

Sudbrooke Litter Pick Saturday November 15th meet in the village hall 9.30 am

Editor: Nick Truscott 01522 752911 20 Greenway, LN2 2YA sudbrookenews@aol.com

Welcome to October's Sudbrooke News.

Don't forget the start date of the exiting village

woodcarving initiative..... Sunday, 5th October at 2:30 pm, at 36 Scothern Lane. If you have missed the start date and you would still like to take part, Helen Link can be contacted on 01522 595802 or on email, hlink@tiscali.co.uk.

Sudbrooke Brownies are seeking new membership. All three of my girls have been Brownies and have had a fantastic time. You'd be surprised at what they get up to and the life skills they learn along the way......go for it !!

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Advertising: Bridget Solly

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WHAT'S ON

Whist and Carpet Bowls

Meets every Thursday at 2:00 pm at Sudbrooke Village Hall. Tea, coffee and a chat. Contact Cyril Alderson on 751023 for details.

Mah-Jong

Meets every Monday at 7:00 pm at Sudbrooke Village Hall. If you are interested in this fascinating Chinese game, why not come and join us in a non-smoking environment. Enquiries to Eleanor Walker on 595157 or Thelma Whitworth on 751881.

Sudbrooke and Langworth Playgroup

Held every Friday mornings during term time 10.00am - 12mid-day. Each session is held in Sudbrooke Village Hall apart from the 2nd Friday of the month which is held in Langworth Memorial Hall. £1.50 per session. Contact - Becky on 01522 752936.

Pre-school Group

For children aged two and a half to school age. Sudbrooke Village Hall: Monday 9.00am to 11.30am, Tues to Thurs 9.15am to 12.00pm. Enquiries may be made at the Village Hall during sessions or by contacting Mrs Karen Grace 01522 753225

1st Sudbrooke Brownies

Meets Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 pm at Sudbrooke Village Hall. Contact Mrs Liz Houlden on 753497.

Kickboxing

Every Thursday between 5 and 6pm at Sudbrooke Village Hall.

Sudbrooke Seniors (Coffee Club)

We meet every 2nd Friday in the month at 10.30 am in Sudbrooke Village Hall for coffee biscuits and a good chat. Anyone over the age of 50 is more than welcome.

25th Lincoln Scout Group

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meet on Tuesdays at Scothern Recreation Hall. Contact Nick Cornwell-Smith on 0845-0946352.

Sudbrooke Craft Club

If you are interested in crafting of any kind and meeting up with others who share your interests, please contact Jacqui Armitage on 01522 753670

VICAR'S LETTER

The Vicarage, Langworth

Tel. 01522 - 754233

October is the month when we celebrate Harvest Festivals in the Benefice – at the 10.30 Sudbrooke Family Service on Sunday 12th and at the 6.00 Langworth Evensong on Sunday 19th. The latter service is followed by the Harvest Supper in the Memorial Hall : tickets are available for this if you see or contact Anne Spaight on 01522 754233. Even if you make a late decision to just turn up on the night there is usually 'grub' available ... but pre-booking does help the 'cooks' to gauge numbers !

The Monday evening Home Group has restarted and is looking at St. Paul's Letter to the Romans : dates and venues are listed in the Church Diary – as are the dates and venues for the fortnightly Prayer Hours.

Despite the urge in our age to be 'modern', we can still find spiritual gems left to us by our forefathers. One such is a prayer of Thomas Ken (1637 – 1711) – Bishop and hymnwriter (e.g. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow ...") which was placed above a hospital door but which has a much wider application – be the "house" our own or that of the Lord :-

"O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.

Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power.

God, make the door of this house the gateway to thine eternal kingdom. Amen

Writing this at a time when we are preparing for the funeral of a local young man who died as the result of a traffic incident, an old funeral prayer of William Penn (1644 – 1718) – founder of the American State of Pennsylvania – comes to mind as still standing the test of time ... particularly his thought of death as "an horizon" :-

"We give them back to thee, dear Lord, who gavest them to us.

