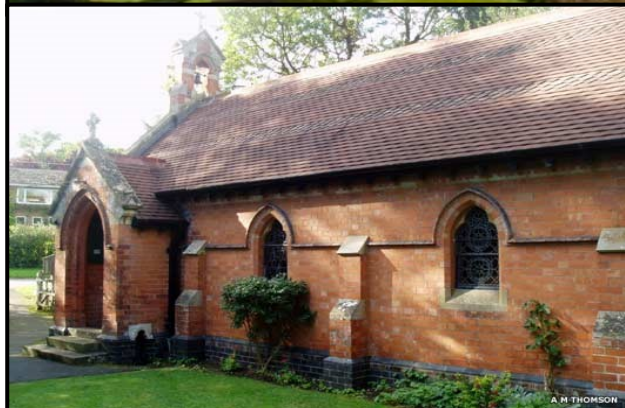


THE PARISH MAGAZINE

WOLVERTON, NORTON LINDSEY AND LANGLEY



April 2021

Price 50p

Rector	Rev. Richard Mutter 01789 731475 (day off Friday)	
Churchwardens	Mr Adrian Hopkinson	01926 842422
	Mrs Dorothy Mann	01789 731635
Deputy Churchwarden	Mr John Cohen	01926 842751
Treasurer	Mr Jonathan Toulmin	01789 731332
PCC Secretary	Mrs Marion Austin	01926 842661
Editor	Karin Elmhirst	07923 094513

If you need to speak to anyone about baptisms, weddings and funerals, please contact one of the Churchwardens above.

CHURCHES NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Holy Trinity, **Norton Lindsey** will open on **Sundays** from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

St. Mary the Virgin, **Wolverton**, will open on **Sundays** from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

St. Mary's, **Langley** will not be opening.

**Please observe the custom of sanitising with the gel provided
both going in and coming out.**

CHURCH ZOOM SERVICES - Common Worship Morning Prayer Service at 11.00 am on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month with BCP Evensong at 6.00 pm on the 4th Sunday of the month.

To 'attend' these services contact **Celia Spiers 07710 198009**.

PARISH RECORDS

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Anne Hemmingway, Norton Lindsey.

Her cremation at Oakley Wood took place on 31 March.



A PERSONAL VIEW...

..from Rev. Stig Graham, who is standing in for our Rector Richard Mutter.

A few days ago, I overheard someone telling someone else to chillax. As happens so easily it set my mind wandering off in strange pastures. As a general rule, I enjoy the new and the novel, am amused by the reuse and repurposing of words and artefacts in strange and different ways. But, in this case, perhaps not. It feels as if far too much effort has gone into it and, ironically, is in contradiction to the desired outcome. Chill is cool, relax is satisfying, but chillax feels like a hardworking oxymoron.

My old maths teacher, Mr Ash, if correctly remembered, used to say that if mathematics was hard work, then you were doing it wrongly. Mathematicians, he would say, were inherently lazy people who liked to do things with the minimum of effort to obtain maximum and beautiful results. It is certainly true that I have heard mathematicians arguing over which equations are the most beautiful, and often $E=mc^2$ wins out but by no means always.

At the time of writing, (but I am confident it will continue for a while yet), the countryside is bursting with gifts which can be obtained with very little effort. Mr Ash would have approved. In this last week, on my early morning walk, there were lambs gambolling, ponds full of frogspawn, ducks and geese nest building, woodpeckers hammering wood, and swathes of daffodils and catkins. Though if that old curmudgeon Ecclesiastes was with us today, he would possibly be complaining that the volume of the dawn chorus could be toned down a touch – perhaps arguing that one can have too much of a good thing.

Let's enjoy such moments while we can. In very short order, the blackbirds will stop calling to find a mate, and stop gathering wisps of grass and small twigs to build their nests but they will return to find worms for their young. The daffodils will depart but we will have bluebells and all the other plants and flowers in their succession. All this, each and every one, to be loved, valued, and enjoyed in the moment and with a minimum of effort. We only have to stop, and pause, in wonder and joy. And as each disappears there is a promise of more to come.

The Rev. Stig Graham

MONTHLY READINGS AND COLLECTS

4th April Easter Day

Readings: Ps 118 : 14 - 24; Isa 25 : 6 - 9; Acts 10 : 34 - 43; John 20 : 1 - 18

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

11th April Second Sunday of Easter

Readings: Ps 133; Ex 14 : 10-31; 15 : 20-21; Acts 4 : 32 - 35; John 20 : 19 - 31

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

18th April Third Sunday of Easter

Readings: Ps 4; Zeph 3 : 14 - 20; Acts 3 : 12 - 19 ; Luke 24 : 36b - 48

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

25th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Ps 23; Gen 7:1-5,11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13; Acts 4 : 5 - 12 ; John 10 : 11- 18

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HOLY TRINITY, NORTON LINDSEY

Norton Lindsey's Holy Trinity Church porch was decorated on Mothering Sunday with posies for the Sunday School and other village children to take for their mums and carers.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES		
Maundy Thursday		
6.00 pm	Holy Communion	St James Snitterfield
Good Friday		
10.30 am	Children's Get Together Outside	
2.00 pm	Meditation on Zoom	
Easter Day		
11.00 am	Holy Communion and Zoom	St James Snitterfield

Maundy Thursday

6.00 pm

Holy Communion

St James Snitterfield

Good Friday

10.30 am

Children's Get Together Outside

2.00 pm

Meditation on Zoom

Easter Day

11.00 am

Holy Communion and Zoom

St James Snitterfield

THE CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council invite you to attend the Annual General Meeting on 27 April at 7.00 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Norton Lindsey or on Zoom.

