



SWATON NEWSLETTER - JULY 2019



VILLAGE PARK

It's been a few years in the making but we have made good progress with the park. The next planned items are the football goal post & ball stopping nets which are being fabricated by Alan Wilson (who made the steels for the shelter) - he hopes to install the goal & nets over the next month or so. If anyone is able to give Alan a hand in getting this phase completed please contact him.

Unfortunately, we weren't successful in our latest application to the COOP for a grant due to lack of votes but a recent application to the Big Lottery has been successful. There is another grant application currently in progress but we won't have news of that until September, once we have that news, we'll know how much we have in total to spend on the next piece of equipment.



The Hut committee would like to thank everybody who came to the race night in March – we raised a fantastic £500 to be donated to the local branch of Marie Curie. What a fantastic, fun evening and an amazing amount of money raised.

Soup Kitchen is cancelled

Unfortunately, due to dwindling numbers, the Hut Committee has regretfully taken the decision to cancel the soup kitchen.



Swatton Vintage Day 2019

The 2019 Swatton Vintage Day Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to put together this year's event. 2019 is a special year for Swatton

Vintage Day as it is our 25th Anniversary. The Swatton Vintage Day started in 1993, missing one year due to foot and mouth. The first Vintage Day was combined with a Flower Festival, held in St. Michaels Church Swatton, to raise funds for the Church. A few local farmers thought it would be a good idea to have some



old farm tractors and machinery on view for men to look at in the Paddock next to the Church. This being a great success it continued each year getting more attractions and having to move to a larger



venue at Manor Farm, Swatton for a few years. The success continued and it outgrew the Manor Farm venue and moved to The Park, Thorpe Latimer, where it is now held. To celebrate the 25th Anniversary we held a road run on the Saturday where many exhibitors in a range of vehicles toured the local villages. This was a great success.

In 2004 the first Egg Throwing contest commenced, which has grown into The World Egg Throwing Championships, attracting contestants from around the world, including Japan, Germany, Holland and New Zealand. This year's winners were a team from New Zealand who were able to throw and catch an egg at 60 meters.



During the events history over £100,000 has been donated to many local and national charities together with other good causes to include Leukaemia Research, Children Hospice provision, L.I.V.E.S, the Air Ambulance and many more.

Thank you to everyone who came along as spectators and made the day a success.



Chairman's Report

Parish Council Year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

Your Council has remained the same this year, but behind the scenes work has been going on to enable a change. From our May 2019 meeting there will be 7 Swaton Parish Councillors rather than 5. This continues the effort to introduce a bit of 'new blood' and ideas on to the Council. During the 18/19 year, we invited Judy Patrick and Charles Campion to the Council as 'Village Coordinators'. This has been a success and Judy and Charles were nominated to apply for election as Councillors. The existing 5 Councillors were also nominated and all 7 were elected unopposed and will become Councillors from the May 2019 meeting. Judy and Charles have attended 'New Councillor' training sessions and they, along with other Councillors, will continue training as appropriate.

The Play Area has progressed further with Phase 3 and the Shelter being completed. The Fete in Summer 2018 raised around £900 which will enable the next Phase to be completed before this Summer. This includes new Goalposts and 3-metre high fencing around the 'football area' to avoid balls being kicked onto neighbouring fields. Planning Permission was required for this, which delayed the project a little. Other grant applications for future projects are 'in the pipeline'.

A tremendous amount of work has gone into this Play Area, ably spearheaded by Councillors Elaine Penketh and Alan Wilson with a lot of help from villagers. You know who you are - Thank you !

Charles Campion continues to keep the grass in the field in pristine condition. What a difference a couple of years of TLC can make !

A village 'drive-around' with members of Lincs County Council Roadways Department and our Lincs County Councillor was organised in May last year. This drew attention to the massive number of potholes in the village and after further haranguing these were later repaired. However, it has been noted and reported that the potholes at the entrance to the village on Swaton Lane have since deteriorated. A drive down Parson's Drove (I bottomed my car) gave my passengers food for thought and some repairs are now imminent.

John & June Lukjaniec continue to keep the litter cleared within the village. Thank you both. Any help for them with this task would be appreciated.

The situation with overhanging branches and overgrown hedges again raised its head. It should be noted that it is the responsibility of the property owner or tenant to ensure that branches (and weeds like nettles) do not overhang or grow into a footpath.

