

# WIGTOFT

## VILLAGE NEWS & VIEWS

June / July 2021



### Wigtoft Village Hall is reopening!

A joint coffee morning with the Village Hall and Church will take place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June from 10 - Noon to celebrate the reopening of the Village Hall.

See page 5 for details

*Please be aware that gatherings and meetings detailed in this issue of the newsletter are based on the planned lifting of Covid restrictions in June going ahead.*

# Wigtoft Village Contact Details

## Parish Council Members

Bruce Leggott (*Chairman*)      Sandra Brigham (*Vice Chair*)  
Peter Craven   Steve Baxter      Simon Collingwood      Sally Smith  
Clerk - A. Fletcher 07383 276892    email: wigtoftpc@gmail.com  
Parish Council Website : wigtoft.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk  
Follow us on Facebook (Wigtoft Parish Council)

## Village Hall Committee

Wendy McCombie .....01205 461005      Virna Atkinson .....01205 460259  
Sally Smith.....01205 460117      Allison Goad .....01205 461522  
Janet Sargeant.....01205 460017      Maurice Cowling ....01205 460789

## St Peter & St Paul Parish Church

**Priest in Charge**    Rev. Charles Robertson..... 01205 820223  
**PCC Contact**            Jane Barkham..... 01205 460714

## Sutterton Methodist Church

**Minister**    Rev. Alan Barker..... 01406 423270

## Police

Boston Police Station..... 01205 366222  
Kirton Police Station .....01205 722002  
Constable John Thornton.....07973 847073  
Community Liaison Officer .....01205 312735

**Police Non Emergency..... 101**

**Medical Non Emergency ..... 111**

## General Contacts

Sutterton Doctor's Surgery ..... 01205 460254  
Boston Pilgrim Hospital.....01205 364801  
Boston Borough Council.....01205 314200  
BBC - Out Of Hours Emergencies.....01205 360300  
BBC - Refuse Department .....01205 311112  
Anglian Water Emergencies .....03457 145145  
Western Power Distribution .....0800 6783105    or just 105  
*(to report a power cut)*

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wigtoft News and Views.

Well we are almost getting back to normal, if all goes well in the coming weeks. As you will see in the magazine some of the village groups are hoping to start up again over the next few months, the Village Hall, the Church, Scraps R Us and the Bowls Club among them. Many of us have received our second vaccination but we should still remain cautious. If you are planning a holiday or just a few days away, then we hope you have a lovely time.

Our wild life garden is now sowed with summer seeds which we hope will give us a lovely display of flowers come the warmer weather, we live in hope! It is a place visited a great deal by dog walkers and those who just wish an evening stroll. So, we hope you enjoy the forthcoming view. It's good to care for our village in any way we can. Litter pickers are out and about and do a grand job.

News and Views have received a generous donation from the Wigtoft Bowls Club which we are most grateful for and will put to good use and will help greatly with the printing costs.

Enjoy your Newsletter.

### **A Thank You From Wigtoft News & Views**

For many years Ann Mulbret has acted as treasure to our magazine, News and Views, here in the village. The time has now come to for her to retire. We wish to thank Ann for all her hard work and commitment during her time with us. It is never easy but she has been a stalwart!

We find ourselves with a new treasurer, Karen Frosdick who has kindly stepped into the breach. Thank you Karen.

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# St. Peter & St. Paul

## WIGTOFT PARISH CHURCH NEWS

The Church AGM was held on 18th May 2021 in the Village Hall car park. there was 16 of us at the meeting. Quite a bit was discussed and sorted. At the start of the meeting Revd. Charlie explained to everyone what was needed under the new system that we are going into ( Researching Sustainable Church ). Some of the things we need to do is to have enough people on the PCC and to fill all of the officer's roles.

Then we went into the Vestry meeting to elect the Churchwardens. It was decided to keep the present system in which a group of us do the churchwarden's roles, this has worked well for the last few years.

The next part of the meeting was the AGM which is when we elected the PCC. The present members were re-elected en block, there were also another 3 new members elected. John Craggs was re-elected as the Treasurer and Jane Barkham was re-elected as the secretary. We then discussed what other things that we needed people to do. Jackie Core volunteered to coordinate the grass cutters and make sure that they have petrol and access to the lawn mowers.

We do still need the help of the parish to take on things like cleaning out the gutters and gullies on the church roof. Also someone to make sure the clock keeps time. If possible it would be nice to have someone who can play for us at services ( that is when we are able to sing in Church again). If anyone can help us in any way please contact one of the PCC members.

**From Wigtoft PCC**

### **The Members of the Wigtoft Parochial Church Council are:**

Chairman - Rev. Charles Robertson

Jane Barkham - Secretary	Virna Atkinson	Jackie Core
John Craggs - Treasurer	Ann Dawkins	Wendy McComby
Jean Knight	Colin Scrupps	Malcolm Franklin

### **Wigtoft Church Lottery Winners**

#### **April 2021**

1 <sup>st</sup> (£20)	Rachel Batterham
2 <sup>nd</sup> (£10)	Claire Wheatley
3 <sup>rd</sup> (£5)	Avis Padley

#### **May 2021**

Jean Knight
Bill Barkham
P Sharp

## **Church Services for June and July**

We have some good news at last, from Sunday 13th June 2021 the Church will be open for services, assuming there is no tightening of the planned easing of Covid restrictions in the coming months.