Please would you let Marion know (01926 842661) if you wish to attend.

Please note this may be subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions.

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LIBRARY SERVICES

Library services from January 2021 during national lockdown

Many libraries will remain open to offer **Click & Collect and Staff Select services** – order online, by phone or email and collect at the designated library collection point; follow the signs at your library. Book returns and entry for pre-booked computers will continue.

Browsing in the library is not available.

Mobile Library Service - Select and collect

A reduced Mobile Library Service is currently in operation. Staff can select up to 4 books per customer to be collected from over 150 designated locations around Warwickshire.

To arrange a collection of books, please contact the Mobile Library Team on 01926 851031 or mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Norton Lindsey Gannaway Stables	30 April	12:10 to 12:20
Norton Lindsey The New Inn	30 April	12:25 to 12:40
Langley Spring Lane	9 April	12:00 to 12:15

- It is not possible for customers to enter the vehicle.
- Only items that have been preselected by staff can be collected on the day.
- Customers can safely return items to the van.
- Requests for specific titles can be made by contacting the mobile library team directly.
- In line with government guidelines this is a contactless service.

VILLAGE RAMBLE

I hope everyone is keeping well. It feels a very long time since I last wrote about forthcoming village rambles.

Following the government's roadmap for easing of the restrictions I have checked with the Ramblers Association and they are working towards allowing up to 30 people meeting together for a walk from 12th April 2021 onwards. However, this is not definite and of course depends upon government confirmation. If this date is not achieved then the next date on the roadmap is 17th May 2021 when pubs will open for people to eat and drink inside.

On this basis I thought it a good idea to list dates for the rambles for the year.

Saturday 17 April 2021

Saturday 15 May 2021

Saturday 12 June 2021

Saturday 10 July 2021

Saturday 7 August 2021

September - no Saturday walk as we have the walking weekend

Saturday 9 October 2021

Saturday 13 November 2021

Tuesday 28 December 2021

For those on my email list I will write to you in the next few weeks to confirm if the April date is allowable. If so we would not be able to eat inside a pub after the walk but we hopefully will be allowed to eat outside.

So put Saturday 17 April 2021 in your diary and hopefully we can start the village rambles once again.

If anyone is interested in joining the walking group then please mail me and I will include you on the list. We are a dog friendly group too.

Graham Lewis

Home 01789 731810, Mobile 07850 847662

Email graham-lewis1@hotmail.co.uk

INTRODUCTIONS

We have been overwhelmed by the cards, gifts and friendly welcoming waves we have received whilst moving in to the cottage.

We are now fully ensconced and are looking forward to active involvement in all social and village activities.

It's our first round at the pub on Monday 12th April!!

Cath and Ian (Speedie)

Stable Cottage

Main Street

Norton Lindsey

LANGLEY NEWS

Fields in and around Langley will be full of lambs at this time of year, so dog owners (there are calculated to be 53 dogs in the village) please keep your pets on a lead and stick to the footpaths in fields where live stock are kept.

ASPIRING JOURNALIST/AUTHORS/LETTER WRITERS

We would like to try and get some new topics into the Parish Magazine and to that end we would like to invite anyone who feels that they could contribute articles of interest to contact the editor. These could be on an ad-hoc basis or if you wish on a regular monthly basis. Any topic, from any age, any length, would be considered. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please contact the editor at Karin.elmhirst@icloud.com

Paul, a **mobile fish monger** delivers in our area on Thursdays. He is in Norton Lindsey usually between 1 and 1.15 pm. If you would like Paul to knock on your door (no obligation) to let you know he is here, please call him on 07828 015924.

RECIPE – BAKED FISH AND VEGETABLE PARCELS

Serves 4

Ingredients

4 medium courgettes
400g carrots
Bunch of spring onions
2 cloves of garlic, sliced
Sprig of thyme, roughly chopped
Small bunch of parsley, chopped
3-4 tbsp olive oil
4 fish fillets – hake, haddock or cod
200ml white wine or cider
Sea salt and black pepper



You will need a large baking tray with a rim for juices and 4 large sheets of greaseproof paper or foil.

Method

- Heat oven to 200/ fan 180C
- Cut the courgettes into ribbons – put into large bowl – slice carrots in the same way and add to the courgettes.
- Slice spring onions and add these too, along with the garlic, thyme and parsley and 2 tbsp of olive oil. Season with a pinch of salt and pepper. Toss together well with your hands.
- Pile the vegetables in the middle of each sheet of foil. Place a fish fillet on top of the vegetables and season. Gather up the edges of the foil around the vegetables and fish. Pour a good splash of wine into each parcel.
- Crimp top edges of each parcel together so the fish is mostly covered.
- Place the parcels on the baking tray.
- Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes until fish is cooked and the vegetables are done.
- Accompany with whole grains to soak up the juices.

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NFU Mutual
BESPOKE INSURANCE

The Parish Council met, virtually, on Tuesday 9 March.

The Clerk reported that Brenda Smith has retired from maintaining the Millennium Green. We would like to thank Brenda for all her hard work in keeping the green looking so lovely.

We have received a grant application relating to rewilding part of the grass strip outside Copper Crest and leading down to the Norton Lindsey sign. We have agreed to fund this project but, as this is council land, it is subject to receiving permissions from Warwickshire County Council (WCC). Cllr Anna Mace-Leska has written a report for the Parish Magazine about rewilding, please see page 22.

