

Dave Bristow
Electrical
 Electrician
 Part P Registered
07973 510650
 Davebristow
 @aol.com

Kelling House
 Bed and Breakfast
 Sue Evans
 Tel: 01400 251440
 www.kellinghouse.co.uk
 e-mail:
 sue@kellinghouse.co.uk
 17 West Street, Barkston,
 Grantham, Lincs, NG32
 2NL

R G & S M ANCLIFFE
Upholsterers
Main Road, Barkston
Over 50 years experience
01400 250550

G H Linnell
 Monumental and
 Architectural Masons
 40 Castlegate,
 Grantham
 Tel/Fax 01476 564189
 e-mail:
 elizabeth@ghlinnell.co.uk

Community Caring Hands (Rachel Metcalfe)
 •NVQ Level 3 •16 years experience •CRB checked
 •Liability Insurance• Needs Assessment
 • Personal Care (showering or bathing)
 •Assistance with medication •Food Preparation
 •Cleaning •Laundry/ironing •Shopping
 Home: 01400 250755 Mobile: 07920 096439
 e-mail: r.metcalfe69@btinternet.com



- TRADITIONAL BRUSH AND VACUUM SERVICE
- NESTS REMOVED
- CAGES, CAPS AND COWLS FITTED
- SWEeping CERTIFICATES ISSUED
- PROFESSIONAL, CLEAN SERVICE
- FULLY INSURED
- POLICE CHECKED

01636 616425

wilkinschimneysweep.co.uk/newark

IN TOUCH



**The Magazine of
 Barkston, Belton, Honington and Syston**

Rural Dean:	Rev. Sonia Barron	01636 626720
Associate Priests:	Revd. Stuart Hadley	01476 575854
	Revd. Lilian Hall	01400 250729
Reader:	Mr R O Wall	01400 281133
Editor:	Mrs Wendy Card (alan.c.card@btinternet.com)	01400 250462

Issue 322

NOV/DEC 2015

Barkston and Syston Village Hall Regular Bookings

Monday:	Parent and Toddler Group,	10.00 -11.30 a.m.
	Short Mat Bowls	2.00 - 4.00 p.m.
Tuesday:	Dance class	12.00 - 4.00 p.m.
Wednesday:	Dance class	12.00 - 9.30 p.m.
Thursday:	Yoga	10.00 - 12 noon
	Short Mat Bowls	2.00 - 4.00 p.m.
Saturday:	Dance class	9.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Rainbow, Brownies and Guides meet weekly, more information is available at girlguiding.org.uk

Cardiac Group meet every second Tuesday of month 2.00 -3.30 p.m.

Macular Society, WEA Courses and Lincs Trust for Nature Conservation meet from time to time.

The Hall is available for hire for, children's parties, family parties, wedding receptions and christenings.

Bookings—Carol Bradford 01400250744

County Council Representatives

Ray Wootten is County Councillor for Barkston, Belton and Syston Parishes. (Tel: 01476 400183 or e-mail clrr.wootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Post Office, St Nicholas Close, Barkston

Mondays and Thursdays 9.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.
Contact Tel No: 01636 704516

Mobile Library dates

The library will be in West Street between 11.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. on the following Mondays: 23rd November 2015 & 21st December

Items for inclusion in the next issue of 'In Touch'

Please send to Wendy Card by 18 Dec 2015, on

Telephone 01400 250462

or e-mail alan.c.card@btinternet.com

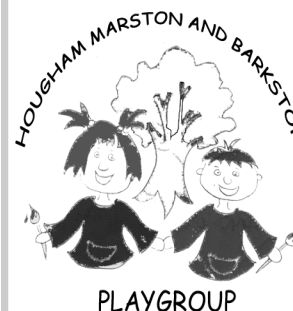
Barkston Caravan Storage

We can store your caravan, trailer
and motorhome

www.barkstoncaravanstoragecl.co.uk

High level of security—CaSSOA approved

Call Steve Elnor on 07944475521



Hougham, Marston & Barkston Playgroup

From 2 years, at Hougham and Marston Village Hall

Monday & Thursday 9.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00a.m. - 3.00p.m.