The exciting issue of GDPR (Data Protection and Privacy) was dealt with during the year.

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The Environment Agency, LCC and Black Sluice Drainage Board continue to consult consultants and talk about our flooding problems and work that should be happening to alleviate the problems. They are now in talks with farmers about providing 'flood plains' to the West of Swaton.

Traffic Calming along the High Street has also been discussed at length and a village meeting was held in October with about 20 residents present. Cllr Elaine Penketh is talking to the 'Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership' (which we have become a member of). New 30 mph signs have now been sited and discussions continue about 'Community Speedwatch'. John Lukjaniec continues to deploy our existing mobile speed signs for which we thank him.

In September a 'Defibrillator and CPR refresher' session was arranged with LIVES on a Saturday morning. This was well attended and most attendees 'had a go' between Bacon Butties.

In all, a busy and reasonably successful year for the Council. Loads of other formal and boring things went on which I didn't feel were worth adding to this report !

Thanks once again to our Parish Clerk, Shelagh, for doing her best to keep us on the straight and narrow during the year ! She steers us through the minefield of Governmental Bureaucracy - whilst hanging on to a (necessary) sense of humour.

It should be noted that our excellent NKDC District Councillor, Kate Cook, did not seek re-election at the May '19 elections and you will all have had the chance to vote for her successor.

On this subject, after 14 or 15 years as Chairman of your Council, I am also standing down, but will remain a councillor. I feel that I am becoming 'stale' and that it is time for some new blood and new ideas.

Your new Chairman will be voted in at the May meeting. I thank you all for allowing me the honour of holding this 'job' for so long.

Please note that you can access details of forthcoming meetings, how to contact Councillors, rules and regulations, financial details etc. on the Council's website at www.swaton.org.uk. YOU are very welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings.

Please contact any Councillor if you have concerns or feel that something needs to change. We will do our best to help (subject to many, many constraints!)

Sincerely

Chairman to Swaton Parish Council

NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 19th July 2019



PUBLIC FORUM, 7.30pm. No members of the public were present.

1. **PLAY AREA UPDATE.** A successful grant application to the Lottery Fund resulted in £10k being awarded for equipment for younger children. The result of another grant application is to be known by September. Quotes for suitable equipment plus surfacing & installing have been requested. Cllr Mrs Penketh was thanked by the Councillors for her work. Post for the ball fence and goals are almost complete ready for galvanising prior to installation.
2. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH.** The original portable speed indication signs are not working and it isn't economical to repair them. It was generally felt that, if affordable, portable signs with newer technology may be purchased. Enquiries as to types, costs and possible funding sources are underway.
3. **GRASSCUTTING.** The Councillors agreed that the verges in the village are being cut to the LCC standard, or better. Everyone involved in this effort was thanked
4. **TREE PLANTING IN THE VILLAGE.** Councillors noted a scheme through the Woodland Trust to supply either free trees or reduced cost trees to Towns and Parishes for their open spaces. However, it was felt that there were very few suitable open spaces within the village for multiple tree planting.
5. **AUDIT.** Details of the audit for Swaton had been received by the external Auditor. Details of a public inspection period, plus other relevant documents are on the web site.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Tues. Sept 17th, 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 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 so there can be a council discussion and a decision if necessary. For contact details and information please look at the Swaton Parish Council's website - <http://swaton.org.uk> or make contact with one of the councillors.

NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 14th May 2019.



PUBLIC FORUM, 7.30pm. 3 members of the public were present as well as all parish councillors.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May saw a change of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Cllr Alan Wilson was elected Chairman with Cllr Mrs Penketh as Vice Chairman. Cllr Andrew Deptford is the

Responsible Finance Officer.

The Council also welcomed 2 additional Councillors after a ten months process to increase the Council numbers from 5 to 7 Councillors. Cllr Mrs Judy Patrick and Cllr Charles Campion took their seats.

The Annual Audit documents have been completed and can be seen on the Council website. This year the Council is able to certify itself exempt from a full external audit, provided various documents are published. There are also details of when and where these documents may be inspected in person.

Should you have any queries or concerns relating to certain aspects that your PC can deal with then please contact the appointed councillor representative as below...