We will be holding services on the 1st & 2nd Sunday each month at 9-30a.m.

The services currently planned are:

Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> 9.30 - Communion Service, Wigtoft

Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30 - Communion Service, Wigtoft

Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup> 9.30 - Communion Service, Wigtoft

Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup> 9.30 - Communion Service, Wigtoft

*Everyone is very welcome to come and join us for the services.*

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### **A Thank You from the PCC**

The PCC would like to thank Jenny Ward for donating plants to sell for Church funds, up to now we have raised £40

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### **Grass Cutting Heroes'**

Since John has been incapacitated with his wrist people have been most kind in volunteering their help in cutting the grass in the Churchyard. This is no easy task. It takes time, commitment and energy. We offer our thanks to all those who have put their hand to lawn mowers and hedge trimmers to help out.

We do however, require continued help and would encourage others to come forward. You may only be able to offer a couple of hours but every little helps. In the near future we hope to organise a rota system. if you are happy to come forward we would welcome you.

Our Church is going through a time of great change. The more we can all help the better to prove that we at Wigtoft are worthy to keep our Church doors open for future generations.

Thank you once again

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### **Help!**

Can anyone help with weeding in the Churchyard? We are asking friends to come along on the first Tuesday of every month during the summer, beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> from 9.30am - 11.30am. If you can only come for an hour that absolutely fine.

If you can't make it that day feel free to go whenever you can!

**Thank you, Jean.**

## Village Hall News

Good news, the Village Hall will be re-opening on the 1st July. It seems so long since it was open so it's good to be able to get back to a bit more of a normal life.

It will re-open for all bookings, so anyone interested in hiring the hall please call Wendy on 01205 461005.

The Hall and the Church have decided to join together to hold a coffee morning to celebrate the re-opening of the Hall. A great chance to pop along for a cuppa and a catch up with friends and neighbours who you might not have seen since the hall closed. Let's try and get the community back together again like old times.

The coffee morning will be held in the hall on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June from 10-12. There will be a raffle and lots of homemade cakes and of course plenty of chat. Do try and come along and let's get back to the old community spirit.

Here's looking forward to the next few months and hopefully the bacon butty coffee mornings will begin again in the hall in the Autumn.

Looking forward to seeing you all for the coffee morning on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 10am for a cuppa and a chat.

### Booking Wigtoft Village Hall

The Village Hall is reopening for events and bookings  
from July 1st 2021

For further information, please contact Wendy on 01205 461005

*The hire charge is £9 per hour, which includes heating, lighting  
and the use of the kitchen and all crockery.*

## Scraps-R-Us

### Scraps Update

Our meetings start again on July 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> – it will be the second and fourth Tuesday every month at 10am.

We are looking forward to meeting up again. It's been a long time. Feel free to call and have a coffee with us, everyone is welcome

## Life begins Again!

As you can see by various things in the magazine our village is coming to life again. We are all pleased to start living life once more, albeit with caution and in the realms of government ruling.

We all need each other. This has been made very plain to us over the past year or so. To live in a small village may sometimes appear isolating. So the time has now come to reunite with our neighbours who will become our friends!

There is much going on in the future, at Church, Village Hall and Bowls Club.

We have a Church that needs your help.

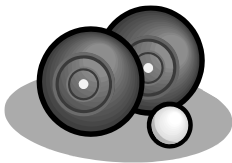
A Village Hall that is looking to improve its image plus various things like Scraps and the newsletter that require helping hands.

So, here's the challenge.

If our village is to continue being friendly, active and welcoming then we can all play our part in some small way.

Whatever you do over the coming months keep safe, keep active and enjoy participating in village life!

## Wigtoft Bowls Club



At last we begin playing bowls again on Monday May 17<sup>th</sup> following all the covid restrictions.

We shall have league games on Monday and Wednesday evenings and an open evening on Fridays when anyone can call in and have a go! The only thing we would request is flat soles shoes, trainers, we can loan woods.

Once regulations are eased we shall have an open day and hope to welcome people who didn't know we were here!!

Last year we received a very welcome grant and have been able to do some much needed maintenance to the club house and green. Last year a local teenager asked to do some voluntary work as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award. We were happy to help and he painted all our fences, a very tedious job! At present we are not able to have spectators but when restrictions are lifted we will be happy for people to just call in and watch.



- 1 Mow without the Grass Box** - mow it a few times without the mower's grass box. By allowing grass cuttings to return to the lawn, you're creating a shallow layer of mulch, that'll enrich the soil.
- 2 Clean Your Pond**  
Unfortunately, you're likely to find aquatic weeds attempting to smother your pond's surface this month, thanks to the high temperatures.
- 3 Maintain Water Levels**  
July is one of the warmest, brightest months. An essential task for pond owners is topping up the water. That helps to ensure ponds provide enough oxygen for fish and remain healthy places for aquatic plants too.
- 4 Take Care of Tomatoes**  
To keep your tomato plants in tip-top condition, give them plenty of water and tomato fertiliser this month. Those grown in greenhouses will also need ventilation.
- 5 Refresh Flowering Plants**  
It's crucial to continue deadheading them just as thoroughly as you did in [June](#) to prolong their beauty. Remove old blooms to encourage the growth of fresh ones
- 6 Protect Fruit from Birds**  
Fruit trees and berry bushes are at their most appealing in July, and your garden's feathered visitors will find them impossible to resist.
- 7 Re-use Household Water**  
Plants struggle in dry weather unless they're watered regularly. In July, make re-using the water that fills your bath and sinks a priority.
- 8 Revive Perennial Displays**  
Don't be afraid to cut back tired-looking plants using secateurs or shears.
- 9 Plant Bulbs for Autumn Blooms**
- 10 Pick Your Peaches**



