

# Osgathorpe Village Voice

June 2024

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Open Osgathorpe 2024

## News and Views

Welcome to the June edition of the Village Voice. If you have any articles, news or photographs for the newsletter then please email [k.legg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:k.legg@hotmail.co.uk)

### Open Osgathorpe 1 & 2 June 2024



We had a fantastic response to Open Osgathorpe this year, with well over 500 tickets sold (not including children). Sunday was a particularly busy day with glorious weather.

14 villagers kindly opened up their lovely gardens and there was a range of other attractions across the weekend. For example, in the church there were cream teas, a book sale and on Saturday we had a wonderful choir performance by Charnwood Voices. At Brookside Farmhouse there was a BBQ and licenced bar, and a great set by Sax Mundi a local saxophone quartet.



The weekend drew visitors not just from the local area but also from neighbouring counties. So many visitors commented on how beautiful our village is.

And it was great to see so many Osgathorpe families enjoying the weekend and supporting the event.

Harley Hall was a hive of activity with the cake stall, bric-a-brac sale and a wonderful photographic exhibition by local resident Martin Cooke. There were also delicious homemade pizzas



available at one the gardens, and a plant sale on Main Street. Some gardeners also sold plants and donated their takings.



The weekend was organised by the Church Fundraising Group, and as well as raising money for repairs to the church tower, the weekend raised funds for three local charities – LOROS, Canine Partners and Rainbows Hospice. A fantastic outcome!

So many people helped to make the weekend such a success – special thanks to all the volunteers, the cake bakers, the villagers who opened their gardens, to George Phillipson for the use of his gardens and field, and to Phil Collin and family for the use of their car park on the Saturday when our normal car park was too wet. Also thanks to the Heritage Group for putting up the village heritage boards, which give a fascinating insight to the village's history.

Martin Cooke took lots of great photos over the weekend, a few of which are reproduced in this VV.

We will report shortly on exactly how much was raised by Open Osgathorpe, but it looks like we raised more than ever before!

## News from St Mary's Church

### The Future of the Church in Osgathorpe

Following the 'Future of the Church in Osgathorpe' survey earlier this year, Osgathorpe Parochial Church Council (PCC) invited village residents to a meeting on 25th March. The results of the survey were very clear that, whilst church attendance is low, residents of Osgathorpe still want to have a church in the village. This open meeting was very well attended and reviewed the findings of the survey and discussed possible next steps.

As a result, a number of people came forward to offer their help. The PCC has now established a Building Group to focus on the day-to-day repairs of the church building, larger building works (such as the repairs to the church tower) and to come up with ideas for the longer-term future of the church building.

The Church Building Group has now started its work and has already made an incredible impact in addressing some of the outstanding repair works in the church. In addition, we have volunteers who will be helping with ad-hoc jobs in the church and churchyard (weeding, reorganising the storage in the church, etc.). If you would like to join the Building Group please contact Liz Harlow or Andrew Dodson.

### 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](mailto:words.th@talktalk.net)) for details.

## St Mary's Church Fundraising Group

The group was set up specifically to raise funds for repairs to the church. Most of the fundraising is through village events, which also provide great opportunities to socialise, which many villagers particularly enjoy and value in the absence of a village pub.



Above image: Charnwood Voices singing at Open Osgathorpe

**Dates for your diary** ..... make a note in your diary for the following fundraising events:

### Pantaloons Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 3pm, Osgathorpe Hall

This year, the amazing **Pantaloons** are performing "Robin Hood" at Osgathorpe Hall. Come along and join Robin, Marian and the Merry Men for a hilariously adventurous take on the timeless tales of everyone's favourite archer!

Please bring your chairs, and feel free to bring a picnic and invite family and friends. The more the merrier! The production is suitable for all ages and is a really entertaining show. It lasts for about 2 hours with a short break.

We are so lucky that The Pantaloons visit Osgathorpe in their busy schedule, which includes shows at Abergavenny Castle & Nottingham Castle!

