# WIGTOFT

# VILL&GE NEWS & VIEWS

## **Christmas Past**



Santa and one of his elves visiting Wigtoft in 2019

December 2020 / January 2021

#### Wigtoft Village Contact Details

#### Parish Council Members

Peter Craven (Chairman)

S. Collingwood Sally Smith Sandra Brigham B. Leggott S. Baxter

Clerk - A. Fletcher 07383 276892 email: wigtoftpc@gmail.com

Parish Council Website: parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/wigtoft

(From January 2021 the new website will be:

wiatoft.parish.lincolnshire.aov.uk)

Follow us on Facebook (Wigtoft Parish Council)

#### Village Hall Committee

Wendy McCombie 01205 461005	Virna Atkinson 01205 460259
Sally Smith01205 460117	Allison Goad01205 461522
Janet Sargeant01205 460017	Maurice Cowling 01205 460789

#### St Peter & St Paul Parish Church

Priest in Charge	Rev. Charles Robertson 01205 820223
PCC Contact	Iane 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	. 1	0	1
Medical Non Emergency	.1	1	1

#### **General Contacts**

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

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#### From The Editor

#### December 2020 /January 2021

As I write this we are still in the second Coronavirus lockdown period of 2020, hopefully by the time you read this issue of the magazine restrictions will have been eased a bit and we should be closer to a vaccine being available.

It would be nice to think that by next spring/summer we would be able to get back to a normal way of life. However, in my opinion, the normal for the future will probably be different to what we have been used to in the past. Some of the changes will probably be for the better, some people being able to work from home on a permanent basis for example. In 20 or 30 years time people may look back and think that the events of 2020 changed the world for the better.

The magazine team have done their best over the past months to keep production of your magazine going. We would like to thank the advertisers for their continued support and thanks also go to people who have contributed articles to keep some interesting content in the magazine. We are also very grateful to those readers who have generously given donations of money to help with the production costs of the News & Views. Finally many thanks to all those people who deliver the magazines, without their help you would not be reading this now. If you would like to get involved in any way please contact one of the team. We will do our best to keep the magazine going and interesting in 2021, hopefully we will have village events starting again so we will have some local news to report on.

As mentioned on page 5 let's light up Wigtoft for December so that we can try to brighten up the village for the festive season even if we cannot hold our usual Christmas events and carol service.

We hope that you all have a Happy Christmas and that you will be able to spend it with some of your family at least.

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# St. Peter & St. Paul Wigtoft Parish Church News

As you will have seen we did a display in the noticeboard for Remembrance Day. We would like to thank Jean and Jackie for coming up with this and coming to the Church to arrange it.

Our services are still on Zoom as we cannot hold services in the Church because of the second lockdown. The December services on Zoom are as follows.

$6^{th}$	10-15a.m	Holy Communion,	4p.m	Advent Carols.
$13^{th}$	10-15a.m	Holy Communion,	4p.m	<b>Advent Carols</b>
$20^{\text{th}}$	10-15a.m	Holy Communion,	4p.m	<b>Advent Carols</b>
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24<sup>th</sup> 4p.m Carol Service

25th 10-30a.m Christmas Carols & Nativity

27th 10-15a.m Holy Communion

If anyone would like to join in with these services you will be are welcome. So that you can join in I will put the connection details in the Church noticeboard. There will be a Communion service at 10-15a.m every Sunday in January. These will be on Zoom if the Church has not re-opened.

Some of the Ladies are looking at doing a Christmas display in the noticeboard, along the path and around the Church door. This display will include some lights. Please visit the Church in December after dusk to see what has been done.

We at the Church would like to wish each and every one a very Happy Christmas. Let us hope we will have a better year in 2021.

The Church lottery starts again in January, this helps to support the Church and gives you a chance to win every month. You should find a copy of the application form in the magazine so please complete this or contact a member of the PCC or your usual collector.

Please keep safe and be happy.

Wigtoft PCC

# The Members of the Wigtoft Parochial Church Council are:

Rev. Charles Robertson
Jane Barkham------ Secretary
John Craggs ----- Treasurer
Virna Atkinson
Jackie Core
Colin Scrupps

#### Church Lottery Winners October 2020

 $1^{st}$  ..... Kim Blanchard Smith (£20)  $2^{nd}$  .... Claire Wheatley (£10)  $3^{rd}$  ..... Malc Armstrong (£5)

#### November 2020

 $1^{\text{st}}$ ..... Louise Atkinson (£20)  $2^{\text{nd}}$  .... Mick Lowe (£10)  $3^{\text{rd}}$ ..... Libby Craggs (£5)

Malcolm Franklin

#### **Village Hall News**

What a strange year this was! In the 50 years since the hall opened I wouldn't think there was ever a quieter one. There really isn't much to report with the way things stand at the moment, the hall will remain closed. We really are restricted by covid and the government. Safety must come first though. We will keep you updated in the newsletter.

The hall committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and take care.

### Wigtoft Village Hall

Due to the current restrictions Wigtoft Village Hall will be closed until further notice.

For further information, please contact Wendy on 01205 461005

#### A Time of Celebration for Virna Atkinson

The achievements of Virna Atkinson were celebrated on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> in the wildflower garden in Wigtoft. What a morning it was!!