I heard the old one say that I am a very determined little dog. She should know that Manchester Terriers are a British breed of ratting dogs, so we do not let go. We were popular at dog shows in Victorian times. Our black and tan coats shine like polished gold. We are elegant and beautiful. We can make a quick turn in a small space and outwit elderly humans.



*This isn't me, it's  
another Moushound -  
an imposter*

While the ladies were enjoying their Scrabble™, the cleaning lady opened the door. I gave a warning bark and she almost had a heart attack. She wasn't expecting a "four-legs" to give her instructions.

Today the old one let me inspect her back garden. It was bitterly cold so I didn't bother with the usual cat search but dashed back into the warm house.

More beautiful white shapes falling from the sky. Too cold to linger out of doors! A mutual friend brought a fresh baked cake. Roll on afternoon tea-time!

The old one has had a hair cut at last. I didn't recognise her as I dashed through the open door of the lounge.

Every ledge is festooned with coloured cards. Don't humans have strange habits? I'm bursting to help open a pile of parcels. Some even smell nice.

As I burst into the lounge today I was confronted by a shiny black monster sitting on the hearth. My hackles rose but there was no response, so I backed away nervously. Humans have strange toys – this one was noisily blowing out hot air. On my next Visit I inspected carefully then enjoyed the warmth.

The cake lady was busy in the old one's garden today, so I noisily told her to get out. She was not intimidated but carried on, ignoring me completely.

Bye for now,

**Mousehound**

## Blisbury Charity Student Grants

Every year the Blisbury Charity has a small sum of money which is available to help students to buy books, equipment, travel etc. Students eligible to apply for this grant must be continuing in Further Education, eg Sixth Form, College or University and residing in Wigtoft. If successful the grants will be paid towards the end of September.

Please apply by letter giving full particulars by the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 to:

**Blisbury Charity, Five Bell Lodge,  
Five Bell Lane, Wigtoft, Boston Lincs. PE20 2PX**

## Topical Talk

I have just read an account of a navigational error by a second world war pilot that ended with him in a POW camp in Germany.

Sergeant Robert Stirling of RAF 87 Squadron was chasing a German bomber towards France in April 1941: the 23 year old soon realised that he was running low on fuel and decided to return to base in Exeter – however, his compass had broken and when he thought he could see the white cliffs of Dover they were, in fact, the sun reflecting from the thousands of greenhouses in Guernsey. Thinking he was over safe ground and unable to reach his base, he bailed out of his Hawker Hurricane fighter plane: instead of friendly English countryside he found himself on the uninhabited island of Lihou, close to enemy-occupied Guernsey. Somehow he managed to walk across a minefield and a causeway and ended up spending the night with a local family. At the end of curfew next morning he gave himself up to the police and spent the rest of the war in Stalag 1X POW camp. During his time in the camp he had two failed attempts at escaping, once on a bike. After the war he returned to his native Glasgow – he died in 1984.

Have you ever been told a joke that was supposed to be uproaringly funny but that just left you cold and unable to see anything funny about it? Here are just a couple that you might have to think about.

“A jar of Omega 3 vitamins fell on my head when I opened the cupboard. I sustained super fish oil injuries”.

“What do accountants do when they are constipated?. They work it out with a pencil”.

I came across another “missing pet” story recently and I think this one must be the most incredible one so far.

Thirteen years ago Rose, a black cat belonging to a nine year old girl called Alicia, went missing. In the following years the family moved house, Alicia went to university and everyone gave up hope of ever seeing Rose again. What happened to Rose is a mystery but long after the family put thoughts of her behind them she was found and reunited with her owners. Alicia's mother Gemma Barbier, a charity shop worker from Thetford in Norfolk, said she was stunned to receive a call saying that Rose, now aged 14, had been found.

The cat had been an eighth birthday present for Alicia in 2007 but went missing in 2008, a few months after her brother had been killed by a car. The family lived in Kings Lynn and Gemma said she felt guilty when they moved house 10 years later in 2018, in case she came home and they weren't there for her. Rose, who was microchipped, was reported as a stray in the Kings Lynn area and was taken in by the Cats Protection adoption centre in Downham Market this year.

Her whereabouts for the past 13 years remain unknown but she was healthy and well nourished and in good condition. Gemma said she initially rejected the

charity's phone call because she did not recognise the number: however, when it rang again she answered it and she was very, very pleased she did – she said she could just not believe that she had been found after all this time. Gemma went to collect Rose, who seems to have taken it all in her stride; she settled in immediately when they arrived home, ate her food and lay down purring as if she had never been away. Alicia, who is now 21 years old, is a student at the University of Derby.

