



The Pantaloons performing Alice in Wonderland at Osgathorpe Hall

Osgathorpe Village Voice

November 2023

EDITOR: KEVIN LEGG

News and Views

Village Voice Newsletter

Many thanks to **Mark Robertson** who has edited the Village Voice (VV) for the last nine years, and has now passed the baton to **Kevin Legg**. The VV is produced on behalf of all residents in the village with printing undertaken by the Parish Council.

If you have any articles, news or photographs for the newsletter then please email Kevin at k.legg@hotmail.co.uk

Village Communications

There are several ways to keep in touch with village news and communicate across the village:

WhatsApp - Osgathorpe Support Group (OSG)

This group evolved from a Covid information group set up in 2020 and is now a channel for other village information (road closures, alerts, info about village events etc.). If you would like to be added to the Osgathorpe Support Group please contact **Nick Sydenham** on 07711 314294.

Email osgathorpevillage@gmail.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/OsgathorpeVillage

Parish Council News

Andrew Bate (Chair) reflects that 2023 has been an eventful year for the village:

- In May, the first contested elections for more than 20-years was held for parish councillor positions, with the turnout being one of the highest in the District.
- The King's Coronation was celebrated by a number of events in the village.
- The Parish Council secured a grant of £3,125 from North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) for the purchase of equipment necessary to enable future social events to be undertaken. Prior to next Spring we will be purchasing the equipment. The grant aid has already supported two pop-up events.
- Following our representations, the village has been included in a tender for the installation of improved broadband connectivity to homes. We should know by May 2024 whether the necessary infrastructure is to be installed and an indicative time-frame.
- A planning application seeking planning approval to change the use of the Storey Arms to a private dwelling was refused by NWLDC following a very significant outpouring of public opinion. The Parish Council very much looks forward to working with all parties to secure a desirable outcome.

The recent month has seen the highest water levels for many years in the Westmeadow Brook. The Parish Council will be seeking to ensure that flood protection resilience is improved.



In the coming weeks, Severn Trent Water (STW) will be laying a new waste pipeline from the Snarrows Lane treatment works to the River Trent near Melbourne. This will be accompanied by significant additional vehicle movements along Snarrows Lane and a number of temporary highway restrictions. STW has committed to ensuring that construction traffic will not travel through the village.

The Parish Council is 'your' Council and is striving to work for the benefit of all who live and/or work here. To help us deliver on this objective, we welcome suggestions and comments from everyone. The recently held Village Meeting has provided informed comments that will help shape future strategy. Please do not hesitate to let any Parish Councillor or our Clerk know your thoughts, whether these are positive or negative.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Andrew Bate (Chair) - 07740 563207

Jim Elson (Vice-Chair) - 07752 602781

Stefan Olsberg - 07973 814496

James Lowth - james.lowth@hotmail.co.uk

Andrew Dodson - 07702 238619.

Melanie Mitchell (Clerk)

clerk@osgathorpeparishcouncil.org.uk

Future Parish Council meeting are on:

- 14th November 2023
- 9th January 2024
- 12th March 2024

For more information about the Parish Council please visit

www.osgathorpeparishcouncil.org.uk

Update re Storey Arms

A Change of Use Application was made to NWLDC to change The Storey Arms pub into a private residence. If this had been successful, the last remaining pub in the village would have been lost forever. The application was turned down, helped by the large number of objections submitted by villagers.

This means that the Story Arms (41 Main Street) should remain a pub.

With the support of the Parish Council, the Osgathorpe Community Pub Ltd (OCPL) was established in 2014 with the sole objective of saving the Storey Arms as a community asset. We very much hope that the pub owners will now reopen the pub or sell it to a party who wishes to run it as a pub. The OPCL is actively working to buy it for the community.