Virna has served forty years on the Parish Council and as a member of the Parochial Church Council for thirty five years. Serving also on the Board of Governors at Sutterton School from the day it opened and holding the office of being the Chair Person for eight years.

This excludes her work within the Village Hall over the past fifty years. Virna is a great advocate for Wigtoft Village and how to live life to the full.

To recognise all her hard work the Parish Council planted a maple tree alongside a plaque.

The occasion was the initiative of Wigtoft Parish Councillors. A speech, in recognition of Virna's hard work, was given by the chairman of the council Mr Peter Craven.

The morning concluded with a beautiful bouquet given to Virna and a celebratory drink of champagne accompanied by sausage rolls, which went down a treat!

It was a great time to remember the past and look to the future. Well done Virna and many thanks to the Parish Council.

See the Parish Council write up and photographs on page 5

#### Tree Planting in the Wigtoft Wildflower Garden

Earlier in the year the Parish Council was approached by a resident, Virna Atkinson, to ask if she could plant a tree in her name in the Wildlife garden. Virna has given freely of her time over the last Parish 40 Councillor. vears as a including two stints as Chairman. membership of the Parochial Church and involvement in many other areas. Because of this, the Parish Council thought it would be a good idea to purchase the tree and a plaque to recognise and thank Virna for this service.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October with the help of the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Peter Craven, Virna planted an Acer tree and the plaque was erected nearby. Councillors Sandra Brigham, Sally Smith and Steve Baxter were also in attendance.



Virna with Peter Craven



### **Light Up Wigtoft for Christmas**

### Well, it's that time of year again!

We are living in very different and difficult times. So, we must make the most of Christmas by lighting up Wigtoft once more.

This year it is more important than ever that we decorate our gardens or maybe our windows with lights. The reason being it will help us to remember what Christmas is truly about. It will also bring much joy and happiness to those who may live alone, are unwell or feeling somewhat stressed and downhearted. Not to mention those who are unable to be with family at the festive time.

As we see each other's Christmas lights it will bring home to us the joy of the season which nothing, not even corona-virus, can take away from us.

So let's get those lights twinkling!!

#### Barbara's Garden

Well where to begin? It was whilst enjoying a coffee and biscuits with the editor and his charming wife that I was informed of the need for articles to place in the village magazine. So, bear with me whilst I tell you of my trials and tribulations in attempting to gain the upper hand with the large garden area which was previously so lovingly tended by that lovely wife of mine. Barbara was a font of knowledge about the plants and how to look after each and every one. She knew their names, when to prune, take cuttings and pot them up in her little nursery ready for sale at village events where she would man her stall. Many of you will have plants she raised. If she didn't know the answer to a question of "What's this called?" then the big A to Z was called into action. Her knowledge even led her to write the monthly "Sam Snail" for the magazine.

Now, having digressed from the point of this article, let's return to my attempt at "doing the gardening". I'm not an avid gardener, my input used to be cutting the grass (can't call it a lawn, too many weeds) and taking care of the trees and hedges which surround the property, a never ending job. Because of her illness the garden was neglected and taking care of Barbara was my first priority. After her passing in December, my son stayed for a few days and gave me some help to clear weeds and dead head plants etc., but alas as we all know they don't stop growing! I have tried to keep on top of it but I'm not getting any younger. Those of you who have visited on occasion will know what I mean. I hate the weeding, but it has to be done or I would never see the beautiful plants and flowers. The three ponds are on the to do list as they've become filled with overgrown oxygenating plants, Lilies and Irises. However, I'm hesitant to get in the ponds without a person on the side in case of mishaps, they're not very deep, but deep enough to drown. The Moorhen and ducks often nest on the small island in the wildlife pond and it's wonderful to see the chicks, sometimes up under the bird feeders. The moorhen chicks are like black furry table tennis balls floating on the pond's surface, but as soon as all the eggs have hatched the mother takes them away to the nearby land drain. The ducklings stay a little longer in the garden until they can fly...

The Strawberry plot has given me enough fruit to make several jars of jam, my favourite after cherry, but strawberry is kept for putting in the scones, with cream, that I bake for the coffee/bacon buttie mornings, along with apple cake, all made to Barbara's recipes. There are apple trees, cooking and eating, cherry, pear and plum as well as a hazel nut which the squirrel often beats me to.

I have many more jobs to do and my four brown bins are never enough, I can fill them the same day they're emptied. But I do get some pleasure out of the garden knowing that it's what Barbara enjoyed in her time living here.

Thank you for reading my little piece on the garden, yes, I've probably bored some of you, but blame the editor he got me to write an article.

Maybe a follow up later in time.

Norman

#### **Advent**

Autumn brings many changes. This year we have to endure the coronavirus as well as seasonal changes. Leaves turn brilliant shades of red, yellow and brown then fall. We all forget the beauty of trees and moan as we sweep up endless piles of debris. Things of this world are only here for a short time but we can look forward to Christmas. Advent leads us into change. Falling snow arouses excitement in children. Even winter storms are awesome.

As the days grow shorter and colder we can think of the joys of spring and summer yet to come. Christmas will come and go, but we must look forward as well as backward.

Advent calls us to look forward to change. It also draws us back to Old Testament stories. God told the Israelites to expect a Messiah who would set them free. During Advent we must remember "He will come again to judge the living and the dead".

