

Swaton Newsletter

December 2019

Merry Christmas



| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday 14 th | Christmas Fayre in the Hut |
| Saturday 14 th | Decorate village Christmas tree |
| Sunday 15 th | Christmas Lunch in the Hut |
| Saturday 21 st | Carol Service in the Church |
| Tuesday 24 th | Christmas Eve bar in the Hut |
| Wednesday 25 th | Morning Service in the Church |
| Sunday 29 th | Christmas Out to Tea |

Full details of all events inside the Newsletter



Swaton Community Trust

Regular Events



TUESDAY – Craft Club – from 9.30am

If you enjoy arts and crafts, then come along on a Tuesday morning and work on your project amongst friends. It's a great opportunity to share your knowledge or learn a new skill. For more details please contact Liz (421217).



FRIDAY – Swaton Swiggers - 8.30pm

With a good selection of wines, beers, soft drinks and snacks available at very reasonable prices the Friday night bar is an ideal place to meet friends & neighbours for a catch-up chat and it's only a short walk home.



SATURDAY - Cafe– 9.30am - 12 noon

Bacon rolls, sausage rolls, homemade cakes, tea and coffee.

Good excuse to sit a chat for a while with friends and neighbours.

Newspapers (available by pre-order only from Liz 421217).



SATURDAY – Monthly Cinema Club 7:00pm

First Saturday of the month (next on 1 Feb 2020) You'll find full details of the films being shown on display in the hut. Film and membership information can be obtained from Nicola Arnold (421566). Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm. Bar open and refreshments available.



Swaton Community Trust

Forthcoming Events

As we approach the end of the year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported and helped the hut by joining in our many events and coming along to the Saturday Café and Bar. With the money raised this year, we have donated £500 to Marie Curie and £2500 to the Parish Council to help with the purchase of new speed signs for the village and equipment for the final phase of the village park. We are planning some improvements and maintenance work on the hut – watch this space for more details!

Christmas Lunch

Date Sunday 15 December 1 for 1.30
Tickets £5.50 per person
Tickets from Nicki on 01529 421566

Christmas Eve Bar

Date 24 December 6.30 to late
All the family welcome
Please note no bar on Friday 27 December

Race Night

Date Saturday 14 March 2020 at 7pm
Cost £2.50 per person £1.50 for under 12s
(includes a hotdog). Proceeds to Thorpe Hall Hospice. If you would like to sponsor a race/horse, please contact us
Tickets from Nicki on 421566 and Liz on 421217

Quiz Night

Date 28 March 2020 at 7.30pm
Tickets £8 per person includes supper from Liz 421217
Teams Up to 6 players

Good Friday Fish and Chips

Date 10 April 2020 – details to follow

Call Connect Christmas Service

| | <i>Bookable Service</i> | <i>Booking Office</i> | <i>Same day and Cancellation</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday 23 Dec | Normal Service | Normal Hours | 7am – 7pm |
| Tuesday 24 Dec | Normal Service | 8:30am – 4:30pm | 8am – 5pm |
| Christmas Day | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| Boxing Day | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| Friday 27 Dec | Normal Service | 8:30am – 5:30pm | 8am – 6pm |
| Saturday 28 Dec | Normal Service | Normal Hours | 8am – 6pm |
| Monday 30 Dec | Normal Service | 8:30am – 5:30pm | 8am – 6pm |
| Tuesday 31 Dec | Normal Service | 8:30am – 5:30pm | 8am – 6pm |
| New Year's Day | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| Thursday 2 Jan | Normal Service | Normal Hours | 7am – 7pm |

From 23 December to 2 January 2020, Adult One-way fare only £1.00 with free child (under 15 years) fares. Call 0345 234 3344 or 0345 263 8153

Heckington and Sleaford Young Farmers' Club

Aged between 10 and 26 years old? Then why not join in? You will have a fantastic social life with a bunch of friendly, like-minded people. There is so much to do in YFC. You'll meet lots of new friends in your club, county and nationwide. You can get involved with competitions, socials, sports, travel, visits, talks and learn new skills; the opportunities are endless. The more you put in, the more you'll get out! Heckington & Sleaford YFC meet on a Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm at Scredington Community Centre and has something to offer to everyone. If you would like to find out more follow Heckington and Sleaford Young Farmers' Club Facebook page <https://m.facebook.com/heckingtonandsleafordyfc/> or email: heckingtonandsleafordyfcsecretary@outlook.com

Newsletter

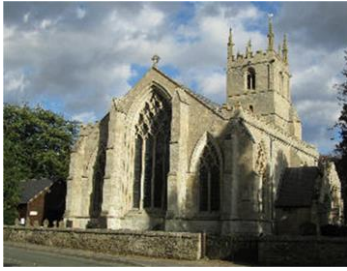


The Newsletter is designed to let village residents know what is going on and to provide useful information. If you have ideas for:

An article you would like to write

Important information we have omitted

Please let Judy Patrick know – judy.patrick@btinternet.com



St Michael's Church

Church Services and Events

| Date | St Michael's Swaton | Time |
|------------------|--|-------------|
| 8 December | Holy Communion | 11am |
| 14 December | Christmas Fayre in the Hut | 9.30-12pm |
| 14 December | Make Christmas tree decoration in the Hut then decorate the village tree in the church | 11.30am |
| 21 December | Carol Service, followed by mince pies in the Hut | 6pm |
| 22 December | Holy Communion | 9.30am |
| 25 December | Christmas Day service | 9.30am |
| 29 December | Christmas 'Out to Tea' at the Hut-Food, Fellowship and Games | 2pm-4pm |
| 12 January 2020 | Morning praise | 9.30am |
| 26 January 2020 | Plough Sunday Service | 9.30am |
| 9 February 2020 | Morning praise | 9.30am |
| 23 February 2020 | Holy Communion | 9.30am |



St Michael's Church

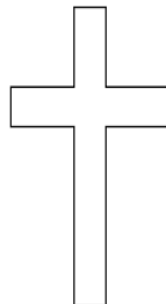
Reverend Chris's Notes

The Rectory
10 Cameron Street,
Heckington
NG34 9RW.

Email: c.r.harrington@btinternet.com

A political journey to the polling booth on Dec 12th chimes in well with our remembrance of the political journey Mary & Joseph had to make 2000 years ago in order to register in the Roman census in Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem. "*A cold coming we had of it*" writes TS Eliot in his poem about the coming of the Magi - another political journey, to visit the new King. Who will be our new leader come the morning of Dec 13th we wonder? We all have a responsibility to cast our hard-won human right to vote for the kind of vision we want for our country in the future. Some issues like Brexit and future trade deals will rumble on and on regardless of who gets in, but the question of what quality of life we want for our fellow citizens here and now is a far more pressing need. Pity the poor folk who will have to call at the local food bank for this year's Christmas dinner and the days following or sleep out unromantically under the stars because there was no room for them due to a shortage in social housing. The boy in the manger who grew up to become known as 'The Christ of Christmas' called us to think of others rather than ourselves, and for those in positions of power to speak up for the powerless. What can we put back into society, rather than what we can get out of it? This is the message of Christmas and the rest of the year too, for as Jesus said "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*".

So, as you put your cross in the box on Dec 12th or before if you have a postal vote, remember that it was on the cross that Jesus gave His all to give us all a better future. As my dear departed dad used to tell me, *"Think before you ink"*.



As usual there are plenty of opportunities to enter into the real Spirit of Christmas as we gather to sing those lovely carols and hear once again the amazing story of God becoming a human being in order to rescue us from the darkness we continue to create for ourselves and others. Come and celebrate with us at St Michael's Church Swaton:

- Holy Communion – Sunday 8th Dec at 11am
- Carol Service – Saturday 21st Dec at 6pm followed by mince pies in the Hut
- Holy Communion – Sunday 22nd at 9.30am
- Christmas Day service at 9.30am
- Christmas 'Out to Tea' at the Hut on Sunday 29th Dec at 2pm to 4pm – Food, Fellowship & Games

In the New Year the time of the Sunday services at St Michael's Swaton is changing to 9.30am on both the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Plough Sunday Service at St Michael's Church, Swaton – Sunday 26th January at 9.30am

May His light shine into the darkness this Christmas and his peace be always with you.

Every blessing to you and your family.

Rev 'Captain' Chris
Rector



Swaton Parish Council

Notes from Last Meeting

NEW COUNCILLOR. There is a new Councillor in Swaton. Mrs Gina Parsons was welcomed by the Members and took her seat at the meeting.

PLAY AREA UPDATE. A grant of £10,000 from the Lottery will be used for a final piece of equipment. This will be a four-sided piece with platforms and a tower with a slide and walkways. A further £800 is needed for purchase, the Parish Council has £200 remaining in their fund. Various ideas for raising the remainder were discussed.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH. Two Speed Indication Devices have been ordered, to be positioned at each end of the village. The Parish Council and The Village Hut Committee are sharing the cost. Cllr Mrs Penketh is hoping to form a small group of parishioners for a Community Speedwatch group to operate a speed camera.

NEWSLETTER. Cllr Mrs Patrick has taken over as Editor of the village newsletter. After the December issue, they should be published bi-monthly. News will be included from the Parish Council, Hut Committee, Church and other village groups.

BOOK EXCHANGE. There may be a village book exchange in Swaton. A 'Little Free Library' scheme was agreed in principle. This will involve a small waterproof unit where people can take and leave books. Other places have used microwaves and old telephone boxes. A parishioner may make a wooden unit. Enquiries are being made as to location and permissions.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Tues. January 21stth, 7.45pm. Members of the public are welcome to come along to listen to the meeting, but may not generally speak during the meeting

PUBLIC SESSION. There is a public speaking session at 7.30pm. This is for anyone in the parish to come along and comment about items on the agenda which follows – so that Councillors can be aware of any public views when the agenda item is discussed. No actions or resolutions can be made from a public session. Any reports or comments about other matters should be reported to the Clerk or a Councillor at least a week before any meeting so, if necessary, the items can be placed on the agenda.