When we were young and used to read stories such as *Treasure Island* and about people marooned on desert islands for years it was difficult to imagine that it can happen in real life. In 1966 an Australian sailor called Peter Warner was sailing his fishing boat near a remote South Pacific island looking for new fishing grounds when he saw smoke rising from the island, called Ata, which is 1800 miles east of Australia, near Tonga. Peering through his binoculars he spotted a burnt-out patch on the cliff and thought it unusual for an uninhabited island to have a bush fire, so he went in to investigate and was very surprised to see, among the masses of seabirds, human beings – down the cliff ran a naked youth, a fearsome sight, with a wild and matted afro haircut – others followed, yelling and they appeared so wild that the crew started to load their guns. The first boy leapt through the surf and hauled himself aboard the boat; the skipper flinched, remembering the Tongan custom of depositing violent convicts on remote islands: when the youth said, in impeccable English “We are 6 castaways and we estimate that we have been here for 15 months”. Unable to believe them the skipper made radio contact with Tonga and 20 minutes later there was a tearful reply from the operator “You found them”. These boys had been given up for dead and funerals had been held. The boys were aged between 13 and 16 and were pupils from a boarding school on Tonga. Their adventure had started in June 1965 when they “borrowed” a 24 foot long boat for a night of illicit fishing. As they slept a squall blew up, their anchor line snapped and they were carried out to the open sea – by morning no land was in sight. They drifted for 8 days, surviving on raw fish and sharing a single bottle of drinking water. Eventually they sighted the twin peaks of Ata, a rocky island just 100 miles south of Tonga. Their boat was breaking up by now so they swam for several hours using pieces of their smashed boat for support, until they staggered ashore, half drowned.

When Warner and his crew ventured ashore they found that the boys had been living in a crude thatched hut, they had caught sea birds with their bare hands, eating the flesh raw – drinking the blood and moisture from birds eggs. Later they had tapped trees for coconut milk – they had also discovered wild chickens. They had also made a food garden, hollowed out tree trunks to store rain water and made chicken pens and kept a permanent fire.

On their return to Tonga the boys received a tumultuous welcome and Warner was given a hero's welcome and presented with a royal warrant to fish in the local waters – there were six days of feasting.

***Colin Scrupps***

# Barbara's Garden

Well here we are again,

I am sat at the keyboard and thinking "What am I going to write this month!"

Now following on from last time the ponds are still in need of treatment, I've made a start on freeing up the netting, still a lot more to do, have obtained some new replacement netting so it will be all systems go fairly soon. On my walks around the garden I have seen several fish, Gold ones are easy to spot, but there are also Black fish which are only seen when they take the food, you see the food being moved as they eat it.

The Cowslips have multiplied like mad this year so I have transplanted some into the wild grass area and have a selection of other wild flower seeds to plant out, well just scatter them actually, and hope for the best.

The ducks have made an appearance again but don't seem to be making any nests. Talking of nests, I went to my log store the other day, because I wanted to have the log burner going, it was a very cold and windy day. I went to the store and had to be careful where I picked the logs, a blackbird has built her nest on top of my cut logs. It is not unusual for her to build in the store but it is normally on the side supports. So hoping the weather improves and I won't need the logs. The hedges are alive with bird nests and some have had young already. The other morning it was nice to see a young Hare (Leveret) dashing about on the garden, also I have a resident Hedgehog, it is not very big but it leaves calling cards all around the garden.

Keeping on top of mowing the grass areas, but had to make major repairs to my ride-on, well it is about 30 years old. It still does a very good job, getting parts is a little difficult though.

The fruit trees have a lovely lot of blossom but the wind is playing havoc with them, I just hope the insects are fertilizing the buds.

I have started to arrange paving blocks in a circle around the Viburnum on the house lawn, this is to keep the gravel contained. It is nice to sit on the bench and enjoy the view of the garden, with a cup of tea and memories of sitting here with Barbara and making plans for the garden, all hers I must say. It is lovely to hear the birds in full voice, lots of courting going on.

I think that I have run out of what to say this time round. So it is a goodbye from me for this issue.

**Best regards, Norman.**

This startling bird is easily recognised by its black and white plumage, and the very long wedge shaped tail.

It is common in wooded areas in England. Game-keepers have reduced its numbers in the past. One of the crow family; the magpie is an intelligent bird, and the numbers continue to grow.

“One for Sorrow, Two for Joy”, is a well-known superstition and older people used to say ‘good morning’ to a magpie to bring them luck. A single magpie is supposed to herald death, so it is bad luck to see one only. Bad luck will follow anyone who shoots a magpie.



Nests are mostly found in tall trees but also in hedgerows and bushes. The birds eat insects, other birds' eggs, worms, carrion, fruit, berries and grain so food is plentiful. The birds chatter rather than sing to each other.

Like crows, magpies will scavenge and unfortunately will take other birds' eggs and nestlings if food is not easily obtained.

Magpies nests are often untidy and will not withstand hard weather or be strong enough to support a brood.

The birds seem to show no mercy to other birds, but will fiercely defend their own. Sometimes they sit quietly without squawking. When looking for food or company they have a strange hop.



## **WIGTOFT and DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**

To all current members and possible new ones, we will be holding an open meeting in the Village Hall on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July from 7pm onwards to discuss the way forward for the gardening club.