#### **Prayer**

Almighty God, you rule the changing seasons. We know that winter seems cold and dead. Please prepare us for the time when growth will begin again and beauty reappear.

Thank you for the warmth and shelter of our homes. We pray for those whose life is harder and those who in poverty and sickness shrink before the cold...

#### **Christmas**

Christmas has become the most popular holiday of the year. This year's festivities may be limited!

Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert, brought many traditional happenings to our country. Many people decided to copy the royal family by decorating a Christmas tree.

The first Christmas cards were very expensive but as printing developed prices fell and most people could afford to send greetings to family and friends.

Soon toy factories were making many toys for children, eagerly awaited at Christmas.

At Christmas holly, ivy and other evergreens were used to decorate rooms but in Victoria's reign artificial decorations were made.

Each year I read 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and enjoy every page. This tells of final goodwill which brought peace and happiness.

Few of us remember life without TV. Before this we enjoyed games such as blind man's buff. Cars have made it easier for family and friends to get together. We can even contact families abroad by internet and telephone.

We all enjoy Christmas carols although new tunes are still being written for old words.

Christmas feasts were enjoyed long ago and have changed with time. Turkey has been replaced by other meat. Mince pies originally contained meat but today's fruity ones are more appetising.

Enjoy your feasts!

A very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

#### A Poem Dreaming by Tara aged 14

A dream is a blissful place I think Where no one suffers or dies, and when you dream you forget in a wink The people that come and go by

I love to dream to forget my troubles To create a story in my mind, put into bed with a kiss and a cuddle Then into a land where nobody's left behind

In my dreams I dream a better world A world of hope and happiness. Enough food for every boy and girl No global warming, the world not in a mess

I dream of happiness for all A world where nobody can fall. A world that is shared A world prepared to change

My dream is not real, why is it not ? Because people don't care, people forget. People fighting, others hurting The one's that love, the one's that keep the world working

#### **Wigtoft Gardening Club**

Sorry, there will no meetings until next spring at the earliest. We will let you know when meetings are able to start again.

We hope you have all been keeping busy in your gardens, keeping safe and well.

A Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

#### **Readers Letters & Comments**



#### **Greetings!**

Wendy McCombie and Family would like to thank all their neighbours and friends in Wigtoft for their care and support in the past difficult months.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Wendy

#### **Thank You**

I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all my friends and neighbours for all their support, love and kindness to me and my family during this year.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and pray the New Year will bring us all back together again.

Love. Pat Robinson

#### Things not done - things done!

It is so easy to notice when things don't look right or don't get done, another when they are looking good. I am not sure if you have noticed the pathway leading down towards Saint Peter and Saint Paul's Church! It is looking well maintained. Not a weed in sight with some new plants for us to enjoy. This work was accomplished by a few very kind ladies who have given of their time and energy. The man who cuts the grass does a good job also!

So thank you for caring for our Church and our village.

#### Litter Picking Bin.

The Litter Pickers of Wigtoft would like to thank the Parish Council for supplying a bin on wheels. This helps enormously with gathering rubbish from around our streets. Carrying a bag full of cans, bottles, wrappings from sandwiches and much more can become heavy work, not to mention difficult.

#### The Crossroads Pub and Restaurant.

Sad to say but the Crossroads is closed due to the corona-virus restrictions until early next year when we all look forward to its reopening. If you wish to enjoy good food and a pleasant atmosphere why not enjoy a good meal at The Ship Inn Fosdyke.

## **Christmas Word Search**

MERRY CHRISTMAS BELLS **BOW CANDY CANE** Н CAROLS S G X Н **CHRISTMAS** C R L ELF R N N M R **FAMILY** Н 0 GIVING Y R **IINGLE** M C Ŧ **IOY** LIGHTS S Н **NORTH POLE** G H T G **PRESENTS** SMS 0 REINDEER X Ĺ SANTA E B Z S Ε GHXC **SLEIGH** QH u **SNOW STAR STOCKINGS** TREES

One word is missing from the grid, can you find out which one it is?

The word missing from the grid in the last issue's word search was CANDLE. We know that at least some of our readers found it, did you?

#### Festive Fruit Bowl A simple and instant display

Fill a decorative bowl with a layer of apples or fir cones. Add a few festive branches between the apples/cones. The branches will look festive and smell great too. For a finishing touch add a tall candle to the centre of the

For a finishing touch add a tall candle to the centre of the arrangement.

#### **Topical Talk**

A recent headline in the newspaper caught my eye; it read "Hitchhiking cat is back home after two and a half years".

This cat, called Ruby, is believed to have stowed away on a lorry and travelled up the M1 motorway from her home in Bedfordshire. The pet was found on an industrial estate in Coventry after a security guard, who had been feeding her contacted Cats Protection. They checked the 5 year old microchip and set about tracing her owner, Jordan Harvey and they are now back together. Mr Harvey said "They brought my little girl back to me and I am forever grateful to them."

He thinks Ruby hitched a ride on a lorry in April 2018 – his home in Brogborough is close to a truck stop on the M1: staff from Cats Protection said Ruby was "all over" her owner when she set eyes on him again.

A man who died recently had reached the ripe old age of 101. Most of his life was probably just ordinary – apart from the period covering World War 2. His name was Robert Boocock. On the outbreak of the war he joined the RAF after working briefly for a solicitor.

