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IN TOUCH



The Magazine of Barkston, Belton, Honington and Syston

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Associate Priests:	Revd. Stuart Hadley	01476 575854
	Revd. Lilian Hall	01400 251590
Reader:	Mr R O Wall	01400 281133
Editor:	Mrs Wendy Card (<i>alan.c.card@btinternet.com</i>)	01400 250462

Issue 310

January/February 2014

THE STAG

Marcus and Tracy would like to welcome all customers, old and new, to The Stag

Food being served Monday: 6 - 9pm; Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 2pm; 6 - 9pm

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From the Rectory

This year, for our family, Christmas will be tinged with sadness. In this we will not be alone, for many have also lost loved-ones, many will spend it by themselves. Monica loved everything about Christmas. The anticipation (not without its anxieties), the preparations, the cards, the quirky presents she always found, carols in church and Midnight Mass, Christmas dinner – along with Christmas crackers containing paper crowns and tacky gifts (the fortune-telling fish, the plastic comb...), the flaming Christmas pudding, the family together – surrounded by laughter, love, joy and peace. She was the driving force behind our festivities, but always remembered what it was we were celebrating: the birth of Jesus, God's gift to all, announced first to the humble out in the fields rather than to the powerful in their palaces. She too felt for the poor and the homeless at Christmas, all who lacked what we had in abundance.

Just as I can't imagine a truly happy Christmas without Monica, I can't imagine Christmas without Jesus, sharing in our joys and our suffering. It would be like a birthday party where nobody had invited the person whose birthday it was, where nobody mentioned their name, whose absence was complete – a meaningless celebration. Everything our family does this Christmas will remind us of Monica and bring her close, just as it reminds us of God's great love for us in Jesus and makes his presence known amongst us. May your Christmas, and the coming year, be so blessed.

Wishing you laughter, love, joy and peace,

Alan

Rev Alan Littlewood

ancaster.rectory@btinternet.com
 01400 231145

County Council Representatives

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

Chris Farrar is County Councillor for Honington Parish.
 (Telephone 01522 789125 or e-mail cllr.c.farrar@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Both will be happy to deal with any matters of concern.

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(Hickson's Almshouses)



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The Trustees of Barkston Charities would like to hear from persons interested in occupying an Almshouse situated on Honington Road, Barkston. Consideration for appointment can only be given to applicants who meet the following qualification criteria:

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For further details and an application form please contact:

The Clerk to the Trustees,

Mrs M Robotham,

10 The Leas,

Barkston,

Grantham,

Lincs NG32 2PD

Tel No 01400 250606

email: maureen.robotham@btinternet.com

The closing date for applications is noon, 31st January 2014.

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20th January, 17th February and 17th March.

West Street: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.
31st December, 28th January, 25th February and 25th March.

Old School House, Syston: Tuesdays, 10.45 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.
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Items for inclusion in the next issue of 'In Touch' to Wendy Card

Telephone 01400 250462 or e-mail alan.c.card@btinternet.com

by Friday, 20th December, please.

Belton Parish Council

The Parish Council met at Belton Old School Village Hall, on Thursday 21st November 2013. Seven Councillors and County Councillor Ray Wooton, were present.

Matters pertaining to Belton were as follows:-

Belton Old School – Village Hall: Work is now completed. The Parish Council found the facilities in the new meeting room to be very good and is very grateful to the National Trust for allowing it to use this venue.

The Village Hall is very popular with the local community and it is used frequently for meetings and social gatherings, for flower arranging, sewing and a choir.

A condition of the approval for the change of purpose and alterations to the property was that a car park would be provided at the rear with marked spaces and spaces for the disabled. However, it has not been provided as per the plans and is muddy and uneven underfoot which is a cause for concern. M. Coney and T. Hopwell will bring this up with Alec Gordon of the National Trust.

Crime Levels in Belton: Nothing to report.

Excess Water on A607: County Councillor R. Wooton reported that he was continually asking Highways when they were going to get the grips done but although it has been approved it is of a low priority.