Although it was agreed that the common land by Stanks Horse Trough would not be used for rewilding, we will investigate planting some spring bulbs in this area.

We received an update on the potential merger between Stratford and Warwick District Councils (WDC). Both councils are doing all they can to pursue this with the government but it is a slow process. In the meantime, where they can, they are sharing some services and offices in order to save money.

We agreed that we needed to carry out safety checks of NLPC's assets, which include the stone sign posts (though we are not sure who owns the Victorian sign post), the benches in the recreational grounds, Millennium Green, the noticeboards and the grit bins.

The following dates for the Annual Meeting (similar to an AGM) and the Annual Parish Assembly were agreed, subject to any relevant changes to Covid-19 laws. The Annual Meeting, followed by an ordinary meeting, will take place on 4 May - virtually. The Annual Parish Assembly will take place on 20 April. Please see the details in a notice in this issue of the Parish Magazine. We are hoping to resume our pre-pandemic meetings

format in the Village Hall, instead of the Church Room because there is more room, in July.

We discussed a letter received from a parishioner complaining about the presence of plastic and other waste at the bottom of Church Furlong. In the first instance we shall contact the farmer.

We also received a letter from the Claverdon Community Land Trust (CCLT) proposing that they would provide a doctor's surgery and help with a community shop in Norton Lindsey. Our discussion threw up problems with both proposals. The New Inn have their own plans to include some form of shop and we think that it would be very difficult to get a surgery built in Norton Lindsey given the proximity of Claverdon and Budbrooke surgeries and the small population size of Norton Lindsey.

WDC Cllr. Matecki reported that the climate emergency funding would be £0.5m a year over the next 4 years, of which £850k would be set aside for decreasing the carbon footprint of WDC buildings.

WCC Cllr. Caborn reported that 80% of care staff, in care homes, have now been vaccinated. The Council has devised a Covid-19 Recovery Plan which includes the setting up of a 'surge' team with a mobile testing unit for hotspots of Covid-19 outbreaks.

The approved WCC 2021/22 budget includes £136m of investments over the next five years. This includes, for this year, £9.1m for children's social care services; £8.2m to support elderly citizens and vulnerable adults and £3.8m to support children and young people with disabilities. The budget also contains support for companies to expand and retain jobs.

Full minutes of the meeting will be available on our website at <https://nortonlindseypc.org/parish-council-meetings/minutes-of-previous-meetings/> or from the Clerk.

The next meeting will take place on 20 April, which will be the Annual Parish Assembly, where people of the Parish are invited to join us. More

details will be made available shortly on our parish noticeboards and on our website. See page 16.

Karin Elmhirst

NORTON LINDSEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

It's a year since the first lockdown as I write this and the Hall has remained closed during this 2nd one since November. If all goes well with the vaccination programme and the data, we will be allowed to open on 17 May for classes only, still no social gatherings or parties.

The Hall may be closed but we, the Trustees still meet monthly on Zoom as attention must be paid to monitoring the Hall whilst closed, thank you Tim Landreth for doing this on a weekly basis, checking on bills/accounts, insurance and fire regulation matters and most exciting, thinking about what to do when we can re-open.

Before we do, we are planning a Village Easter egg hunt, partly virtual, a best garden container competition and later in the year another scarecrow competition.

The Sniffers will be planning an exciting Talent show event, something to really bring the Village together in early September. It is best to leave the idea of the usual annual Fete for this year as we do not know what will be possible and too much forward planning is needed to organise a Fete.

Look out for details of the Easter Egg Hunt....

Get planning for planting out a stunning container for the front of your garden, judging in mid-June.

Anna Mace-Leska, Chair of Trustees and Playing Fields CIO

Norton Lindsey Parish Council PARISH ASSEMBLY 2021

The annual Norton Lindsey Parish Assembly is due to take place virtually at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The agenda, which will include joining instructions, will be available on noticeboards and the Parish Council website before the meeting.

There will be a round-up of the last year by the Parish, District and County Councils, and there will also be the opportunity for the public to ask questions and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have.

If you would like a matter to be discussed, please forward brief details to the Clerk prior to the meeting (telephone 01926 843534; email nortonlindseypc@outlook.com).

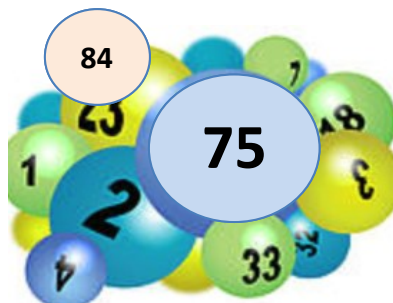
NORTON LINDSEY VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

March Winners

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Second prize Number **84** - Richard Whitwell
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Contact Carole Briggs on 01926 843355

CRICKET CLUB

The 2021 season is upon us! It surely cannot be the same as the 2020 season, can it?

With supreme optimism and a glass half full, our pre-league season friendlies are scheduled to start on Saturday 3 April with a Home match versus Knowle Village CC. However, the potential stumbling block is the fact that, at the time of writing, the England and Wales Cricket Board has yet to issue guidelines on what the rules are to be for a return to recreational cricket. Consequently, the early season fixtures are at risk of being cancelled.