In 1941 he joined 242 Squadron which had been commanded by Douglas Bader until he was shot down over France. The Squadron set sail from the Clyde in December 1941, not knowing its destination, just a day before Pearl Harbour, which brought the US into the war. The Squadron landed in Java which was part of the Dutch East Indies, but within weeks the Japanese army had overrun the area and Boocock was captured whilst hiding on a tea estate in the mountains; he was 23 years old. He spent the next 18 months as a POW on Java filling craters in runways and making sisal rope. In September 1943 he was one of 519 POW's transferred from Java to Singapore where he spent a few days in the notorious Changi prison. From there he was moved to Japan on one of the notorious Japanese "hell ships". The prisoners in these floating dungeons were deprived of air, space, light, food, water and sanitation and temperatures in the hold reached to 50 degrees centigrade. Dysentery was rife and many died of thirst, heat, beatings and execution. The convoy in which they were sailing was attacked by US warships and the vessel next to theirs was torpedoed and sunk. This voyage lasted three weeks and when they landed in Japan they were set to work in a coal mine. Over the next 22 months many were killed by their captors or died of malnutrition and disease. They were allowed one rest day a fortnight and no letters from home ever reached Boocock - but he was lucky to work on the surface and not underground. He said that the main problem was the shortage of food - they were fed a small ladle of rice in the morning and another at lunchtime, with a bowl of soup that consisted of water with a few cabbage leaves in it. Sometimes there were slugs and weevils in the rice but there was never enough to eat. He was 11 stone at the start of the war and 9 stone when it finished.

As US troops neared the Japanese mainland in the summer of 1945 the camp guards ordered the prisoners to dig a mass grave saying they would be executed if US soldiers landed on Japanese soil. But on August 6 the Americans dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, followed by another on Nagasaki three days later. Nagasaki was barely 40 miles away from the POW camp and the inmates sheltered in a tunnel - on August 15 Japan surrendered.

Boocock started his long journey home 6 weeks later. He was flown from Okinawa to Manila and there boarded a troop ship to San Francisco – he took a train across Canada from Vancouver and sailed from New York on the Queen Mary, landing in Southampton on November 20th 1945. there he was given a ration book and a railway ticket to York where he was reunited with his family. Of the 257 men in his RAF squadon just 51 came home.

Have you noticed how few people you see fishing in our rivers these days? As a boy my father used to take me fishing on a Sunday morning in the local rivers and sometimes you had difficulty in finding a place in the most popular spots. These were usually where a main road crossed a river, such as Hubberts Bridge, Wyberton Chain Bridge and Langrick Bridge. It was not unusual to see multiple bus loads of anglers, many of them from the Sheffield area, descend on these venues on Sundays. I suppose one of the attractions of these types of venues was the fact that there was usually a pub there – if the fish did not bite you could always retire to the pub!.

Nowadays most of the fishing seems to take place in man made lakes where access is easier and there is plenty of car parking – not quite the same as wandering along a river bank, basket and rods on your back, looking for a "likely spot". I remember the time when I was still a schoolboy, fishing in the Witham along with my father and several other men, and the piece of bank on which I was sitting gave way and I finished up in the water ( rather deep) and had to be pulled out by my father, losing some of my fishing tackle in the process.

Wildlife is something else you see more of if you are sitting on a river bank for any length of time. If there are reed beds in the water, during the summer you are bound to see plenty of Reed Warblers – these birds build their nests in the reeds, usually a distance from the water and supported by several growing reeds – during nesting time they can be quite tame and inquisitive. Another bird that is also inquisitive is the Robin. I have sat there fishing and had a male robin come to my maggot tin, steal a few maggots and take them to a female robin in the nearby bushes – and keep repeating the process.

Whilst fishing the River Ouse in Cambridgeshire once I was amazed to see a snake "swim" across the river – it just seemed to "wriggle" its way right across the surface of the river.

Another time, in the Witham at Langrick, I saw a squirrel swim the full width of the river and climb into a nearby willow tree. On another occasion, when fishing at Wigtoft Fen in the Forty Foot drain with my brother-in-law, a full grown deer crossed the railway track on the opposite bank, jumped into the river and swam off down the middle of the waterway towards Swineshead Bridge. On another occasion on the same stretch of water, I saw a seal ducking and diving in the water.

Over the years I have had some good fishing experiences and seen a few things that I probably would not have seen had I not gone fishing.

Colin Scrupps

#### **Scraps-R-Us**

What a lonely year! We have missed our meetings and Bacon Butty mornings and all the church events.

No Scraps meeting now until next springtime. We are hoping things will be a lot better by then.

From us all at Scraps, stay safe, keep well. Happy Christmas and New Year.

We hope to see you all very soon.

Jean Knight

# What do you call a Christmas duck? A Christmas quacker!

#### Recipe by Ann Dawkins

#### No cooking recipe - Rocky Road

5ozs Butter.

Large bar of milk chocolate.

6ozs Digestive biscuits (crushed)

2ozs Chopped glazed cherries.

2ozs Raisins.

2ozs Mini marshmallows.

4ozs Maltesers (roughly crushed)

#### **Method**

Carefully melt the chocolate and butter together. Cool slightly and stir in all the rest of the ingredients. Put into a 7inch square tin and leave to set. When set, cut into squares. Enjoy!

PS. If anyone makes this and doesn't like it please pass it on to the Editorial Team. Thank you!

