

East Goscote

LONG FURROW

EAST GOSCOTE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



NOVEMBER 2020

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JOSIAH HINCKS

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Hello...

EDITORIAL

At time of writing we have just entered Lockdown 2. Obviously, many of our village organisations are affected yet again so check organisers for the latest. People in our village are almost all thoughtful, sensible and polite. We are also a caring community! Long may it continue. It's not easy to ask for help so perhaps we have to put ourselves in other people's shoes a bit more than usual and reach out a hand. I read a great story today about a lady in her 90s who had spent her life helping others. When she was young, her Dad asked her which was her best hand. She replied, "My right". Dad said "Ok, well your left is for helping others".

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ABOUT LONG FURROW

Long Furrow is published by the Editorial Committee made up of residents of East Goscote.

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Long Furrow retains the right to edit or refuse articles if it is deemed necessary. Anonymous items will not be published unless details of the writer are made known confidentially to the editor of Long Furrow.

The views expressed in Long Furrow are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial panel.

The Long Furrow Committee would like to thank East Goscote Parish Council for their support in producing LONG FURROW.

IN THIS EDITION

As always we hope you find something to interest you and maybe prove useful in these tricky times. Here we go:

- Shop Safe, Shop Local
- Laurie's column
- Village Hall
- The latest news from
 - Brownies
 - Scouts
 - Cubs
 - Beavers
- Christmas tree trail
- The Word from the Revd. Tim
- Parish Council
- Library
- Greener Goscote Page
- Biodiversity in East Goscote
- The MP
- Our Back Page

Hope you like it, Please let us know.

LONG FURROW NEEDS YOU

We like to think Long Furrow is part of the glue that holds our community together. We have an on-going need for help with distribution, articles and advertisements.

Just get in touch with the editorial team or email
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BOROUGH COUNCILLOR LAURIE NEEDHAM



As corona virus cases rise across the County, many are very worried – about vulnerable friends and family, their jobs and what will happen if we must move into a higher tier of restrictions. These are strange and trying times with no easy solutions.

Even if government guidance can seem contradictory, we must all do our best to try and prevent the spread of the virus where we can. At the beginning of the pandemic, ordinary people in East Goscote rallied round to support the community. If we need to do that again, we shall.

Whether we move into tighter lockdown measures or not, be assured that if you or someone you know needs support, help is available. My contact details are at the end of this column. Once again, I would like to send my utmost thanks to all the wonderful people who make this village a great place to live.

A quick reminder that the Members Grant Scheme is now open. I am allocated £500 this year – community projects and groups can apply for a minimum of £250 up to the full amount. Please check www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/member_grants for eligibility information.

Residents regularly contact me for advice and assistance with all types of issues – noise nuisance, fly tipping, complaints about council services. I'm also keen to find out what matters to people in the village, so if you have a minute to spare, please use the QR code below to fill in a very short survey about local issues. Just open the camera on your smart phone, hover over the code and follow the link or visit bit.ly/EastGoscoteSurvey. You can also let me know via the usual contact methods:

Laurie Needham 07807399879.

Cllr.Laurie.Needham@charnwood.gov.uk



VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The Village Hall Management Committee are pleased to confirm that the Village Hall re-opened on June 8th for Pocket Rocket pre-school. Currently we have the Pre-School, Zumba and Tetsudo using our hall carefully following the COVID guidelines. By November, Brownies and Guides will be returning, albeit in smaller numbers.

With regards to Childrens' Parties, we are constantly reviewing Government guidelines, and our next review will be at the end of November. We remain closed for parties until we feel it will be safe to offer this service.

During October half term we will be continuing to upgrade our hall and a new kitchen door will be fitted. We have also registered for fundraising via Amazon Smile. It is very simple to donate to the Village Hall by purchasing via smile.amazon.co.uk. Just choose the Village Hall as your charity and make your purchase.

Merry Christmas From The Management Team.



BROWNIES



Well after such a strange year, we finally got the 'go ahead' from Girlguiding, to say we can resume indoor meetings. Providing there have been no other changes before the magazine is published, we will have held our first meeting on Thursday 29th October. The group has been split in two, to keep the numbers under 15, so we will run the same meeting over two weeks for the time being.

