



The Church Clock

May 5th was a special day for our village and church. It marked the rededication, by the Bishop of Grantham, of the church clock following its restoration. May 5th was also Rogation Sunday, the day when the church thinks particularly about the joys of creation, and prays for our crops, farm animals, and for all who work on the land. So the service in church started by rejoicing in the beauty of creation all around us, and included an ode to Lincolnshire, the Lincolnshire Benedicite.

It is many years since the church clock worked, and the Church Council has never had the funds to repair it. David Webb used to run the Beckingham garage; many of you will have been served by David or his father, who between them ran the garage for nearly 60 years. Following his death in 2000 his widow, Elizabeth, asked that donations in memory of David should be used to renovate the clock; it had long been David's desire to see the clock restored to working order. Subsequently the Parish Council and many individuals in the village and beyond also donated.

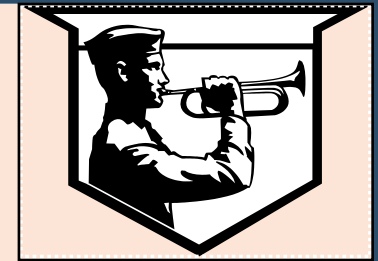
Beckingham people took to heart the rededication of the clock in memory of David. In the couple of weeks beforehand they organised a working party in the churchyard, and augmented the regular church cleaning team to give a real 'Spring Clean' to the church. This was a great encouragement to our small band of regular church attenders. Wonderful to know that many in our villages still care about their churches, even if they rarely come to services! A big 'Thank You' to all who helped.

We were thrilled that so many attended the service. We were privileged to have our Chair of the Parish Council, Lawrence Tatton, and some of our Councillors attending, as well as Cllr Marianne Overton, our County Council representative, and Elizabeth Webb and Wayne Francis.

We were blessed in the financing of the work on the clock. Mr Wayne Francis of Clockwise Restorations of Boston, undertook the restoration. In celebration of the 30th anniversary of his clock business, he decided to adopt the work on this clock as a celebration project, asking the Church only for the cost of materials. This meant the work could be done with the funds that had by then been raised. The Church and village are enormously grateful to Wayne Francis for his very generous gift. At the service Wayne was thanked, and presented with a mounted and framed collage of photos of the church, tower, clock face and clock mechanism. This was put together by Mrs Mikki Young.

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The Beckingham & Sutton Bugle



June 2024

Beckingham and Sutton Village News and Information



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For more village news and to stay up to date with the latest Parish Council business visit the Village website at: www.beckinghamvillage.co.uk

Thanks to everyone who attended the first Coffee Morning of the year at the Village Hall on Saturday 24 February, it was so good to see you chatting and catching up with each other's news. The monies collected will be going to the Children's Bereavement Centre in Newark, the charity chosen by the Social Club to benefit from events held there this year.

The next Coffee Morning at the Village Hall is on Saturday 18 May from 10.30am - 12.30pm - look forward to seeing you then! Jean, Pauline, Julia, Wendy, Jane and Peter."

Best wishes, Jean

Greater Lincolnshire Devolution

In late November there was the announcement of a devolution deal between the Government and the local authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council – the area known as Greater Lincolnshire.

The Government said this was an 'historic deal' marking 'a new devolution agreement' that would see 'the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA), alongside a directly elected mayor for the area', with the first mayoral election to be held in May 2025.

In recent days the three constituent councils of the mayoral authority (LCC, North Lincs and North East Lincs) have agreed and adopted the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Proposal, and an eight-week consultation with residents in the Greater Lincolnshire area is underway to get their views before deciding whether to submit the Proposal to government either in its current form or an amended version.

The devolution deal transfers new powers and funding to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, alongside a £720 million long-term investment fund (spread over 30 years) to drive economic growth and take forward local priorities. Alongside this, the deal also includes £8.6 million of investment in brownfield funding, devolution of the Adult Education Budget, and £28 million of capital funding in advance of the inaugural election to drive place-based economic regeneration in Greater Lincolnshire (subject to business cases).

With all the rain that has fallen over the last few months, it was decided by Beckingham Parish Council to have a number of polypropylene sand bags, due to be stored in the Churchyard at the left-hand side of the gate, opposite the Chatty Bench. The sand bags will be covered over and stored on a pallet to enable easy access when flooding occurs."

The Church Clock

To conclude the service we processed outside in the beautiful May afternoon sunshine for the bishop to bless the clock.

Then back inside for tea and cake! A fine end to a wonderful day; a day when church and village were united for a joyous occasion.

The Bishop should also have blessed the new churchyard gates. But the contractors were way behind on their promised schedule, so the gates had not arrived! The bishop said an appropriate prayer in anticipation of their arrival. Look out for the installation when they arrive (soon?). Beckingham Highway Trust and the Parish Council contributed to the cost as part of their mission to make the village an attractive place to live.

A footnote! May 2024 marked the 30th anniversary of the first women being ordained to the priesthood in the Church of England. I was privileged to be one of those women, after 14 years service as a Deaconess and then Deacon. And we are so grateful for the ministry of Rev Sara among us now.

Rev Canon Valerie Rampton, Beckingham valerie.rampton64@gmail.com

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc. contact Interim Priest in Charge: Rev Sara Davies 07768706952 sara.davies@lincoln.anglican.org

A special Service to mark Rogation Sunday to include the rededication the Church Clock after restoration: and the blessing of the new Churchyard Gates by the Bishop of Grantham the Rt Revd Nicholas Chamberlain

"The Teddy Bear's Picnic in April at the Village Hall went very well, with the parachute being the hit of the day for us adults as well as the children!

We all sat on our blankets (including the teddy bears) for our picnic before the children ran around like wild things.