Yet thou didst not lose them in giving, so we have not lost them by their return.

What thou gavest thou takest not away, O lover of souls;

for what is thine is ours also if we are thine.

And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.

Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further;

Cleanse our eyes that we may thee more clearly; and draw us closer to thyself that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones who are with thee.

And while thou dost prepare for us, prepare us also for that happy place, that where they are and thou art, we too may be for evermore. Amen"

Yours, in Christ,

Robert Spaight

	OCTOBER 2008	
Wednesday 1	7.30 Stainton PCC	Walk Farm
Sunday 5	Trinity 20	
	9.00 Communion	St.John Stainton
	10.30 Communion	St.Edward Sudbrooke
	6.00 Evening Prayer	St.Hugh Langworth
Monday 6	7.30 Home Group	8 Pelham Close
Wednesday 8	7.30 Barlings PCC	The Vicarage
Sunday 12	Trinity 21	
	9.00 BCP Communion	St.Edward Sudbrooke
	10.30 Family Service (Harvest)	St.Edward Sudbrooke
	6.00 Communion	St.Hugh Langworth
Monday 13	7.30 Home Group	2 Chestnut Close
Tuesday 14	10.30 Prayer Hour	Old Vicarage, Barlings
Wednesday 15	7.45 Family Service Planning	50 Scothern Lane
Thursday 16	7.30 Deanery Synod	Scothern Church
Sunday 19	Trinity 22	
	10.30 Communion	St.Edward Sudbrooke
	6.00 Evening Prayer (Harvest)	St.Hugh Langworth
	+ Harvest Supper	Memorial Hall
Monday 20	7.30 Home Group	36 Scothern Lane
Tuesday 21	7.30 Sudbrooke PCC	The Vicarage
Sunday 26	Last Sunday after Trinity	*BST Ends*
	9.00 Communion	St.Edward Barlings
	10.30 Communion	St.Edward Sudbrooke
	6.00 Communion	St.Hugh Langworth
Monday 27	7.30 Home Group	8 Pelham Close
Tuesday 28	10.30 Prayer Hour	36 Scothern Lane

SUDBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs C M Myers Clerk to the Council 101522 823802 myers1@ntlworld.com 12 Ash Tree Avenue Nettleham Lincoln LN2 2TQ

Martin Dickie, Chairman

IS Greenway LN2 2YA ☎754342 Imartin@dickie.go-plus.net

Rose Dobbs, Vice Chairperson

E 8 Park Close LN2 2RE 2753060 Erose.f.e.dobbs@btinternet.com

Bernard Bartram

Stuart Curtis (also District Councillor)

I Scothern Lane LN2 2QJ ■751874 Istuartlyncurtis@aol.com

Lyn Etheridge

ELabda, Main Drive, Sudbrooke LN2 QY 2750905 Elyneth@fsmail.net

Nick James ■13 Greenway LN2 2YA ☎595035 ■nickjames1@tiscali.co.uk

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Ian Russell

■Rothbury, 69 Wragby Road LN2 2QX ■754984 ■ian.russell@environment-agency.gov.uk

County Councillor, Roger Hiscox

🖃 Bradshaw Gate, Hackthorne 🛛 🕿 01673 860047 📮 cllrr.hiscox@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Treasurer to the Council, Bridget Solly

⊑4 Lark Close, Wragby LN8 5BB ☎01673 857580 ⊑robridge@wragby1973.fsnet.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE – FROM MEETING HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Damaged grit and dog bins, Scothern Lane – These had been reported to the Highways Department and will shortly be replaced.

The Highways Department had notified the Parish Council that the area of road surface at the **entrance to St Edward's Drive from Scothern Lane** would be re-surfaced.

Grass cutting – Additional areas in the village would be cut by the grass cutting contractors, ie The verge on Scothern Lane between the A158 and Church Lane and the verge from the Sudbrooke sign on Nettleham Lane to the Church.

Wood Carving Project – The quote for the wood was agreed and it has now been ordered. This is an exciting project and parishioners are encouraged to participate. agreed to look into the possibility of allotment provision in the future if sufficient interest was shown by parishioners.