There is a change of leadership with some of our teams - Dan Fell has taken over the captaincy of the Saturday 1st XI and Steve Bliwert is the new Saturday 2nd XI captain. Meanwhile, Martin Hall remains as the Saturday 3rd XI captain and Tom Wilcox again leads the Sunday XI. On the Committee front, after 10 years of service, Jerry Ashley has stepped down as chairman and has been succeeded by Andy Dewar. Andy is no stranger to the Club, having been a member for some 40 years, and with a new hip in place his playing days are not yet over!

There has been good progress on preparing the ground for the new season. Groundsmen, Jerry Ashley and Simon Hathaway, armed with some new mowers and copious supplies of fertiliser, have managed to ensure the square has a good covering of grass - perhaps the best for many a recent year.

Because of the uncertainty about the rules for recreational cricket, it is not possible to be specific about the details for Junior Cricket, but we hope to communicate this direct to parents and in the May Parish Magazine.

Now that we have a growing population of families in the village with children keen to take part in cricket, are there any parents willing to join a Junior Cricket committee to help with the administration and supervision of this thriving group? We are desperate for more help! We hold practice sessions on Thursday and Friday evenings and have under 13 and under 11 fixtures on Sunday mornings. If you can find the time to contribute, please contact Andy Dewar on 07979 514969.

Martin Neale

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PARISH MAGAZINE IS:

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WALKING AROUND NORTON LINDSEY - The Circular Walk to Fulbrook Castle

For those that may have missed this as it was available online only...

I thought I would write about a walk we recently did. We followed (with a deviation at the end) the New Inn's Castle Walk. It was both very scenic and historically interesting.

The walk leaves the village along Canada Lane. The path joins part of The Shakespeare's Avon Way which nominally follows the course of the Avon from its source near Naseby to its confluence with the Severn at Tewkesbury. This section of the route also forms part of the Via Beata which is a pilgrimage route on established footpaths and tracks across the widest part of Britain from Lowestoft to St. David's in Wales. Via Beata has Christian artworks along its way - the closest to Norton Lindsey is the Olive Tree at the Redhill centre in Snitterfield.

I'm not going to give route instructions as they are really clear in the Pub's leaflet but after crossing the A46 - which was quite easy to do using the space between the central reserve barriers - the landscape changes dramatically and becomes very open with lovely views towards All Saints' Church, Sherbourne, and its imposing Victorian Gothic spire.

Soon Court Farm House is approached and you can see clearly in the grounds the moat which in the 1300s surrounded a manor house - which was derelict by 1400. Some remains of the gatehouse to the manor are thought to be part of the structure of Court Farm House. You can also see ridge and furrow.

Unfortunately, you can't see any surface evidence of the site of Fulbrook Castle at this point on the route. It sits atop Castle Hill in the middle of a cultivated field. However, it was quite romantically eerie walking on a site which must have been frequented by the height of royalty and power during the early 1400s. The castle was surrounded by a large hunting park.

Only a very small part of the castle's site has been excavated. It was rectangular and made of stone and brick with a central courtyard about 15 metres by 20 metres. It probably also had a tower. Bricks, tiles and pottery have been found around the area - it clearly is just waiting for someone to delve into the archaeology of the castle!!

After walking alongside Castle Hill you walk through delightful fields of grain and cattle, very gently going uphill with glorious views opening up to the south and east. The pub's directions soon become invaluable as the path snakes its way through a garden, running far closer to the house than you feel you ought to be on a public footpath! After this intrusion, the track offers views back to Castle Hill and you can see, as crop marks, the square outline of the castle.

The route crosses the A439 and the A46 before returning through Heath End Plantation and Briery Land. At this point we deviated and went home via Snitterfield Lane and the Blacon Track.

Although the walk was nearly 8 miles, it seemed much shorter because of the many changes of path, landscape and view.

Now for a bit of potted history with apologies to anyone who knows anything at all about English Medieval history.....

The castle was built by John of Lancaster, Duke of Bedford, who played an important role in English history in the early 1400s. John of Lancaster was the third son of Henry 4th. On the death of Henry 4th in 1414, John's eldest brother became Henry 5th of England. On three occasions between 1415 and 1422 when Henry 5th was fighting in France (including at the battle of Agincourt), John acted as Lieutenant of England which meant that he was deputising for the King.

Cutting a long story, very short, after the death of Henry 5th and the accession of the infant Henry 6th, John vied with his brother (the Duke of Gloucester) to become Regent of England but had to settle for Regent of France - much of which was still controlled by the English. Whilst fighting initially very successfully but then increasingly unsuccessfully in France as part of the Hundred Years War, John captured Joan of Arc and was responsible for her being tried for heresy and burnt at the stake.

John of Lancaster, Duke of Bedford died in 1435.

The castle passed to Henry 6th. However, the castle was derelict by 1478 and in ruins. It is thought that the Earls of Warwick, so powerful and wealthy during the wars of the Roses, did not like the castle so close to their lands and had a role in it becoming ruins. The castle had completely disappeared by the time of Henry 8th and it is thought that some of the castle's bricks were used in the construction of Compton Wynates.

Interestingly, John of Lancaster was married twice. His second wife was Jacquetta of Luxembourg. This marriage was childless but Jacquetta's second marriage was to Sir Richard Woodville with whom she had 14 children. One of these children was Elizabeth Woodville who became the wife and Queen Consort of Edward 4th who died in 1483. Her daughter, Elizabeth of York, married Henry Tudor and became the mother of Henry 8th!