Tea/coffee and cake will be provided.

Please come along, ideas and suggestions will be most helpful. Looking forward to seeing you all once again.

**Gardening Club Committee**

Maurice Johnson was the man responsible for creating the Spalding Gentleman's Society: as well as being responsible for its creation he also supported it for over 40 years. From its small beginnings, as a group of like-minded friends meeting at a Spalding coffee shop, it developed into a society that was well known across England and beyond and with members spread across the world.

Maurice was the son of a Lincolnshire lawyer of the same name who lived at Ayscoughfee Hall and who helped local businesses and landowners with their legal affairs – one of his clients was the Duchess of Buccleuch – he managed her Spalding properties.

After attending Spalding Grammar School young Maurice began his legal studies at the Inner Temple in London in 1705, qualifying as a barrister in 1710. Whilst he lived in London he attended coffee house clubs, which were a feature of the London scene at the time, meeting weekly to discuss the latest news and literature.

On his return to Spalding in 1710 he and his friends began to meet informally each week to discuss various topics and by 1712 the group had taken on the task of cataloguing and preserving the Spalding Parish Library. Soon it was given a formal constitution as the Spalding Gentleman's Society, with a set of rules permitting the discussion and investigation of the whole area of arts and sciences, but with an absolute prohibition on the discussion of politics. This one factor kept the society together while other local groups declined into argument – it was also Johnson's hard work in finding weekly topics for their meetings.

Johnson's work as a lawyer specialising in land drainage law took him to London on a regular basis and it was here that, along with friends, they established the Antiquarian Society, today's Society of Antiquaries. He met many important people of the time, one of whom was Sir Isaac Newton: one unusual member was Job Diallo, an Islamic prince and scholar from West Africa, who had been taken as a slave to America and had been ransomed in 1733 and became a great social success in England on his way back to Africa.

To become a member of the Spalding Gentleman's Society you had to donate a book to the value of at least £1 to the Society's growing library and their books still exist today, each inscribed with the donors name. Local members also paid a subscription of 6p for each meeting attended. The Society also established a herb garden to grow unusual and useful plants and a museum containing many specimens of natural history and coin and other archaeological finds, together with a growing collection of telescopes and microscopes.

For 45 years Johnson was the central figure of the Society: he and his wife Elizabeth established a family at Ayscoughfee Hall – of the 25 children born to

them only 11 reached maturity. The sons, who had careers in the army, law, church, navy and Indian civil service all became supportive members of the Society and at least one of his daughters provided illustrations for the Society's minute books. Perhaps his greatest talent was his ability to create friendships – he encouraged people to meet and discuss on a friendly basis and to share their discoveries.

His final gift to the Society was in his will; in this he left an income to the Governors of Spalding Grammar School, to be paid to the school's headmaster in addition to his salary, to ensure that he would take charge and care for the museum books and papers belonging to the Spalding Gentleman's Society.

*Colin Scrapps*

## A Special Wigtoft Village Word Search

Z	U	W	E	C	H	U	R	C	H	R	O	A	D	M
K	P	R	U	S	H	Y	D	R	O	V	E	S	W	B
X	U	F	O	W	A	I	R	T	Z	N	F	P	F	U
W	S	C	I	O	H	I	A	I	Y	L	V	E	T	R
C	P	L	Z	V	U	H	R	V	B	N	E	R	M	T
I	I	O	A	P	E	P	F	P	L	V	F	T	A	O
D	O	V	Q	C	B	B	K	I	O	J	I	O	I	F
J	N	E	T	O	B	W	E	R	W	Z	X	N	N	T
C	K	R	E	U	W	K	G	L	S	H	E	R	R	L
D	O	L	S	M	N	N	Y	B	L	U	H	O	O	A
K	P	A	F	H	E	C	C	W	A	L	H	A	A	N
S	Y	N	T	D	Z	A	X	K	N	Y	A	D	D	E
E	Z	E	L	T	G	W	M	V	E	Q	W	N	D	F
B	A	O	A	L	Y	O	L	H	L	I	M	G	E	G
Q	G	Y	W	I	G	T	O	F	T	B	A	N	K	S

This month's Word Search is a bit different. The grid contains the names of 10 roads in Wigtoft, plus an interloper from Sutterton. Can you find all the Wigtoft Roads and can you spot the odd one out? If you want to cheat, go to page 25 for clues.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9.30am Churchyard Weeding	2	3	4 Green Bin Collection	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Blue/Brown Bin	12
13 9.30am Holy Communion Wigtoft Church	14	15	16	17	18 Green Bin Collection	19
20	21	22	23	24 10am - Noon Coffee Morning Wigtoft Village Hall	25 Purple/Brown Bin	26
27	28	29	30			



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Green Bin Collection	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.30am Holy Communion <i>Wigtoft Church</i>	7.30pm Parish Council Meeting <i>Wigtoft Village Hall</i>	9.30am Churchyard Weeding 2pm PCC Meeting			Blue/Brown Bin	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9.30am Holy Communion <i>Wigtoft Church</i>		10am Scraps R Us <i>Wigtoft Village Hall</i>			Green Bin Collection	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	7pm Garden Club Meeting <i>Wigtoft Village Hall</i>				Purple/Brown Bin	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		10am Scraps R Us <i>Wigtoft Village Hall</i>			Green Bin Collection	

# Bicker

Today Bicker is just a small village with a dyke running through the middle. Many years ago I always thought it strange that the village seemed to have been built either side of this dyke, but when you start to look at the history of the place it all begins to fall into place.