Daffodil/Tulip Bulbs – Councillor Bernard Bartram has agreed to plant daffodils and tulips around the 'Sudbrooke ', nameplates at the entrances to the village.

Village Litter Pick – This is to be arranged for October. Volunteers required!

Grant for new surfacing under the play equipment – The Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £4000 from the Lincolnshire Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund towards the resurfacing of the play area. The application was supported by the Sudbrooke Pre-School and the Sudbrooke and Langworth Toddlers Group. The work should commence in mid October.

Date of next meetings – Thursday 2nd October 2008 and Thursday 6th November 2008 – All residents are very welcome to attend.

Allotments - The Parish Council

LINCOLN VILLAGES AREA FORUM

MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2008 7 p.m. at Nettleham Infants School, All Saints Lane, Nettleham

An evening with an environmental theme including:

• What's happening in our neck of the woods? – updates on environmental projects in and around the Lincoln Fringe, including the Witham Valley Access Project and Lincolnshire Showground's Epic Centre

• Tips on saving energy and saving money How to measure and reduce your carbon footprint! Open to all residents of the Lincoln Fringe Villages of West Lindsey Admission free. Refreshments provided.

For further information please contact Cllr Meg Davidson 01522 750614

POLICE NEWS



Nettleham Police Station Scothern Road Nettleham LN2 2TU Tel: 01522 882222 (Ext: 5796) Voicemail: 01522 558798 (1170) Fax: 01522 805797 E-mail: nettleham.npt@lincs.pnn.police.uk

Welcome to this month's Edition of Police News. At a recent meeting of the areas Neighbourhood Panel only one new priority was decided on for the next three months. Thankfully, none of them are in Sudbrooke, which still remains one of the lowest crime areas in the division. The new priority is as follows, 1) ASB in Cherry Willingham on and around the playing fields on Laburnum Drive. Despite none of the priorities being in Sudbrooke we will still continue to patrol and monitor all areas of the village, and recognise that there has been anti social behaviour in the past. At present there are very few incidents of anti social behaviour in the village, however we are aware of some instances of damage to the Scout Camp recently, and we will continue to monitor this area in an effort to identify those responsible and take the appropriate action where necessary.

Can I also remind parents that you have a responsibility to ensure you know where your children are and what they are up to? Simply burying your head in the sand and claiming ignorance is no longer acceptable, and you may be asked to explain why you weren't aware what your children were up to or where they were?

In the meantime if you see or hear of

any problems in Sudbrooke then please let me know. Remember, all information passed will be kept strictly confidential.

Over the past few weeks there have been a number of thefts in the area, particularly in Nettleham. North Greetwell, and Bardney. The thefts have been during the hours of darkness, and the items that have been targeted are stone garden ornaments. Some of the items that have already been taken are quite heavy and would clearly need two people and a vehicle. So far no one has seen or heard anything suspicious, giving rise to the possibility that those responsible are taking great care not to disturb anyone. If you have the facility to secure your items i.e. concreting them to a slab, then please consider it. Alternatively, you could mark your ornaments in such a way that should they be stolen they can be identified as yours. I know that some people have put a small dab of paint on them somewhere discreet, or even scratched something on the base.

We have had a more recent incident where a group of children, about 15 in total, were found playing on a large haystack just outside the village. The children were only primary school age,

POLICE NEWS Cont'd....

and were unsupervised. Some of the bales had had their strings cut, allowing the hay to be removed. You all know how heavy these bales are and what the consequences are going to be should one of them fall onto a child. There is also the added danger of fire, and it only takes one child with one match to set it ablaze. Whilst haystacks can seem to be enticing for young children there are hidden dangers, and I advise all parents to ensure that their children stay well clear of them.

