

Steve and the whole Signpost Team would like to wish local parishioners and readers worldwide a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Special thanks go to our advertisers, volunteers and donators who all help get Signpost to you each month.



Normanby-by-Spital, Saxby, East & West Firsby, Spridlington, Glentham, Caenby and Bishopbridge.

#### THIS MONTH'S MINISTRY LETTER

Climate change is big news at present with demonstrations taking place in various cities in our country as well as those overseas, Most of the demonstrators are youngsters, the ones that climate change will affect most. None of us want to live in a world with extremes of weather, storms, flooding, droughts causing harvests to fail and people to starve, but this is happening now. Our future generations may never see the glory of flowers or the majesty of a tree, or hear the lovely sound of a babbling brook with crystal clear waters. The world's wildlife is in crisis and never to see a wild hare, deer, bees or beautiful butterflies, does not bear thinking about. Look what happened to Easter Island!

God created such a wonderful beautiful planet for us but piece by piece we are taking it apart. Why? Greed? No, I think mainly just thoughtlessness. Do we really need big fuel guzzling cars? Do we really need to cut down forests or jump on planes to get us to meetings, holidays etc.

I have heard people say that they welcome climate change as they like the clement weather we are having in November! I can understand this as I sit with the sun shining through our picture window. But we need to think of our children, children's children, and their children and so on. They are our future and they deserve a future with the glories of the natural world which we have enjoyed.

God has fully provided for us on this earth. He has given us the wind, the waves and the sun. He has also given us the skill to harness the wind, waves and to use the sun to provide us with green energy. Thank goodness, some of us are beginning to recognise this and want to stop the catastrophe which is waiting to happen.

As we approach this Christmas season, beloved by children especially, we need to think of the real reason for Christmas. The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, our Saviour, our Brother. Christmas is the season of peace and good will to all men, let's make that to the planet as well.

May God bless you with a peaceful and happy Christmas and a forward thinking joyful New Year.

Liz Harris

#### VISITING LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

The Owmby Group have two complimentary passes for Lincoln Cathedral. If you would like to borrow them please contact Cathy Andrews on 01673 861058

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#### The deadline for entries to the February 2022 Signpost is Saturday the 15th of January 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke, Chapter 2, Verse 10

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## HACKTHORN & COLD HANWORTH

#### HACKTHORN C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are always proud of our pupils at Hackthorn. They are, after all, what makes our school such a special and rewarding place to be. Our 'Hackthorn Way' values underpin everything we do at school and the value of Respect has been particularly evident recently.

This morning the whole school attended a Remembrance service at the war memorial with local residents. The children enthusiastically sang 'Pack up your troubles' and 'It's a long way to Tipperary' before breaking into a two part harmony at the start of the service. They then participated in the service in a respectful manner. The eldest and youngest child laid the wreath on behalf of the parish council.

This week we had our pre-school Autumn arts and craft afternoon and it was wonderful to see our Key Stage 1 pupils interacting with the younger visitors. There was such a lovely atmosphere as they played alongside each other. If you are still wondering where to send your child to school next September, but haven't managed to get to any of our activity afternoons so far, don't worry, do try and come to our Christmas Activity Afternoon on 13th December from 13:30 - 14:30. Make sure you ring to book your place.

Friends of Hackthorn School will be running our winter fayre on 29th November at 3:30 - 4:45pm. We hope to have the usual stalls and the event will culminate with the children singing some popular Christmas songs.

This year's Key Stage 1 Nativity will be on the afternoon of the 9th December. Call us if you would like to come and see it.

Our Carol Service will hopefully be held in the Church on 17th December at 2pm. All are welcome, but get there early if you want a seat as it's always a busy one.

Key Stage 2 pupils have been practising for Young Voices. They will be travelling to Sheffield Arena on 5th January to perform with 5000 other young people and professional musicians, singers and dancers. They are already extremely excited about the event.

If you would like to know more about our school then ring 01673 860295 to arrange a visit or to request a School Brochure, or visit www.hackthorn.lincs.sch.uk.

Mrs Appleby - Headteacher

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# Festive Music and Carols with Cabra Singers

at Hackthorn Church

on Saturday 11th December at 7.00 pm

Adults : £5.00 Children: £2.00

• Mince pies, nibbles and wine • Raffle

Tickets: 01673 861698 or clarewallis@btinternet.com

In aid of Cabra Singers, Hackthorn Church and SHELTER

Although there will be some lighting, the path from the car park to the church can be dark so a torch is useful.