Swaton Parish Council

Information

Speed Signs and Community Speed Watch

Over the years speeding has been a constant topic at Parish Council meetings so to help combat this issue, Swaton PC has now ordered 2 new Speed Indicator Displays which will be a permanent feature in the village by early 2020 but electronic devices aren't enough – like many other Parish Councils we need to be



more active. Swaton PC would like to set up a 'Community Speed Watch Programme'. This programme requires volunteers –groups of 3 people per session – one holding the speed gun, one spotting the offenders & one taking notes. The information can then be passed to the

police who will follow up with their due process. This won't be time consuming especially if there are a good number of volunteers – it is up to us how many sessions we hold and for how long. You could really make a difference to your village. Training event in Great Hale on 17 December.

Contact Elaine Penketh on elainepenketh.swatonpc@gmail.com



Grass Cutting in the Play Park

We need volunteers to join a rota for cutting the grass in the Play Park. If you are able to help and have a suitable mower, please contact Charles Campion at charles.campion@btinternet.com

Grass Verges

To ensure the village looks its best, we need to protect and maintain the grass verges. Following the wet weather, the verges are very soft and easily damaged. Please avoid driving or parking on the verges and footpaths. Some damage is caused by lorries and large farm machinery (an essential part of our rural community) when unable to pass parked cars. Please avoid parking on the road, if possible, and if necessary, please consider other road users.

Christmas Refuse and Recycling Collection Dates

Collection days will change over the Christmas period. The collection due on Monday 23 December will now take place on Saturday 21 December. There is a normal collection on Monday 30 December and Monday 6 January.

Christmas Trees. Please chop up and place in brown bins or take to the household recycling Centre in Sleaford.

Play Park Update



The play park continues to have regular use by local and visiting families.

Progress has been made with the football area with the posts and netting now in place. Thanks are due to Alan Wilson for planning this work and organising the motley crew of volunteers who helped erect the posts and netting.

Generous Donation

The Parish Council wish to express their thanks to the Swaton Community Trust (The Hut) for their very kind donation of £2500 for speed signs and equipment for the play park (pictured below).



Nature Notes

It has been a successful season for the House Martins this year but the Swallows disappointingly haven't done as well with few birds returning this summer to breed, this appears to be a country wide problem.

The early dark nights are upon us and all our summer birds have migrated only to be replaced by flocks of winter visitors. Look out for the Fieldfare and the Redwings, what a fantastic place we live in.

Leaving for work really early recently I could hear a skein of geese dropping into a flooded field next door. It was the weekend before I could actually see them but found they were not on their own, as lapwings were more numerous. Whilst the wet weather isn't so good for farming, it certainly has its advantages for local bird watching. The daily scanning of the bird feeders watching for the winter visitors bring many rewards brightening the dull days

The apples placed on the ground in the garden for the Fieldfare were quickly eaten up by our local rabbits, some of which became lunch for our resident stoat!

Our Barn owls have raised seven young in total this year in two clutches of three and a four. The second clutch admittedly were helped with a few morsels because the wet weather stopped the adult birds from flying. We excitedly watched as they took their first flight and now they are successfully hunting for themselves.

The Tawny and Little owls haven't bred in their boxes this year so I do not know how their breeding fared. We have been lucky to have had lots of views of both them on camera.

The hedgehogs which patrolled the garden all summer haven't been seen during the last two weeks. Hopefully they are now prepared for the winter, snuggled under the stick heaps provided for them.



Are you eligible for a free NHS flu jab? Contact your GP practice or any participating community pharmacy to find out and book an appointment.

Councillors

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
| Alan Wilson | wilson.alan.m@gmail.com | |
| Elaine Penketh | elainepenketh.swatonpc@gmail.com | |
| Charles Campion | charles.campion@btinternet.com | |
| Andrew Deptford | andrew@aadhire.com | |
| Gina Parsons | cloptoncottage@btinternet.com | |
| Judy Patrick | judy.patrick@btinternet.com | |
| Chris Richardson | chrisgrove@farming.co.uk | |
| Parish Council Clerk | shm McIntyre91@gmail.com | 01400 262090 |
| NKDC Councillor | Cllr_russell_jackson@n-kesteven.gov.uk | |

Medical Contacts

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Emergencies | 999 |
| Non-emergencies (out of hours) | 111 |
| Millview Medical Centre | 01529 406213 |
| New Springwells Practice | 01529 240234 |
| Sleaford Medical Group | 01529 303301 |
| Grantham Hospital | 01476 565232 |
| Pilgrim Hospital | 01205 364801 |
| Lincoln County Hospital | 01522 512512 |

Police Contacts

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emergency Contact | 999 |
| Non-Emergency Contact | 101 |
| Constable Martin Green | 01400 267485 07939 312651 |
| PCSO Patrick Welby | 01400 267485 07939 312792 |

Church Contacts

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Rev 'Captain' Chris Harrington | 01529 460904 |
| | 07502 410798 |
| Wardens Jill and John Abbott | 01529 421278 |