#### Book Review by Tricia Alexander

#### Snow falling on Cedars by David Gutenson

In 1954 a fisherman is found dead on his boat and a local Japanese-American man is charged with his murder. In the course of his trial it becomes clear that what is at stake is more than one man's guilt for, on San Piedro, memories grow as thickly as the cedar trees and fields of ripe strawberries, memories of a charmed love affair between a white boy and Japanese girl, memories of land desired, paid for and lost. Above all San Piedro is haunted by the memory of what happened to its Japanese residents during WW II when an entire community was sent into exile while their neighbours watched.

Gutenson writes of a mixed community, American and Japanese American still divided and struggling to deal with the aftermath of Pearl Harbour and the war. The Japanese were interned shortly after Pearl Harbour, losing everything and dependent on the goodwill of those more charitable who viewed them as friends and fellow Americans and not as an inscrutable Oriental enemy to be feared.

A truncated mixed race and clandestine teenage love story which, along with a land-deal that gets reneged on when the Japanese are interred, festers over the years in the hearts and minds of the protagonists.

The book explores racism and discrimination both from an institutional level, the Japanese community unable to become landowners and on an individual basis where neighbour mistrusts neighbour because of the happenings of previous years.

With a fisherman found dead in his nets and a cursory investigation leading to his Japanese childhood friend, who was supposedly at loggerheads with him over lost land, the murder trial begins as a fierce snow storm approaches the island.

This is a beautifully written book, obviously a small tight knit community, everyone is eager to have their say which leads to a long trial with many witnesses of one sort or another all staggering to the old wooden courtroom, soaking wet and eager to have their say whether legitimate or not. The descriptions of the characters are absorbing and I must admit that the wonderful scenic descriptions in 'Snow Falling on Cedars' for me turned the climate into one of the top characters.

What Christmas carol is a favourite of parents?

Silent Night!

#### **Local Worthies**

#### John Leverett (1616 - 1678)

John Leverett was an English colonial magistrate, soldier and Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Company. He was born in Boston (Lincs) and went to Massachusetts as a teenager. He was baptized at Boston Stump on July 16<sup>th</sup> 1616. his father Thomas was one of the Stump elders; his mother was Anne Fisher, of whom little is known beyond the fact that she had 16 children.

The family left for the New World (America) in 1633 and settled in Boston (Mass): the family had acquired rights to land in what is now the state of Maine.

John Leverett married Hannah Hudson in 1639 – she bore him a son called Hudson, in 1640; Hannah died in 1643. John became involved in the military affairs of Massachusetts in 1639 when he joined the Artillery Co of Massachusetts. He also became involved in various commercial ventures, such as trading and he was part owner of a ship that was lost off the Virginia coast.

This mixture of military leadership and commercial enterprise sometimes led to a conflict of interest.

In 1644 Leverett came to England where he fought in the English Civil War on the side of Oliver Cromwell, serving with distinction in the cavalry. He returned home in 1645; he married Sarah Sedgewick in 1645 and the couple had 12 children, of whom only 6 survived to adulthood.

He became heavily involved in politics after becoming a Freeman in 1640.

From 1663 to 1673 he held the rank of Major General in the Massachusetts militia and during this time he oversaw the strengthening of the area's defences. He served as Deputy Governor 1671 – 72 and, after the Governor's death, he became governor.

He died in office, reportedly from complications of kidney stones, on March  $16^{th}$  1678 and was interred in Kings Chapel Burying Ground in Boston (Mass). His descendants include his grandson John, the  $7^{th}$  President of Harvard University and Leverett Saltonstall, a  $20^{th}$  century Governor of Massachusetts .

Colin Scrupps

Why does Santa have three gardens?

So he can go hoe! hoe! hoe!

#### The Hamlet Of Haceby

Haceby is a tiny hamlet in North Kesteven, south of Grantham and just off the A52. It is mentioned in the Doomsday Book as Hazebi.

Today this hamlet just consists of the redundant church and Moat Farm with two inhabited cottages plus empty farm buildings. Adjacent to the church there are signs in the fields of former dwellings – these are the humps and undulations that are all that is left of the former village. There are quite a few "lost villages" in Lincolnshire (and probably in other areas as well) and one theory is that the places were decimated at the time of the Black Death in the 14th century; some villages may have lost around 70% of their population.

There are earthworks to the west of the hamlet which are the remains of a Roman villa – in 1818 a pavement and other Roman remains were found. The village war memorial is combined with that of the nearby village of Newton.

The hamlet stands on rising ground, giving good views all round and there is a village pond near the church.

Haceby is part of the large Welby estate and as an estate hamlet it has not been developed.

#### The Church

The redundant church, which was closed in the 1970's, is dedicated to St Barbara and is Grade 1 listed. The building was partially restored in 1890 and seats only 60 people: further restoration took place in 1924. Charity notes from 1900 and 1913 see the sum of £7 invested to provide for the poor and this money came from the sale of land in



Wigtoft. The church was built after the Norman conquest (1066) and has been added to and altered several times over the centuries.

The church is now used just once a year for a harvest festival service. There is a fragment of a Roman Sculpture incorporated in the west face of the tower.

**Colin Scrupps** 

#### **Sutterton Methodist Church**



For details of services at Sutterton Methodist Church please contact Rev. Alan Barker Tel:- 01406 423270

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

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 G Wright; Cllr B Leggott; Cllr S Baxter.