The first meeting back we planned to spend some time, chatting to the girls about all the new things they had tried during lockdown. We are still in the process of planning safe activities for the rest of the term. I know I speak for all the guiders when I say how much we have missed the girls.

We have such a great pack and they have been amazing whilst we couldn't meet. Well done to the parents also, for juggling home schooling as well as Brownie Badges. A special shout out to Josie, who was the only Brownie to complete the water challenge and received a lovely badge for it.

If you have a child between the age of 7 and 10 who would be interested in joining our pack, please contact me on 07981812955

Brown Owl

THREE ARTICLES FROM TRICIA

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Unfortunately, we cannot go ahead with this year's Festival but I have had a thought. As most will remember I used to organise Scare- crow trails. What about a Christmas Tree Walk with folk putting a tree in their front garden or their front window with the theme of the Nativity so we could walk round our village and see them all. I hope families will get involved.

Please contact me with your thoughts then I could get a poster or two up letting everyone know where to walk. I am thinking the usual weekend 11-13th December. Please let me know 2609088 or 07845211782 the mobile is different from my usual number. I hope you all think it is a good idea.

AFTERNOON TEA?

As I type this, unfortunately we are unable to re-open for the foreseeable future I hope you are all safe and well and WE WILL MEET AGAIN.

CRAFTY CRAFTERS

Due to the current rules we are unable to meet up but I hope you are all still knitting and crocheting. I know Norma has got quite a few Teddies ready to go to Intercare and some of us have got blankets and cardies all waiting to go. I am in contact with our contact to see if we can get them to Intercare. Dawn has offered to take them for us if they are accepting donations, will let you all know when we know.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"

Audrey Hepburn

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THE WORD FROM THE REVD. TIM

Holy Communion returns to St Hilda's

So much of what we considered to be normal life has been turned on its head since March. Like so many places of work, places of leisure and places of learning, the church, as a group of people meeting, had to close to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We maintained our sense of worshipping together through on line services. Because a number of our congregation members continue to shield our on line service will continue for now. When the lockdown started to ease the church was permitted to meet again within the COVID secure guidelines from the Government and from the Church of England. For the first 6 weeks or so we held what we call services of the word, in other words services without Holy Communion, where bread and wine is shared to remember the death of Jesus on the cross.

In the second week of September we held our first service of Holy Communion in St Hilda's since March. The service has a number of differences to remain COVID secure but retains its central theme of remembering Jesus' sacrifice through the bread representing the body of Christ broken for us, and the wine, representing the blood of Christ shed for us. The differences from a 'normal' service were that we were unable to sing, although we did listen to songs of worship. The Church is set out for a maximum of around 25 people instead of being able to seat over 100. Members of the congregation wear face masks and the Priest wears a visor. When distributing communion to the congregation only the bread is given to the congregation and before the Priest does this they sanitise their hands again, put on medical style gloves and a face mask. The congregation remain in their places to receive the bread as the Priest walks around to each person rather than people coming forward to receive communion.



Although things are very different it is important that we keep everyone as safe as possible with these COVID secure practices. I found the service very moving, partly because it had been such a long time since we had celebrated communion, but also because it reminded me once again of the incredible sacrifice Jesus made in order to break down the barrier between humankind and the God we so often ignore. Sacrifice is a common theme in our world today too, as so many people have also sacrificed so much in these troubling times. People have sacrificed their own safety to bring us essential medical care and food supplies, to bring us many other essential services and to keep our children in education and to them we rightly give our thanks. There has also been many great things happening in the community of East Goscote throughout this crisis as people have supported one another and given their time sacrificially for the good of others.

An important question to ask of the Church in these times might be, what hope is there as this crisis continues to disrupt our lives? I would like to offer this thought. One of the Songs we listened to at the first communion was called Ever- lasting God. The words of the song say: 'Hope will rise as we wait upon the Lord', and 'Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord'. It is a message which finds its hope in the very heart of the Communion Service as we say, 'Lord God, you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory'. It is the promise that God loves each one of us and longs to bring us into a living relationship with him, a relationship that can bring us hope and the strength to live through these difficult times. The invitation to turn to God in prayer is always open and it doesn't rely on us being worthy of it, just the desire to ask and receive.

May God bless you and keep you safe through this time of crisis.

Revd. Tim Day. Vicar, East Goscote & Thurmaston.