Bring your child's packed lunch

£10.00 per session - OFSTED approved

For more information please contact

Kathryn Davies Tel:07958 262727

Google "Barkston Playgroup"

NIGEL STANLEY

**Plumbing
&
Heating**

Central Heating

Range Cookers

Condensing Boilers

Underfloor Heating

Bathroom Suites

Free advice service
& quotations

07944 339885
nigel_stanley@btinternet.com

PLUMB TREE PROPERTY SERVICES

Domestic Plumbing and Tree Felling

Additional services - Fencing, Painting, Shed felting,
Guttering cleaned and repaired, Grass & Hedge Cutting
Rotovating Slab Laying

Tel: 01476 579186 07745 473727

Emergency Call Out

Discounted rates for senior citizens

Macular eye disease

For free help or advice

contact

Bernard Noyes


(01400) 250359

**Door to Door
Cottage Hair Salon**


(Joyce Thorsen)

Tel: 01400 250478


Mobile 0781 8462 765



BARKSTON & SYSTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
 Church Street, Barkston NG32 2NB
 Tel: 01400 250553 Fax: 01400 251625
 enquiries@barkstonsyston.lincs.sch.uk
 To find out more about us please telephone
 to arrange a visit or look at our website at:
 www.barkstonsyston.lincs.sch.uk



Pre-reception Class available for 4 year olds



**GRAHAM WILSON
 GARDENING
 SERVICES**
 Complete garden service
**Grass cutting, Turfing,
 Garden Clearances,
 Fencing, Patio & Ponds.**

**For a free quotation
 Phone 07791 996550**

Paul Schofield
Painter & Decorator
**Interior & Exterior
 Work**
Tel: 01476 577573
Mobile: 07803041279
paul.schofield10
@btinternet.com

SCOTTS GARAGE
 The Garage, Main Rd
 Barkston NG32 2NG

**Workshop Direct
 Line**
01400251196

**COMPUTER
 PROBLEMS?
 RUNNING SLOW?**
Ring Dave Turton
Tel: 01476 579453
Mob: 07788571700
Daveturton
@talktalk.net

Cady & Simpson
Unit 30, London Road Industrial Estate, Grantham
 Office telephone: 01476 563771 Fax: 01476 594875 Mobile: 07966 164341
 e-mail: cadyandsimpson@btconnect.com

Karndean and Amtico vinyl floors * Any make of carpet supplied and fitted
 Cushionfloor * Laminate floors * Engineered wood floors and hardwoods
 Safety flooring in wet rooms, screeding and floor preparation
 Schools - Offices - Shops - Council work undertaken

Sam & Mike welcome you to THE STAG
 Church Street, Barkston.
Tel: 01400 250363

Food served Monday: - Friday 12.00—2.00 pm., 5-30—9.00 pm.
 Saturday 12.00—3.00 pm, 6.00—9.00 pm. Sunday 12.00—4.00 pm.
 Take away available Mon—Thursday 5.30—8.30 pm.
 Fish, Burger or Ribs & Chips £6.00.

