via Ford Funeral Directors, 10 Church Street, Oakham Rutland LE15 6AA. Tel 01572 722654

Our condolences to Ziggy and family. Sue will be much missed by all who knew her.
### Contacts

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<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Village Hall Secretary</td>
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<td>Rutland County Councillor [Exton &amp; Horn Ward]</td>
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<td>RC Priest Oakham Presbytery</td>
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<td>07973954552</td>
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<td>Playpark Warden</td>
<td>Jonathan</td>
<td>812153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweep</td>
<td>Kevin</td>
<td>01780 430287</td>
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<td>BUS: Call Connect</td>
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<td>BUS: 184</td>
<td>Blands</td>
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**DON’T FORGET EXTON INDOOR BOWLS TAKES PLACE IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SUNDAY EVENINGS 7 pm. Just turn up. Flat shoes needed but bowls can be borrowed. Have a free go! Enquiries: 01572 813413 or 812233**