Parking Problem in Belton. People are still parking in the road when visiting Belton House and also when using the Village Hall. Parking is sometimes dangerous on the corner by the Forge. Michael Coney has an idea which might help but has asked that it be brought up at the next Council meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Flooding in Belton between Belton House entrance and the A607. A letter was sent from the Parish Council last year. Highways Division replied on 4th December 2012 stating they were aware of the matter. They had recently undertaken detailed investigations of the drainage system in this area and were preparing a re-build of the old drainage system. To date no action has been taken and the flooding still occurs. T. Hopwell has written to the Highways reporting this and is awaiting a reply. Councillor will speak to Highways to get an answer. Flooding at the end of Five Gates Road and Alma Road end also reported. Probably due to blocked drain. Councillor R. Wooton to ask Highways.

David Couth, PC Chairman, will be resigning in May next year. The Parish Council will need a replacement. It was suggested that the new Chairman should come from Belton.

Sally Thompson feels that the 30mph sign at the top of Belton village should be moved to where it can be seen properly. It was decided to leave it until the reactive signs are brought in.

The next Parish Meeting will be held on February 13th 2014 at the Manthorpe Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Barkston and Syston Parish Council

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 11th November 2013. Eight members of the Parish Council were present. Three members of the public attended.

The meeting commenced with the public forum. A member of the public raised the issue of a planning application which he had submitted for development at the rear of his house on West Street, Barkston. He outlined aspects of the application compared to an earlier application he had submitted, and which had been withdrawn, and asked the Parish Council to take these into account in considering their comments on the application to SKDC.

Highways matters were discussed, and the Council were advised that in regard to the footpath in front of the Bedehouses, exploratory boreholes were to be dug to establish the line and depth of cables, before a decision could be made on any works to improve the area.

Work to reinstate the double yellow lines at the A607 end of Church Street had still not taken place, and the Clerk was asked to remind the Area Surveyor. The order to install double yellow lines around the Church corner on Church Street/Honington Road would be processed in the next batch when the road was resurfaced. Yet more damage to the wall of Pear Tree Farm was reported, caused by HGVs which had turned off the A607 onto Church Street by mistake, and attempting to turn round the point of the Village Green had hit the wall. The County Council had been advised and the Clerk was also asked to ask local businesses if they were aware of any issues. Councillor Elnor reported that the dangerous gates protecting the railway crossing near Mill Farm had been repaired.

Flooding on The Stag corner and on Station Road was reported for referral to the County Council. Repair work to The Close had still not been done, and the Clerk was asked to report this to the Area Surveyor for action. Some overhead cables around the Church and Old Hall in Syston had been undergrounded, and the Clerk was asked to contact

LINCOLNSHIRE INTEGRATED VOLUNTARY

EMERGENCY SERVICE (LIVES)

LIVES Medics and First Responders are all volunteers who give up their time to respond to emergencies in their community. So when you dial 999, not only will an ambulance be mobilised, but at the same time, the LIVES Medic or Responder on call in our area will also receive notification that you need their help. LIVES aims to be at your side within 5-6 minutes of you making that 999 call! Getting there quickly can give those extra few minutes that are vital to the patient, and it could mean the difference between life and death.

A local team of volunteers has been trained and is now operational. However being a charity, LIVES relies heavily on donations from organizations and members of the public. The Barkston and Syston Parish Council is to consider financial support at the January Budget Meeting.

Scrap Metal - Fund Raising

Arthur West, Pete Wheeler and myself would like to thank all the people who have contributed to our fund raising efforts throughout the last year by donating items of scrap metal and to Mrs Gladys Harrison who very kindly allows us to store our finds at her home until we accumulate a trailer load.

Three trailer loads of scrap have been collected and sold. Over £200.00 has been raised and shared between the St Nicholas Church Fabric Fund and the LIVES First Responders.

Arthur, often accompanied by Pete, can be seen, clad in his fluorescent bib, armed with bin-bags and litter picking stick, walking the highways and byways picking litter and metal objects, usually drinks cans, thoughtlessly discarded by motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Eight bags of tins were included in our booty!