NOT FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,
 I wonder if you find, as I do, that the last few weeks before Christmas always fly past far too quickly. It's partly because there is so much going on. Once we're into December, the annual round of carol concerts, nativity plays and Christmas parties begins, and although it can be exhausting, it's also the most enjoyable and rewarding time of year. No matter how many times you've sung the traditional carols or heard the familiar lines in the nativity plays, the power of the Christmas story to surprise and touch us never fades. I particularly cherish some of the impromptu add-ons you sometimes get. I remember one nursery school nativity play where alongside the angels in their white dresses and tinsel haloes, there also appeared a giant panda and an angel with Minnie-mouse ears. I remember too a crib service where one little boy would have been heartbroken had he not been allowed to place his dinosaur among the other animals when we made up the crib. And although traditionalists may disapprove, we should remember that people have always taken liberties with the nativity story. What we think of as some of its traditional components, certainly do not appear in the gospel accounts. For almost as long as this story has been told, people have been engaging with it imaginatively and adding extra bits: an ox and ass, for instance; an innkeeper, often with a bad tempered wife; and as for the wise men, well despite the fact that we know next to nothing about them – not even how many there were – we've turned them into three kings and have even given them names. And then there's Mary. She's invariably wearing a pristine blue dress, but that would have been far beyond the means of a simple village girl. In fact, it's said that the blue dress was an invention of medieval artists – because blue was the rarest and most expensive of the pigments used to dye cloth, the artists put Mary in blue as a way of honouring her as the mother of Christ.

And I don't think it really matters. In fact, isn't it proof of the power of this story, how it can draw people in so that they make it their own and re-tell it in ways that are meaningful to them? And if our imaginations do run a bit riot, well isn't that how it should be, because we're not just talking about what happened at Bethlehem 2000 years ago, we're celebrating what Jesus' coming among us means to us now. For Christians, that's what is at the heart of the festivities; it's what brings Christmas alive and makes it so joyful.

There's a lovely old carol, *Cradled in a manger meanly*. We don't sing it much these days, but it speaks of Christ coming, not just a long time ago in a place far away, but into our lives today. It includes these words: 'Lord, will you stoop even lower than that poor stable, and come and be born in me? Will you come O Christ most holy, and make a Christmas in my heart?' It's when Christmas comes in that sense that we are able to enter fully into the joy of the coming festive season.

May the nativity story come alive for you this Christmas, and after all the busyness, may you know the peace and joy the Christ child brings.

Yours with love, Lilian

Barkston and Syston Parish Council

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 14th September 2015. All members of the Parish Council were present, together with District Councillor Ian Stokes and, and County Councillor Ray Wootten.

Prior to commencing the formal business of the meeting, the Council received a presentation from Chris Townson in regard to the Barkston LIVES group. The Group had been active in the last year, attending many call-outs and providing a useful local backup to the ambulance service. (See separate report from LIVES for detail).

Two members of the public attended and spoke during the public forum. They raised issues in relation to the proposed waiting restrictions on Church Street/Honington Road, pointing out that implementation of the proposals would, in their opinion, only push the problem further along Church Street to the benefit only of the buses. The Chairman explained that the points made would be discussed and taken into account during the discussion later in the meeting.

The Council considered the proposed waiting restrictions, and took into account the comments made during the public forum, as well as an email from the Area Surveyor explaining that it was proposed to re-consult on the proposals, following the comments which had been received.

Comments had been received from the Area Surveyor about the other highways issues raised. Most of the issues raised were in the process of being investigated prior to action, and the Parish Council would be kept informed. A meeting to discuss prioritisation of highways issues, which had been deferred for the attendance of the Area Surveyor at a future meeting, was agreed for the 9th November. Action was requested to clean and jet gullies on Minnetts Hill to hopefully prevent spoil and debris washing onto the road and blocking the gullies. It was noted that local volunteer labour had removed four barrow loads of spoil following rains last week.

Chris Ward Carpets & Flooring Ltd

YOUR ONE STOP FLOOR SHOP WHERE QUALITY & SERVICE IS ASSURED

Supply & Fitting of Carpets, Woods, Natural Flooring and Sheet & Luxury Vinyls
Showrooms at 26-28 Denton Avenue, Grantham, NG31 7JL

Tel: 01476 565202

Email: sales@chriswardcarpets.co.uk

M D Lewis Plumbing

General Plumbing,
Oil Fired Boiler
Fitting and Servicing

Tel 01400 250966

Mobile 07703 516922

Robert Ellis

Professional Vacuum Chimney Sweeping
Service

Est. 1979 - Fully insured

HETAS registered stove & fire-place installer

Solid fuel boilers serviced

Master Member National Association of Chimney
Sweeps

Tel: Newark (01636) 702583

HASSALL DECORATORS

For all your Commercial & Domestic needs
172 Somerby Hill, Grantham Lincs, NG31 7ET