Julie Howard

<https://thenewinn.pub/walk4/>

Although nearly eight miles, it really didn't seem like it because it comprised many short sections of path and the landscape and view was constantly changing.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Last month I reported that the County will be increasing Council Tax by 3% built up as 2% general precept and 1% extra for social care. Data has come in from around the Country and this increase places Warwickshire as having one of the lowest tax increases from amongst the Tier 1 authorities. The difference between authorities is basically the funding needed for social care and Warwickshire having less residents eligible for social care support due to our being a relatively wealthy society. All the same social care still accounts for a planned 79% of the County budget.

Due to people working from home and needing to take exercise there has been an explosion in pet ownership and puppies in particular. This has led to large increases in prices for dogs and criminals have got into the act. This has led to an epidemic of puppy theft and potential owners paying huge sums for pets that don't exist. In April 2020 'Lucy's Law' was introduced, meaning that anyone wanting to get a new puppy (or kitten) in England must now buy direct from a breeder, or consider adopting from a rescue centre instead. Licensed dog breeders are required to show puppies interacting with their mothers in their place of birth. If a business sells puppies (or kittens) without a licence, they could receive an unlimited fine or be sent to prison for up to six months. The new law seeks to tackle the low-welfare, high volume supply of puppies (and kittens), by banning their commercial third-party sale in England. For more information, please search 'buppysafe' on the internet. "Blue Cross" has good advice.

Warwickshire continues to invest in fibre broadband, but it is now admitted that fibre cannot get to every household in rural areas and three providers; O2, Three and Vodafone, have joined forces for the first time to build more G4 masts to improve quality in rural areas. This agreement should mean better service and a cost effective alternative to the BT's effective monopoly in broadband provision in this area.

As part of efforts to speed recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic the County Council has increased borrowing and created a £300 million fund to support companies. It is hoped this funding will attract private sector investment into Warwickshire. Covid-19 is still about and, if you have not thought about it, please give some consideration to registering for a postal vote so you can avoid attending a polling station.

John Horner

*“Let’s call the bees the canaries
And the World the coalmine
And we can be the miners...”*

We will be in spring when you read this and I am revisiting the topic of rewilding some verges throughout the Parish. For the purpose of this article, it means “to restore the land to its natural state”. This is particularly pertinent as in the month of May it will be #NoMowMay organised by plantlife.org.

Cast your minds back a year when, during the first lockdown many verges were left uncut by the Council. A succession of wild flowers sprung up amongst the grass. I saw many more pollinators on these flowers than are normally seen in verges and also, due to very low levels of car traffic, birds flitting in the verges and feasting on seeds and insects.

Rewilding may seem like a scary notion but it is vital as part of the plan to combat climate change and reduce the increasing decline in insects, birds and small mammals throughout the world.

In the UK, 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost since 1930. That is an equivalent of 7.5 million acres or 3 million hectares. This has had a devastating effect on all the insect population. Insects pollinate our crops and food, feed the birds and small mammals, all of these are in massive decline. It’s difficult to restore meadows due to our need for farmland and housing and, whilst our gardens are an important recourse if planted with pollinator friendly plants, they are of diminished value if pesticides or herbicides are used. More is needed anyway. The numerous verges around us are a redundant empty monoculture of grass, skinned to death by Council mowers.

Already now, in early March, opposite my house in Snitterfield Lane, in the as yet uncut but tidy looking verge, I am seeing many daisies. Every little flower counts! Letting nature take its course is one way of doing it as the wildflower seeds are there just waiting for the opportunity to grow and thrive. Regular readers of my articles will know that this is how I manage my front lawn. Last year a family went further and planted wildflowers at the bottom of Curlieu Lane. This year, two households are joining together to rotavate an area of verge and plant wildflowers from scratch. It’s a lot of work and will need taking care of but I for one am looking forward to seeing it.

Whichever method is used, it does have to be managed by cutting at the beginning of spring and end of summer and removing clippings.

As a Parish Council, we are looking to allow the back part of Millennium Green to grow and I will be looking at which wildflowers pop up. Please note, only the back so that it does not affect visibility at the junction, which is always of paramount importance.

A few villagers came forward after November's article offering to help look after and nurture a verge. If you would like to help, no knowledge is required, just a desire to become involved. Please get in touch.

There is no better person to quote to end this article again than Sir David Attenborough *"The living world is our unique marvel. The natural world is fading."*

Anna Mace-Leska

Majestic Dance Club

The long established Majestic Dance Club, Warwick, will be running some Ballroom and Latin Dance classes at Norton Lindsey Village Hall from May onwards (Lockdown restrictions allowing). We would like to welcome anyone who is keen to start dancing, or who already has some experience, to join us and experience the joy of dance with professional tuition amongst new friends.

The following classes will be taking place at the Village Hall:

Bronze Level Classes on Tuesday evenings from Tuesday 18 May (7.30pm - 8.15pm)

Silver Level Classes on Tuesday evenings Tuesday 18 May (8.15pm – 9pm)

Beginners Social Dance Classes on Sunday evenings from 23 May (7.30pm - 8.15pm)

The following link to our website contains full details.

<http://majesticdance.co.uk>

All our dance exercise classes will be run in line with all government regulations and IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association) Covid-19 free requirements and guidelines. Please call Greta Needham on 07718139983 or email on agneedham50@gmail.com if you would like to find out more.