"Everything that happens happens as it should, and if you observe carefully, you will find this to be so." – Marcus Aurelius



Signpost

## **SPRIDLINGTON**

## St Hilary's Church

Christmas Coffee Morning

With Sherry and Mince Pies

Wednesday 15th December at 10:30 a.m. Alde Felde Farm, Spridlington Road, Faldingworth By kind invitation of Caroline and Peter Wells

> Raffle • Bring & Buy Stall Proceeds to St Hilary's Church Funds Do come along and join us, you will be very welcome

## St Hilary's Church Parish Breakfast

We will be celebrating the Patronal Festival of St Hilary at an 8.30am Service of Morning Prayer on Sunday 16th January 2022 which will be followed by breakfast in the Village Hall.

All most welcome

(Please telephone Claire on 861127 for catering purposes if you would like to join us for breakfast)

#### SPRIDLINGTON VILLAGE HALL - CLOTHING RECYCLING BANK

Spridlington Village Hall Committee is pleased to announce that we now have a clothing recycling bank situated in the village hall car park discreetly sited on the left-hand side of the building as you come through the gates.

As everyone is aware, the last 18 months have been very hard on village halls. As a direct result of the COVID restrictions we have (almost certainly permanently) lost both of our regular weekly bookings, which means we will soon be struggling to pay the bills. Astco, the Alford-based company that has provided the bank, will pay us 30p for every kilo donated, which doesn't sound like a lot but could add up to a useful amount over a year.

With this in mind, the Committee very much hopes that residents of Spridlington and surrounding villages will consider this a useful service (no more having to drive to Welton or Lincoln to recycle) and a way of helping to keep our lovely village hall viable.

We would be very grateful to receive your unwanted clothing, handbags, belts, and shoes. (However, please do not place any rags, carpets, rugs, blankets, towels, sheets etc in the bank).

Thank you for your support.

"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty." – Mahatma Gandhi.

Poppy seeds



The sky quickly cries tears of poppy seeds, Real tears let them grow. It weeps and weeps and weeps, Letting everyone know, That not everyone made it out alive. But this just goes to show, That even now, we still respect, And even now, we never forget, Those who helped us win the war. And now, We fight no more.

They trudged through the trenches, Some boots were lost. As the murky, brown water swallowed them, Their life was held at a cost.

> They were tortured and killed, It destroyed some builds. But we show our respect, And they are rebuilt.

Not today, Not tomorrow. But even now, Soldiers still drown in sorrow.

Like long, rotted carrots, Suffering a "snap, Crash, Crunch " Hearing cries around them, "Oh they were a heroic bunch ".

By Eleanor. D - Endeavour Class

Eleanor's Poem. See Owmby PC News on page 11

Signpost

## NORMANBY & OWMBY

#### NORMANBY-BY-SPITAL PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council held a Parish Council Meeting on the 8th of November at 7.30pm in the Bottle & Glass Public House. As the pub is closed for business on Tuesdays this will now become the new regular meeting venue for future Council meetings. We are pleased to advise that the Council welcomes three new Councillors to their ranks: Cllr Gavin Widdison, Cllr John Moulson and Cllr Ruth Elliott. The Council voted unanimously for Cllr Gavin Widdison to take the vacant Chair position due to his experience at a previous Parish Council. Cllr Tracey Firth was also voted unanimously to be Vice-Chair.

The evening was a positive step forward to bringing change to the village. This Council is looking forward to a more successful collaboration with neighbouring Owmby Parish Council for the benefit of their shared village assets and working with West Lindsey District Council.

Our Council welcomes resident participation at their meetings. Please feel very welcome to attend the next meeting on the **7th of December at 7.30pm**. For any queries you may wish to raise, please contact us by email: nbyspc@gmail.com or contact our Chair - Cllr Gavin Widdison on 07957 933776

We say farewell to Cllr Angie Hanson, Cllr David Barton-Smith, Cllr John Goodchild, and Cllr Tony Watson and thank them for their service to this Council.

The Community Park Committee are holding a living Advent Calendar Windows event from the 1st to the 25th of December and we hope that villagers of Normanby and Owmby enjoy this event. There is also a Christmas Jumper Walk being held on 12th December, come along in your jumper and be part of the community. All funds raised go towards the Community Park. Normanby-by-Spital Parish Council wish all residents of our villages a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

On behalf of Normanby by Spital Parish Council

### FESTIVE COMMUNITY WALK SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER

Meet at 10:30 am outside Bopttle & Glass

Join us for a walk around the villages of Normanby and Owmby in your Christmas jumper! One mile route for adults, children, dogs and horses all welcome to dress up with a festive theme.

Tickets £4 for Adults £1 for children over 10/ Under's Free Event includes hot drink and mince pie and Carol Singing

TICKETS ON SALE IN NORMANBY SHOP

ALL FUNDS RAISED ARE IN AID OF THE COMMUNITY PARK



#### OWMBY BY SPITAL PARISH COUNCIL NEWS "We Remembered"

On 11th November the villagers of Owmby by Spital and Normanby by Spital gathered at the war memorial to remember the fallen.