Tel: 01476 570050

Mobile: 0779 884 6627

www.hassalldecorators.co.uk



*Original
Paintings
And*

*Drawings by
Pauline Thompson*

Tel 01400 250428

STUART WATTS USED CAR SALES

*MOTOR VEHICLE
ENGINEER*

30 years experience

*Tyres, clutches, exhausts
and services*

*Free collection and delivery
in Barkston area*

Tel: 01476 590229

Barkston Service Station

Off Licence, Shop,

Costa Coffee

Gas and Coal,

National Lottery,

Hand Car Wash

Tel: 01400 250488

Paul Berry Chimney Sweep

NACS and HETAS
Registered
Expert service /advice
from Fireplace to
Chimney Pot

Tel: 01400 282778

SAMARITANS

It is now free to call the Samaritans from across the UK whether by landline, mobile or payphone on 116 123.

This means everyone can call the Samaritans even if they can't afford the cost of a call, or have run out of minutes or credit on their phone. The Samaritans explain that it has long been their aspiration for their number 116 123 to be free to callers - everyone has moments in their life, the Samaritans write, when they struggle to cope and are overwhelmed by feelings of hopelessness and of being able work through problems and in the past the cost of the telephone call has been a barrier to the service the Samaritans offer, potentially preventing someone from contacting them when they need the Samaritans the most.

Stuart Hadley

An invitation to our All Souls Service

On Sunday, November 1st, our group of churches is joining with the Saxonwell group to hold a special service to remember and give thanks for our departed loved ones.

It's an ancient and lovely service, when the names of the departed will be read out and a candle lit for each of them. It will take place at Long Bennington Church, beginning at 2pm, and anyone who has lost loved ones is invited to take part. Even if you are unable to attend, your loved one's name can still be read out and a candle lit.

If you would like to be included, please contact **The Revd Lilian Hall** at johnandlily.hall@btinternet.com Tel: 01400 250729.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We are again holding the Christmas Concert in aid of the Rainbows Childrens Hospice, in church on Friday 4th December at 7pm. If you would like to take part you are most welcome. Please contact me as soon as possible. Do come along on the night and start the Christmas season with us.
Margaret Elnor

The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed. It was suggested however that further information was needed, and it was agreed that the Clerk would invite a representative from Planning Policy at SKDC to address the next meeting.

An update was given on various planning applications. Following discussion it was agreed to continue to object to wind turbine applications, and in particular, in relation to the proposal for 10 on Fulbeck Airfield, the Clerk to prepare an objection to circulate to Members for comment.

The hedge at the Burial Ground had been cut, and was very tidy. An unsafe headstone, which the family concerned had been asked to repair, was to be laid flat, with the consent of the family. There was a quantity of soil behind the Bier Shelter, and the Clerk was asked to find out where this was from, and in any event to arrange its removal.

Councillor Kelly reported on the detail of the preferred quotation for the proposed improvements to the Children's Corner, and showed artist's impressions of what the area would look like. He reminded the Council that finance was in place, and it was intended to carry out some work in October.

A check had been carried out on the last remaining issue in the risk assessment, and as a result two fire extinguishers had been installed in the Playing Field pavilion. The six monthly inspection was to take place next week.

The financial update was reported and accepted. The Clerk advised that the audit had been completed satisfactorily, with no matters being raised by the Auditor. It was agreed to raise the issue of the provision of a defibrillator for Syston at the budget meeting in January.

The next meeting is on MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.45 pm at the VILLAGE HALL.

Malcolm Hall, Clerk to the Council

HELP!

That's what you need when you dial 999 for yourself, a loved one or a friend. You expect an ambulance or para-medical to be with you quickly but it is often the case that it could be a LONG TIME before help arrives.

