

Signpost



Issue 65 - December 2020

Langer cum Barnstone Parish Newsletter

News from the Parish Council

In these testing times, your Parish Council continues to hold its monthly meetings, albeit in a virtual meeting space. In addition to examining and commenting on planning applications, your representatives have pressed on with two projects: the children's play area in Barnstone and the redevelopment of the village hall.

With assistance from residents during the planning stage and with financial support from the Landfill Communities Fund, a new play tower and swing have been built on the play area in Barnstone. End-user feedback has been extremely positive! The second phase will involve construction of a 'trim trail'. Unfortunately, these lovely new facilities have already been vandalised, with the lifting of the matting under the swing; the contractors have now remedied the damage.

Planning permission having been received from Rushcliffe Borough Council, the Parish Council has now

received three competitive quotes for the redevelopment of the village hall, and we have appointed Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) to assist with sourcing the necessary funding to complete this venture.

Also worthy of mention is the generous donation from John Deere Ltd for the purchase of a replacement bench on the grass verge outside St Mary's Church in Barnstone.

The Parish Council acknowledges the support of the Parish Clerk (Sharon Ellis), the Parish Litter-picker (Justina Harper) and the Parish Lengthsman (Luke Mazers) in keeping our villages in good order during these difficult times.

To finish, the Parish Council wishes all our residents a happy and peaceful Christmas.

If you know anyone that would like to receive a copy via email or print please contact langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com

New Barnstone Play Park

It all started with resident Stephanie Walker contacting the then Parish Clerk Claire Pegg, saying that she would like Barnstone to have a new and updated play park which could be modern, yet equally safe & fun.

Many meetings later, the Barnstone

This couldn't have been done without the very generous grant received from the Landfill Communities Fund.

We were hoping for an official opening, and wanted to invite representatives to this.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19, things have been delayed.

However, restrictions permitting, this is now planned for March 2021.

Fund-raising has now begun for Phase 2.

If you would like to be involved in this project, please contact me.

Sharon
Parish Clerk



Playground Committee was formed. After a lot of hard work, in October 2020, Phase 1 of the playground was completed.

I think everyone can agree that it has been a fabulous addition to the Village.



John Deere Bench



Hopefully by now you will have all seen the beautiful new bench, sitting proudly near the Church on Main Road, Barnstone.



This was very kindly donated by John Deere, in order to replace the worn-down one.

This was an extremely generous donation, and one which I'm sure will be used by residents for years to come. The original bench was presented to the parish by John Deere as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations in 1977. At the time, John Plowright was the Chairman of the Parish.



Barnstone resident Jason Stray has taken pity on the old bench, and is now painstakingly bringing it back to its former glory. Once restored, Jason is planning to place it at the allotments.



Ophelia & The Traders would like to wish
you all a safe & happy Christmas!
See you at Your Market Jan 22nd!!!

Langar Essential Village Market
10-2pm Every Friday
At The Unicorn's Head Pub, Langar
December 2020

4th
11th
18th
24th

GRANBY, BARNSTONE AND DISTRICT BRANCH



REMEMBRANCE SERVICES



This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to hold our usual Remembrance Service in the church. Instead a virtual Remembrance Service was compiled by Nick Perry and streamed online. Contributions to this broadcast were made by Andy Pulford, Phil Clarke, John Rainbow and I. A decision was made by the Wiverton Group of Parishes to hold one Service at the War Memorial in the grounds of St. John the Divine in Colston Bassett on Remembrance Sunday 8th November. Our Standard Bearer, Ken Kirk, and I attended the Service, along with other

representatives from the other churches within the wider Parish. I was able to read out the Roll of Honour, the Names of the Fallen, from Langar, Barnstone, Granby and Sutton for both World Wars and lay the wreaths for the Granby, Barnstone & District Branch of the RBL and for the Parochial Church Council for St. Andrew's, Langar. A wreath was also laid on behalf of

Granby cum Sutton Parish Council at All Saints, Granby by our Vice Chairman, John Rainbow, who is also Chairman on their Parish Council and this event was attended by some of our members.