The event was well supported, and several villagers took part in the proceedings. Armistice Day is such an important day and means different things to different people. There were people of all age groups from different back grounds - both military and civilian all showing their respect.

The Exhortation was given by Robin Craven-Griffiths, the names of the fallen were read by children from the school along with a beautifully written poem by Eleanor D from the Endeavour class. A poem was also read by Julie Haycraft in memory of those that have fallen in more recent wars. The Last Post and Reveille were excellently played by Bridget. A wreath was laid by Cllr Graham Crompton Howe on behalf of both Parish Councils. A further wreath was laid by villager Eileen Christie who explained the reason for this as follows:

"This wreath is in memory of an uncle I never met. He died aged 21 and one day with 1,414 other seamen when HMS Hood was sunk in the north Atlantic in May 1941. There were only 3 survivors. I dedicate this wreath to all the men and women who have perished at sea while serving their country - from the Air Force, the Army, the Merchant Navy, the Royal Navy and civilians. You are remembered."

Thank you to all who attended and took part

Julie

Clerk to Owmby by Spital Parish Council





## Windows in Normanby & Owmby Starting 1<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER



Every day between the 1<sup>st</sup> -December - 25<sup>th</sup> December a different window will be revealed to the public. Christmas Booklet\* with Daily Clues to Locations & Map on Sale 30<sup>th</sup> November onwards in Normanby Village Store

\*FEE PAYABLE - ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE COMMUNITY PARK FUND

¥ &	LATEST WHIST DRIVE RESULTS			
1st Lady	Liz Fraser	2nd Lady	Marilyn Coles	
1st Gent	Anne Turnbull	2nd Gent	Neville James	
Low Score	June Kettlewell Janet Andrew	Near Score	June Kettlewell Neville James	
Raffle	Liz Fraser June Kettlewell	Miniature	Richard Harrison Dawn Cowperthwaite	
Our next Whist Drive - our Christmas Festive Whist - will be on <b>Wednesday 15th December</b> at the home of Neville & Shirley James, Kippen, Front Street, Normanby. We start at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to join us, please contact Shirley on 01673 878525. You would be most welcome.				

### Normanby Educational Charity If you are resident in Normanby and have children up to the age of 25 in full time education please read on:

Normanby Educational Charity is a fund which is paid out annually and available to all students, up to the age of 25 years old, resident in Normanby by Spital\* The fund is not means tested but students must be in full time education and resident in Normanby by Spital, irrespective of where they are educated.

Application should be sent to me at the address below and include the following: Names and addresses of the applicants, their ages and which year they are in at school. Also please state the date they became residents in Normanby by Spital or started school if it was after October 2020.

Note that all students over the age of 16 must make the written application themselves giving their date of birth and brief details of where they are studying, the year they are in and the subjects being taken.

To help with the allocation of funds, please ensure that all the above information requested is include in your application.

Applications must be received by Saturday 4th December 2021 at the latest. Unfortunately, applications received after this date may not be accepted as the allocations have to be prepared in time for the Meeting of the Trustees.

Please may I remind you that all students, even those who have received a payment in previous years, must re-apply. Please send your applications to: Mrs Gariff, 1 Chapel Lodge Drive, Normanby by Spital, LN8 2HR.

\*Please note due to the terms of the Trust only students, resident in Normanby by Spital are eligible to apply. If you are interested in finding out more about the bequest that was made in 1777, for the education of the children of Normanby by Spital, there is a plaque in Normanby by Spital Church. The plaque can be found above the arch on the bell tower wall, commemorating the benefactor and the original terms of her bequest.

## The Royal British Legion

This year's British Royal Legion Poppy appeal in Owmby-by-Spital raised an incredible £236.17. I would like to thank all those that contributed to this worthy cause. Jean Rush





SERVICES IN DECEMBER				
		<b>OWMBY GROUP CHURCHES</b>		
<b>Sunday 5th</b> Advent 2		Holy Communion with Carols Evening Prayer	Spridlington Owmby	AW LH
<b>Sunday 12th</b> Advent 3		Carol Service Carol Service	Hackthorn Glentham	SK RR
<b>Sunday 19th</b> Advent 4	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Glentham	FR
Friday 24th Christmas Eve	1	Crib Service / Christingle Midnight Service	Owmby Hackthorn	LH JFS
Saturday 25th Christmas Day	10.00 am	Christmas Day Holy Communion	Spridlington	TBC
Sunday 26th 1st of Christmas	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Hackthorn	TBC
On Sunda	<b>ay 12th</b> a 'Su	unday Special' Sunday School will be held at (	Owmby at 10.30 an	n.