Please contact either Pete (07941829243) or myself (01400 250021) to arrange a drop-off point if you have metallic items to contribute.

John Jackson



They Speak of Snow



**They speak of days of frost and snow,
Days when the Arctic winds may blow;
Perhaps my bones have grown too old
For now I dread the wet and cold.
Once I thrived in the freezing air
With the icy wind wafting my curly hair
But that was long before I grew old
And became fearful of the biting cold.**

**I remember the days when I was a child
When the winters were cold and far from mild;
When the snow lay deep under our feet
And a visit to Santa's grotto was a special treat;
When the inside of windows were encrusted with ice
And Xmas Day brought chocolate coins and mice
And how still and quiet, brother and I had to stay
While the grown-ups listened to what the Queen had to say.**

**The roaring fires, sooty spots in the snow,
Giant icicles catching the sun's watery glow,
Deep drifts of snow, the memories flood back
Of night-time fires dampened down with wetted slack,
The power-cuts that people took in their stride
And of starving birds that of the cold tried to hide;
Those winter days now seem so very long ago
But memories of them return when they speak of snow.**

**Geoffrey Brown,
20 St Nicholas Close**



Western Power to see if this could be extended around the rest of the village.

The Council agreed to register an objection to the proposed wind turbines at Temple Hill.

Following further discussion on funding requirements for the Lives group and a possible defibrillator, the Council agreed to consider this at the budget meeting in January.

The new plan of the Burial Ground was in preparation, and the Council agreed small changes to the operating rules to require grave plots to be levelled after six months and either re-seeded or turfed. It was agreed also to make small changes to the Burial Grant form to require next of kin to be responsible for the maintenance of the headstones.

SKDC had given permission for the trees on the Village Green to be crown lifted and thinned, and the work would shortly be carried out.

The next meeting is on MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2014 at 7.45 pm at the VILLAGE HALL.

Malcolm Hall,
Clerk to the Council

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Lincolnshire County Councillor Ray Wootten
oooOOOooo

South Kesteven District Councillor Trevor Scott
oooOOOooo

Barkston and Syston Parish Councillors
Bernard Noyes, Maryan Nussey (Chair), Alan Card, Peter Connor,
Stephen Elnor, Sue Evans, Simon Kelly, John Jackson
and Alan Rouse
oooOOOooo

Church Services for January—February 2014

Date	Barkston	Belton	Honington	Syston
22 Dec	11 am JB Carol Service			
24 Dec Xmas Eve	4 pm AL Crib Service	3.30 pm JC Carol Service	6 pm SH Carol Service	11.30 pm JC H C
25 Dec Xmas Day	11 am AL JB HC			
29 Dec Xmas 1	11 am SH Group HC	At Barkston	At Barkston	At Barkston
5 Jan Xmas 2	11 am RW MP	11 am JC HC		9.30 PC MP
12 Jan Bap of Christ	11 am SH Holy Comm			
19th Dec Epiphany 2				9.30 am JC HC
26 Jan Epiphany 3	11 am JB FS			
2 Feb	11 am RW MP	11 am JC HC		9.30 am BG MP
9 Feb	11 am SH HC			
16 Feb				9.30 am JC HC
23 Feb	11 am JB FS			

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 Thursdays, 9th January and 13th February.
Joy Bristow (01400 250339)

Prayer and Praise

Prayer and Praise at the home of Joy Bristow, 38 West Street, Barkston, (01400 250339), will be held on Mondays, 6th January, 20th January, 3rd February and 17th February at 4.00 pm.

Joy Bristow (01400 250339)

St. Nicholas Knitting Circle, Barkston

Our next Knitting Circle meetings will be on Mondays, 27th January and 24th February 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. Many thanks to all who supported our recent Coffee Morning at which £289.55 was raised.

Joy Bristow (01400 250339) and friends

KEY:

HC - Holy Communion **FC** - Family Communion **FS** - Family Service
MP - Morning Prayer **ES** - Evening Song **EP**—Evening Prayer
CS - Crib Service **RS** - Remembrance Service **SP** - Solemn Prayers

AL - Alan Littlewood **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