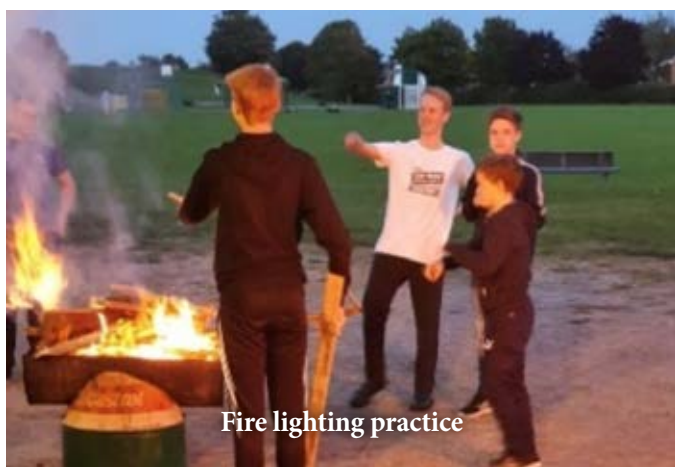
St Hilda (614—680) Founder of Whitby Abbey (657) site of The Synod of Whitby (664). Remembered on November 19. "A wise woman"

EAST GOSCOTE SCOUT GROUP SCOUTING IS BACK IN EAST GOSCOTE

After much planning and preparation the Scout Group can now return to Scouting. Following the Scout Association COVID guidelines and alongside Government guideline. All the leaders have worked hard to get everything in place to restarting in a safe and fun environment. All meetings will be currently outside with restricted numbers in accordance with the guidelines that have been set out.



Scouts are the first section to resume meetings which have taken place outside or at home via Zoom. Their first meeting back was fire lighting skills. All the leaders were glad to see them back and that they hadn't lost any of their fire lighting skills.



Fire lighting practice



Cubs are ready to return and are planning their first meeting back at the beginning of October. Things will be a little different, fun and adventure is still our goal. There are lots of fun activities planned for the Cubs to do at the scout hut and at home. We hope the parents will enjoy them too.



Beavers are also working hard to get back and hopefully by the time you read this we will have returned too.



@EastGoscoteScoutGroup



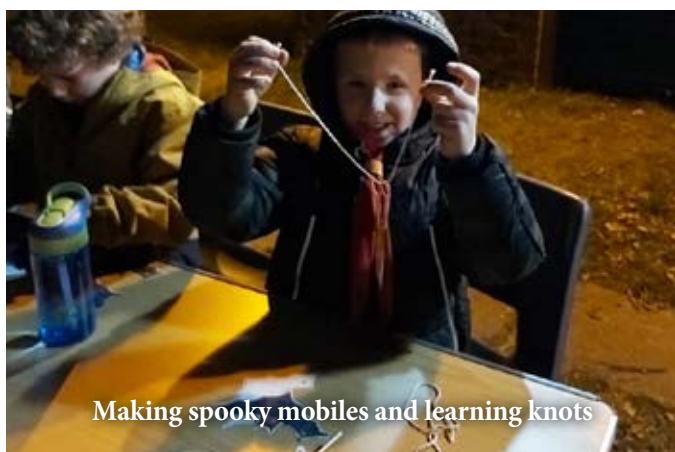
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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council is now up to strength. Recently, Rod Axon, Nick Shivers, Gemma Slack, and Carren Tate have been co-opted onto the Council. Parish Council Admin Assistant, Renata Jones has been appointed to replace Caroline Taylor who left in April. And the Council have continued to hold meetings using Zoom. To attend meetings please check the notice boards for details of how to log in.

The Pavilion Car Park is to be resurfaced. It has been in a poor state for several years and now finance has been found to do the work. Approximately 50% is coming from David Wilson Homes.

Councillors, the Parish Clerk and Caretaker spent some time making the Pavilion, Play areas and Village Hall COVID safe ready for reopening. Finance has been agreed for replacing some of the swings in the Lingdale play area. The existing swings have been there for some time and have deteriorated.

The Council is looking to purchase some new village signs which will include speed awareness details. Two of them will include the speed limit. And although it is doubtful that a Remembrance service will be held at St Hilda's, the Parish Council will still put Poppies on lamp posts around the village as they have done for the past few years.