On **Sunday 12th** a 'Sunday Special' Sunday School will be held at **Owmby at 10.30 am**. Contact Liz Harris for further details. (Info is on the back cover). Please note, this is **not** a Service.

#### GLENTHAM METHODIST CHURCH (PART OF THE WOLDS & TRENT CIRCUIT) Sunday 5th 10.30 am Don Owen

Sunday 5th	10.30 am		Don Owen
Sunday 12th	6.00 pm	United Carol Service at the Parish Church	
Sunday 19th	10.30 am		Jane Lloyd
Sunday 26th		No Service	
Sunday 20th			

#### **PRAYER FOCUS FOR DECEMBER**

Our Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer; that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Frank Colquhoun (The Book of a Thousand Prayers)

#### A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O God, we thank you for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our distracted world. Give peace among nations, peace in our land, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, as we remember the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Worship Now (The Book of a Thousand Prayers)

#### **ST PETER'S CHURCH, GLENTHAM**

There were 72 winners in the West Lindsey Community lottery in the four weeks up to the 13th of November, two of these are supporters of St Peter's Church so thank you again to all supporters. There will be an additional prize draw of £1,000 worth of Decathlon vouchers in the draw on the 1st of January so best of luck to all. At this time of the year St Peter's Church have joint services with the Glentham Methodist Chapel. The next is a carol service at the church at 6pm on Sunday the 12th of December and the final one is a Covenant service at the chapel at 6pm on Sunday the 9th of January. All are welcome to both services.

Robert Rowe, Churchwarden, St Peter's Church.

		SERVICES IN JANUARY		
		OWMBY GROUP CHURCHES		
Sunday 2nd		Holy Communion	Spridlington	FR
Epiphany		Evening Prayer	Owmby	LH
Sunday 9th		Morning Prayer	Hackthorn	SK
Baptism of Christ		Covenant Service	Glentham	TBC
Sunday 16th	0.0 0	Patronal Festival	Spridlington	TBC
Epiphany 2		Holy Communion	Glentham	AW
Sunday 23rd		Family Service	Owmby	LH
Epiphany 3		Holy Communion	Hackthorn	TBC
Sunday 30th Presentation of Christ	11.00 am	Group Holy Communion	Hackthorn	WDC

On **Sunday 9th** a 'Sunday Special' Sunday School will be held at **Owmby at 10.30 am**. Contact Liz Harris for further details. (Info is on the back cover). Please note, this is **not** a Service.

#### **GLENTHAM METHODIST CHURCH (PART OF THE WOLDS & TRENT CIRCUIT)**

Sunday 2nd	10.30 am	Local Arrangement
Sunday 9th	6.00 pm	United Covenant Service at the Parish Church
Sunday 16th	10.30 am	No Service
Sunday 23rd	10.30 am	Rev Heather Wilson
Sunday 30th		No Service

#### NEW YEAR PRAYER

O Lord, as the years change, may we find rest in your eternal changelessness. Help us to meet this new year bravely, in the faith that, while life changes all around us, you are always the same, guiding us with your wisdom and protecting us with your love; through our Saviour Jesus Christ. *William Temple (A Book of a Thousand Prayers)* 

#### **Promoting A Safer Church**

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in church activities is important to us all in the Owmby Group of Parishes.

If you have any concerns please contact one of the following:

#### **Owmby Group Safeguarding Officer:**

Shirley Keyes - 07919 519308 - shirley.keyes@outlook.com

#### **Diocesan Safeguarding Officer:**

Jack Redeyoff - 07885 999907 - safeguarding@lincoln.anglican.org

**Glentham Chapel Safeguarding Contacts:** Sheena Grebby - 01673 878578

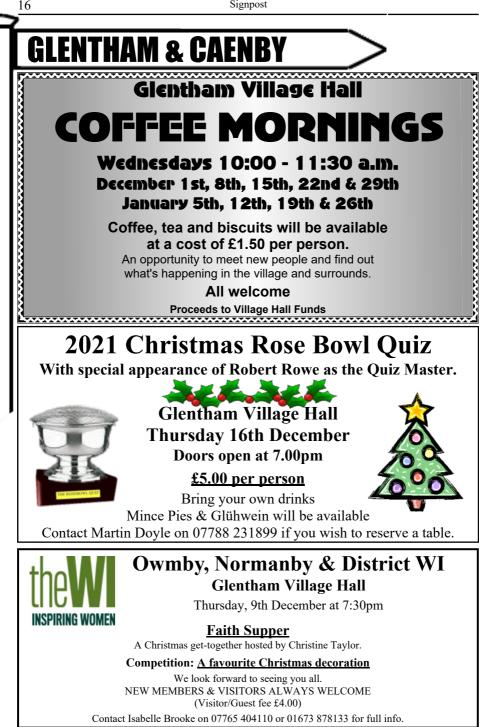
Wolds and Trent Circuit Safeguarding Representative:

Karen Elvidge - 07754 533542 - wtsafeguarding@gmail.com

Ministers for Wolds and Trent Circuit:

Rev Heather Wilson - 01673 843362 & Rev Louise Carr - 01427 615184

**District Safeguarding Officer (Safeguarding in Lincolnshire):** Howard Smedley - 07758 239286 or 01636 815319 Signpost





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Sunday:	Closed all day		

#### Lunchtime closing: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Morning newspapers delivered to: Glentham, Bishop Norton, Normanby, Owmby, Spridlington, Hackthorn.

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## **SURROUNDING AREAS**



#### 25 years old & still going strong

Join us on **Thursday 2 December 2021** at Welton Village Hall when we celebrate our "25th Anniversary". This event will commence at 10.15am (refreshments available from 9.45am) when there will a presentation of a "Special 25th Anniversary Certificate" & the cutting of a Celebration Cake by Jean Hogg who is a Trustee for East Midlands u3a. The meeting will then continue with a talk on "Lincolnshire Customs and Traditions" by Tom Lane, concluding by midday.

The January meeting will, as usual, take place on the 1st Thursday in the month at Welton Village Hall :-<u>Thursday 6 January 2022</u> - Speaker Steve Lovell. His topic will be "*Cuba: It's Time To Salsa*". The meeting will start at 10.30am with refreshments available from 9.45am. It will end by midday.

A note for your diary - there won't be the regular monthly Coffee Morning in December so the next one will be held on <u>Thursday 27 January 2022</u> at Scothern Garden Centre at 10.15am. If you wish to attend can you please let me know at least one day before. Do come along & enjoy a chat with friends.

Many of the groups are up & running or starting again in January 2022 ie Architecture, Art, Bird Watching, Book Worms, Bridge, Circle Dancing, Computers for All, Family History, Gardening, Jewellery Making, Knitting, Luncheon Club, Paper Craft, Play Reading, Poetry Reading, Theatre Visits & Walking. Full details of all of these & full details about Lindsey u3a can be found on our website www.lindseyu3a.org.uk - Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thankfully after all the problems we have had since March 2020, Lindsey u3a is now back & running so can I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas & a much better New Year in 2022.

Mandy Murphy - Chairman u3a Lindsey - mandy.murphy1396@gmail.com - 01673 565295

#### The deadline for entries to the February 2022 Signpost is Saturday the 15th of January 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

#### WELTON VILLAGE LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB

I'm pleased to report a very successful start to our Saturday morning opening which is already proving popular. As an added attraction we will be arranging a book sale on Saturday 4th December between 10am and 12noon giving you the chance to purchase some of the books that have kindly been donated to us to sell for library and community hub funds. Our charges will be very reasonable at 20p for paperbacks and 50p for hardbacks so plenty of bargains to be had. It will also be an opportunity for you to bring books along that you might wish to donate for this or future sales, in fact we hope it will be an event on the good old bring and buy principal. Tea and coffee will be available at a small charge, with biscuits or mince pies for those wishing to partake.

For youngsters on Mondays during December children's storytime at 2:30pm is Christmas themed.

I am sure that a good number of enthusiastic readers will be wishing to borrow books in time for the Christmas and New Year period in case their presents won't be quite sufficient to keep them amused and entertained. So please be aware that our last day of opening will be on Monday 20th December 2021 and that we will re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2022, book borrowing times will be extended over this period.

Best wishes to all library members and particular thanks for your support and positive comments since or re-opening. From all our volunteers, we send season's greetings and hope that everyone will have a happy, healthy and peaceful holiday period.

Mike Hubbert - Library Volunteer Coordinator

#### WELTON PATIENT AND DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

The Christmas lunch is being held on Friday 3rd December in Welton Village Hall and we are now fully booked. The meal will comprise orange juice, roast turkey with all the usual trimmings, a choice of Christmas pudding with brandy sauce or trifle and followed by tea or coffee and mints. There will also be Christmas crackers to add to the festive atmosphere. There will be a cake stall (donated cakes appreciatedplease see note in bold below) a raffle and again prizes gratefully accepted, a table selling books and Christmas cards, a fruit cake for auction and small Christmas cakes for sale. The children's choir from St Mary's school will be coming along to sing to us. Please arrive to be seated by 11.30am.

NB with the passing of Natasha's Law which came into force on 1st October, if anyone donates a cake, we will need a full list of ingredients either on a separate piece of paper if the cake is unwrapped or attached to the wrapping if the cake is wrapped. This will also apply to the cakes we have on sale.