**Also Present:** County Councillor M Brookes; Borough Councillor M Cooper.

Public forum: None

**Chairman's remarks** – The Chairman, Cllr PC, thanked Cllr GW for chairing the last meeting and for completing the risk assessment to allow the playground to reopen.

#### Apologies for absence and reasons given

Cllr S Smith sent her apologies. She was unable to attend due to a family commitment. Cllr S Collingwood sent his apologies. He was unable to attend due to a work commitment. It was resolved to accept their apologies and reasons for absence.

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

Cllr PC declared an interest in agenda item 8, planning application B/20/0251.

#### Police report - none.

#### Notes of the meeting held on 6.7.20 to be confirmed and signed as minutes.

The notes of the above meeting\_were not able to be signed as minutes due to the meeting being held by video link. In accordance with the requirements of the Transparency Code, the minutes will be published on the website as draft minutes. It was resolved to accept the notes as minutes. All notes will be signed as minutes at the next face to face meeting.

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

#### Finance report:

The donation for £50 to the Air Ambulance is on today's payments list and will be made tomorrow.

The bank reconciliation from 1.4.20 to 30.6.20 has been completed and sent to Cllr SB for checking.

This month is the final free month for the HP Ink package.

Date of invoice	Details of payment	Amount ex vat	Overall total
15.7.20	Pay	208.00	
15.7.20	PAYE	52.00	
15.7.20	Clerk use of home as office	20.00	
31.7.20	Payroll services	18.00	
19.7.20	Grass cutting	280.00	
2.7.20	Printer Paper	3.99	
9.7.20	Mobile phone top up	10.00	
1.6.20	Donation Air Ambulance	50.00	
TOTAL		641.99	641.99
	•		
Reciepts			
TOTAL		0.00	

#### **Planning**

B/20/0251, erection of a timber framed protective clothing and small tool store at Mill Farm, Wigtoft Road, Sutterton.

Cllr PC left the meeting at 19:36.

Following a discussion, there were no comments to be made on the above application.

ACTION: Clerk to advise planning department at Boston Borough Council.

Cllr PC returned to the meeting at 19:38.

#### Correspondence received since the July 6th 2020 meeting

LALC e news 29.6.20 emailed to Councillors 7.7.20

LALC e news 6.7.20 emailed to Councillors 9.7.20

Email from Trading Standards about pothole/drive repair scam

emailed to Councillors 14.7.20. Posted

on Facebook and website

Email from Boston Borough Council with information from Trading Standards about scam re tarmacking drives.22.7.20 emailed to Councillors 25.7.20.

posted on FB.

Update from LALC re corona virus 21.7.20 emailed to Councillors 21.7.20

Association of Play Industries newsletter 24.7.20

emailed to Councillors 27.7.20

Wigtoft News and Views Aug/Sept 20 e mailed to Councillors 3.8.20

#### Councillor's reports

**Cllr SB** – Nice to see the letter of thanks in the village magazine for the letter about the offer of help to residents. Thank you to Cllr GW for instigating and organising this.

**Cllr SB** – I have been across to the playing field twice to ask people not to take dogs in there. The signage does say "no dogs allowed in the play area" and the main sign says "no dogs". Cllr PC offered to get an A4 sign made saying "no dogs allowed" to place at the entrance to make it absolutely clear.

**Cllr GW** – thank you to everyone who helped deliver the letters to all residents and for Cllr SC for putting up the new signs in the playing field. Congratulations to County Councillor Mike Brookes being appointed as Chairman of Lincolnshire County Council.,

#### Clerk's report

The new website hosted by LCC is in the process of being set up although this will take some time. So far, I have taken 7.25 hours which includes a 2.25 hour on line training session but does not include the original training which was undertaken in March. The new website is very different to the current one and, in my opinion, not so user friendly. The training notes are not easy to understand but the on line session was very useful. The parishes websites are similar to the new LCC website and have been designed to be in line with the new accessibility requirements. I'm not convinced they considered accessibility for the Clerks when they designed the new site!

The overgrown hedge at the top of Sleaford Road was reported on 9.7.20.

The survey about the proposed new Code of Conduct was completed on line on the 9.7.20.

I emailed a request to site the bin at the lay by to Highways on the 10.7.20.

The overgrown hedge at the top of Sleaford Road has been reported to Highways and confirmation was received on 9.7.20 that work on this issue has been authorized.

# To confirm the reopening of the play area/playing field and agree a rota for the weekly inspections.

It was confirmed that a full inspection of the playground and playing field had been undertaken by Cllr GW on 11.7.20. Advisory signs had been obtained from Boston Borough Council and erected. Cllr GW had set up a Risk Assessment prior to reopening and this had been circulated to all Councillors. The playground was reopened on the 25.7.20. As agreed in the Risk Assessment, Councillors will undertake a weekly inspection/observation, complete a template and advise the clerk once done. The annual inspection will be undertaken by Wicksteed as soon as possible. It was resolved to budget £80 for this. **ACTION:** Clerk to prepare a template and send to Councillors with a rota for the weekly inspections.

