

Osgathorpe Village Voice

September 2024



Celebrating The History & Heritage of Osgathorpe

EDITOR: KEVIN LEGG

News and Views

Welcome to the September edition of the Village Voice. If you have any articles, news or photographs for the newsletter then please email k.legg@hotmail.co.uk

Storey Arms - Important Update!

There has been a very positive development on The Storey Arms! We heard last week that Phil and Sue (the pub owners) have accepted an offer from Russell Boam to buy and run the pub (Russell also happens to be our NWLDC Councillor).



Their solicitors are progressing with the purchase, and he is hoping to complete in the next couple of months.

The Parish Council and the OCPL met with Russell to hear about his plans and to express our support for having the pub open again in the village. Once the purchase has gone through, Russell plans to renovate the pub and open it around April next year. He will live above the pub and run it with his partner Michelle Bates.

This is great news for the village, and we wish Russell well in getting the purchase over the line. Russell has agreed to write an article for the Village Voice to introduce himself to the village and to give an outline of his plans when the sale is completed.

The pub is registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) which allows community groups time to submit a bid for the pub. After hearing Russell's positive plan, the OCPL agreed with members of the Parish Council that we would not submit an 'intention to bid' to NWLDC because this would delay the sale.

Russell has agreed to keep the OCPL informed on progress. The OCPL will continue to monitor developments on behalf of the village and be ready to consider other options if the sale doesn't go through. We will also want to help Russell promote the use of the pub and make it a success and a valuable village asset.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us on the email below.

Rob Whyard

Osgathorpe Community Pub Ltd
savethestoreyarms@gmail.com

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.



If you would like to be added to the group, please contact **Margaret (07763 233888)**.

Happy Birthday Helen at 100 years old!

Helen Widdowson celebrated her 100th birthday on 19th September! Helen was born in Dawson Road, and has lived there in the same house with her family, all of her long life.



These photographs were taken circa 1926. One is of Helen and her brother Ted, sitting as children do now, on the bridge outside her house. The other is Helen sitting in the garden of "Sunnybank", Church Lane. You can see the village hall and Harley House in the background.

Helen says how lucky she has been to live all her life in a beautiful village that she loves.

Osgathorpe Heritage Group (OHG)

The OHG continues to ensure that the history and heritage of our village is preserved for generations to come.

As part of NWLDC's 'Hello Heritage' celebration which is running from 1st to 29th September, we have once again placed the heritage boards around the village.



Two guided heritage walks were held on 6th and 7th September and were very much enjoyed by all who took part. We hope those who took part enjoyed learning a bit more about our area's history and legacy.

If you didn't manage to attend the walks, you can pick up our new Heritage Trail leaflet from the heritage boards on Main Street and Dawson's Road and undertake the tour yourselves armed with all the information you need to make this an interesting and informative experience.



Love Your Neighbourhood

NWLDC offered a 'Love your Neighbourhood' grant of £150 for improving the natural environment of the village.

Only one suggestion was received, which was to install bird boxes around the village, as a number of residents had expressed concern about the reduction in swallows and swifts this year. Five swallow nesting boxes were purchased.



The photograph shows **Austin Kind** installing three on St Mary's Church. The other two were installed on a house in Cottage Farm Close. Let's hope this helps sustain, or even increase, the number of birds that return to our village each year.

St Mary's Church

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 News Sheet 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 Churchyard

The Churchyard is looking fantastic at the moment, and this is all down to volunteers who have cut the grass, weeded the borders, cleared the leaves, removed the moss and repainted the ironwork. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to thank everyone who has helped to make the Churchyard look so good.

Fundraising Group

Thank you to everyone who supported our events over the summer. Our final tally of funds raised through Open Osgathorpe in June was a very impressive £6,000 - our best yet! This is on top of funds raised by individual gardens for other good causes.

Since then we've had a fabulous Sunday afternoon on 18 August enjoying The Pantaloons' production of Robin Hood at Osgathorpe Hall – as ever they gave a very funny take on the classic tale!



On 31 August, the barn dance at Osgathorpe Hall was a huge success with over 110 tickets sold.



