



Osgathorpe Village Voice

March 2024

Daffodils planted by villagers in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium and still flowering every year!

EDITOR: KEVIN LEGG

News and Views

Village Voice (VV)

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Village Voice. The printed version is in black and white as it's a lot cheaper than full colour. The VV is also circulated via the village WhatsApp Group, the email group and is uploaded to the Parish Council website.

The VV is published every three months. If you have any articles, news or photographs for the newsletter then please email Kevin at k.legg@hotmail.co.uk

The next edition of the VV will be issued early June.

Village WhatsApp Group

The village WhatsApp group, the Osgathorpe Support Group, is a great way of connecting people in the village and sharing information across a range of helpful information eg road closures, internet performance problems, flood alerts, social events etc.

If you would like to be added to the group, please contact **Margaret (07763 233888)**, who is one of the administrators.

Parish Council News

The next Parish Council meeting is on **19th March 2024** at Harley Hall, starting at 7:30pm. Please remember everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

For minutes, agendas, future meeting etc please visit www.osgathorpeparishcouncil.org.uk

NWLDC Local Plan Consultation

NWLDC are undertaking a six week consultation on the draft Local Plan, which ends on **17th March 2024**. There is a short explanation of what a Local Plan is and how it is prepared - watch this 3 minute video from the Planning Inspectorate www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/local_plan_review

There are some fact sheets providing useful context on why new homes are needed, how they are planned for and where they are planned for.

Reported Crime

Thankfully, we live in a very low crime area. In 2023 there were 13 reported crimes in Osgathorpe, compared to 18 in 2022 and 11 in 2021. There have been two reported burglaries in the last four years.

For more advice and crime prevention please visit: www.police.uk/pu/advice-information

Storey Arms Update

Following on from the refusal of the change of use application for the Storey Arms in October 2023, the Osgathorpe Community Pub group (OCPL) has supported the Parish Council in their application for renewal of the Asset of Community Value (ACV) designation for the pub (which had expired in November 2023). We received confirmation from the District Council, on 7th February 2024, that the Storey Arms ACV listing has been renewed.

The ACV listing means that the pub owner must notify the District Council when the pub is put up for sale and it provides a 6 month window where interested community groups can submit a bid to buy the pub. The ACV does not restrict the owner from selling to whoever they like, after the 6 months, but it does give the opportunity for the village to make a competitive bid. Importantly, the ACV listing also shows, to any other potential buyer, that retaining the Storey Arms as a pub is seen as a priority for both the village and District Council.

We are continuing to try to engage with the owner to buy the pub for the community.

To ensure clear representation and continued input from the Parish Council on the OCPL, Councillors Jim Elson and James Lowth have now formally joined Simon Blunt, Peter Hodgson, Dave Bull and myself on the OCPL management committee.

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

www.thestoreyarms.co.uk

Rob Whyard, OCPL

Fly Tipping



Fly tipping continues to be a real problem in rural areas like ours, but NWLDC are usually very responsive once incidents are reported to them. The Council has put up warning signs at known fly tipping hotspots around the village.

This was an incident last month along Snarrows Road. 🙄

Please do report any fly tipping to the council by going to www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/refuse_flytipping

News from St Mary's

Fundraising and Social Events

The Church Fundraising & Social Committee had another very successful year in 2023 with a total of just over £4,800 raised across all our fundraising and social events.

The Pantaloons returned to the village last year to put their usual spin on a timeless classic, this time it was Alice in Wonderland.

We also ran a 70s and 80s themed disco at Osgathorpe Hall which was very well received by everyone who came along.

In addition, we ran four pop-up events (village get-togethers put together at short notice) which were a huge success.



In the absence of a village pub, these events did much to generate a great community spirit in the village. The Christmas pop-up (pictured here) was a real success and we intend to hold a similar evening for Christmas 2024.

Thank you to everyone who comes along and supports these events.

We have a number of social events already in the diary for 2024 so please hold these dates, with more info to follow nearer the time – see below:

2024 - Hold the Dates!

Evening pop up events

- Friday 5th April, 5pm – 10pm – at Harley Hall
- Saturday 11th May – venue to be confirmed
- July – date and venue to be agreed

Open Osgathorpe - Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd June

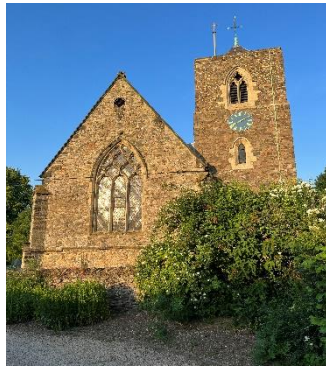
We are hoping a number of villagers will be willing to open their gardens, and we will also be reaching out soon to ask for volunteers to help over the weekend. (If you are interested in opening your garden or volunteering please contact **Sharon on 07887 726437**)

Sunday 18th August pm – The amazing **Pantaloons** are performing "Robin Hood" at Osgathorpe Hall. Please visit www.pantaloons.co.uk for tickets and more information. Adults £15 - Child (4-16) £9

Saturday 31st August evening – we are planning an event in the barn at Osgathorpe Hall – more details to follow.