Our Branch also felt it appropriate to hold a short Remembrance Service at the 207 Squadron Memorial on

Langar Airfield, in honour of the 251 aircrew that lost their lives on missions flown from there from September 1942 to October 1943. We wished to invite the Commanding Officer of the current 207 Squadron, now based at RAF Marham in

Norfolk to the event, but unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, he was unable to attend this year. However he did send a wreath and Andy Pulford agreed to lay it on his behalf. The event was planned to take place on Wednesday 11th November (Armistice Day). We made detailed plans to make the event Covid-secure and our Parish Clerk, Sharon and Parish Handyman



Luke Mazers worked hard to prepare everything for the event. Then, 13 days before the event was to take place the whole country went into another lockdown. There was uncertainty as to whether Remembrance events could take place this year. However, a few days later we had confirmation that they could take place, provided that they were outdoors and all participants and 'spectators' observed social distancing guidelines. The problem then was that the rules only mentioned Remembrance Sunday events and not events taking place on Armistice Day. We sought advice from a number of authorities only to find that some said that Remembrance Services on Armistice Day were allowed and others said they were not. We decided to press ahead in the belief that Armistice Day had been overlooked in the legislation. Eventually we were told at 9.40 am on the morning of 11th November that Remembrance Services on Armistice Day could proceed. We were thankful that we had made the decision to proceed when we did. The Service itself was led by Katharine Bacon, a lay reader in the Wiverton Parish. It was attended by 23 people and was quite poignant. I wish to thank everyone who took part in all the events commemorating Remembrance this year and enabling us to continue to remember all those who gave their lives from our community in conflicts.

We Will Remember Them.

Andrew Charlett
Branch Chairman



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A Comet over Langar & Barnstone

Comet C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE)

A distraction from the effects of the restrictions placed on us by COVID-19 was the visit of a comet over the parish. Comet NEOWISE put on a show as a naked-eye visible object in the middle of July. A comet new to science, it was first discovered on 27th March this year by the NASA Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer satellite, hence its name, NEOWISE.



The tomb of Reverend Edward Gregory, St Andrew's, Langar

The parish has much closer associations with another comet. On the evening of 8th January, 1793 the Rector of Langar, Edward Gregory, was viewing the night sky from the observatory at his rectory, now Langar House on Church Lane, Langar, when he found a fuzzy white object which wasn't on any of his star charts. After observing again over the next two evenings he realised this was a comet. He reported his sighting to the Astronomer Royal. Independently the comet was seen by a French astronomer, Pierre Mechain. The comet was originally named after both as Comet Gregory-Mechain but is now known as C/1793 A1 (Gregory). Unfortunately we won't see this comet as it is not on a course to return. Comet NEOWISE will return in 6,766 years time making this truly a once in a lifetime event for those who saw it. In case you were unable to see it here are a few photos taken between 10th and 20th July.



A close-up of the head of the comet showing the green colour of the comet. This is a cloud of gas 1 million kilometres across, inside of which is the nucleus of ice and dust some 5 kilometres across.

Nigel Wood



Comet NEOWISE over Langer School (above) and from Church Green, Langer (below)



Langar School

It will come as no surprise to hear that we have had a very busy term so far here at Langar Church of England Primary School. As a staff we were very clear that our main aim was to create a sense of normality and purpose on our return in September which was a tall order, coupled with the government expectations for social distancing, enhanced hygiene and cleaning and a range of other infection control measures as identified in risk assessments!

Children and families have had to familiarise themselves with new systems such as staggered start and end times to the day, the wearing of face coverings from adults when moving around the site, staggered break and lunch times so that classes (known as bubbles) do not mix and, for parents, much less face to face contact with staff. Staff have also had to get used to new ways of working.



Year 5/6 having a scavenger hunt for outdoor learning

The warm, family spirit that we have when our staff team come together has been challenged, with bubbles having to be kept separate therefore staff seeing each other less; our weekly staff meeting has felt vital for an opportunity to come together and find strength in each other. Our commitment to our school values,

genuine care for each other and the common aim we share to educate



Class 3 making Roman roads

Langar children as wholesome, rounded individuals has motivated and kept us energised during this very challenging time.