#### To review the Financial Regulations of the Parish Council

The clerk had reviewed the Financial Regulations prior to the meeting. She advised Council that one paragraph needed deleting as it was not applicable. It was resolved to remove the paragraph in question and accept the amended version. **ACTION: Clerk to amend the document and publish on the website.** 

# To decide when to purchase and plant the tree in the wildlife garden agreed in March 2020, likewise to purchase a plaque

It was resolved to plant the tree in October when it's not so dry and agree a date at the October meeting. It was also resolved to decide who will go to collect the tree. It was resolved that the clerk should purchase a plaque at a maximum cost of £50 and that the clerk should contact Virna Atkinson to agree the wording on the plaque.

ACTION: Agenda item for the October meeting, clerk to contact Mrs Atkinson and order the plaque.

# To consider the request for a wheeled cart to carry equipment for the voluntary litter picking group

The litter picking group had contacted the clerk about the possibility of having a wheeled bin trolley to transport the full rubbish bags. They already have a trolley which has been made for them. The clerk had researched some examples but it was felt that they were not suitable. It was resolved that a platform truck would be the best option. Cllr SB volunteered to obtain a quote for this and advise the clerk. It was resolved to spend a maximum of £150 on this.

ACTION: Clerk to forward details to the litter picking group for their comments and advise them that the Council would retain ownership but the group would need to find somewhere to store it.

# An update to the request arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2.3.20 regarding Councillors attending coffee mornings etc in the parish and to discuss having a suggestion box for the Parish Council in the Church. (Carried forward from May meeting) Resolution

("It was resolved that a rota would be set up by Cllr SS for a Councillor to attend a coffee morning at the Village Hall from October to March and at the Church from April to September. A suggestion box will be placed in the Village Hall and the Church and these boxes will be emptied prior to each Parish Council meeting. Cllr SS volunteered to empty the box in the Village Hall. ACTION: Agenda item for the August meeting.")

Prior to the meeting taking place, Cllr SS had advised the clerk that the Village Hall will not be reopening this year so there will be no coffee mornings.

ACTION: Clerk to add to December agenda.

Meeting closed at 20.15

The next meeting is on the 5.10.20 at 19:30 in the format of a video conference call.

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 5th October 2020

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 G Wright;

Cllr S Baxter; Cllr S Smith.

**Also Present:** County Councillor M. Brookes; Borough Councillor M. Cooper.

Public forum: None

**Chairman's remarks** – The Chairman, Cllr PC, had sent a message to say he would be late. The Vice Chairman, Cllr GW, chaired the meeting.

#### Apologies for absence and reasons given

Cllrs S Collingwood and B Leggott sent their apologies. Cllr SC had work commitments and Cllr BL had another meeting to attend. 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.

An email had been received from the local PCSO advising that there had been one reported crime of a burglary at a dwelling in Main Road on 28/9/20 which is still under investigation.

# Notes of the meetings held on 3.8.20 and 21.9.20 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.

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

#### <u>Financial matters: Accounts for payment; budget figures and financial report.</u> Finance report

The precept payment of £4557.50 is due to be received into the bank account on 1.10.20

The Bank Reconciliation and VAT return will be completed in October.

It was resolved to confirm the above payments and budget figures.

ACTION: Clerk to process payments and add updated budget figures to the website.

#### Payments made in September

Date of Invoice	Details of payment	Amount ex vat
15.8.20	Pay	208.00
15.8.20	PAYE	52.00
15.8.20	Clerk use of home as office	20.00
31.8.20	Payroll services	18.00
21.8.20	Stationery	3.25
5.8.20	Printer ink	6.66
1.8.20	Postage	1.76
TOTAL		309.67
RECEIPTS		
	None	
TOTAL		0.00

#### Payments made in October

Date of invoice	Details of payment	Amount ex vat
15.9.20	Pay	208.00
15.9.20	PAYE	52.00
15.9.20	Clerk use of home as office	20.00
30.9.20	Payroll services	18.00
19.9.20	Plaque for Nature Garden	29.99
5.9.20	Printer ink	6.66
10.9.20	Play Area annual inspection	80.00
TOTAL		414.65

RECEIPTS		
1.10.20	Precept 1.10.20 to 31.3.21	4557.50
TOTAL		4557.50

#### **Planning**

None.

#### Correspondence

#### Correspondence received since the August 2020 meeting

LALC Chief Executive's bulleting 14.8.20	emailed to Councillors 19.8.20
LALC e news 7.9.20	emailed to Councillors 12.9.20
LALC e news 21.9.20	emailed to Councillors 239.20

LALC Annual Report 2019-20 and AGM reminder	14.9.20
	emailed to Councillors 23.9.20
Lincolnshire Covid poster received 23.9.20	emailed to Councillors 28.9.20
	and to be added to the website.
API newsletter received 23.9.20	emailed to Councillors 28.9.20
LALC Annual Report 2019/20	emailed to Councillors 30.9.20

#### Councillor's Reports

Cllr S Brigham and Cllr SS reported that the Zoom Councillor training meeting they took part in on the 8.9.20 was very useful but it would have been beneficial to have had the notes to read first. This would have shortened the duration of the meeting which lasted 3 hours and would make the training easier to follow. Cllr SB confirmed that she will provide feedback.

Cllr SS: The lay by opposite the Council Houses on the Sutterton Road has a bag full of cans dumped there; A resident has reported that trees/shrubs need cutting back along the A17 as they are restricting viewing when exiting Sleaford Road onto the **ACTION:** Clerk to report. A17.