Prior to 1014 AD a branch of the River Witham had its outfall here, where it entered the Bicker Haven. In this year there was a great flood and this outlet appears to have become silted up, leaving the river's main outlet at Boston. The dyke running through the village is the last remains of the old river, there being no trace left of the remainder of the waterway.



The village probably dates from the 7<sup>th</sup> C when it grew up as a port either side of the river which flowed into the Haven, a tidal stretch of water that connected with the R Welland at Fosdyke.

There would have been a staithe in the village with boats tied up and a market place overlooked by the church.

There is a field known as Mill Field on the junction of Hoffleet road with the A52; a brick built mill stood here until around the 1960's, when it was demolished.

The Red Lion Inn, built in 1665 was traditionally thought to have been a lighthouse but this is now thought unlikely, even though it stood near the river.

## Bicker Haven

This tidal inlet, which is now all agricultural land, was once an important waterway for the local communities: it gave access to the sea for fishing and was also an important area for salt production. Even today the sea banks that enclosed this inlet are still visible, one side being the Wigtoft Bank / Sutterton Dowdyke Bank and the other being the Gosberton Bank. These are often referred to as Roman banks but there is no evidence to suggest this; they were probably constructed by the Anglo Saxons to stop the tidal waters from flooding large areas of grazing land.

This waterway was used extensively in Norman times, when most of the local churches were under construction, for the transportation of building stone from the Stamford area to the local sites: this would have been brought in via the Welland and into the Haven at Fosdyke.

## Salt Production

Salt production in the area was important for hundreds of years and was an important part of the local economy. There is evidence that, even in Roman times, salt production was taking place; there is no evidence of any local Roman settlements, the nearest being at Ancaster which was a military fort on the road between Peterborough and Lincoln.

The road from Donington to Grantham was known as Salters Way and this was an important export route for locally produced salt. The raised section of this road, a causeway between Donington and Bridge End, was maintained by the monks from Sempringham Abbey, who had a small abbey at Bridge End, and their sole function appears to have been the maintenance of this causeway.

Several areas of raised land in the area of the Haven are the spoil heaps of silt that were deposited here by the salt workers – these can be seen in Quadring Eaudyke and also at Hoffleet Stow.

Dried turves were used as fuel at the salt pans as this was the only material available, there being very few wooded areas locally.

## The Church of St Swithin

Most of the church is from around the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although some is 15<sup>th</sup>c. There is evidence that an Anglo Saxon church stood on this site but was superseded by a Norman building in the 12<sup>th</sup> century when the village was at its most prosperous.

Documents state that the church was in a good state of repair in the 17<sup>th</sup> century but for the next 150 years there appears to be no information. A drawing from 1800 shows signs of deterioration, including broken drain pipes and vegetation growing on the structure. By 1870 the building was in a very dilapidated condition – soon after this a grand restoration scheme was undertaken: the work was carried out by Sherwins of Boston.

During WW2 the church had a lucky escape when a stick of bombs were dropped on the village, one landing in the churchyard and another in the vicarage garden – they were safely removed without damage.

*Colin Scrapps*

## Sutterton Methodist Church



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# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

***CONDENSED VERSION FOR THE NEWSLETTER. A FULL VERSION OF THE MINUTES CAN BE FOUND ON THE PARISH COUNCIL'S WEBSITE***  
**wigtoft.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk.**

This meeting was held by a video link conference call due to the restrictions in force in relation to the Corona virus pandemic.

**Present:** Cllr P Craven; Cllr S Brigham; Cllr B Leggott; Cllr S Baxter.

**Also Present:** County Councillor M. Brookes

**Public forum:** None

**Chairman's remarks:** None.

## **Apologies for absence and reasons given**

Councillors S Collingwood and S Smith sent their apologies. Borough Councillor M Cooper sent his apologies. It was resolved to accept their apologies and reasons for absence.

## **To receive any declarations of interest in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.**

None.

## **Police Report.**

None.

## **Notes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to be confirmed and signed as minutes.**

The above notes were agreed as minutes and will be signed by the Chairman at the next face to face meeting. It was resolved to accept the notes as minutes.

**ACTION: Clerk to post minutes on website.**

## **Financial matters: Accounts for payment; budget figures and financial report**

<b>Date of invoice</b>	<b>Details of payment</b>	<b>Amount ex vat</b>	<b>Vat reclaimable</b>	<b>Overall total</b>
15.2.21	Pay	208.00		
15.2.21	PAYE	52.00		
15.2.21	Clerk use of home as office	20.00		
28.2.21	Payroll services	18.00		
6.2.21	Printer ink	8.32	1.67	
22.2.21	Repairs to noticeboard	212.00		
23.2.021	New noticeboard in play area	115.00	23.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>633.32</b>	<b>24.67</b>	<b>657.99</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	None			

It was resolved to authorise the above payments and the up to date budget figures.