Our curriculum, and the learning experiences we have designed for the children have been kept as creative and engaging as ever. This term the children have all been learning topics centred around history with class 1 looking at their own personal history and how toys have changed, class 2 exploring the Great Fire of London, class 3 roaming with The Romans and class 4 looking at the period from Stone Age to Iron Age. These topics have been enhanced by the purchase of replica artefacts and book choices for English have deepened children's knowledge of the time period. We have planned some really exciting events for Christmas and advent. As we are unable to welcome our community

into church this year, we are going to be recording our nativity performance and sharing it via the Wiverton in the Vale YouTube channel. As with their online services we will set a time for its release

so



Year 1 cooking pizzas during enrichment afternoon

that our families can gather together and sense the community spirit as it is watched at the same time!

Carols Around the Tree has become somewhat of a tradition here with our very able and talented musicians really enjoying it as a chance to perform. As with the nativity we will turn this performance virtual this year. A playlist

will be created and shared in the video sharing part of our website for the whole community to enjoy. <https://langar-cofe-primary.primarysite.media/>

This year we are going to be more thoughtful with Christmas card giving as well as starting an initiative that shows respect and care for our environment. Children are invited to make one Christmas card at home for all their friends in our school, using any craft and art techniques they choose. This card can then be brought into the school office where it will be photographed and uploaded onto the school website along with a message of the child's choice. The cards will be looked at weekly in class. Money that would have been spent on boxes of cards is going to be donated to the four house charities – The Dogs Trust, Rainbows Hospice, The British Heart Foundation and Water Aid. If anyone in the community would like to send a card to the children and community of Langar Church of England Primary School, please send a card into the office and I will add it to the virtual post box on the website.

The support and gratitude of our community has gone a long way in keeping our spirits up as it shows us that you have sympathy for the demands and pressures we are working under as well as giving recognition to our unwavering enthusiasm and dedication to educating the young of Langar and the surrounding villages. For this, we are very grateful.

The largest pizza has a total surface area of 1,261.65 m² (13,580.28 ft²) and was prepared by Dovilio Nardi, Andrea Mannocchi, Marco Nardi, Matteo Nardi and Matteo Giannotte (all Italy) from NIPfood at Fiera Roma, in Rome, Italy, on 13 December 2012.

The pizza was named "Ottavia", a word of Roman origin for "eighth son".



Vale Arts Group - August 4th 2020.

It is hard to believe that Vale Arts Group has been running for four years now. The membership has risen and fallen as these things do, but we still have original members. We started out with eight of us and we have had membership right up at 23. Some stayed, some have moved on and left the area and sadly we have lost members due to ill health, but the interest is still there and we have even managed through part of 2020.

We had thought at the end of 2019 that we would have an exhibition in 2020 - this as everyone knows was not to be due to Corona virus/ COVID-19. We held out hope for June and the Langar cum

Barnstone Village Fair, sadly this was not to be either.

However, as the virus released it's tenacious grip, we made enquiries about using the hall and were told: 'Yes, but sanitising and following the restrictions and guidelines is paramount.' We can do that!

So in August of 2020 we took the bull by the horns, sent out emails to members and the response was incredible. We Socially Distanced and sanitised and generally behaved properly and re-opened the doors to our Artistic Members.

We had the opportunity to keep going until the last Tuesday in October with an average of six members attending weekly. We all enjoyed being back sharing chatter and Art. Painting, photography, lace making!

Sadly now we are all in the same situation as the Government has decreed a countrywide lockdown, so we had to close the doors on the Art Group! We will be waiting for information that informs us we can all get together again one day.

So, if you are an artist and would like to consider joining our Group of friendly if not a little crazy, like-minded people, please contact me: Gillian Clarke on 0194986105, or philigansgc@gmail.com. The annual subs are £1, the session fee (three hours on a Tuesday) is £2.





Project SEAL has now completed as much as it can of its investigations into the site of St Ethelburga's at Langar. Sadly the restrictions arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic have prevented a number of outreach events from taking place. We have however been able to fulfil the major requirements for our NLHF funding. These are:

1. Reinstate the site to protect the remaining archaeology.
2. Create an archive of retrieved finds for submission to a local museum.
3. Trained a number of volunteers in archaeological techniques
4. Product a report of our findings.