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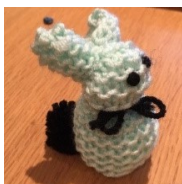
Creative Recycling By John Simpson

WI online Zoom Meeting
on Wednesday, 14th April 2021 at 7.30 pm



We were treated to a delightful insight to the six resident exhibitions at Compton Verney Art Gallery at our March meeting. Pam Wilson, who works as a Visitor Experience Interpreter, shared with us an entertaining and phenomenally interesting explanation of some of her favourite Collection highlights on a whistle-stop tour from Naples to China, across 5,000 years of art history. Compton Verney has a vast and remarkable collection, which is well worth a visit when they re-open the museum. In

the meantime, you can take a look at their treasures online: <https://www.comptonverney.org.uk/whats-on/#collections> not book to visit the beautiful grounds at this amazing local and enjoy a relaxing walk with your family.



Fifteen members attended our first 'Coffee and Chat' in February using out rooms on Zoom and we decided to second one in March and encouraged everyone to have a go at creating a cute knitted Easter bunny. This really is a pattern that anyone can follow, just Google 'Bunnies from a square' to have a go yourself and have a fabulous Easter.

At our 14th April meeting, local artist John Simpson will us from his studio (garage) and share his rather unusual creating furniture, lamps, sculptures and paintings using materials. John uses various mediums from cardboard and mâché to Polyfilla, dust, ash and even old till receipts, few other ingredients to make useful household objects. loves to experiment! Curious? Well do come along and yourself what this inspirational artist is able to produce confines of his studio.



As always, we welcome any ladies to join our meetings if the Women's Institute provides you with new friendships and ideas. It is particularly easy to take part on Zoom at present, so why not give it a go? If you would like further information about Norton Lindsey WI, please contact us: secretary@nlwi.org.uk and we'll send you the link. Why not? You have everything to gain and nothing to lose!



Wishing you a Happy Easter!

Sue Steel, President, Norton Lindsey WI

The Norton Lindsey **Stilton Sniffers**

"Let's use our arms, legs, feet as well as our hands to raise money for Helping Hands!"

The Sniffers have decided that the next fundraiser will raise funds for "Helping Hands Community Project" a local charity that supports vulnerable people in Leamington Spa, Warwick and Kenilworth. They run a soup kitchen three nights a week, a support group for vulnerable women, provide household essentials to people in need and operate a charity shop in Leamington and a cafe in Warwick. A number of the charity's clients work as supported volunteers within the organisation which gives them skills and builds confidence. During the pandemic, whilst the shop and cafe have been closed they have worked collaboratively with the council and local suppliers to distribute over 18,000 meals into the community. Here is a link to their website <https://www.helpinghandscharity.org.uk/>

The Sniffers (and friends) will be attempting to travel from Lands End to John O'Groats as many times as they can during the month of May 2021, it's a distance of 874 miles.

Distance will be added for walking, running, swimming, rowing, cycling (one, two or three wheels), horse-riding, flying, or canoeing.

We will be setting up a fundraising page to collect your precious donations and making sure that no opportunity is missed for an amusing photograph.

We also hope to set up a static bike at the Pub!

One thing we would really like to do is encourage others to join in the distance challenge. It would be great if the families and children of the village get together to add miles and raise awareness of the charity.

Imagine if we cover 10,000 miles in the name of Helping Hands, by involving 50 or 100 people all doing a small distance, I have one group of people in Oxford who

want to contribute miles (and donations) and another in Quebec. Some of the Charity's Trustees also want to join in.

I know there are walkers, runners and cyclists in the village, if you want to show your support please get in touch with me during April and I will give you details of how you can contribute.

I am also hoping to have commemorative batons made that you can keep as mementos and by May we should (fingers crossed) be able to add miles outdoors together.

In other news, we are awaiting confirmation of the Golf Day being able to go ahead, and have started planning the village event we have been longing for on 4th September.

Colin Wilcox's fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/colin-wilcox1>

Katie Landreth's fundraiser for Meningitis Research is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/katie-landreth1>

Further updates next month, in the meantime get your walking boots polished and your bikes oiled!

Tim Landreth and the Sniffers

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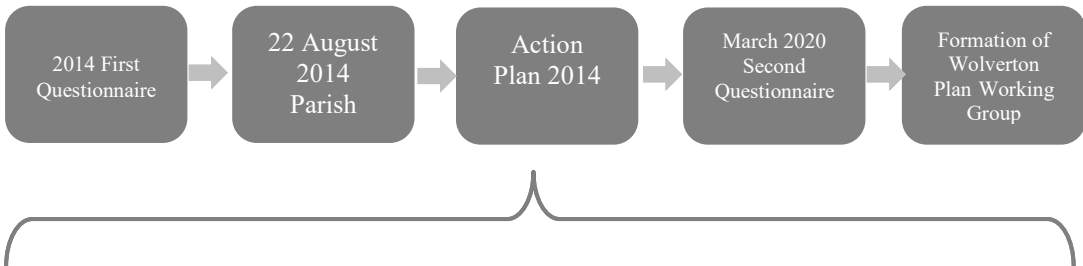
See website for full details of services

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The March 2020 Survey demonstrated again that parish residents are still largely appreciative of the benefits and burdens of rural life and value:

- Peace and quiet
- Ease of commuting
- Access to good schools
- A caring and close community