#### Clerk's report

Progress has been made on the new website

(www.wigtoft.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk). Historical minutes and agendas are still to be added. The biggest issue at the moment is the spreadsheet I insert into the minutes which is in a format where the data complies with the requirements of the Transparency Code. The information contained in the minutes has to be copied and pasted onto the new website but the spreadsheet is not compatible with the new system. It is possible to delete the spreadsheet and insert a table in its place but the table only allows a maximum of 4 rows and I need 7. I have still to find a work around for this. Linking this to the work involved in transferring the historical minutes, each set of minutes will have to have this spreadsheet changed. It also affects publishing of the budget figures.

Grass cut 8/8, 30/8, 11/9, 19/9. No invoice received since 19.7.20.

Cllr PC joined the meeting at 19.50.

To review the risk assessment and agreed actions following the reopening of the play area/playing field. To review the annual play area inspection report and agree any actions required. To decide who will complete the monthly play are inspection for October.

The risk assessment put in place prior to the reopening of the play area was reviewed. It was resolved to change the frequency of inspection of the play area from weekly to alternate weeks. It was resolved to temporarily remove the wording "if you display any symptoms, do not come to or use the play area" from the risk assessment as this is not included on the signage at the moment. Signage will be reviewed and amended as required.

# ACTION: Clerk to amend the risk assessment and the check list for the fortnightly inspection. Clerk to obtain quote for the recommended sign.

The annual play area inspection was reviewed. All areas were deemed to be either low risk or very low risk. There were some advisory comments about areas to check during the regular inspections and it was recommended that a sign should be erected. It was resolved that the quarterly inspection should be completed in conjunction with the next Covid inspection. Cllr S Baxter volunteered to complete both inspections and use a copy of the recent annual inspection as a guide to completing the quarterly inspection. ACTION: Clerk to amend the quarterly inspection template in line with the annual report.

# To decide who is to purchase the tree for the wildlife garden and confirm a date to plant the tree and install the plaque in the wildlife garden (agreed in March 2020).

The clerk confirmed that the plaque had been delivered. Cllr PC volunteered to collect the tree from Johnsons Garden Centre. It was resolved that the tree should be planted and the plaque installed on the 17<sup>th</sup> October at 10 am in the Wildlife Garden.

ACTION: Clerk to confirm date with Mrs Virna Atkinson and order and pay for the tree, prior to collection.

# To reconsider the request for wheeled cart to carry equipment for the voluntary litter picking group.

It was resolved to order the Ravendo mobile sack holder truck at a cost of £89.

ACTION: Clerk to advise litter picking group and then place order.

#### To decide what action to take about the damaged notice board.

Cllr GW has access to an unused notice board which may be suitable. He will forward a photo to the clerk. It was resolved that the clerk should obtain some quotes for a new noticeboard. **Action: Clerk to obtain quotes.** 

# <u>Feedback from Cllrs PC & GW from Zoom training re risk</u> assessment 11/8 and review of the current Risk Assessment.

Cllrs PC and GW advised Council that it was useful to learn how important a risk assessment is. Cllr PC said that he felt the Council are doing what they should regarding this area. The current risk assessment was reviewed and it was resolved that no changes were necessary at this point.

ACTION: Clerk to ament the risk assessment with the review date.

#### To start the budget planning for the financial year commencing 1.4.21.

It was resolved that all contributions listed below remain the same as 20/21 for 21/22:

Church £300; Village Hall £250; Wigtoft News and Views £250.

The clerk will obtain quotes for the grass cutting, mole control in the play area and a tree inspection in the playing field.

Cllr S Brigham felt that it would be nice to organise something like a Christmas lunch in the village for 2021.

Cllr SS suggested a fish and chip supper,

Councillors did not have any other budget items in excess of the current year.

ACTION: Further budget planning to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

# To agree any comments to be submitted to Boston Borough Council about the Statement of Licensing Policy, Licensing Act 2003.

It was resolved that no comments were to be submitted.

#### **Additional Comment**

County Councillor M Brookes added that LCC are looking for volunteers to join the County Views residents' panel which is an on-line survey and meetings to share thought and test out ideas. Cllr MB will send link to clerk.

ACTION: Clerk to send to Councillors and add to FB and website. Meeting closed at 20.45.

The next monthly meeting is on the 2.11.20 at 19:00 in the format of a video conference call.

#### **Parish Councillor Vacancy**

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council for a new member. If you are interested in joining please contact the clerk by emailing wigtoftpc@gmail.com

# Boston Borough Council Bin Collection Dates December 2020 January 2021

Friday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> ------ Green Bin Friday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> ----- Blue Bin Thursday Dec 17<sup>th</sup> ----- Green Bin Wednesday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> ---- Blue Bin

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Saturday Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup> Green Bin
Friday Jan 8 <sup>th</sup> Blue Bin
Friday Jan $15^{th}$ Green Bin
Friday Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup> Blue Bin
Friday Jan $29^{th}$ Green Bin



Please Note - The final garden waste collection for 2020 was on November 27<sup>th</sup>, they should start again at the beginning of March 2021



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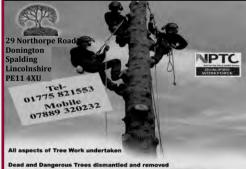


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