The report has been circulated to the Nottinghamshire County Archaeologist, the Nottinghamshire Community Archaeologist, Nottinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Record and the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Officer. The Nottinghamshire Community Archaeologist has made the following comments to Matt Beresford, the archaeologist who worked with us on the project:

***“The report looks very thorough and I think you and the group should be very satisfied with what you have managed to produce despite the very difficult circumstances and the dire mess that was inherited. Thank you for your perseverance with this. You have together produced the most detailed assessment of the archaeological potential of the site that I think was possible given the inherited circumstances and limitations of funding. In addition the wider landscape analysis is very helpful. I know it is frustrating knowing how much information was lost, but you have together given the site the best chance you can for ensuring its future protection and appropriate treatment.*”**

I agree with your (and Houldsworth's?) assessment that there is likely a stone or part-stone Roman era structure on the immediate site that was reused in later centuries. The loss of stratigraphic information is almost unbearable to contemplate with this regard; we suspect that a number of the early churches were built on, or immediately adjacent to, Roman villa type structures. But opportunities to actually investigate this are so few and far between. But I think you have enough material culture and circumstantial evidence that the hypothesis is entirely reasonable even without the stratigraphic data.”

Without further funding we will be unable to carry out our plan to field walk the surrounding area in addition to a geophysical survey to determine the presence of any potential Romano-British buildings and to define the boundaries of the churchyard.

I have uploaded a copy of “Refinding the Lost Church of St Ethelburga's, Langar, Nottinghamshire” in pdf format to the Langar cum Barnstone: Past Present & Future Facebook page. If you are unable to download it I would be happy to copy it to your own memory stick or CDR.

Project SEAL is pleased to express its gratitude for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Nigel Wood



Tarmac

Against the backdrop of a very challenging year, we thought we would spread some festive

spirit early in the local area. At the end of November our Production Manager Tim Hotchin and HR coordinator Niki Heath travelled around to seven local primary schools to deliver a Tarmac-sponsored Christmas tree,

some tree lights and some sweets. The schools are all within a few miles of our cement plant, where we also get into the Christmas mood with a tree on top of our Silo and outside the front of the site.



As well as our nearest school – Langar Primary School, the other schools now enjoying their trees are Orston Primary School, Cropwell Bishop Primary School, Hose Primary School, Harby Primary School, East Bridgford Primary School, Elston Primary School. Wishing all our neighbours a very Merry Christmas

and a safe and Happy New Year.

STEVE ODELL, TARMAC'S
BARNSTONE PLANT MANAGER



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NEVILE & LANGAR WARD NEWS

From Cllr. Tina Combellack Rushcliffe Borough Councillor for Hickling, Langar, Colston Bassett, Kinoulton, Upper Broughton, Hickling Pastures & Owthorpe



WISE - Waste Investigation, Support and Enforcement - Fly Tipping

As a result of scrutiny, Rushcliffe are to roll out a 6-month trial of Waste Investigations Support and Enforcement (WISE) which would be a cost-neutral solution to fly tipping where the Company retains income in relation to fixed penalty notices issued. Watch this space.

Play Grounds and Parks –

during lock down, play areas are to remain open but parents must not meet in groups of more than 2 and all children's hands should be sanitised before and after play.



Canal

The Grantham Canal has proved a vital source of leisure during the pandemic, however water levels have been falling and causing concern for all Rushcliffe residents not just those in villages served by the canal. The GCWRG (Grantham Canal Water regeneration Group) was set up to look into ways of increasing feed into the canal and reducing water loss through leaks and

excessive reed growth. We were therefore delighted to receive the following announcement from the Canal & Rivers Trust with whom we have been working.

Reed removal taking place on the Grantham Canal

We're starting works to tackle the problem of reed on the Grantham Canal. Water levels have been a particular problem on the Grantham this year - due in part to the dry spring and summer and the local ground conditions - and reed growth is making the problem worse, limiting the flow of water along the canal. Over the coming weeks we'll be clearing the reed growth at Hickling, Hose, Kinoulton, and Gamston to ease the situation at each site.

Trees – there has been an enormous demand for free trees this year.

Over 2000 trees are to be planted across Rushcliffe.

Can I put out a plea to everyone – like pets at Christmas – a tree is for life not just for a year.

We must conserve as well as plant trees.

We are only too happy to remove trees that are not classed as good specimens. Trees do not always grow uniformly but none the less they are habitats for wild life and help cleanse the air.

Look after your trees and enjoy them.



WE WILL HAVE A GOOD CHRISTMAS
SO

Don't let anyone hijack it.