- Police/Speeding/ASB. Cllr Mrs Penketh
- Play area. Cllr Mrs Penketh and Cllr Wilson.
- Road and Path Lighting. Cllr Deptford.
- Grants & Newsletter Cllr Mrs Penketh.
- Planning/Open Spaces. Cllr Campion.
- Footpaths and Bridleways. Cllr Mrs Patrick
- Flooding Liaison. Cllr Richardson
- Tidy Village. Cllr Mrs Patrick.
- Responsible Finance Officer. Cllr Deptford.
- Fire/Health and Safety.

Swaton Parish Council website: <http://swaton.org.uk/>

FUTURE EVENT – A SATURDAY IN OCTOBER

QUIZ NIGHT – DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

Plenty of time to start to get a team together. Tickets will be available nearer the time. Teams can be up to 6 people or you can go along on your own or as a couple and make up a team with others.

It's a great night out that includes a delicious homemade 2 course supper.

For more information or to pre-book tickets contact Liz on 01529 421217



SWATON COMMUNITY TRUST - REGULAR EVENTS

SWATON SWIGGERS – 8.30pm EVERY FRIDAY

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 MORNING CAFÉ – 9.30am – 12 noon.

Bacon 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).



CINEMA CLUB: 3rd August, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November

First Saturday of the month is Cinema Club – you'll find full details of the films being shown on display in the hut or film and membership information can be obtained from Nicola Arnold (421 566). Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm. The bar will be open and refreshments available.



CRAFT CLUB - Every Tuesday morning 9.30am-12pm.

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 detail please contact Liz (421 217).



The hut committee does an excellent job running the social side of the village but it takes many hands to make it look light work so they are always looking for extra helpers to join in with the running their events– if you can spare an hour or two please let one of the committee members know.

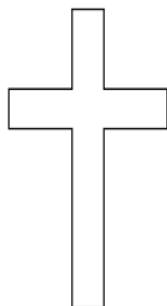
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A FEW WORDS FROM OUR REV

On the way to breakfast the other day, I was listening to a programme on Radio 4 entitled 'The Pleasures of Brecht' about a poem the great man had written called simply 'Pleasures'. Although essentially a simple list of what he had discovered made life worth living, it had me in tears. I sensed God reminding me of life's simple pleasures, there to be enjoyed and often for free. The sort of things we can forget to give thanks for in the busyness and the daily round life. The poem was written towards the end of his life as a gift for a new love in his life. Love can always give us a new lens through which to see the world differently. The ordinary somehow becomes infused with the extraordinary and suddenly there is a new lightness in our step. Brecht's poem, and those on the programme that day sharing their simple pleasures, certainly gave me a shot of joy in the heart. I wonder what would be on your list. Perhaps one of them is reading this magazine when it first comes out. Here is Brecht's:

First look from morning's window
The rediscovered book
Fascinated faces
Snow, the change of the seasons
The newspaper
The dog
Dialectics
Showering, swimming
Old music
Comfortable shoes
Comprehension
New music, Writing, Planting, Singing
Being friendly



As summer makes its turn towards autumn and we head off to late summer holidays or take time to sit in the garden (put down your gloves – weeds will always be with us). Take time to enjoy some of these small but wonderful pleasures that make life worth living. As another wise man wrote in the Book of Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 about his search for wisdom "I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. And that people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labour, for these are gifts from God". Sometimes we can be so busy working we forget why we are doing it. Work to live and work to bless, and you will be blessed and be a blessing.
Enjoy your summer.

Rev 'Captain' Chris.
Rector of Heckington & Helpringham Group of Parishes.
The Rectory, 10 Cameron Street, Heckington, Lincolnshire. NG34 9RW.
Tel: 01529 460904 / Mob: 07502410798. Email: c.r.harrington@btinternet.com

Some special dates in our Group of Parishes in August & September.

1st Monday of each month at Great Hale Church at 10.30am 'Julian Meeting' - Half an hour of silent contemplative prayer.

New Family Service on 4th Sunday each month at 11am at Heckington Church
4th August at 3pm – Special service to mark St Oswald's Day at Howell Church
7th August – Day pilgrimage to Walsingham see Rev Chris for more details if interested.

9th August 7pm Folk Duo + Fish & Chip Supper at Helpringham Church to start the Feast Weekend

17th August 2pm to 4pm Heckington Church Garden Party & fun dog show.