CONFESSIONS OF A LIBRARY VOLUNTEER !

Repeated calls for Library volunteers finally got to me so, despite the little voice inside me saying "No David, don't do it", I went ahead and volunteered. John and Angela were very patient with me as are the various experienced volunteers I have shared a shift with. I still have quite a bit to learn so if you come across me behind the desk, please be gentle with me! I am so impressed with the range and quantity of books and enthusiasm for reading displayed by many of the customers. By far the greatest reward comes from seeing the young ones being introduced to the joy of reading by their mums and dads, grandparents and carers. It's not The Bodleian but it is ours and we are working hard to keep it going. Why not pop in?

NEWS FOR BOOK WORMS

East Goscote Community Library reopened on August 3rd. With the help of Leicestershire County Council, money was spent on making the library COVID safe. At the time of writing, there is a one way system in force and 2 metre markings around the library, both inside and out. All visitors must wear face coverings and volunteers must also wear them when they are not behind the counter screen. Also, everyone must sanitise on entry and exit.

There are no public toilets available and the use of only one of the public computers is permitted by the Library Service. In addition, no groups will be allowed in during opening hours and all COVID guidelines are being met.



Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas events organised jointly with the Parish Council this year. The good news is that new books are being received. There are also plenty of books and jigsaws for sale as well as the usual packs of dog bags (woof, woof).

The library needs volunteers especially for the Tuesday afternoon and Saturday morning shifts. For more information about the library, email eglibrary@mail.com or phone **0116 305 3510** during opening hours. Current reduced opening hours are: Monday, Friday and Saturday 10 – 12; Tuesday and Thursday 2–4; Wednesday Closed.

And there will be no Josiah Hincks Clinics in the Library until further notice.

"I must say I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a good book." – Groucho Marx

"I discovered me in the library. I went to find me in the library." – Ray Bradbury

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert." – Andrew Carnegie

THE GREENER GOSCOTE PAGE

How are you getting on? I hope you and yours are managing to keep well and relatively sane in the circumstances. As Kermit said, it isn't easy is it? Who would have thought a year ago that we would have been in this situation? Things we take for granted set aside. Hopes and dreams on hold. I always think that the British are a bit slow to respond until they recognise there is an emergency. Once we recognise it, we are adaptable people capable of great resourcefulness. But we have a kind of built in inertia and scepticism which can be a good thing. It prevents us from being too easily persuaded.

The thing with environmental stuff is it doesn't have that imminent direct threat. When I hear people saying "We only have 10 years or 12 years" or whatever, my inner voice is screaming "We have NO years!" We should be saying "What can I do today (to make me feel proud)?" "What change can I make where I live, where I work, where I play?" That's where most of us can make that small change and those small changes can add up to a big change. Covid-19 probably arose out of a flawed relationship with nature enabling the virus to jump species.

With all that in mind we carried out a socially distanced blitz at the Recycling Centre one rainy Saturday morning. It's that job I always mean to do and never get round to. Anyway, many hands made light work and it looks so much better. I do think there's been quite an improvement in litter left (or not left) by the customers.

So how does recycling connect to Climate Crisis? Mostly through reduced energy and emissions — recycling done properly, like what we do round here, saves huge amounts of energy and emissions.

Greener Goscote has been affected by Covid just like everything else. Our group is still stuck in the Committee stage unable to hold a big get together and progress to the next stage. A 64-way Zoom meeting does not sound like fun. I'm open to suggestions but it feels like it must await a safe public meeting.

In spite of that we do continue to achieve. We are now the carers of the Jubilee Playing Field raised beds under an arrangement with the Parish Council, we will be involved with planting trees donated by the Woodland Trust, we continue to campaign to care for the Secret Garden and we helped out with a green, Covid safe, litter pick in Syston. Even the PCSO was impressed!

Useful Contacts: Environment Action Volunteers promote home composting and sustainable household waste management on behalf of the Leicestershire Waste Partnership. For free, impartial information and advice on composting and recycling, contact David on 2600239, 07873852372 or david.cannon9@btinternet.com.