The draw for the Christmas raffle will take place on Monday 13th December. If anyone would like to buy tickets for £1 a book but can't get out to buy them, please let me know and I'll sort something out! At the time of writing this article we have prizes worth over £1300 promised with more still to come in.

The top prize is an Apple 10.2" 32gb iPad which was very kindly donated by Simon Carter of SCIS computer services. Other prizes so far include a 2-night hotel stay for 2 people donated by Chestnut Homes, a 4-ball round of golf donated by Market Rasen Golf Club, a rattan patio furniture set donated by Beal Homes, a Christmas hamper, £50 Marks and Spencer vouchers, admission for family to Doddington Hall and Gardens, an MOT at Bathurst Motors, £40 Sunday lunch voucher for the Bottle and Glass at Normanby by Spital, vouchers for Mark Jeffs, Natureland and Skegness Aquarium and a box of Pipers Crisps plus lots of other prizes. Don't forget you have to be in it to win it!

Could I remind everyone needing transport to request it via the Health Centre, if at all possible, please? I know how busy the lines are at the moment but I have to wait in the queue as well! There is a driver each day allocated to Health Centre appts. Ask at the reception desk when you make your appointment and you will be added to the transport list. All other requests are sent through to me via a secure database for me to allocate a driver. The more notice you can give, the better.

The Autumn Fayre, which took place on 30th October raised a total of £1154.60 after deduction of expenses. Thank you to all who attended or contributed in any way.

If you require any further information on any of the above don't hesitate to give me a call (862570). Janet Goddard

"Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except the best." - Henry Van Dyke





including ZIPS REPLACED. TROUSERS, DRESSES SLEEVES etc SHORTENED.

> CALL KAY 01673 878738 07951 414631

#### THE RASEN BEES AND OTHER ANIMALS

By Tony Trevor

Lincolnshire being a farming county, it was only natural that agriculture should feature in lessons at the modern school. Home grown veg was sold to the town shops, several pigs were reared through the years, but the real success story belongs to the bees. In 1938, teacher John Houlton decided to bring this innovative idea of beekeeping to the school, and it was run entirely by the pupils who became shareholders in the enterprise. Does that ring any bells with anyone?

Innovative it must have been, because the BBC sent for representatives from the school during WW2 to take part in two live radio interviews. There was even an article in a Canadian newspaper 'The British Colonialist' telling how it all came about.

The whole operation went along smoothly for over two decades, most years raking in a tidy profit. I was there on the day, the TV people from the 'Tonight' programme turned up to do a piece on the bees around 1960. It all seemed rather exciting at the time, but surprisingly it spelled the end for this amazing enterprise!

Sadly the powers that be after viewing the piece decided that there was too much risk involved, particularly to girls; maybe someone had suffered an allergic reaction to a sting, but something had persuaded the authority that beekeeping at the school had to g0. Then there was the chicken. Well the story surrounding the chicken was due to one of the teachers sending two boys to the local market to buy one for him. An ex- army Major Donald 'Pop' Leach taught at the school for around 20 years, taking up his post after WW2 and it was not unusual for him to send pupils into town to shop for him. It was unusual however for the boys to return from such a trip with a real live chicken in tow! After the purchase it was usually sent to that hen coop in the sky before leaving the market, but for some reason not this time. So it was left to Pop to do the honours.

He caught some lads playing conkers when they should have been otherwise engaged. His response was to challenge one of the boys to a game. Pop won, but the loser a friend of mine, is adamant that he threw the contest. He took a group of visiting teachers by surprise, when he entered the woodwork room where they were gathered, and without uttering a word, proceeded to cut a coconut in two on the circular saw and left as silently as he came.

For a while he owned a blue Rolls Royce Cabrolet. This car was purchased from the 'Exchange and Mart'; a magazine that sold everything you could imagine, yes, even Rolls Royces. It had, it would seem, seen better days. Its days as far as Pops ownership was concerned came to an end when a wheel detached itself from its moorings whilst a relative was driving into Lincoln. (No-one was hurt) And it was replaced by a Vanden Plas, much to the families relief. But with there being so much kudos attached to owning one, Pop still managed to make a decent profit when selling it on.

Sadly he died much too soon, following a freak accident whilst out fishing at a local pond. I wonder if I have invoked some memories. He was a good teacher and a larger than life character and it doesn't hurt to have a few of those around.

My thanks to Rachael, Donald's daughter, who gave me permission to write about him for a book, telling the story of Market Rasen Secondary Modern, where this article is taken from.

#### If you have news, an article or story, or are holding an event you feel would be of interest to other local residents, please contact Steve, the editor.