## **Councillors' Reports.**

**Cllr BL** - Green Lane between Leggott's Cottage Yard and the B1397 is in a very poor state. County Councillor Mike Brookes advise that it is still part of the Highways plan to undertake some more substantial repair to this part of the road. He will mention this again at his monthly meeting with the Highways Manager. Cllr PC mentioned that the crossing on the A17 has still not been cleared of the build up of soil.  
**ACTION: Clerk to check the status of this work.**

### **Clerk's report**

The new noticeboard has been installed in the playing field. I think it looks great. I have sent an email to Clarke Design and Media thanking them for an excellent job.

I have received an e-mail from a resident to say that litter picking will resume in March and that the group have two new litter pickers on board. There will be a notice about this in the magazine. I will be creating a page on the website about the litter pickers and keeping it updated with their news.

A letter regarding the overgrown hedge was forwarded to Cllr SS to pass on.

**ACTION: Clerk to log issue with LCC,**

I am advised that the noticeboard repairs are complete. The key needs to be located and handed back to Cllr SC.

**ACTION: Clerk to speak to contractor and ask for key to be dropped off to Cllr SB. Cllr Brigham will clean the Perspex in the noticeboard before it is back in use.**

### **To report on the options and cost for Cloud storage and decide which option to take.**

The clerk reported that advice had been received from LALC that a cloud data storage facility data cannot be used where data is stored outside of the UK. This narrows down the available options that come within the budget and the above guidelines. The best option is PC World Knowhow Cloud storage. The cost is £40 per year but 2 years can be purchased for £60 which is within the budget set. It was resolved to set up the PC World Knowhow Cloud storage as soon as possible.

**ACTION: Clerk to purchase and set up the cloud storage.**

### **To agree the payment of £212 for the noticeboard repairs.**

Cllr PC reported that the noticeboard repairs are now complete. C S Brigham volunteered to clean the Perspex. It was resolved to pay the invoice. **ACTION; Clerk to make the payment and to organise the return of the key to Cllr SB.**

### **To agree to appointing Victoria Clark to undertake the internal audit this year, subject to the price being agreed beforehand.**

The clerk had received a quote for this year's internal audit from Victoria at £50 plus travel costs which will be approximately £22.50. It was resolved to appoint Victoria to complete the internal audit at the above cost. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Victoria to arrange a date for the internal audit to be completed.**

### **To review the play area inspections undertaken since the last meeting.**

The February inspection was completed by Cllr SC. It was resolved to obtain a quote to pressure wash the equipment. The clerk suggestion that it might be an idea to merge the 2 weekly COVID-19 checks with the monthly inspection. It was resolved to do this. Cllr SB volunteered to undertake the March inspection which will be the more detailed quarterly check. **ACTION: Clerk to amend the monthly check list and forward a blank copy to Cllr SB.**

### **To discuss installing a memorial board for plaques in the Wildlife Garden (SB)**

The above idea was discussed. It was questioned whether the area was to be a Wildlife Garden or a Memorial Garden. Cllr BL commented that it would be another structure that would need maintaining and treating. It was resolved that a memorial board would not be installed. It was also resolved to move a bench that is rarely used from the playing field to the Wildlife Garden when it is drier underfoot.

### **An update about purchasing additional bins/dog bins for the village**

Suggestions were made that a dog bin near the village hall and a dual purpose bin near the layby would be a good idea. It was resolved to start the process to order and install a dog bin near the village hall. It was resolved not to progress the idea of a bin near the layby yet. Cllr. BL offered to monitor the situation and advise Council if the topic needs further discussion.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Boston Borough Council to start process**

**County Councillor MB left the meeting at 20:08.**

Meeting closed at 20:15

Next meeting 12.4.21 at 7.30 pm.



Welcome to Wigtoft Parish  
Council

## **Wigtoft Parish Council**

You can find details from Wigtoft Parish Council, including members, meeting agendas, full meeting minutes etc, plus other information about the village on the Parish Council website at:

**[wigtoft.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://wigtoft.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk)**

There is lots of details there including previous meeting minutes going back to 2018 and details of how to contact the parish council.

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**CONDENSED VERSION FOR THE NEWSLETTER. A FULL VERSION OF THE MINUTES CAN BE FOUND ON THE PARISH COUNCIL'S WEBSITE**  
**wigtoft.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk.**

This meeting was held by a video link conference call due to the restrictions in force in relation to the Corona virus pandemic.

**Present:** Cllr P Craven; Cllr S Brigham; Cllr B Leggott; Cllr S Baxter; Cllr S Collingwood; Cllr S Smith

**Also Present:** Borough Councillor M Cooper

**Public forum:** None

**Chairman's remarks:** On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman offered condolences to the Queen and members of the royal family on the death of Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

## **Apologies for absence and reasons given**

County Councillor M Brookes sent his apologies. It was resolved to accept his apologies and reason for absence.

## **Police Report.**

An email had been received from the local police advising that there was nothing to report.