Agreeing a price would be the first step following which we can throw all our energy into raising the necessary finance. This will likely include applying for a Community Ownership Fund (COF) grant to buy and renovate the pub. This government fund has been providing money for communities to purchase their local pub and would be a great opportunity for us. Successful applicants can receive up to 80% of their pub's independent valuation, up to a maximum of £250,000.

The remaining money for purchase and renovation of the Storey Arms, would need to be raised from other sources e.g. grants and / or a share issue. To give an idea of the amount of money we would need to raise we have put an illustrative estimate for 2 scenarios on our website:

www.thestoreyarms.co.uk

The pub was a topic of much interest at the village meeting on the 25th October. There was a strong feeling that the closure of the Storey Arms has had a negative effect on the social life of the village and that the campaign to retain it should continue.

If you would like to actively help save the Storey Arms please make contact with us via the website.

Rob Whyard (Chair of OCPL)

Community Meeting 25th October

A meeting of our community was held at the end of October to offer an opportunity for us to share and discuss our views and opinions on our village and its future.

On a dry clear evening, the healthy turnout at the venue St Mary's aptly illustrated one of the more keenly discussed topics – availability of a suitable space with capacity to accommodate larger gatherings in our growing village.

At time of writing, a survey was underway offering a last opportunity to 'have your say' as part of this community engagement, with the meeting minutes and summary of findings to be published in November.

Let's hope one or two good ideas with consensus can then be progressed by us, and that meetings of our community are not such a rarity, allowing our voices to be heard more often. Thanks to all involved in organising, hosting and most importantly, participating.

Owen Mace

St Mary's Church News

Church Services

There is a service in St Mary's Osgathorpe on the first Sunday of every month. For the remaining Sundays, services rotate around the Benefice churches (Osgathorpe, Belton, Long Whatton, Diseworth, Hathern and Kegworth). Service details are available on the Church noticeboard, as a Weekly Newsheet post on the 'Kegworth and Hathern Benefice' Facebook group, or you can contact:

Revd Louise Corke for details (01530 588868 words.th@talktalk.net)

Remembrance Day Service - 12th November

Please come along for the special service on **Sunday 12th November at 10:45am**

Carol Service

The traditional village Carol Service will be on **Tuesday 19th December at 7pm** in St Mary's Church.

Christmas Day Service

There will be a Holy Communion service on **Christmas Day at 10am**.

Fund Raising and Social Committee

The last few months have seen some great village social events, including the wonderfully funny and inventive outdoor production of Alice in Wonderland by The Pantaloons at Osgathorpe Hall in July. (With thanks to **Simon and Cristobel Blunt** for hosting).

We have held a couple of 'pop-up' evenings with food and drinks at **Georgio's**, which always have a friendly and informal atmosphere. (With thanks to **George Phillipson**).

And we had a groovy night at Boogie in the Barn in August, with thanks again to **Simon and Cristobel** for use of their barn – which you can see from the photos to the right, we magically transformed into a disco hall for the night!

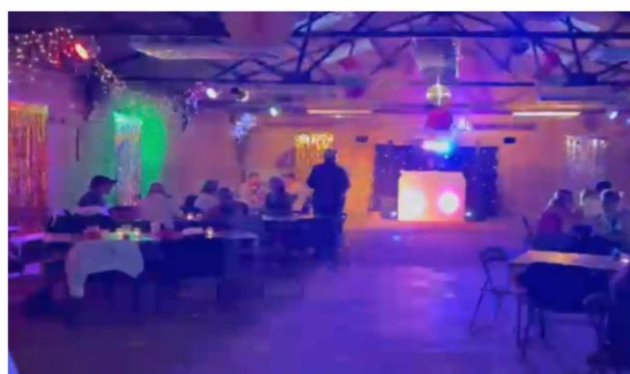
We're busy making plans for the next couple of months and for 2024, which will include more pop-up evenings and we're very lucky to have been able to book **The Pantaloons again for 18th August**, with their production of **Robin Hood**. We're also planning to hold **Open Osgathorpe again in 2024** so all you keen gardeners out there, please consider opening your gardens!