Other useful links:

www.lesswaste.org.uk, www.lrrn.info,
www.completewasters.co.uk,
www.recyclenow.com,
www.lovefoodhatewaste.com,
www.leics.gov.uk,
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BIODIVERSITY IN EAST GOSCOTE

By Rod Axon

“The question is are we happy to suppose that our grandchildren will never be able to see an elephant except in a picture book?” David Attenborough. What have elephants got to do with biodiversity in our village and why should we care?

There are no elephants roaming our village but the big problem that we all face is the same as the elephant population. In just 40 years our own local biodiversity has become noticeably poorer. Will our grandchildren see real live hedgehogs? Native insects, birds and mammals have declined massively. Hedgehog population in Leicestershire has declined 90%. Where years ago we saw hundreds of House Martins wheeling in the sky harvesting insects, there are now hardly any.

I know it might sound odd to lament the lack of dead hedgehogs on the roads or how few flies and moths are plastered on the front of our cars after a night drive home through clouds of in- sects; however decades ago there were so many more of these creatures, that we met them more often in such unhappy encounters.

We are lucky to live in a village that has so much open space to enjoy. Thanks to the residents, community groups, the Parish and District Councils, over the years our new village has matured and sits easier in the landscape. In many parts it is looking very attractive and beautiful with some lovely parkland and street scenes. The drive along Melton Road along to Broome Avenue is a journey through a very leafy suburb. However walk along the length of Broome Lane, the aspect, once described by Charnwood Borough Council's environment officer as 'bleak', remains the same. The view from Rearsby is more or less unchanged since our village was built. The deliberate setting back of the village from Melton Road has paid off in so many ways. All roads around the village are screened by tree planting that breaks up and softens the views of housing and industrial units. The exception is our northern edge along Broome Lane.

East Goscote was an experiment in community building by Jelson Homes Ltd. and it has been an amazing success. Converting a derelict ordnance factory (built in 1942 and which had largely closed by 1945), into a safe, open,

spacious and thriving village has made it one of the most 'liveable' villages in Charnwood.

So if its good for people to live here, why has it become so difficult for wildlife? Its hard to say but a number of possible factors. Take a walk in the fields around the village. You will see tens of hectares of maize, or wheat or other cereals growing in massive fields. Pesticides and herbicides are used. The predominant bird population more suited to these conditions seems to be the wood pigeon. There are very few wide uncultivated field boundaries, meadows, ponds or areas of woodland that would encourage more diverse populations of insects, birds and small mammals.



Back in the village, many things that we do, discourage wildlife. We do not give creatures space to live or the food they need. Bees have seen a catastrophic decline and yet these are a vital part our food chain as pollinators. We have converted front gardens in to parking areas that have little or nothing in the way of food for bees. It is possible to do both and at the same time reduce the rainfall run off which adds to flooding.

Continues on page 10...



Nearly as beautiful as the real thing, these lovely butterflies are made by Wendy Nye's Craft Group in Queniborough from aluminium cans and beads supplied by Greener Goscote amongst others. Her group recently raised £215 for cancer charities.

Thank you to those who supply me with all the unsqueezed long beer cans. My lips are sealed.

BIODIVERSITY IN EAST GOSCOTE

Continued

We use concrete fencing which is durable and stands up well to the wind, but blocks the regular paths that hedgehogs habitually use. House martins have apparently found the plastic building material in our roofs just doesn't hold their nests. Possibly the lack of airborne insects has also reduced their numbers.