Remembrance Day 2020

We may not be able to remember how we usually do in Rushcliffe this year, but please reflect on Remembrance Sunday at home. Mayor Cllr Sue Mallender, ...

*11th Day of the 11th month and
Remembrance Sunday*

*was a little different this year but none
the less memorable.*

*All the villages commemorated the event
in one way or another. The Borough
produced a video which can be seen at
<https://youtu.be/Phe2FzEbqyQ> and a
montage of events.*

Stay well, stay safe, stay happy and
have fun.

Cllr Tina Combellack

Cllr.tcombellack@rushcliffe.gov.uk

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A few words from the Patient Participation Group for Belvoir Health Group

For patients of Bingham, Cropwell Bishop & Cotgrave Health Centres

This newsletter was approved by BHG in early October.

Some details may have been superseded by later COVID-19 rules so always check.

Once again, massive thanks go to all staff of the local surgeries and pharmacies for the quality of care provided to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We all appreciate the hard work they have put in to keep things going as smoothly as possible for everyone. Please remember, if you attend the surgery for any reason, you **MUST** wear a face covering unless you are medically exempt.

Support for carers

A carer is someone who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of his or her illness, frailty, disability, mental health issues or an addiction. If this sounds like you then each surgery has a dedicated Carer's Champion who can help you access a range of advice and support services to make life easier for you and the person you care for. Contact your surgery reception desk and ask to be referred to the Carer's Champion. The service is confidential. Drop in sessions will resume as soon as possible.

Have you heard of social prescribers?

Social Prescribing is a service available within the Belvoir Health Group practices. Practices can refer patients to a Link Worker, exploring solutions around non-medical issues that underpin their health and well-being.

The service looks to enable patients to better manage their own health and to develop well-being solutions. This will include working closely with community resources as they begin to emerge post lockdown. In addition, the social prescriber will support the patient to produce a personalised plan to support and motivate changes in behaviour. These sessions are typically 30 minutes – 1 hour, allowing time to explore what matters to the individual, developing a partnership to achieve positive goals and changes to improve well-being.

This is primarily a surgery-based service, although currently due to COVID-19, all appointments are telephone or video call based. Going forward, the social prescribing service is looking for opportunities to develop this and offer alternatives, on a case-by-case basis, that are safe and follow guidelines. Importantly, this service is by referral only. The social prescribing team encourages anyone who feels they would benefit to discuss with staff within the Surgery team, this may include their GP, nurse or receptionist who can complete the referral.

Caitlyn Jones is the social prescriber for the Belvoir Health group.

Examples of reasons to engage with the social prescribing service may include:

- Social isolation/loneliness
- Assistance to access practical support e.g. benefits, financial, housing, employment
- Looking for support, guidance & motivation to make lifestyle changes (e.g. weight management/exercise advice)
- Being at risk of losing independence and quality of life (e.g. elderly)
- Poorly-managed long-term health conditions
- Mild-moderate mental health issues (e.g. stress/anxiety/low mood)




What if 2020 isn't cancelled?



What if 2020 is the year we've been waiting for?





A year so uncomfortable, so painful, so scary,
so raw — that it finally forces us to grow.

A year that screams so loud, finally awakening
us from our ignorant slumber.

A year we finally accept the need for change.

Declare change. Work for change. Become the
change. A year we finally band together, instead
of pushing each other further apart.

2020 isn't cancelled, but rather the most
important year of them all.

Leslie Dwight

Holiday From Home

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DECEMBER 2020



-  Choose your own route and distance - 3, 5 or 10k (or further if you want to!)
-  Put on your Santa suit and run, walk, skip, jump, or jog your way to help raise funds for Dove!

REGISTRATION INFO

Santa suits and a festive medal are included in your registration fee as usual, along with a free gift for children and a hot drink* for every Adult Santa.

Register before November 30th to guarantee delivery of your suit by 1st December.

Adults & Children aged 13 years+ = £10

Children (ages 4 - 12) = £5


Family (2 Adults and up to 3 Children) = £25

Visit **www.dovecottage.org** for more info and to register

All donations received will help more families living with life-limiting illnesses to receive the care and support they deserve.



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*Voucher can be exchanged for a hot drink at our Station tea-room.