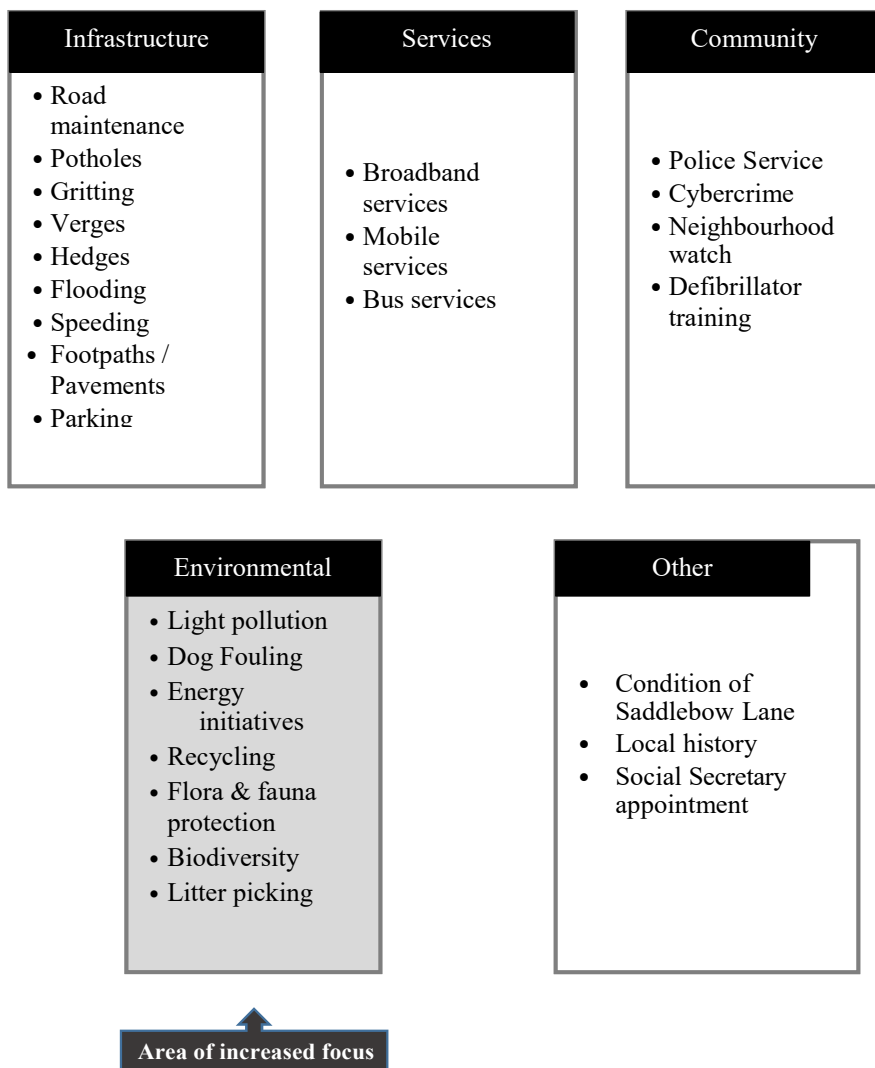
Parish Plan Progress



2014 Action Plan areas of focus

Planning	Services	Infrastructure	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing need• Conservation Area status• Review of future planning applications• Enforce planning obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broadband improvement• Mobile Service improvement• Bus Service improvement/clarification• Police/Ambulance/Fire Services• Water pressure• Tree pruning to protect electricity supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potholes• Verges• Hedges• Flooding• Footpaths• Speeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Littering• Natural History Group

Revised Priorities following March 2020 Survey



Full details of the plan and progress can be found on the WPC website,
www.wolvertonpc.org.uk/community/wolverton-parish-council-13123/home

Get the BUZZ about Wolverton's Roadside Verges !

We would like to enhance the biodiversity of our roadside verges and are working with our neighbouring villages to persuade Warwickshire County Council to adopt the recommendations of the Plantlife Good Verge Guide for their seasonal grass verge cutting:

www.plantlife.org.uk. Seven in ten councils in the UK are already helping to conserve wildflowers on roadside verges using these management guidelines. Where wildflowers grow, wildlife follows.

Rather than making several cuts throughout the summer, the recommendations are that the council mow verges just twice a year, where road safety and visibility permit, ideally in February-March and again in September-October. This one-off late summer cut would give wildflowers an extended flowering season to further attract insect pollinators and allow time to set seed.

We have identified three wide verge areas that would be suitable for biodiversity management, and these are situated on the Langley Road between Wolverton crossroads and the Wolverton / Langley parish boundary. Raking up the mowings in these key areas will also help reduce the build-up of organic material and encourage wildflower germination the following year.

The verges will start to look less tidy than maybe people are used to, but the benefits to our local wildlife will be significantly increased- think a bit more Gertrude Jekyll than Capability Brown! Long term, we can look forward to seeing beautiful swathes of wildflowers along the lanes linking our partner villages.

This year, we need to start recording the plants and insects currently found in these areas so we have a baseline to monitor the effect of our

biodiversity management over the next few years. Please contact rosemary.stone@hotmail.co.uk if you have a reasonable knowledge of identifying wildflowers, butterflies etc and are interested to take part.

💡 ***Continuing the theme.....this May, why not give the mower a rest and leave part of your lawn or even all of it(!) to do its own thing and participate in 'No mow May'? See what wildflowers, butterflies, bees and other insects appear.***

Important Message for Dog owners: Stick and Flick not Bag and Drop!

Our litter picking team continue to trawl the roadside verges and village footpaths to make Wolverton a cleaner and greener place to live. However, one of the more unpleasant aspects of this is dealing with numerous discarded doggie poo bags- yuk!! Leaving bagged poo on footpaths, hanging on hedges or abandoned in a field is not only unpleasant for others but poses a serious risk to wild animals and livestock if they ingest the bag and contents. Please take away your used bags, even if the bags are biodegradable, and dispose of them in an eco-friendly manner at home. Alternatively, use a stick and flick the poo into the bottom of a nearby hedgerow where micro-organisms can get to work on decomposition.