## **Financial matters: Accounts for payment; budget figures and financial report.**

<b><u>Date of invoice</u></b>	<b><u>Details of payment</u></b>	<b><u>Amount ex vat</u></b>	<b><u>Vat reclaimable</u></b>	<b><u>Overall total</u></b>
15.3.21	Pay	418.10		
15.3.21	PAYE	104.40		
15.3.21	Clerk use of home as office	20.00		
31.3.21	Payroll services	18.00		
5.3.21	Printer ink*	8.32	1.67	
3.3.21	Cloud storage facility 2 years*	50.00	10.00	
5.4.21	Printer ink	8.32	1.67	
29.3.21	Postage	3.66		
2.4.21	Grass cutting	70.00		
12.1.21	Footway lighting costs	536.08	107.21	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1236.88</b>	<b>120.55</b>	<b>1357.43</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
1.4.21	Precept from Boston Borough	5105.50		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5105.50</b>		

## **Councillors' Reports.**

Cllr Brigham:

Asked for an update on the proposed new bin. The clerk advised that details of the proposed site have been sent to Boston Borough Council who will advise of the next steps once site has been agreed.

Suggested the council consider organising an event such as a village fete. Agenda item for next meeting.

Asked that the previously agreed move of a seat from the play area to the wildlife garden is reconsidered as it is being well used. May be an idea to keep it there but move it from under the trees. Cllr SC commented that the seat at the rear of the field could be moved but if it is concreted in, it may be difficult to move. Cllr PC suggested a site visit to find a place to move the seat to a new position so that it is not in the way of the grass mowing. He offered to do this with Cllr Brigham as soon as he is able.

A resident who usually cuts the grass in the churchyard has broken his wrist. Cllrs Baxter, Smith and Brigham have cut the grass once. Cllr Brigham has been in touch with the Community Service Group to see if they can help. She asked the Council if they could think of any other work that the group could help with in the village and let the clerk know.

### **Clerk's report**

The clerk's outstanding unpaid hours and holiday were finalized at 12.5 hours work and 5 hours holiday. The outstanding hours were reduced by 2.5 since they were agreed at the last meeting.

Notification received from Highways that the soil and grass on the central reservation on the A17 at the junction with Hipper Lane/Main Road will be dealt with during the summer months. The hedge near the village sign has been cut back.

The key to the notice board has been returned to Cllr Collingwood for safekeeping. An email has been received about sowing wild flower seeds at the Wildlife garden. Cllr Craven will make contact.

The Cloud PC World Knowhow backup has been purchased and installed on the Council's laptop and is now in use.

The first cut of the grass in the playing field/play area was done on the 2.4.21

The clerk advised Council that an email had been received earlier today from LALC offering a renewal price of £119.90 for the Zoom account. This is an increase from £87.40 last year. It was resolved not to renew.

**ACTION: Clerk to advise LALC**

The clerk also advised Council that the laptop is running very slowly and probably just needs a tune up. It was resolved that the clerk should contact an appropriate company for assistance, maximum spend £100.

**ACTION: Clerk to make contact.**



**To agree the dates for the meetings for the next 12 months and to discuss the next steps towards recommencing face to face meetings. To discuss plans for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the next Annual Parish Meeting.**

The pre-prepared schedule of meeting dates from June 2021 to May 2022 had been sent to Councillors before the meeting. It was resolved to confirm these dates. **ACTION: Clerk to post on website.**

Lincs Association of Local Councils (LALC) had advised that the legislation passed last year to allow Councils to meet remotely has not been extended beyond the expiry date of 7.5.21. Council discussed the options available. It was resolved to move the May meeting date from 10.5.21 to 4.5.21 so that the meeting can be held remotely. The village hall which is the usual venue for the meetings is not open yet. This meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Council followed by the usual monthly meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk to post the change of date on the website and on the Facebook page.**

It was resolved to hold the next Annual Parish Meeting in March 2022.

**To discuss the upcoming Local Authorities Treescapes Scheme.**

A letter had been received from Boston Borough Council about the above scheme asking for suggestions where trees could be planted in areas such as riverbanks, beside roads and footpaths etc. Lincs County Council are preparing a joint bid for funding for this purpose for Lincolnshire and are asking for suggestions. It was resolved that Councillors would give the matter some thought over the next week and advise the clerk of any suitable sites.

Meeting closed at 20:22

Next meeting 4.5.21 at 7.30 pm.

**Boston Borough Council  
Bin Collection Dates for June/July 2021**



- Friday June 4<sup>th</sup> ..... Green Bin
- Friday June 11<sup>th</sup> ..... Blue / Brown Bin
- Friday June 18<sup>rd</sup> ..... Green Bin
- Friday June 25<sup>th</sup> ..... Purple / Brown Bin
  
- Friday July 2<sup>nd</sup> ..... Green Bin
- Friday July 9<sup>th</sup> ..... Blue / Brown Bin
- Friday July 16<sup>th</sup> ..... Green Bin
- Friday July 23<sup>rd</sup> ..... Purple / Brown Bin
- Friday July 30<sup>th</sup> ..... Green Bin



## Logic from an uncluttered mind

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'.

The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?'

The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

## **Village Word Search clues for page 14**

Wigtoft Road Names

Asperton Road    Burtoft Lane    Church Road    Clover Lane    Five Bell Lane  
Golden Grove    Main Road    Rushy Drive    Spion Kop    Wigtoft Bank

And the odd one out is Blows Lane

## **WIGTOFT NEWS AND VIEWS NEWSLETTER**

***The Wigtoft News and Views Newsletter team are:***

Editorial Team    Karen Fosdick, Sally Smith, Colin Scrupps,  
Liz Leonard, Virna Atkinson, John Craggs

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