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." – Marie Curie

### **POETRY**

#### The Owl and The Pussy Cat by Edward Lear

The owl and the pussy cat went to sea In a beautiful pea-green boat. They took some honey and plenty of money Wrapped up in a five pound note. The owl looked up to the stars above, And sang to a small guitar, 'O lovely Pussy! O Pussy my love, What a beautiful Pussy you are, You are, You are! What a beautiful Pussy you are!

Pussy said to Owl 'You elegant fowl! How charmingly sweetly you sing! O let us be married! Too long we have tarried: But shat shall we do for a ring?' They sailed away for a year and a day, To the land where the Bong-Tree grows, And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood, With a ring at the end of his nose, His nose, His nose! With a ring at the end of his nose.

Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling Your ring?' Said the Piggy, ' will' So they took it away, and were married next day By the turkey who lives on the hill. They dined mince, and slices of quince, Which they ate with a runcible spoon; And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand They danced by the light of the moon, The moon, They danced by the light of the moon

Sent in by Liz Harris

#### THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

#### Be Like a River

"A river never passes the same place twice," says a philosopher. "Life is like a river," says another philosopher, and we draw the conclusion that this is the metaphor that comes closest to the meaning of life. Consequently, it is always good to remember during all the year to come:

• We are always doing things for the first time. While we move between our source (birth) to our destination (death), the landscape will always be new. We should face these novelties with joy, not with fear – because it is useless to fear what cannot be avoided. A river never stops running.

• In a valley we walk slower. When everything around us becomes easier, the waters grow calm, we become more open, fuller and more generous.

• Our banks are always fertile. Vegetation only grows where there is water. Whoever comes into contact with us needs to understand that we are there to give the thirsty something to drink.

• Stones should be avoided. It is obvious that water is stronger than granite, but it takes time for this to happen. It is no good letting yourself be overcome by stronger obstacles, or trying to fight against them – that is a useless waste of energy. It is best to understand where the way out is, and then move forward.

• Hollows call for patience. All of a sudden the river enters a sort of hole and stops running as joyfully as before. At such moments the only way out is to count on the help of time. When the right moment comes the hollow fills up and the water can flow ahead. In the place of the ugly, lifeless hole there now stands a lake that others can contemplate with joy.

• We are one. We were born in a place that was meant for us, which will always keep us supplied with enough water so that when confronted with obstacles or depression we have the necessary patience or strength to move forward. We begin our course in a soft and fragile manner, where even a simple leaf can stop us. Nevertheless, as we respect the mystery of the source that gave us life, and trust in eternal wisdom, little by little we gain all that we need to pursue our path.

• Although we are one, soon we shall be many. As we travel on, the waters of other springs come closer, because that is the best path to follow. Then we are no longer just one, but many – and there comes a moment when we feel lost. However, "all rivers flow to the sea." It is impossible to remain in our solitude, no matter how romantic that may seem. When we accept the inevitable encounter with other springs, we eventually understand that this makes us much stronger, we get around obstacles or fill in the hollows in far less time and with greater ease.

• We are a means of transportation. Of leaves, boats, ideas. May our waters always be generous, may be always be able to carry ahead everything or everyone that needs our help.

• We are a source of inspiration. And so, let us leave the final words to the Brazilian poet, Manuel Bandeira:

"To be like a river that flows silent through the night, not fearing the darkness and reflecting any stars high in the sky."

Paulo Coelho

If you have a story you think would be suitable for "Thought For The Month", please send it to the editor.



LOCAL BUS TIMETABLES				
Welton to Lincoln Mondays to Fridays school	lays	Lincoln to Welton Mondays to Fridays schooldays		
11 - Simplibus operated by Stagec		11 - Simplibus operated by Stageco		
Glentham, opp The Crown Inn	07:30	Lincoln Central Bus Station (Bay C)	17:20	
Normanby by Spital, adj Church	07:34	Welton Black Bull Inn (NE-bound)	18:00	
Owmby by Spital, adj The Paddock	07:36	Hackthorn, adj Village Lane End	18:03	
Saxby, opp Village Lane End	07:38	Hackthorn, opp War Memorial	18:06	
Spridlington, at Bus Shelter	07:41	Spridlington, opp Bus Shelter	18:09	
Hackthorn, opp Village Lane End	07:44	Saxby, adj Village Lane End	18:12	
Hackthorn, opp War Memorial	07:47	Owmby by Spital, opp The Paddock	18:15	
Welton Black Bull Inn (NE-bound)	07:54	Normanby by Spital, opp Church	18:17	
Lincoln Central Bus Station (Bay C)	08:38	Glentham, opp The Crown Inn	18:23	
Waddingham - Lincoln Lincoln - Waddingham				
Wednesdays Only		Wednesdays Only		
162 operated by Stagecoach		162 operated by Stagecoach		
Waddingham, adj Marquis Of Granby PH	09:30	Lincoln Central Bus Station (Bay N)	13:30	
Snitterby, opp Royal Oak Inn	09:33	Ermine West, adj Ruckland Avenue	13:37	
Bishop Norton, opp St Peter's Church	09:38	Hackthorn, adj War Memorial	13:55	
Glentham, opp The Old Parsonage	09:43	Spridlington, opp Bus Shelter	14:03	
Normanby by Spital, opp Church	09:48	Owmby by Spital, opp Surgery	14:10	
Owmby by Spital, adj Surgery	09:52	Normanby by Spital, adj Church	14:12	
Spridlington, at Bus Shelter	09:57	Glentham, adj The Old Parsonage	14:17	
Hackthorn, opp War Memorial	10:05	Bishop Norton, adj St Peter's Church	14:22	
	10:18	Snitterby, adj Royal Oak Inn	14:27	
Ermine West, opp Ruckland Avenue	10.16			