PCSO 2108 Parker PC 1170 Lassmans

SUDBROOKE VILLAGE HALL HIRING CHARGES

Midweek (Inc Sun)	Weekends (Fri/Sat)
£60	£90
£40	£60
£35	£50
£25	£30
	(Inc Sun) £60 £40 £35

Hourly Bookings for **Meetings** etc - £10 for first hour plus £6 for each subsequent hour or part thereof

Bramham Lounge Only (max 40)

£8 for first hour plus £2 for each subsequent hour or part thereof

Bar Area Only (max 20)

£5 for first hour plus £1 for each subsequent hour or part thereof

- a) Concessionary rates apply for regular weekly/monthly bookings
 - b) If the Bar is to be included with the hiring of the Main Hall this will include the Bar Area/Bramham Lounge
 - c) If keys are required more than **3 hours** before time of hire there will be a £2 per hour preparation charge

To make bookings , please telephone Lyn or Stuart Curtis on 01522 751874

October 2008

NB

NETTLEHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NUMBER OR MOBILE NUMBER

Have you recently moved address or changed your telephone number? – if so don't forget to inform the practice to enable us to up date your records.

RECENT ECHO ARTICLE – 4 SEPTEMBER 2008

We know there has been a lot of discussion regarding the proposed building developments in Nettleham. The Practice is looking to improve the service we offer our patients but no definite decision has been made, we are considering a number of options.

MMR CATCH UP CAMPAIGN

You may know that there has been a rise in the number of measles cases in the UK recently.

We now know that a second dose of MMR is needed to give full immunity and that it is sensible to give this both to children and teenagers. This is because immunisation rates fell back following the scare a few years ago about a possible link between MMR vaccine and autism, this has now been refuted. For more information visit <u>www.immunisation.nhs.uk</u>.

An invitation will be sent to all patients (children and teenagers) who fall into the at risk category asking them to make an appointment. You do not need to contact the surgery unless you receive an invitation letter.

LANGWORTH POST OFFICE

The Practice would like to give their

thanks to John and Megan for the running of their medication delivery system. The sad closure of Langworth Post Office, has resulted in us having to stop this service on Tuesdays & Fridays. We would be grateful if patients could collect their medications from the surgery whenever possible.

We do realise that for some housebound patients this is extremely difficult. If you encounter problems please telephone the dispensary at Nettleham on (01522) 751717. We shall endeavour to implement a delivery service for those patients who experience difficulties in obtaining their medications. These deliveries will be on a Friday between 10:30 am and 12:00 noon and the medications can only be left at a patient's house if there is someone at home.

FLU VACCINATIONS PROGRAMME

We commenced our flu campaign at the beginning of October. Following the success of our Saturday morning flu clinics last year, we are running our flu clinics on various Saturday mornings throughout October & November at both Nettleham and Cherry Willingham surgeries. We will be providing limited Thursday evening clinics at Nettleham for those patients who genuinely can not attend on a Saturday. Vaccination is available for patients who fit one or more of the criteria listed below:

Aged 65 or over Have Chronic Heart Disease Have Chronic Respiratory Disease (including Asthma when regularly using an inhaled steroid)

NETTLEHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWS

Have Chronic Liver Disease Have Chronic Renal Disease Have Diabetes Have Suppressed Immune Systems Have Multiple Sclerosis OR are a Carer (main carer of someone who fulfils the above criterion(ia)

Please contact either surgery to book an appointment in one of the flu clinics.

Partners Nettleham Medical Practice

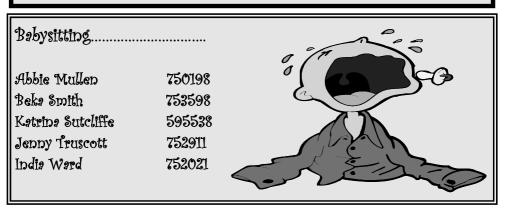
Sudbrooke Litter Pick Saturday morning November 15th

People who kindly volunteered to litter pick in the Spring of this year, thought a similar exercise should take place later in the year. Would volunteers please note the date in their diaries. It could take up to one and a half hours to clean up the village. More information will be given in the November issue of Sudbrooke
News but pickers will be invited to meet at the village hall from 9-30am for a drink and biscuits as well as a health and safety briefing before starting at 10-00am.