A fitting end to an afternoon's fun"

Thanks a lot

Best wishes, Jean





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Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read this letter!

I am writing to all Councils, Parishes, Towns and Wards in the UK to ask them to take part in this amazing project!

Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

With Hedgehog numbers in decline and Hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to get involved in Hedgehog conservation.

A Hedgehog Highway is a 5 inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates.

Hedgehog shaped fence surrounds raise awareness to the plight of Hedgehogs, create a talking point and encourage others to take part in the project. Fence surrounds are made from recycled plastic and can themselves be recycled.

I am asking for each area of the UK to use a small portion of their assigned funds to purchase a box of hedgehog highway surrounds and make them available for their residents.

Each box of 50 is £150 and includes:

- * 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds & 50 information leaflets
- * A display box & window sticker showing you are part of the project.



Ideas of how to benefit your community include:

- * Donate the Highways and leaflets to your local school to educate in wildlife conservation
- * Swap the Highways for a donation of Hedgehog food which can then be given to your local Hedgehog Rescue Centre

The project will be receiving a lot of publicity in the coming months via Social Media and I really hope that you choose to take part.

My dream is to make the whole of the UK one giant Hedgehog Highway and for that dream to come true, it needs EVERYONE to take part.

Money is donated to Hedgehog Conservation for every box sold too!

If you would like to order or have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch and thank you for caring.

Linda Cook, Founder of Hedgehogs R Us

Lincolnshire County Council Budget and Council Tax Proposal 2024/25

Lincolnshire County Council's Executive considered 2024/25 budget proposals on 9 January 2024.

The report considers the short and long-term factors influencing the Council's financial position. This includes increasing demand for services, a challenging economic landscape compounded by no additional resource from the Government over and above the amount announced last year. In summary, our costs have increased quicker than funding, despite planned savings and additional income of £19.1m next year.

An added complication is that the Government have signalled the potential for a return to austerity from 2025/26, with funding expected to increase at a slower rate than inflation. This will be made harder if the cost of demand-led services like social care continue to increase at the rate they have been. The recent Government policy has been for the increase in cost of local services to be partly met through higher local taxes.

As part of the Council's funding settlement, the Council can increase council tax by up to 5%. The Council has the third lowest rate of council tax out of the 21 county authorities in England, adjusted for fire precepts elsewhere.

The budget proposal considers three options being considered:

- Option A (2.99% plus £7.2m use of reserves in 2024/25)
- Option B (3.99% plus £3.5m use of reserves in 2024/25)
- Option C (4.99% with no use of reserves in 2024/25)

Increasing council tax by the maximum available will reduce short-term use of reserves, and ensure the Council is best placed to respond to future financial challenges. Increasing by the minimum amount being considered will rely on using reserves and means a higher deficit in future years. Compared to other local authorities, the Council is currently in a strong financial position and this is a result of the difficult decisions it has taken over many years. The budget proposal seeks to preserve the Council's relatively strong financial position.

We know this is also a tough time for households, and constantly look for ways to save money and improve productivity, to ensure that we can continue to provide high quality services throughout Lincolnshire despite charging one of the lowest council tax rates in England.

All contributions for the next Beckingham Bugle welcome. The deadline for the next September 2024 issue is August 21st 2024

2024 BECKINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"The year the Parish Council holding 8 formal meetings . My personal thanks to the Vice Chair, Andy Brewer as well as Councillors Angela Smith, Philip Wells, and Scott Toomer.

Also included in our thank you section is our District Councillor Mary Green and our County Councillor Marianne Overton both of whom have always there supporting us. Also to be included in our grateful thanks section I must include the work, co-operation, advice, support and service given by the various members and sections under the heading of Planning at NKDC.

The appointed Lengthman restarted work at the beginning of April, continuing the maintenance of grassed areas in the Village. Additional duties have been included with regard to the control of Ragwort that grows in the Playing Field, it's growth is monitored, and as necessary removed and disposed of in accordance with the relevant Act. All of this work is recorded to maintain a record of monitoring and removal in order to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings from anyone that could be impacted by a lack of perceived control measures.

Due to a change made by the Boundary Commission, Beckingham Parish has been separated from it's previous position included with local parishes, Stapleford, Norton Disney etc. and is now included with Boothby Graffoe, Leadenham, Navenby etc. As a result our NK District Councillor, Mary Green is no longer our representative and as such our District Councillor is now Lucille Hagues.

Two members of the Parish Council attended the Public Enquiry into the A17 caravan site. Cllr Philip Wells spoke on behalf of the PC and his presentation was warmly received by the Chair of the Enquiry, as well as the Barrister representing NKDC. Such was the success of his initial presentation the Chair later in the day again invited Cllr Wells to make a second presentation. His strength of words, depth of content and general demeanour was impressive and contributed a great deal to the formal response of the Parish Council."

Lawrence Tatton's full report can be found in the minutes to the meeting on the Parish Council's website



"Your Parish Council Needs YOU"

Angela Smith is leaving the Parish Council.

Would you like to be her replacement?

Some common questions about being a Parish Councillor:

Q1: You need experience?

Answer: Not so.

Training is available but probably the two main requisites are common sense and a desire to do something for your community.

Q2: It will take too much time

Answer: Impossible to answer this one since your commitment would be as open as you would want to make it.

Theoretically (and legally) you must come to at least one Parish Council meeting every six months and Beckingham Parish Council meetings last about 90 minutes.

But very few parish councillors take such a restricted view of the "job", giving their time generously to the task.

Q3: I will get paid (after all I see my District and County Councillors get "allowances")

Answer: Sorry.....no

Q4: Parish Councils are pointless!

Answer: Have you forgotten so quickly the lead Beckingham Parish Council took against the recent Traveller problem??

Please contact the Clerk for more details.....