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 (01530 588868, words.th@talktalk.net)** for details.

The Future of the Church in Osgathorpe – Village Survey

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to thank everyone in the village who completed the 'Future of the Church in Osgathorpe' survey. As we stated in the survey letter, the church in Osgathorpe is at a crossroads, with a lot of work to do on the church building, but not enough people to manage it. The PCC is working with the Diocese of Leicester to explore ways forward, and the survey is the first step to get a better understanding of the value of the church to our community.

We delivered the survey to around 190 households and we were delighted to receive responses from 86 people.

Of these, 76 people said it was important to them to have a church in the village. This is incredibly encouraging and gives the PCC a clear mandate to ensure that, whatever options we consider, our priority should be to try to keep St Mary's open as a working church.

Villagers were asked how they wanted the church building to be used. 55 respondents said it was important for the church to be used for Sunday worship and 68 people said they wanted the church there for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

One of the key findings from the survey is that, whilst there were a few people who thought that the Church should only be used for worship or Baptism, Weddings and Funerals, a large majority (75 people) felt that the Church should be a joint venue for worship and social events (16 people said they would be happy to have the church just for social events).

Each of the possible events that could be hosted in the church (and that we have hosted over the past 20 years) were well-supported, with around 70 'votes' for each (concerts, films, coffee mornings/afternoon teas, meetings, etc.), and there were some very interesting suggestions for other activities that we could host.

Many respondents highlighted that, if the church is used for wider community events, these need to be respectful of the church and the churchyard.

One of the PCC's main objectives for the survey was to assess whether anyone in the village would be prepared to help to address our resource problem.

29 people provided their contact details and said they were 'very likely' or 'somewhat likely' to volunteer their time. This is very encouraging and, once the PCC has decided our next steps, we will be bringing volunteers together to talk about how they can help.

The PCC will be meeting in early March to discuss the findings of the survey and, in conjunction with the Diocese of Leicester, we will then decide our next steps and put together a plan for how we move forward.

We will ensure village residents are kept up to date throughout this process, but thank you again for response and for your support.

Footpaths

During the Village Open Meeting held in the church in October there were many comments made about the state of the footpaths both in and around the village.

As a result of these concerns the Parish Council has sanctioned the formation of a 'Footpaths Group.' While the Group will not report to the Council, Andrew Dodgson, who is a member of the Parish Council, is joining the Group to ensure that the Council is updated on progress and can seek their support where necessary.

The three main aims of the Group are:

- 1) To tackle issues like the general accessibility and safety of rural footpaths in co-operation with local land owners.
- 2) To ensure the pavements in the village are safe and clear for villagers to walk on (think rotting leaves on Doctor's Hill!).
- 3) To investigate the feasibility of a footpath around the whole village to avoid people risking life and limb on the B5324.

Residents who regularly use the footpaths around the village are being recruited, but if you are interested in joining and contributing to this Group, please email **Liz Harlow at liz_harlow@hotmail.com**

Thomas Harley's Estate Charity

Thomas Harley of Osgathorpe, who died in 1670, left in his will sufficient funds to build almshouses, a school and a school house, all in Osgathorpe, and land rentals to endow six clergy widows with £10 per annum each and £40 per annum for the headmaster of the school. In recent years the Trust has sold most of its landholding and invested the money on the financial markets, which affords a greater annual income. 25% of this annual income is to support education with the balance earmarked for its 'Relief in Need Fund'.



Harley Hall

The Harley Trust currently has a net income of approximately £240,000 per annum. In accordance with Thomas Harley's will, 75% of this income is distributed to the dependants of deceased clergy in the Diocese of Leicester and 25% to the education of young people under the age of twenty-five whose parents live in Leicestershire; the latter is notionally divided two-thirds to young people, with a preference for those who live in Osgathorpe, Belton and the old Urban District of Coalville, and one-third to the schools which serve these areas.

The Parish Council is keen to see funds from the Trust assist young people in their educational needs. To this end, anyone interested should contact Sue Stevenson who provides administrative support.

Contact: **Sue Stevenson**, Thomas Harley's Charity, Charity Link, 20A Millstone Lane, Leicester LE1 5JN Email: sue.stevenson@charity-link.org

Foodbank

Many thanks for the continued support and donations. We collect items weekly from the Church porch before 9am on Mondays.

Villagers made a wonderfully generous response to the Christmas appeal, with many 'reverse advent calendar' boxes and other items donated, so much so that our donations filled the van that came to collect them!



Stephanie, a coordinator at the Foodbank said "Thank you so much Osgathorpe for your kind donations. Christmas is a hard time for many local families and your generosity will really make a difference."

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