Mike Halliday Chairman, Parish Plan Group. Tel 754686

BE SURE OF YOUR VOTE

Complete your Register of Electors form recently delivered to your household.



Country Walks

September walk.

We set off from Bardney village hall in perfect weather, first passing the parish church with its 700 years of history before heading into open countryside. The 6 mile circular route took us through woodlands and meadows as we made

our way to the site of Bardney Abbey- amazing how important Bardney was in bygone days.

Next walk Saturday 4th October.

Gill and Paul Rignall will lead a local walk around the Fiskerton and Reepham area.The distance is approx.6 miles. Walkers are advised to wear suitable footwear, take a waterproof coat, a small snack and a drink.

Meet at Sudbrooke village hall at 9-30am.Everyone is welcome to join in this free and healthy activity.

Future walks.

Saturday 1st November is the next walk, location to be arranged.

Mike Halliday Chairman, Parish Plan Group. Tel 754686



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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR INITIATIVE FUND

Following the success of the above scheme over the past two years, each West Lindsey District Councillor has again been allocated £1000 to be utilised at the Councillor's discretion to fund, aid or kick start small scale community projects or initiatives which may otherwise never get off the ground.

If you are considering starting such an organisation in the Village or wish to fund a particular project for an already established group, please apply to me for an application form as soon as possible.

This scheme is a "reimbursement scheme" therefore successful applicants will need to provide proof of purchase receipts (**not invoices**).

In the last couple of years I have sanctioned funding to Sudbrooke/Scothern Parish Councils, Sudbrooke/Scothern Village Hall Committees, Sudbrooke Parish Plan Committee and Scothern Playgroup.

Stuart Curtis District Councillor Tel: 751874

Operation Christmas Child. – Shoeboxes

Last year I organised a shoebox collection in the village and am planning to do so again this year. Samaritan's Purse (<u>www.samaritanspurse.uk.com</u>) sends out over 1.25 million shoeboxes filled with toys, sweets and stationary etc to children across Central and Eastern Europe, and Africa. These children are living in areas where war, floods, earthquakes etc make it very difficult for their own families (if they have any family) to provide even basic necessities for life so a box filled with little gifts is received with great pleasure.

If you would like to support this project please pick up a



leaflet from the shop, village hall or 6, The Paddock. This will give you instructions on what to put in your box and a label to say what age and sex your box is most suited for. Filled boxes can be left at the shop or 6, The Paddock between 1st – 15th November. Thank you for your support. Last year we collected 36 boxes in Sudbrooke.

Naomia Thurlow



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SUDBROOKE GARDENING CLUB



Autumn Show.

Despite the very wet weather, there was sufficient produce and flowers on show to test show judge Roger Adams who complimented members on their efforts. Club member scoring most points and

winner of the Gibson trophy was Barry Reeves with Mike Halliday as runner up.

Other class winners were George Preece, Ruth Marshall, Ron Cherry, Gill Rignall, Jenny Williams and Eileen Alderson. Christopher Warwick won the junior section and Jenny Williams won "Best in Show" with her floral arrangement. Next Meeting Monday 13th October at the village hall from 7-30pm. Guest speaker is Rudie Bertins. This meeting is open to all members of the public. Rudie Bertins of Rudie's Roots. Nettleham will talk about the recently discovered Wollemi Pine and other hardy exotic plants such as palms, bamboos and tree ferns that are suitable for growing in local gardens. Free tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during the evening. An entrance fee of £1 per adult will be charged to help defray costs. There will be ample time for questions and the meeting should finish by 9-15pm.

Mike Halliday (Secretary) Tel 754686.



SUDBROOKE PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan Group met on the 9th September and covered the following matters:

Footpath / cycleway in Sudbrooke Lane, good progress had been made towards eliminating one of the major costs. Further details to be sought from the County Council.

Part time doctor's service in Sudbrookereply awaited from Nettleham Practice. Access to Sudbrooke park- useful discussions with Somerville Park Ltd and a future meeting is planned. Early improved access is unlikely in view of public liability issues for the landowner.