Visit [www.thepantaloons.co.uk](http://www.thepantaloons.co.uk) for tickets and more information. Adults £15 - Child (4-16) £9.

### Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, Barn Dance at Osgathorpe Hall

This year, our event at Osgathorpe Hall is a barn dance, with The Reel Easy Band. Tickets will be on sale shortly, but for now – hold the date!

# D-DAY 80

Thanks to Mick Allard for ringing the bell and Jim Elson for putting up the flag at the church to commemorate The D Day Landings.



## The Storey Arms update from OCPL

The owners of the Storey Arms have told us that they have received an offer to buy the pub. They said that the prospective buyer is very keen to take on the challenge of operating a country pub and is encouraged by the communities overwhelming support for the Storey Arms staying as a pub, as expressed in the opposition to the application for Change of Use.

The Change of Use application was refused by North West Leicestershire District Council in October 2023. Following on from this, on the 1st April, an enforcement notice took effect relating to 'Matters Which Appear to Constitute a Breach of Planning Control', i.e. the Public House being changed to a residential dwellinghouse from 2020 without permission. Details of the notice can be found on the NWLDC planning website, ref: E/23/00328/COU.

We hope that the enforcement notice will ensure that the pub will either be opened or sold to be someone who wants to run it as a pub.

The OCPL very much hopes that the offer to buy the pub will progress to a successful conclusion and we have told the owners that we would be happy to meet with any prospective buyer if that would help give them confidence that the village would support them in making the pub a success. However, if the sale to a private buyer falls through, OCPL remains committed to raising the money to buy the pub at its market value.

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

[www.thestoreyarms.co.uk](http://www.thestoreyarms.co.uk)

### Rob Whyard

Osgathorpe Community Pub Ltd (OCPL)

## Osgathorpe Footpaths Group (OFG)

The OFG is now up and running. The members are Liz Harlow, Andrew Dodson, Tony Coles, Charlie Butler, Chris Bull, Aimee Sewell, Neil Godfrey and Alison Ashman.

One of the main aims is to form a good relationship with the land owners through which the footpaths around the village run to try and make improvements to accessibility. When this has been tried in the past, the first thing they say is that 'they would be more inclined to co-operate if they weren't constantly finding dog dirt in their fields'. This is a big issue. We have become reasonably good at picking up dog dirt in the village, but the same rule applies on the footpaths and the surrounding areas. So, PLEASE pick it up, bag it up and take it home.

If you spot a problem with one of the footpaths please feel free to contact any of the Group members or email **Liz Harlow** at [liz\\_harlow@hotmail.com](mailto:liz_harlow@hotmail.com)

## Parish Council update for the period 1st May 2023 - 31st May 2024

### Procedural

Started the year with no Parish Clerk following the resignation of the previous Clerk in early May 2023. Five Councillors were elected by the village. Two of these resigned before taking up their positions. This left Councillors Elson, Olsberg and Bate as the parish's elected Councillors. The Council was only just quorate as a minimum of 3 Councillors are required at each meeting. It was imperative that the two vacancies be filled. We needed to go through the formal process of asking residents if they wished there to be an election for the two vacancies. By early July Andrew Dodson and James Lowth joined as co-opted councillors. A new Parish Clerk, Melanie Mitchell, was recruited following an advert placed in the weekly Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Council (LRALC) news-letter and interview process. The public participation element of Parish Council meetings has been revised to facilitate improved public engagement.

Procedures and policies have been reviewed and/or revised & new ones adopted during the year. Information contained on the Parish Council website is regularly updated. Parish Council meetings now commence at 7.30pm in an attempt to make them more accessible especially to residents who work.