Of the 19 call-outs that your local LIVES group responded to, on 11 occasions we reached the patient before the ambulance arrived. LIVES members are trained to deal with many life threatening conditions. The team is equipped with a defibrillator, oxygen, pulse oximeter and much more. LIVES (Lincolnshire Integrated Emergency Services) work with the ambulance services. When on duty, we can expect to be with the patient within 4 minutes in our operating area - the 2 mile radius of Barkston & Syston (although we may be called a little further afield.) As a member of the team, you work as often as you are able to, within a time to suit you. Currently our group consists of 4 qualified members + one co-ordinator.

We do need more people to join us, so we can provide more cover – WHY NOT DO YOUR BIT FOR THE COMMUNITY AND HELP TO KEEP PEOPLE ALIVE? Full training and uniform is included.

Interested? Please email or ring me – Chris Townson (Group Co-ordinator) chrisjtownson@hotmail.com /01400 250780

P.S. We are a self-funded group, so even if you can't commit, donations would be gratefully received.

From The Registers

Holy Baptism: at Barkston
26/09/15 Lucas Eric Claude Coupland
6/09/15 Ella Rose Moore

Funeral: at Syston
Robert W Spruth

replacing the ageing boiler with an A rated oil fired boiler which will again reduce cost, improve the heating facilities and be more friendly to the environment, and hope to conclude the work before Christmas.

2016 will bring more change where we are looking to install additional radiators in the main area as well as transforming the Ladies and Gents toilets with new toilets, hand basins, flooring etc, which haven't received a lot of TLC for many years.

In terms of hall usage, there is a wide and varied set of activities from a number of different groups, from Mother and Toddler, to Rainbows, Girl guides, Dance Groups, Yoga and Bowls are just a few of the regular users which are bursting with activities.

Contact details for each of the groups are in the hall and would always welcome newcomers.

To end on a high, we held a Race Night on 11th September which raised over £300 for the boiler fund as well as making a donation of £100 to the Alzheimer's charity.

The Harvest Supper was held on the 10th October and all were welcome where live music, buffet and dance kept the chill of Winter at bay...

Many thanks to all involved who have helped keep the community hall going.

BARKSTON, SYSTON, BELTON, HONINGTON & CARLTON SCROOP FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 10th November in Barkston & Syston Village Hall at 7.45pm

Everyone is welcome.

Vicki Strawson

BARKSTON AND SYSTON VILLAGE HALL

Autumn News update from the Barkston and Syston Village Hall, Peter Stewart, Treasurer and Elizabeth Cole, Chairperson.

If you haven't noticed, the Barkston and Syston Village Hall has been open to the community since 1908 and has undergone a fair amount of cosmetic change over the past couple of years - Thanks go to the Village Hall committee who have worked tirelessly together to ensure the necessary changes/upgrades have been made to the hall to ensure it can thrive for another 100 years.

We also recognise that the Village hall is greatly used, and finding time to make these changes is not always easy.. So a BIG Thank YOU to our regular users who have assisted us with some booking changes to make these necessary upgrades.

So what's changed recently & why?

Following a collision by a vehicle with the hall back in 2011, The Kitchen was replaced and has everything needed for our users including a new Oven installed 2014 - Come on you Bakers....

A New Roof was installed during 2013 of which a grant was secured from **WREN**.

The parking area was transformed from mainly gravel to a fully tarmaced area in 2014 which ensures full access for wheelchair users as well as those with any mobility issues.

Solar Panels were installed in 2014 to reduce electricity charges as well as generating our own electric and ensuring that from approx year six onwards, there will be almost zero electric costs for the hall.

Finally, A new PvC door to the Boiler house was completed in 2015.

So what's happening for the future, well we are in the process of

Pie and Mash Lunch

The Friends of Barkston Church are holding a pie and mash lunch in the Village Hall on Saturday 7th November from noon until 2 p.m..