A huge thank you to everyone who supports these events, which raise funds for repairs to the Church – even if you're not a churchgoer, most of us want to see our lovely church preserved and looking beautiful. And importantly, the events provide great opportunities to socialise and meet each other. The Committee has raised almost £4,000 so far this year, and we have also received a £5,000 donation from a very generous, anonymous village donor who has matched the £5,000 that was raised last year. All the money from our social events and the donations you make are valuable contributions to the upkeep of the church (a Grade II* listed building) and, in particular, the urgent repairs to the church tower.

Everyone is welcome to the events, the more the merrier. Please keep a look out for information about future events – our main communication channel is through the village WhatsApp group.

We're always looking for people to help us, so if you're interested, please contact **Sharon Creber 07887 726437**.

Boogie in the Barn photos



Osgathorpe Heritage Group (OHG)

Although only formed early last year, the OHG has been busy pursuing its objective to 'research, record and document items of local historical interest relating to Osgathorpe and its local area'. After searching various archives and news reporting and talking to long term residents of the village they have produced a comprehensive but ever growing website covering places, people, industry and many other areas of historical significance, as well as a village heritage trail and a photo gallery.

Please have a look at it at www.osgathorpeheritage.org and if you think you can add something that's missing, let any of the OHG members know: Martin Buczkiewicz, Martyn Stapley, Liz Harlow, Jon Buss, Brian Sills, Aimee Sewell, Neil Godfrey and Sylvia Armitage. Email **Martin Buczkiewicz (Chair)** at Martinbucz@hotmail.com

Harley Hall

Harley Hall is one of the meeting places in the village and is bookable for a small fee. For more details, contact **Pamela Martin** at art@chatwinmartin.com or **01530 224923**

Fly Tipping

To report any instances of fly tipping please visit www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/refuse_flytipping

Shepshed Food Bank (SFB)

Thanks for all the kind donations throughout the year. We continue to collect items weekly from the Church porch before gam on Mondays.

The Foodbank always needs non-perishable food items and toiletries, and is also grateful for pet food. Items should all be well within their sell-by date.

We recently held a really successful Pamper evening at Harley Hall, sponsored by **Tropic and Kat Adkins** in support of the Foodbank, which raised £277 – may thanks to everyone who supported this.

As well as the weekly collections, we plan to run another Reverse Advent Calendar this year in the run up to Christmas.

How to create a Reverse Advent Calendar - grab a box and every day from 16 November to 9 December (24 days in total), put in a food item that will help families over Christmas and New Year.

For more information about Food Bank please contact **Stefan Olsberg** on **07973 814496** or visit www.shepshedfoodbank.co.uk

Valley Beat Crime Warning

Officers from the Valley Beat Team have seen a spike in crime in recent weeks.

Increases relate to offence types listed below:

- Residential Burglaries.
- Theft from motor vehicles - vans (power tools etc.).
- Thefts from HGV's.
- Theft of parcels left on doorsteps.
- Theft of motor vehicles (van).

With the darker nights, please remain crime aware and vigilant.

All types of crime prevention can be accessed via the Leicestershire Police website www.police.uk/pu/advice-information

Please report any suspicious activity/crime via **101/999** or via the Single online home located on the Force Website.

Many thanks.

On behalf of the Valley Beat Team.

Heating Oil

Arrangements have been made with Barton Petroleum whereby residents who order heating oil at the same time benefit from a bulk order discount even though each resident may only require a small volume. Barton deliver all orders on the same day and hence benefit from lower delivery costs. Residents have their own account with Barton and pay the company directly. A small number of residents are currently in the buying group and there is no obligation to place an order every time. Also, there is no cost in being a member of the group. The more members, the better discounts that should be achievable to all.

If you are interested in joining the group or want more details, then please drop Kevin Legg an email at k.legg@hotmail.co.uk