Unfortunately we are unable to commence any 'keep-fit/yoga as we no longer have a trainer able to commit at present. We are actively seeking an appropriate trainer for either 'keep-fit' and/or yoga, if you know of anybody who is qualified and able to commit to this can you please contact Vicki Wells. We will contact all of you who expressed an interest in this activity as soon as we have further information. Review of street lights, pavements and over- hanging hedges is ongoing.

Readers who wish to review details of the parish plan and progress to date should e-mail vicki.wells@homecall.co.uk

Nettleham Patient Support Group. A meeting was held on 2nd Sept in Cherry Willingham:

It was reported that the Practice partners had not yet made a decision on the site of the proposed new medical centre.

PCT to be asked to clarify intentions re. introduction of Polyclinics in Lincolnshire.

Volunteer car scheme to be trialled once policy and modus operandi are agreed.

Would readers please note that Jenny Williams (tel. 750741) and Derek Ordish (tel. 750847) are Sudbrooke's representatives on the Patient Support Group.

Mike Halliday Chairman, Parish Plan Group. Tel. 754686.

Sudbrooke Parish **Sports Fun Day 2008**

3 hours of wonderful sunshine were sufficient to dry out the sports field and encourage about 50 youngsters plus some adults to join in the fun of sports day.

All 30 track events were keenly contested and it was a delight to see the endeavour of all participants whatever their age or ability. Good humour prevailed throughout.

My thanks to all of the sponsors, to Janette Phillips for the posters, to Dave Chairman, Parish plan Group. Garnham for track marking and the 12

or so adult volunteers who helped out on the day.

A minor disappointment for me was the lower turnout of children this year. I realise the weather may have influenced decisions but the sun did shine and I should have thought many voungsters were ready for some fresh air.

If you think changes are needed to the format of sports day, then please let me know.

Mike Halliday

Tel 754686.



This year seventy-five Lincolnshire artists will be taking part in Art on the Map Open Studios

Open: 11 & 12 October 2008

Local Artists include:

Peter Montgomery (Oil Paintings) - Scothern

Janet Taylor (Textiles) - Sudbrooke

Janet Schooley (Organic Sculptures) - Normanby-by-Spital

Bob Oakes (Forged Metal) - Cold Hanworth

Malcolm Reynolds (Bespoke Picture Framing) - Welton

Helen Link (Painted Panels and Prints) - Sudbrooke

Details of all artists can be found in the AOTM 2008 – 2009 Brochures

Free Brochures are now available from: St. Edward's Church, St. Germain's Church, Sudbrooke Village Hall, Cherry Tree Café, The Bottle & Glass, Scothern Nurseries, Nettleham Library and from the Artists

Stray Cat.....young black cat, short fur, white spot under chin, collar, no name. Please contact 55 Wragby Road, Sudbrooke.

November 2008 print deadline......20 September 2008...thanks

DUNHOLME CAMERA CLUB



The camera club have 3 meetings in October our first will be on the 2nd October when the Lincoln Camera Club will come and entertain us, during the

year we attend their club and this year the Dunholme Camera Club members took over some pictures and entertained the Lincoln Club, now it is their turn to come to Dunholme the content of the evening is not known until the 2nd October.

Our second meeting on the 16th October will be our final club competition of the year and will be an open competition for the members to show off their new work that they have accumulated during the year. This as I mentioned above will be the final club competition for this year and will decide who the "Photographer of the Year" is within the club so one not to be missed by the members.

Our final meeting for October will be on the 30th when we will have a talk/ demonstration evening on Photoshop skills, hopefully everyone will go away with a little more knowledge than they arrived with.

The Camera Club is open for everyone to attend we cater for all levels of photographic skills, if you feel like a night out and hopefully raise the level of your photographic knowledge make sure you are at the camera club at The Old School for 7.30PM on any of the nights above.

Further Info contact 01673 860469 or dunholme.camera.club@homecall.co.uk

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SUDBROOKE LADIES CLUB



We were sorry to learn of the death of member Thelma Henderson. Our thoughts are with her family.