We have never seen the dance floor so full! It was great to see so many people there of all ages having fun.



As ever, a big thank you to **Christabel and Simon Blunt** for kindly hosting events, and to everyone else who helps.

Dates for your diary



Friday 20 September – 'Georgio's pop bar at The Barn, Brookside Farmhouse, Dawsons Road

Keep an eye out for updates on more fundraising activities over the Autumn.....

Connecting Osgathorpe

In the absence of any 'free to use' community space in the village, we would like to make the church more accessible so that it can offer a space for hosting activities that help bring the village together. As a first step, we plan to hold monthly coffee mornings in the Church, on the last Friday of each month.

To get us started, the first coffee morning will be on **Friday 27 September, from 10am – 1pm**, and this time it will be in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support – a really worthy cause. Everyone is welcome – please come along and support if you can.

Donations are welcome on the day. For further info, contact **Chris on 07770 597199**



Church Building Group (CBG)

The CBG was formed earlier this year to look at immediate ways to spruce up our church and its surrounds, but more importantly to ascertain how it can keep going as a vital part of our community.

Congregations for services are woefully small, but perhaps, given the lack of other facilities in our village, the church can have a new life as a social hub for our community.

On the 'sprucing up' front, members of the Group plus other willing villagers have removed the huge mounds of moss surrounding the church, thoroughly weeded and jet washed the path up to the church, and painted the gates and handrail. Not to mention the new 'swift boxes' which have been placed on the front of the church which will hopefully mean that swifts and swallows will return to our village next Spring!

Having addressed a few of the immediate priorities, the Group are now turning their attentions to considering how the church can remain a place of worship, but can also evolve into a venue where village events can be held. This is a difficult process given that as a church and a Grade 11 listed building, there are many hurdles to be overcome. However, as the survey earlier this year showed, there is a great wish amongst villagers that the church should be able to survive into the future as a vital community resource and we will be doing our best to ensure that this is the case.

Shepshed Foodbank



Shepshed Foodbank has been in existence since 2014 and opens to eligible clients at the Glenmore Centre on Thorpe Road in Shepshed

on Tuesday mornings with Monday mornings set aside for the receipt of donations and stock replenishment. It caters for a range of clients living in Shepshed and surrounding villages who are in crisis and often have complex needs, including physical and mental ill health, serious addictions and delays in accessing state benefits. The Foodbank also delivers food parcels to those unable to attend the centre in-person. The overall average parcel receipts by families, couples and individuals is currently c.40 per week.

The Aims of the Foodbank

To provide temporary help to eligible individuals, couples and families by providing enough food for them to create meals for three days a week; basic toiletries, nappies etc are also supplied. A trained volunteer is available each week to signpost clients to relevant agencies to help with debt advice and to provide guidance about other relevant services.

Donations and Funding

The Foodbank self-funds as much as possible and fundraising events take place throughout the year. The organisation is very fortunate to receive a steady income from



regular donors and is supported by local businesses and other organisations, such as Parker Meggitt and Loughborough University. Weekly food and toiletry donations (including the very generous, and much appreciated, donations from Osgathorpe residents) are crucial to the service provided, enabling monetary donations to be directed towards the weekly purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Residents wishing to donate food and toiletries should leave them in the Church porch by 9am on Monday mornings. If you wish to make a one-off or regular monetary donation, please email **shepshedfoodbank@gmail.com** for the relevant information.

Volunteering

The Foodbank is always looking for new volunteers to help and, in particular, is looking to appoint a new Treasurer and a new Secretary at the end of the year. If you are interested or know somebody who might be, please contact the **Foodbank direct (07594 639668)** or speak to **Chris Bull (07971 590902)**. Chris is a regular volunteer and is able to facilitate a visit to the Foodbank on Monday mornings for anyone wishing to learn more.

Reported Crime

Thankfully, we live in a very low crime area. In 2024 there have been 11 reported crimes in Osgathorpe, for the period 1st January to 31st July, compared to 9 in 2023 and 11 in 2022 for the same period.

There have been two reported burglaries since November 2019 and the last one was in June 2022.

For more advice and crime prevention please visit:

www.police.uk/pu/advice-information