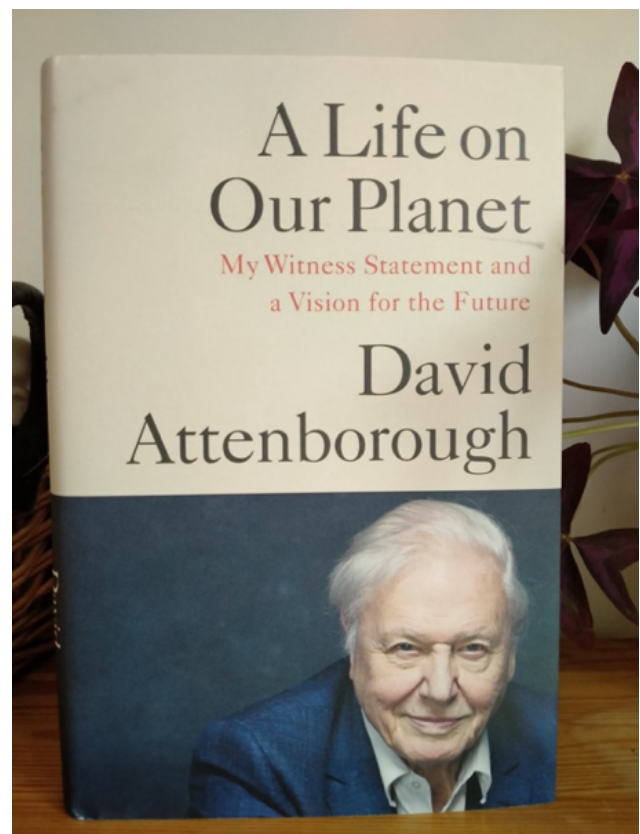
So is it possible to reverse some of this? As Tesco says 'Every little 'elps' and so making small changes to our gardens and public areas could make a difference. Bees go crazy for lavender. It looks good and takes little effort to maintain. Butterflies and bees love Buddleia. So why not find a bit of space for one or two of these in your garden? Drive in to Truro, Cornwall, in summer and some previously grassed central reservations are alive with colourful wildflowers. Rotherham has found it has saved money on their mowing contracts by doing the same. Why can't we make East Goscote more attractive, more colourful and at the same time increase the living space and food sources for insects and birds? Leicestershire Council has taken the lead with a carbon reduction and Biodiversity plan up to 2030. They have asked for partners to help achieve some ambitious targets so why not step up and start achieving something?



An example of how we have degraded a good wildlife environment is the mound off Long Furrow. It is an area where at one time grass was cut just once or twice a year. There were at least 11 species of wild flowers and grass snakes had been seen there. Since the extra mowing introduced some years back the number of species has declined and the predominant species now are the grasses. And grass snakes? I doubt that our grandchildren would see a real live one again.



In public areas of East Goscote grass is mown almost everywhere to provide neatness, but not for colour, variety or biodiversity. If people do not use areas for sport or walking, you have to ask what is the point of mowing every blade of grass to the same uniform height everywhere? Councils across the UK are finding new ways to bring colour and diversity to their streets and open spaces. Why can't we do the same? "Cherish the natural world because you are part of it and you depend on it" Guess who said it?



Sir David was asked by a young person where his favourite place on Earth was. The Leicester lad replied that one such place was a wood in the Midlands where a young boy had found important fossils. He was talking about our lovely Charnwood Forest!



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EDWARD ARGAR MP

Member of Parliament for Charnwood

"Writing an article, like this, recently for another local newspaper, about the passing of Paul Henry and his contribution to the Syston community and the Town Council, made me reflect on the contribution, in time and energy, so many people make in East Goscote and every one of our towns and villages to help make our communities work and to support and run the institutions and events we value and which bring us together.

In East Goscote, and in towns, cities, and villages, across Leicestershire and across the country, every day there are people giving up their time to serve as town, parish, and borough and county councillors, to serve as school governors, as church wardens, as trustees and organisers of charities and community events, and in a variety of other ways, all of which contribute such a huge amount to our community life.

We live in an age where it has sadly become all too normal for those who serve in such roles to be criticised and subject to abuse, their motives unfairly challenged, or their contribution not always fully appreciated. Yet without these people, and their selfless public service, our communities would be infinitely the poorer and many of the things we so value would not take place.

While anyone in a public role should always be accountable, we should also always treat them with courtesy, respect and gratitude for their service. I wanted to take the opportunity to use this column in Long Furrow to thank all those who serve on the Parish Council and in those many roles that help make East Goscote so special. While it may sometimes feel tough, you are all the true heroes of our communities - thank you."