#### **POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES**

Glentham	Monday	09:00 - 11:30
	Thursday	14:00 - 16:00
Normanby & Owmby 01673 878353	Monday - Friday	07:30 - 19:30
	Saturday	08:30 - 19:30
	Sunday	09:00 - 16:00

MOBILE LIBRARY				
Normanby by Spital	Council Houses	12:00 - 12:30	Thursdays	
Hackthorn	School	15:15 - 15:45	Dec 16	
Full details, enquiries and renewals: 01522 782010 Jan 13				

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Alcoholics Anonymous	01159 417100	Ingham	01522 730269
Anglian Water	08457 145145	Hibaldstow	01652 650580
British Rail	08457 484950	Market Rasen	01673 843556
Bus Enquiries	08456 050605	Test Results	01673 840256
Charities		Dispensary	01673 840254
Age Concern	01507 524798	Welton	01673 862232
Help the Aged	0808 8006565		
Royal British Legion	01673 860904	Environment Agency	0800 807060
Samaritans	08457 909090		
Alzheimer's Society	01522 692681	Hospitals	
WL Dementia Support	01427 613033	Lincoln	01522 512512
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LCC	01522 782070	Louth	01507 600100
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Rural Dean	Fr Richard Crossland	01522 754752
	ossland has overall responsibility for the Owmby Group during a vacar cerns please contact him: 07717 767879 - 01522 754752 - rector@a	
	OWMBY GROUP CONTACTS	
Safeguarding Officer	Shirley Keyes - shirley.keyes@outlook.com	07919 519308
Weddings, Funerals and Graveyard Enquiries	The Parish Administrator Rural Dean - Fr Richard Crossland	01522 931076 01522 754752
Baptism Enquiries	Mrs Anne Hunter - annehunter.brindle@btopenworld.com	01673 861276
Ministry Team	Anne Hunter - 01673 861276, Liz Harris - 01673 878829, Rosemary Cox - 07825 082604, John Beverley - johnbevster@gmail.com - 01522 730752	
Pastoral Team: for home and I the above. Your call will be tr	hospital visits, visiting in bereavement, home communion and prayer p eated in confidence.	lease contact any of
	CHURCHWARDENS	
Glentham	Pat Beat	01673 878260
	Robert Rowe	01673 878717
Hackthorn	Cathy Andrews	01673 861058
	Anne Ward	01673 861821
Owmby	Liz Harris - lizziejharris@outlook.com	01673 878829
Saxby		
Spridlington	Claire Marris - cemarris@gmail.com	01673 861127
	GLENTHAM METHODIST CONTACTS	
Minister	Rev. Heather Wilson	01673 843362
Senior Steward	Trevor Faulkner	01673 818718
VIL	LAGE HALLS - BOOKING & INFORMATION	
Glentham	Gill Doyle	07920 052392
Hackthorn	Bonnie Burzynska-Burrin	01673 860920
Normanby-by-Spital	Jaqui Clinch or Lynda Watson	01673 878216
Spridlington	Deborah Kealey	01673 860283
. 5	PARISH COUNCIL CLERKS	
Glentham	Helen Pitman - helenspitman@gmail.com	07955 797393
Normanby	Gavin Widdison (interim) - nbyspc@gmail.com	07957 933776
Owmby	Julie Haycraft - owmbybyspitalparishcouncil@gmail.com	07766 396061
Spridlington / Hackthorn	Maria Wass - mariawass@live.co.uk	01673 861847
- •	SIGNPOST TEAM	-
Editor/Treasurer	Steve Harvey - signpost@owmbygroup.co.uk	07835 429439
Distribution	Liz Harris - lizziejharris@outlook.com	01673 878829
	Eileen Barton-Smith - ebarton.smith@btinternet.com	01673 876134

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