Kim Frow, Fund Raising Manager of St Barnabas Hospice Trust spoke about the work of the Hospice at our September meeting.

The hospice has been open 26 years and is provided free to everyone. It offers in patient and day care and costs £2.4 million a year to run. Pain relief and complementary therapies are important services offered. Its philosophy is 'Caring for Life'. Further details can be found at www.stbarnabashospice.co.uk

There will be a visit to Lincoln Theatre Royal to see 'Annie Get Your Gun' on 6^{th} -November. Please see Jean

Edmunds if you would like to go.

Forthcoming Events:

Thursday 16th October: Steven Lavell 'Encouraging wildlife into the garden'. **Thursday 20th November:** Paul Gray – head gardener at Gunby Hall.

We will be having a bring and buy table at meetings in addition to the book table and our used stamp and small coin collections.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month in Sudbrooke Village Hall. Guests are always welcome and are asked to contribute £2.

Further information: 01522-595736

Gill Rignall.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

New Year's Eve is not that far away. A celebration at the Village Hall is great for residents because you can leave the car at home. A group of us would like to organize a disco and refreshments in the Hall.

We obviously need support for this to be success. If you are interested and can help in any way please let us know. We envisage serving a cold meal and desserts.

Don't worry, we have volunteers to organize the bar and food. It's just a bit of help we need. We would also like to hear from people interested in buying tickets as we need to know that there is a demand for a do.

Adults only.

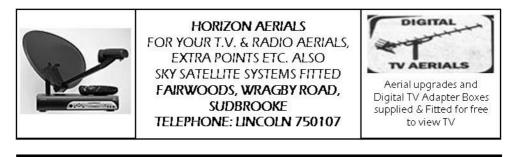
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

Flooded with money worries

When I write this, we are still only beginning the next round of autumn meetings. However, the advance papers for the next county council meeting make protection against flooding a topic for our debate. As I dealt with this last month, I will not spend too much time on this subject again. Suffice it to say that more co-ordination between those responsible and more money spent overall, are well documented concerns. But an aspect I did not deal with, is the effect the blight (caused by uncertainty about future flood protection) has on further development. This, in turn, has local economic consequences.

This latter point adds an additional local burden to the effect of the world wide 'credit crunch'. This is not a good time to have additional economic worries, from whatever source.

For its part, the council has to consider the general economic situation as an integral part of its forward financial planning, as you would expect of a body that spends around a billion pounds of our money each year! It is, perhaps, worth repeating that gross figure, £1 billion.

Of course, much of that is money is 'passported' straight through, such as the dedicated schools budget – government money passed straight to the schools throughout the county. But quite large sums end up on deposit in the bank for varying lengths of time. Higher bank interest rates mean these deposits earn more money, so it is not all bad news.

What is bad news, however, is the effect rising wage and price inflation will have on budgets. A modest level of salary increase for staff is built into the financial plan. But the council has no direct say in the amount of any rise. This is negotiated centrally. Rising inflation increases the case for larger increases. Government has already set out the money it will provide to councils next year, but this takes no account of salary levels decided after the budget was set. The council will have then to cut its cloth according to its means, in order to balance the books.

Serious as this is, an even bigger worry is the effect of price inflation. A one percent increase in prices paid will have more than double the effect of a one percent increase in salaries. This is because of the sheer volume of goods and services bought each year. Many of the services provided by the council rely on outside providers.

In short, the effect of the credit crunch not only affects us all individually, but also stretches to what the council can afford to do as well. This is a global problem with a local reach. But the council also has a role to play in looking after the interests of all who live in Lincolnshire. Our residents are affected in all sorts of ways that are not within the powers of the council to deal with. But keeping council tax as low as possible and doing all we can to deal with those areas of policy that are capable of being influenced by the council, is something that is little short of a duty. This means, amongst many other things, we need to do all we can to deal with large scale planning blight due to flooding fears. There are a lot of jobs at stake in the building industry and the last thing they need is more problems peculiar to Lincolnshire.

Till next month

Roger Hiscox



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