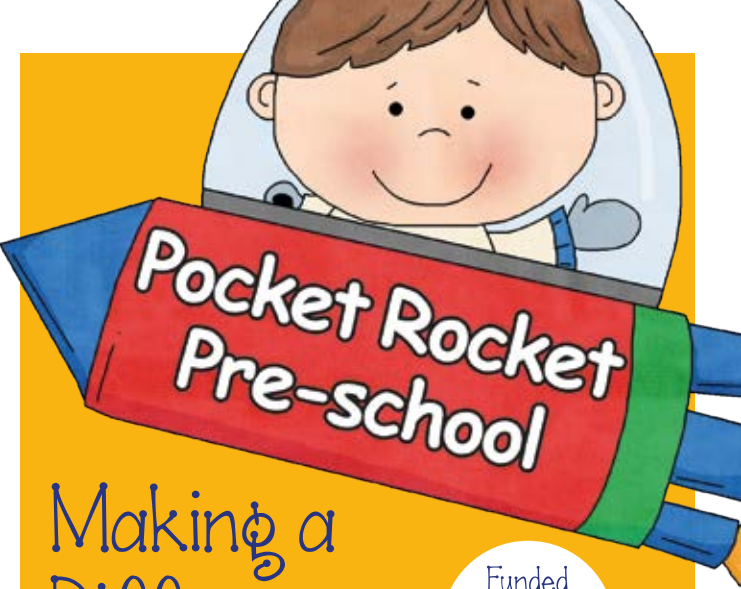


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Afternoon Tea	Tricia Marsland	0116 2609088
ATC Plt Officer	Andy Gaunt	0742 5171549
Beavers	Johanne Draycott	0798 1101644
Beedles Lake Golf Club		0116 2606759
Bizzy Bees	Rachel Laverty	07908781652
Borough Councillor	Laurie Needham	07807399879
Brownies	Rosemary Fraser	07981812955
Broomfield School		0116 2606704
Charnwood B. Council		01509 263151
Charnwood Recycling and Composting		01509 634563
Charnwood W. I.	Sharon Burditt	0771 2468580
Cubs	Jayne Disney	0116 2608786
Daisy Chain	Natalie Palfreyman	0116 2607923
E G Parish Council	Liz Pizer	0116 2602202
East Goscote Stores and Off-Licence		01162606236
E.G United Football Club:		
Academy (Foundation Yr 3)		07486531608
Girls teams membership		07486531608
U11 boys (Sch. Year 5) Jon Day		07794973216
U14 boys (Sch. Year 8) Tom Borland		07801535040
Environment Action	David Cannon	07873852372
Friends of Broomfield	Debbie Cottam	0791 9092341
Friendship Club	Gill Morton	0116 2601977
Greener Goscote	David Cannon	07873852372
LCC Councillor	James Poland	07764966677
Guides	Rachel Laverty	07791731828
	Michelle Baker	07872066509
East Goscote Library		0116 3053510
LCC Mountsorrel Tip		0116 3050001
Messy Church	Rev Tim Day	0116 3486896
MP	Edward Argar	0116 2693789

Neighbourhood Watch		01162602202
Pocket Rocket Pre-School		07414253969
Pharmacy		0116 2606734
Plough		0116 2640444
Police: Emergencies dial 999, non emergency dial 101		
Scout Group/Hut		0116 2605457
Scouts	Dawn Manning	0784 312 2313
St Hilda's Bookings	Tricia Marsland	0116 2609088
St Hilda's	Vicar Rev Tim Day	0116 3486896
Syston Bowling Club		0116 2692105
Syston Catholic Ch.	Anthony Pateman	0116 2608476
Syston Methodist Ch.	Daniel Yovan	0116 2603296
Syston Model Railway	John Malpus	0116 2609789
Syston Volunteers	Mark	0116 2607888
Tree Warden	Martin Webbon	0116 2602202
Village Hall Bookings		0116 2602202
Waste Action	David Cannon	0116 2600239
Wreake Runners	Dave Palmer	07710 448253
Wreake Valley Lions	Mrs C Grimes	0116 2608412
Wreake Valley Rotary Club	John Squire	0116 2592788
Wreake Valley Youth Club	Carol Baxter	0116 2608858
Village Faults/Emergences		07739553380

If you're a member of a group which is providing a service to the community please contact us with up to date details.



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A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

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EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings of the Parish Council are generally held at 6:30pm on the second Wednesday in each month. Any variation of date or time can be found on the notice boards, the apps or the web-site. Currently, the meetings are held remotely.

East Goscote Parish Council Offices are at the side of the Village Hall

Monday	09.30 to 12.30 hrs
Tuesday	09.30 to 15.00 hrs
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.30 to 12.30 hrs
Friday	Closed

Contact Liz Pizer (Clerk) 0116 260 2202
Website: eastgoscote.org.uk

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