### Finance

#### Opening Balance

Current Account balance of	£601.95
Reserve Account balance of	£2,514.31
Account balance of	<u>£6,072.70</u>
Total	£9,188.96

#### Closing Balance

Current Account	£1,863
(not including £247 of unexpended UK-SPF grant)	
Savings Account	<u>£4,010</u>
Total	£5,873

Expenditure in excess of income (£3,316) mostly arisen from unbudgeted Parish Clerk costs, but an unpaid cemetery related invoice for £675 has not assisted us getting closer to a balanced budget.

### Banking

Identified how to access the Council's 'Reserve' Account. This was actually a savings account held with HSBC. Started the year by only having an ability to make payments by cheque. This was causing administrative issues and was inefficient. We have therefore opened electronic banking accounts with Unity Trust bank and closed our HSBC accounts. The Council now holds its money in one of two accounts, a current account, which is used to hold money that will be required in the 'short-term'. Financial reserves and funds not required in the short-term are held in an interest bearing account, which currently pays 2.75% pa.

### **'Internal' Audit undertaken by LRALC & Play Area Safety Inspection by Wickstead**

All matters identified in both of these were addressed during the year.

### **Planning Application Consultations**

The Parish Council has responded to NWLDC in relation to all planning applications submitted in the Parish. Two have been of particular note, The Storey Arms, change of use application and 29 Main Street.

### **Village Events**

During the May 2023 Parish Council meeting it was agreed that we wished to see more village events. The Council has assisted this by securing a £3,125UK-Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) grant for the purchase of event related equipment and activities, e.g. 2 gazebos, a PA system and a 2.2Kw petrol generator. A village meeting was held last autumn jointly with the Church.

### **Public Highways**

At public request we have worked to establish a public footpath group aligned with the Council. We are exploring how to improve footpath links between areas of the village. We successfully lobbied Leicestershire County Council (LCC) to undertake safety works to the road surface on Meadow Lane and Breedon Lane. We have successfully worked with LCC to ensure gulleys and drains in the village have been thoroughly cleansed and become fully functional. We have 'worked with' Severn Trent Water (STW) to ensure lorries servicing its pipeline project do not access the works through the village centre. We have ensured STW has made footpath crossings over its pipeline works are dog friendly.

### **Broadband**

We are pleased to report Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband has now been approved for the village. This was recently reported in the Leicester Mercury (28<sup>th</sup> May). No start date has been provided but once we have some more news an update will be provided via the VV.

### **Storey Arms**

We have engaged with the owner and OCPL in attempts to secure the future of the Storey Arms as a public House. In December we successfully applied for the Storey Arms to be registered again as an Asset of Community Value. We are monitoring the Local Planning Authority's enforcement action.

### **Village Voice**

Following the resignation of Mark Robinson, Kevin Legg kindly offered to edit the Village Voice. Two editions have been published during the past year. A decision was taken to make this more community focussed and less led by the Parish Council.

### **Harley Trust**

The Parish Council has a nominated representative on the Harley Trust to ensure the village / residents are not inadvertently overlooked.

### **Flood Risk**

Extensive work has been undertaken since last October to identify and address issues which increase flood risk. The Parish Council has been liaising (lobbying) with LCC (Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority) and STW with the objective of ensuring the proper maintenance of drainage and sewerage systems.

### **Cemetery**

The good work of former Councillor Fairlamb has been continued. Most regrettably a local Funeral Director has still not settled an invoice for £675, which has now been outstanding since 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024. We are seeking to secure payment of this debt. Access and environmental improvement works to the cemetery are being investigated.

### **Severn Trent Water**

We have established personal points of contact with STW, which are proving most helpful. CPC Civils, the STW pipeline contractor kindly provided a number of bird boxes to villagers, and they also kindly undertook road sweeping and a litter pick in the village ready for Open Osgathorpe.

### **Current Council Year**

Stefan Olsberg has been elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the 2024/25 term.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Harley Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024, commencing at 19.30hrs. All villagers are welcome to attend. Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Parish and Parish Council meetings are available for viewing on the village notice boards and on the Parish Council website [www.osgathorpeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.osgathorpeparishcouncil.gov.uk)