18th August 3pm Pet Service at Asgarby Church – bring your pets to be blessed – no reptiles/spiders

22nd Sept at 2pm Harvest service at Howell church

29th Sept at 9.30am Harvest Service & Breakfast at Helpringham Church

29th Sept at 11am Harvest Festival at Heckington Church

29th Sept at 2pm Harvest at Asgarby Church

29th Sept at 4pm Harvest Service & Auction at Screddington

30th Sept at 7pm Harvest Supper & Auction at Heckington Village Hall



HIRE THE HUT

The Village Hut is an ideal place to hold a group activity. The Hut can hold up to 60 people. It's a great place to have a business meeting or a kid's birthday party as well as an adult 'get together'. Tables and chairs are supplied and there is a licensed bar and kitchen. If you're looking for a location to hold an event why look any further than Swaton. Very reasonable charges. If you have an event you'd like to hold away from home please contact one of the Hut Committee who will assist you in booking the Hut.



COUNCILLOR VACANCY.



Unfortunately, due to family commitments one of our Parish Councillors has had to step down from their post so Swaton has a vacancy for a Councillor. Anyone who has lived in the Parish and is on the electoral roll can be eligible. If anyone is interested in being part of a small team of people working on behalf of all parishioners, they should speak to one of the Councillors for more information.

There is no **Poop Fairy** ...



PLEASE SCOOP THE POOP

It's been reported that the dog poo situation has slightly improved but we are still getting complaints!

With the school holidays now under way older children might well walk the dog whilst they're off school so please make sure they are armed with

more than just their mobile phone and take poo bags with them. Dog poo is still being left along North Drove, Parsons Drove, Pepper Lane and the pathway along the A52. It's a health hazard as well as an eyesore.

If you are a dog owner, you have a legal duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place unless you are registered blind and own a guide dog. Please remember to keep a few poo bags in the car or your dog walking coat – it's an offence not to have bags with you when walking the dog and not clearing up after your dog could cost you an 'on the spot fine'.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Last year we had a Community Speed Watch meeting where attendees heard about a community programme that can help reduce speeding traffic with the assistance of local volunteers. The PC is hoping to move forward with better technology but Speed Indicators aren't enough.



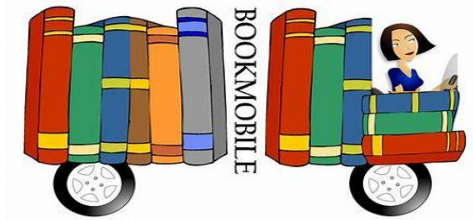
Swaton suffers with speeders – sadly many of the them are local to Swaton and surrounding villagers so should know better, some further afield. It's quite clear on the approach to our village that there is a maximum speed of 30mph yet after an 'Archer Speed Test' (during which a camera was hidden along Swaton's High Street) it was proved that more than 50% of traffic passing through exceeds 30mph so WE need to do something about this before someone is seriously injured – that's what CSW is for.

This programme doesn't work without volunteers – it takes a group of 3 people per session – one with the camera, one taking notes and one spotting the offenders. The information is then passed to the police who will follow up the due process. It's not time consuming - we can hold as many or as few sessions as we want and we decide when they're held. Full training is given.

CAN YOU HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE & BE A CSW VOLUNTEER?

For more info contact Elaine Penketh on elainepenketh.swatonpc@gmail.com

MOBILE LIBRARY



Linconshire Libraries operates a Mobile service which is available to anyone who cannot reach a static library due to remote location, health or mobility issues.

Swaton is lucky enough to be included in this service with a 4-weekly visitation from the mobile Library where staff will deliver items right to our door.

The Mobile Library sites itself quite centrally opposite St Micheal's Church on the High Street between 2.45pm & 3.15pm.

The next dates are:

August 16 th	September 13 th	October 11 th	November 8 th	December 6 th
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If you have any enquiries or need to renew your books but cant get to the mobile or on-line you can phone Customer Service Centre on 01522 782010.



FAMILY BBQ
FRIDAY 23rd AUGUST 2019
FROM 6.30pm
HOT DOGS AND BURGERS
BAR OPEN UNTIL LATE
EVERYONE WELCOME