There will be a variety of pie fillings to choose from, plus peas, and desserts available, at a cost of £5 for adults and £3 for children.

Please make a note of this in your diary and come along and enjoy yourselves.

Pat Haynes and Margaret Elnor

Farm Africa

Dr Christopher spoke recently to the Sunday congregation at Barkston about the time he and Katie had spent in the Mission Hospital in Nkhoma, Malawi and we served coffee grown on the shores of Lake Malawi and 'One Peros' biscuits, the profits from which go to educational projects in Africa.

Thanks to very generous donations at Barkston and also at the following harvest services at Brandon and Syston [where there were One Peros biscuits for sale] we not only recovered our outlay but had the surplus of £45.39 which we have sent to the work of the UK Charity 'Farm Africa': this year Farm Africa have concentrated their harvest appeal on educating farmers on Tanzania to grow and sell sweet potatoes - the product is both tasty and nutritious and as well as feeding the farmer and his family, there is a ready market for the product which is being promoted by the government to improve the nutrition of the nation.

With many warm thanks for your generous response, Lilian and Stuart.

Church Services for Nov/Dec 2015

Date	Barkston	Belton	Honington	Syston
1 November 1st Sunday	10.30 am RW Morning Prayer	11am JC Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer
8 November 2nd Sunday	10.45am Holy Communion SH Rem. Sunday			9.30am Remembrance Sunday
15 November 3rd Sunday	11.00am Family Service JB/LH			9.30 am JC Holy Communion
22 November 4th Sunday				
29 November 5th Sunday	4th December Carol Concert 7pm		11am Holy Communion	
6 December 1st Sunday	No Service	11am JC Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer
13 December 2nd Sunday	11.00am Holy Communion SH			Thursday 10th December, 7pm Carol Service
20 December 3rd Sunday	11.00am Carol Service JB/LH			9.30am JC Holy Communion
24 December Christmas Eve	3pm Crib service	3.30pm Carols	6pm	11.30pm Holy Communion
25 December Christmas Day	9.30am Holy Communion			

Services of Wholeness and Healing

Wholeness and Healing services are held on the second Thursday of each month at St Nicholas' Church, Barkston at 7.30 p.m. These are quiet reflective services, where people have an opportunity to pray for any concerns, personal or of a wider nature. The service consists of two or three hymns, a meditation, prayers and opportunity to light candles, place written prayer requests on a Prayer Tree, receive the laying on of hands for oneself or for others, or simply to enjoy a time of peace and rest. Prayer is complementary to, and in support of the work of medicine and treatment.

St Nicholas' Church is warm and has toilet facilities. Refreshments are served after the service. The next services will be held on Nov 12th, Dec 10th & Jan 14th.

Prayer and Praise

Prayer and Praise at the home of Joy Bristow, 38 West Street, Barkston, (01400 250339), will be held on Mondays 4pm. Nov 2nd & 16th, Dec 7th & 21st.

St. Nicholas Knitting Circle, Barkston

Our next Knitting Circle meetings will be on Mondays Nov 23rd, none in December, and Jan 25th in the Community Centre, St. Nicholas Close, between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. We knit for The Jacob's Well Appeal, Beverley, Yorkshire. Come and join us for a Knit or just a natter.

Coffee Morning

Friday 20th November 2015, St Nicholas Close Centre, 10—11.30am
Proceeds to Jacobs Well Appeal.
Raffle, Books, Cakes etc.

KEY:

SH - Stuart Hadley **LH** - Lilian Hall **JC** - John Cook
JB - Joy Bristow **PC** - Peter Coombs **DF** - Di Fairhead **RF** - Dick Fairhead
JL - John Lord **BL** - Ben Lyte **SM** - Sheila Mitchell **AS** - Angela Sims
BG - Betty Groves **DH** - David Hitchcock
RW - Bob Wall **MT** - Ministry Team **(RS)** - Richard Shireby **(BW)** - Brian West