Joint statement by Wolverton Parish Council and Norton Lindsey Parish Council on the decision by Stratford District Council's Planning Committee to refuse Claverdon Community Land Trust's application for outline planning permission for 10 dwellings on land off Curlieu Lane, Norton Lindsey

Norton Lindsey and Wolverton Parish Councils welcome the decision by Stratford District Council's Planning Committee to reject Claverdon Community Land Trust's application for outline planning permission for 10 dwellings on land off Curlieu Lane, Norton Lindsey.

This decision was reached after an hour's thorough discussion by the Planning Committee. It was in line with the Planning Officer's recommendation that the permission be refused on the grounds that:

- It had not been demonstrated that the proposed scheme would meet a proven and unmet community-led housing need.
- The proposal would result in encroachment in the countryside and would fail to relate to the rural character of the area and distinctiveness of the Arden Special Landscape Area.
- The application failed to demonstrate that the site can be suitably drained and will not impact on flood risk to sites elsewhere.
- The application failed to demonstrate that the impact on the nature area off Curlieu Lane would not result in harm to protected species.

This decision was taken at a Planning Committee meeting on 3rd March 2021. While there were both positive and negative comments made during the Committee's discussion, they voted 6 against, none in favour, and with two abstentions.

Stuart Easterbrook, Chair of Wolverton Parish Council, spoke at the Planning Committee meeting on behalf of both Wolverton and Norton Lindsey Parish Councils. His submission noted:

1. On location, that:
 - Both Councils support affordable housing for local people, but the proposed development was in the wrong location.

- Claverdon's Housing Needs Survey had identified a need for 10 dwellings, but in Claverdon, not elsewhere, where there would be ready access to the shop, doctors' surgery and other amenities.
 - The development did not match the identified mix of housing needed for Claverdon.
 - Past developments have shown that Claverdon families do not want their housing needs met by developments on the edge of Norton Lindsey/Wolverton. To expect a different result for this development ignored the evidence.
 - The development did not meet housing need in Wolverton Parish which is being satisfied by properties under construction or applications that Wolverton Parish Council supports, while Norton Lindsey has no identified need for affordable housing.
2. On sustainable development, that the site is more than two miles from Claverdon's amenities and there is no public transport, pedestrian access or safe cycling route to Claverdon, so the development will inevitably lead to increased car use and associated environmental impact.
 3. On the site itself, that the development would encroach on open greenbelt countryside, have an impact on the openness of the green belt and Arden Special Landscape Area as well as being out-of-keeping "Backland" development.
 4. On flooding, that surface water from the field where development was proposed had flooded houses on Wolverton Road in August 2020 and that additional run off caused by the development would make this worse.

Speaking after the meeting, Stuart Easterbrook said "we welcome this decision, and especially the comments made by members of the Planning Committee that this proposed development was in the wrong place, and clearly did not have the support for the community in which it would be built. We thank Norton Lindsey Parish Council for their help in responding to this development, and the hard work that has gone in from all parties, including the parish questionnaire in 2019.

Councillor Neil Brown of Norton Lindsey Parish Council also welcomed the decision and said that he "hoped that there would be more opportunities for the councils to work together as this had shown the benefits of taking a wider community view, not least because of the way the three parish boundaries of Wolverton, Claverdon and Norton Lindsey cut through the village."

We Need You!

We need volunteers to help get local patients to receive the Coronavirus vaccination.



Have you got some spare time during the day? We expect to be very busy in January, February and March once the vaccination programme begins to roll out. We are going to need many more:

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Telephone operators: Have you got your **own computer, decent admin skills and like talking on the telephone?** We need plenty of people to help take transport bookings to vaccination appointments. If you could spare one or two mornings or afternoons a week we would love to hear from you? **Volunteering from home with training & support.**

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The present (mid-March) spell of dry cold weather has continued to help the soil dry out slowly. We have managed to complete the machine trimming of most of the hedges, apart from one or two very wet spots. We have also managed to spread some early fertiliser onto the winter wheat and barley crops that we planted in the autumn.

With the larger area of unplanted fields, it is still a game of patience, waiting for the soil to dry enough to allow us to plant them when the ground is warmer and workable to obtain a good seedbed. We are planning to plant barley, triticale, and linseed, as all these crops were successful last year. Triticale is a cross between wheat and rye, which yields a lot of straw as well as grain. With the difficult autumn of 2019, it has been a real bonus this year to have the triticale straw, as it has been making record prices due to the low winter wheat crop last year. With our cattle using a lot of bedding we have not had much to sell, but at least we had the peace of mind that we did not have to skimp on usage and were able to keep the cattle clean and comfortable whilst they were inside during the winter.

The last few of 2020's calves will be going to market this week, and the cattle year starts again with about 40 expectant cows due to give birth in the next two months. However often we see new calves born, it is always good to see the miracle of life continue, especially after the depressing winter and lockdown for us all.

David, Dorothy and Chris Mann



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WOLVERTON		
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Campion Trust	Rev R Livingston	Wolverton
Parish Council Clerk	Jennifer Bendall	clerk@wolvertonpc.org.uk
Rainbow Guides	Janet Livingston	wolvertonguiding@gmail.com
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NORTON LINDSEY		
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The Parish Magazine is also available on line at <https://nortonlindseypc.org/parish-publications/parish-magazine/>